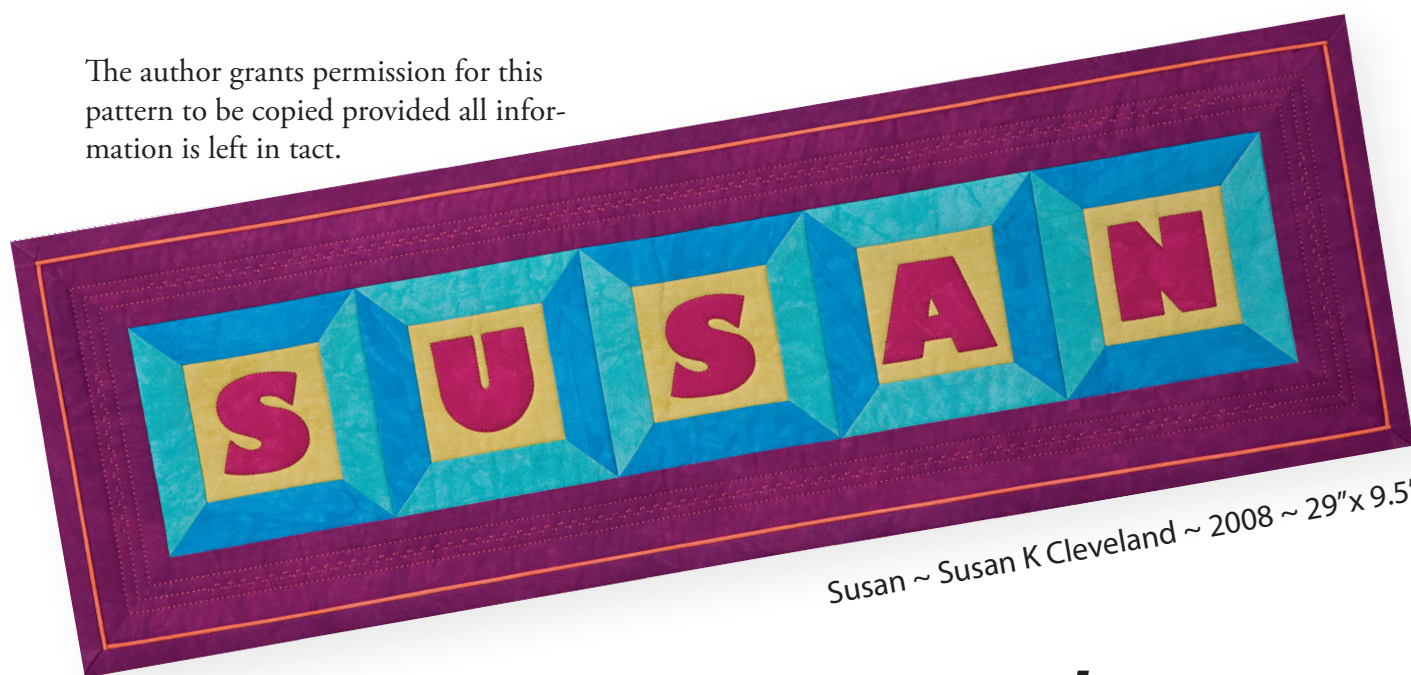


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Susan ~ Susan K Cleveland ~ 2008 ~ 29" x 9.5"

Letters

About this project

This project would make a great gift for any relative or friend—grown up or child. Instructions are given for a name quilt but this idea can be carried out for messages, or keys on a keyboard too! Please see *Marvelous Miters* by Susan K Cleveland for more projects with miters.

Blocks finish 3" ~ Characters 2" in height ~ Block borders 1" ~ Outer border 2"

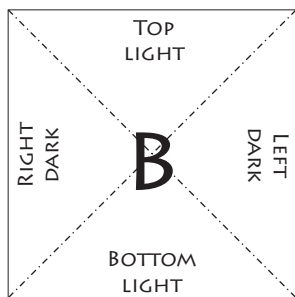
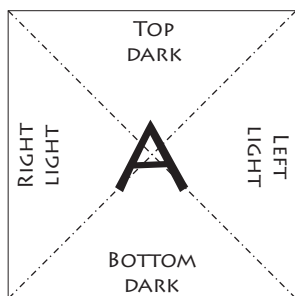
FABRICS	SAMPLE	NEEDED	YOURS	CUT
Blocks	Lime green	4" square per letter		• (1) 4" square per letter
Block borders	Light turquoise, Dark turquoise	(2) 5½" x 1½" pieces each for each letter		• (2) 5½" x 1½" pieces each fabric for each letter
Characters	Pink	at least 2" x 2" square per letter		see instructions
Border	Pink	½ yd		• (2–4) 2½" strips cut to length later
Backing: determine after quilt top has been completed Binding fabric: ½ yd Fusible web (applique only) Freezer paper Thread for piecing: 50 or 60 wt cotton Thread for applique: your choice Thread for quilting: your choice Piping fabric: fat quarter (instructions not included) Piping cording (optional)				

Characters

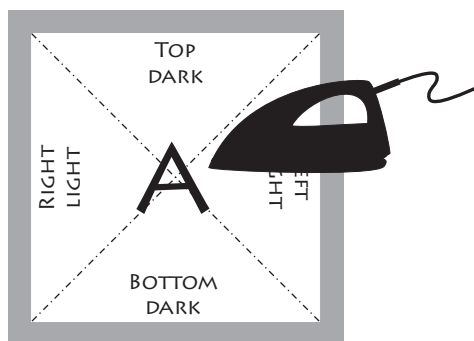
Decide how you'd like to put characters on your block. I chose to appliqué characters on my *SUSAN* quilt but have used an iridescent Paintstik to stencil characters on other quilts.

Many sources may be used for characters: stencils, hand drawn, or the computer. Modify characters until they are about 2" in height. Print mirror image if characters are to be appliquéed and print normally if they will be stencilled on fabric with paint or ink.

- Cut block fabric into as many 4" squares as letters included in your piece. These will be trimmed later. Applique characters. Lots of useful tips are included in *Marvelous Miters*. If stenciling or stamping characters, set paint/ink and wash/dry fabric.



PREPARE FREEZER PAPER
BLOCK **A** AND BLOCK **B**



PRESS PAPER TO WRONG SIDE BLOCKS

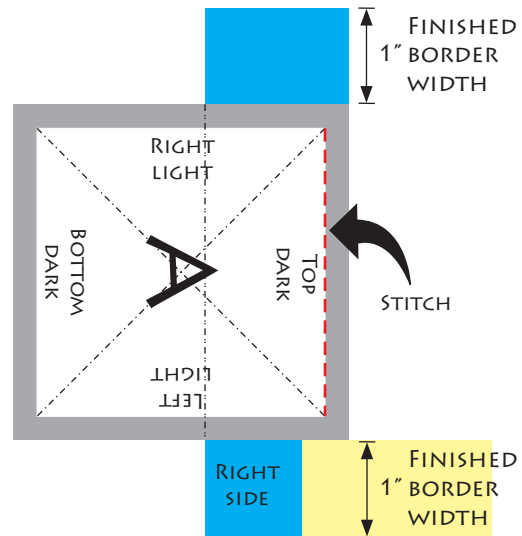
Prepare block

- Pre-shrink freezer paper by placing shiny side down on a pressing surface and iron with a dry, hot iron for about 10 seconds.
- Allow to cool and peel off pressing surface.
- Accurately cut into (2) 3" freezer paper squares. **Block A** will have dark borders on top/bottom and light on sides. **Block B** will be opposite. Each freezer paper square may be used over and over again but you may wish to make more to make several blocks at once.
- Fold freezer paper diagonally in each direction. These folds will be very useful when mitering corners. Along each edge (on paper side of freezer paper) note top, bottom, right, and left as well as which border fabric is to be sewn to edge. Please be aware *right and left are reversed* because freezer paper will be pressed to wrong side of block.
- With dry iron and shiny side toward fabric, press freezer paper to wrong side of blocks, taking great care to center paper on block. Carefully check orientation so characters are not sideways or upside down.
- Trim block fabric 1/4" from paper. Leave freezer paper on until block is complete with borders, then re-use.

Add block borders

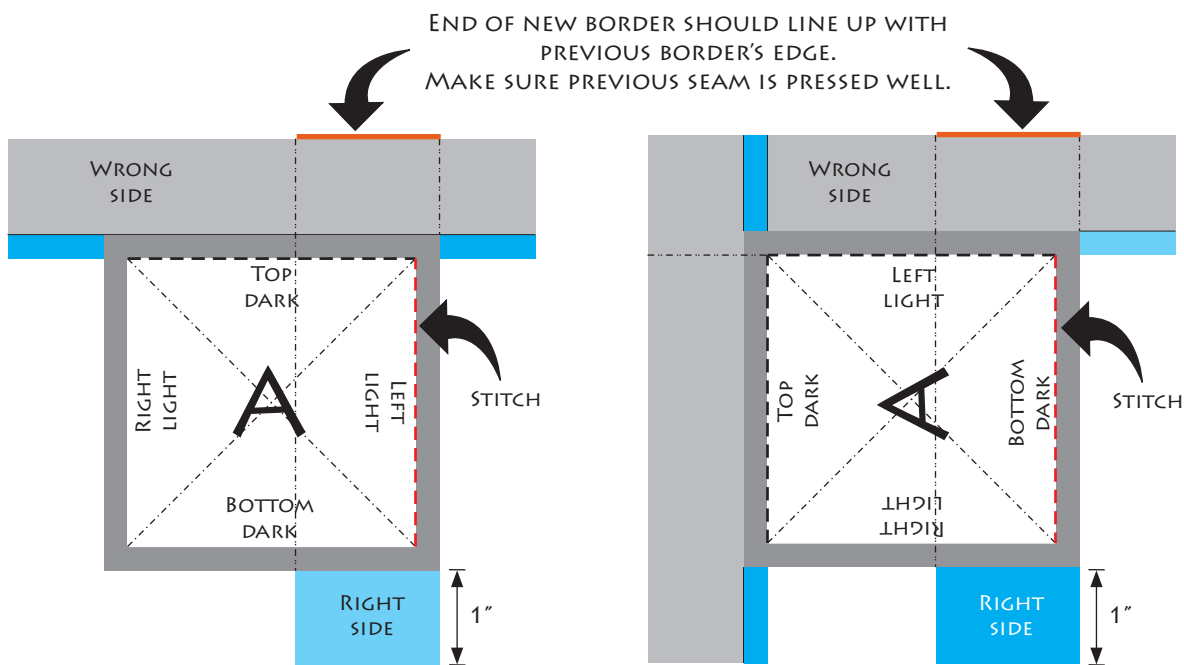
Note: Grey denotes wrong side of fabric.

- Cut a Post-it® Note 1" (*finished block border width*) to be used as a measuring tool for border placement. Use this tool for first three borders.
- Top border: Place block 1" from end of border with right sides together. Pin in place and sew beside freezer paper. Begin and end with tiny, 1.5mm stitches and 2.0mm stitches in between. Use Post-it® Note as ruler and open-toe foot on sewing machine.
- Press seam allowance toward border.

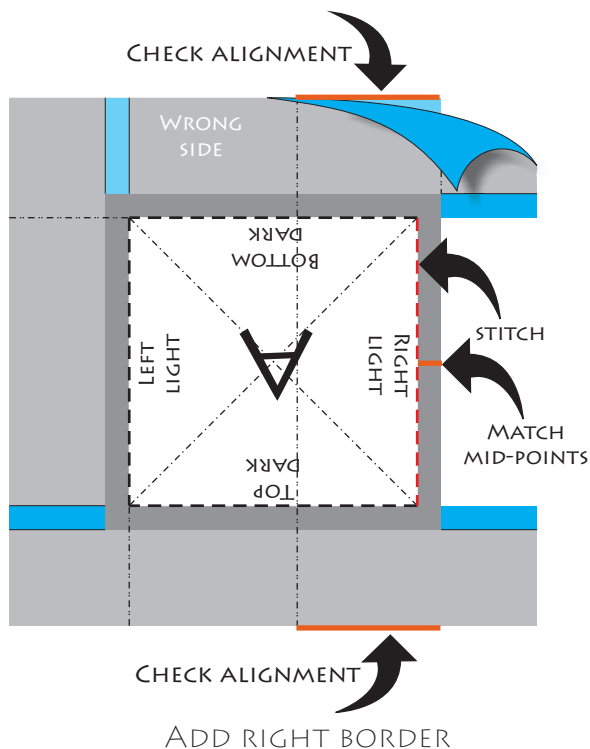


ADD TOP BORDER
USE POST-IT® NOTE AS RULER

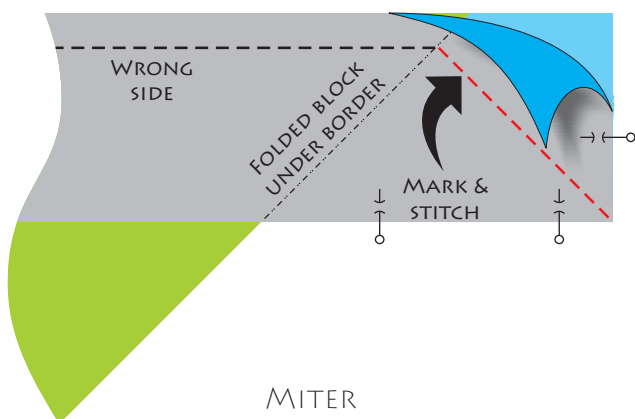
- Left and bottom borders: Working clockwise from wrong side, add left and bottom borders in same manner placing block 1" from end of new border with right sides together. Previous borders are pressed out of the way of new seam. Use Post-it® Note as ruler and open-toe foot so edge of paper can be seen easily. Begin and end at corners of freezer paper and use tiny stitches at beginning and end of each stitching line.
- Press seam allowances toward borders.



ADD LEFT AND BOTTOM BORDERS



- Right border: Mark mid-point of block's remaining edge and mid-point of border's edge. With right sides together, carefully match mid-points and make sure end of new border aligns with long edge of neighboring borders. Pin in place and sew beside freezer paper. Begin and end with tiny, 1.5mm stitches and 2.0mm stitches in between.
- Press seam allowance toward border.

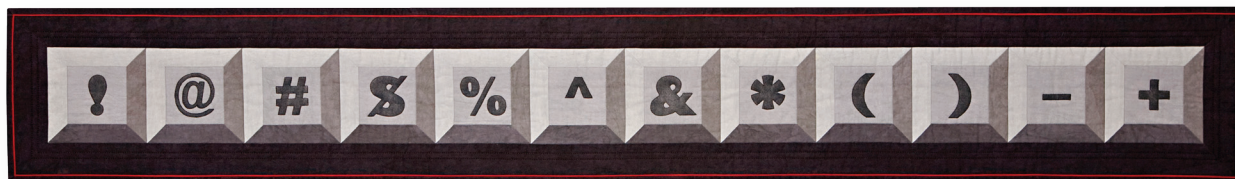


Miter corners

- Place neighboring borders right sides together, fold and tuck block between them, mark from end of stitching line to outer corner and sew on line. Sew entire seam with tiny, 1.5mm stitches.

Note: Another way to do this is to fold block diagonally wrong sides together. (Fold of freezer paper will help this along.) Then flop neighboring borders right sides together, mark miter seam and sew.

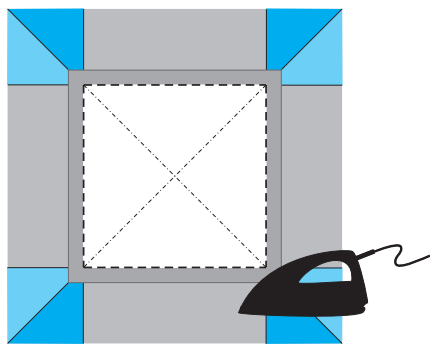
- Repeat for each corner.



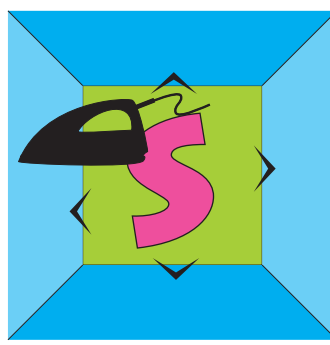
Here's another idea! Labeling freezer paper is really important with this project so greys are sewn in the correct position in order to create the 3D effect. Grey/black fabric kit is available at www.piecesbewithyou.com . Instructions are included in *Marvelous Miters*.

Press and finish

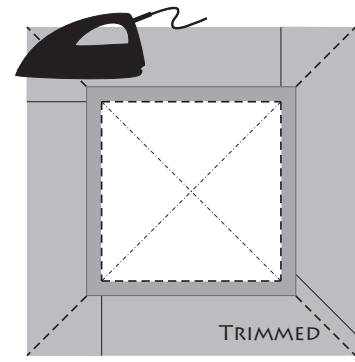
- From wrong side of block press mitered seam allowances open.
- From right side of block press border seam allowances toward borders.
- Since neighboring blocks have mitered corners, I suggest re-pressing miters in one direction (counter-clockwise from wrong side) so seams will nest where corners of blocks meet. Press each block this way, and, yes, they will nest.
- Trim mitered seam allowances to about $\frac{3}{8}$ " if desired and remove freezer paper.
- **A & B blocks alternate!** Finish remaining blocks being careful to use correct border arrangements.



PRESS MITERS OPEN



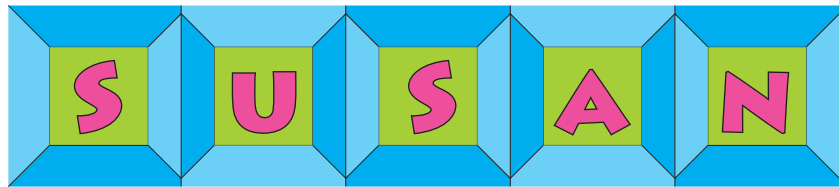
PRESS BORDER SEAMS
TOWARD BORDERS



RE-PRESS MITERS TO
ONE SIDE
(COUNTER-CLOCKWISE),
TRIM IF DESIRED

Assemble row

- Sew blocks side by side pressing seam allowances to one side. Mitered corners will nest nicely making beautiful intersections.



ASSEMBLE ROW

Add borders

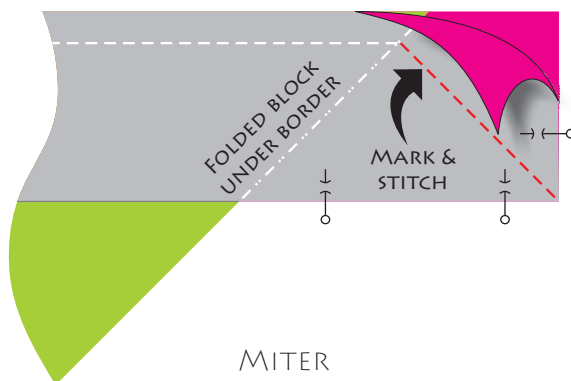
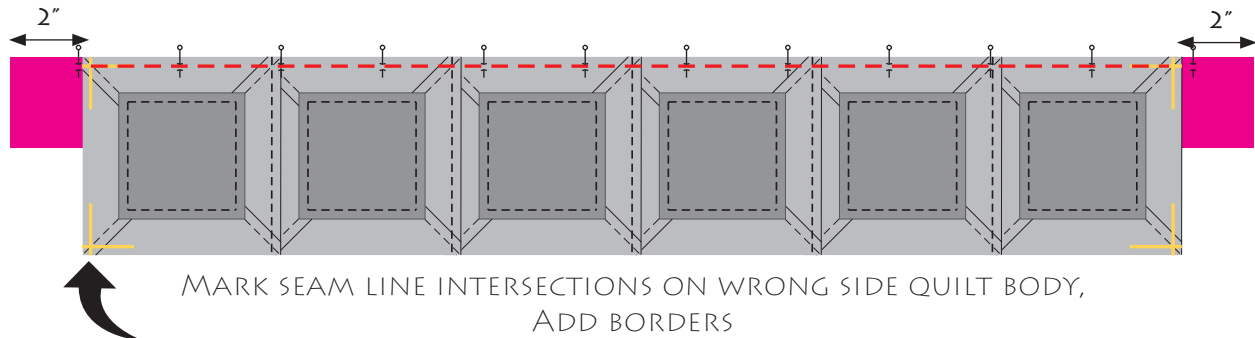
- To determine *border lengths to cut*, measure *unfinished quilt's width and length* through center, then add twice *finished border width*. Borders were cut $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and finish 2", so twice finished border width is 4".

- Cut borders to lengths.

	+	4"	=	
MEASURED QUILT WIDTH		TWICE FINISHED BORDER WIDTH		TOP/BOTTOM BORDER LENGTH TO CUT

	+	4"	=	
MEASURED QUILT LENGTH		TWICE FINISHED BORDER WIDTH		SIDE BORDER LENGTH TO CUT

- Mark seam line intersections on wrong side of quilt body $\frac{1}{4}$ " from edges.
- Top border: Place quilt 2" (*finished border width*) from ends of border with right sides together. Match mid-points. Pin in place and sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance beginning and ending at marked intersections. Stitch with tiny, 1.5mm stitches at beginning and ending of stitching line and 2.0mm stitches in between. You may want to use a Post-it® Note as a ruler.
- Press seam allowance toward border.
- Left, bottom and right borders: Add in the same way block borders were added but use marked intersections to start and stop stitching. Quilt is placed 2" from ends of borders.



Miter corners

- Place neighboring borders right sides together, tuck quilt down between them, mark from end of stitching line to outer corner and sew on line. Sew entire seam with tiny, 1.5mm stitches.
- Repeat for each corner.

Press and finish

- From wrong side of quilt press mitered border seam allowances open and trim mitered seam allowances to about $\frac{3}{8}$ " if desired.
- From right side of quilt press border seam allowances toward borders.

Quilt/Bind/Label

- Layer quilt, baste, and quilt. I suggest quilting in the ditch with a thin thread around each block, in border seams, and between blocks but not miters. I like to quilt around characters with a heavier thread to define the edges well.
- Bind quilt and add a label.