

Wensleydale Quilt Scrappy Math

Welcome to the world of scrappy math. If you love to create but can't always get behind the willy nilly nature of scrappy quilts we've got some good news. Even though it can seem random, creating usually has some math behind it. Think Fibonacci's spiral, so many beautiful entrancing naturally occurring shapes in nature follow a very specific mathematical sequence. Do we see that math every time we look at it, probably not but our brain knows there is some order behind the madness and, I don't know about you but, that's what makes me love scrappy. You're searching for that balance in the chaos. So now, theory aside, we're going to take a look at the Wensleydale quilt block. A fantastic block by the amazing Jen Kingwell. We are going to break down and give you a secret formula to make math scrappy.

This .PDF outline does not replace or give you directions to make this quilt without the tools and pattern that Jen has provided. You will need her Foundation paper booklet for the Wensleydale quilt. If you prefer templates this guide can give you a sizing guide when selecting the various block sections but will need to be cut down. Her book Quilt Recipes has instructions, sizes and layout for the quilt. The instructions we provide here let you use scraps or WOF to cut the pieces you'll need for the block.

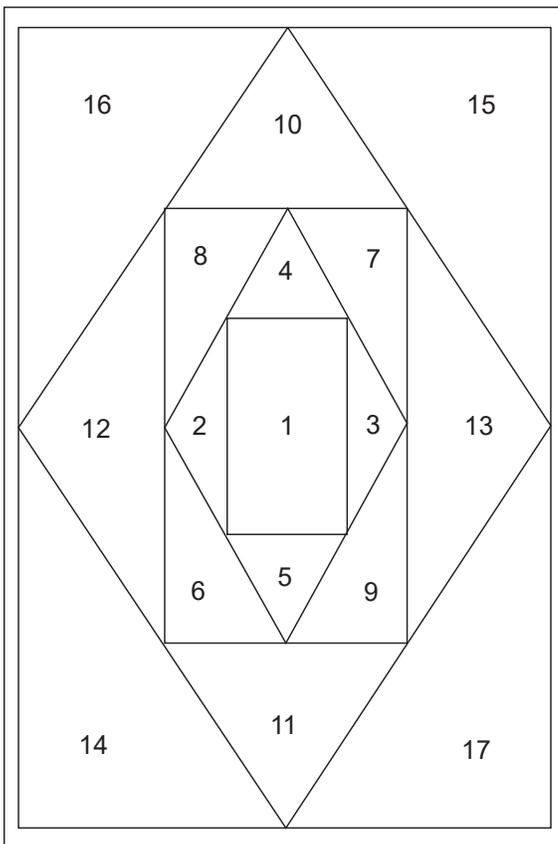
Aside from the Quilt Recipe book and the Foundation paper booklet here are a couple of quilting tools I used for this project.

1. Table top/travel size cutting mat. I have a 12x18 that stays by my machine.
2. Ruler and rotary. I like a 6x12 so I'm not knocking things off the table, and I also have a smaller rotary, mainly so I know that's the one to stay at my station, but any size works.
3. Starch if you're so inclined. Most of the pieces on this project will be on the bias after they are cut. You will actually be sewing on the paper side and not the fabric so that helps.
4. Mini iron or seam press/roller. Unless you want to be up and down after every seam keep something you can press with close by.
5. A very fine weight thread is recommended for FPP I use a Decobob polyester thread. It is fine, but is strong enough it doesn't rip when we tear out the paper.
6. Glue or small pins. Starting the block, you want to make sure your center piece doesn't shift around on the back of the paper.

One main complaint about FPP is fabric waste, pieces are cut larger than for regular piecing. You sew on the printed paper side with the fabric underneath where you can't see the edge of the fabric so you need a little wiggle room. These instructions have you mark and cut fabric in the shape you need for each section of the Wensleydale block.

So let's get started.

The Wensleydale block is made up of 5 block sections, these sections are numbered 1-17. Each section of the block will be a different fabric, but the shapes will repeat. Let's take a look.



As you can see this block has fairly simple shapes.

Each round of the block will be the same color so you'll have each of the groups below cut from the same fabric

- | | |
|-------|-----------------|
| 1 | Center |
| 2-5 | Framing Diamond |
| 6-9 | Framing Corners |
| 10-13 | Framing Diamond |
| 14-17 | Framing Corners |

You can cut each set from fabric scraps; we will include dimensions and cutting diagrams for each section; or use (1) 6-1/2in WOF strip to cut each section so that that fabric will not repeat in the same section throughout the quilt.

All of these pieces will fit on a single WOF strip that is at least 6.25inches. Use the layout guide on the next page to draw each of these sizes onto one side of a heavyweight canvas. This will serve as a handy tool when you are cutting or looking through scraps to easily find the fabric size you need.

FABRIC SECTIONS

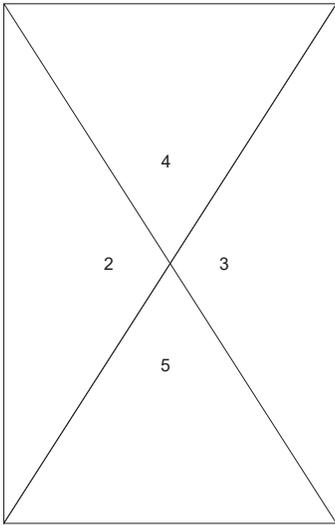
For each round of the block, cut the sizes for each of the 5 sections. Cut one piece in each size from all your fabrics.

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Center | Cut 2.5in x 4in (this is a little long, but it will help having extra to hold on to) |
| 2-5 | Framing Diamond | Cut 4in x 6.25in |
| 6-9 | Framing Corners | Cut 5.75in x 6.25in |
| 10-13 | Framing Diamond | Cut 6.25in x 8.5in |
| 14-17 | Framing Corners | Cut 5 x 15.5 |

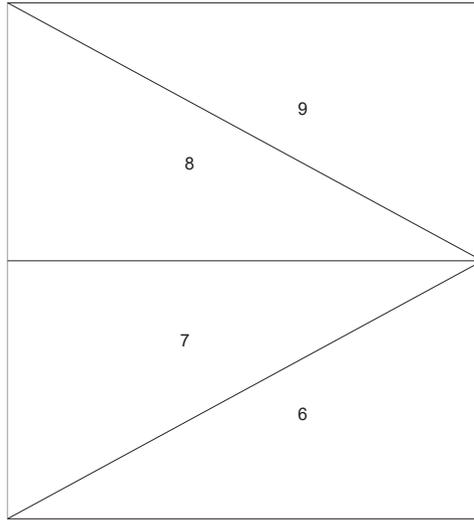
SECTION SUBCUTS

1 2. 5in x 4in (Leave this piece whole)

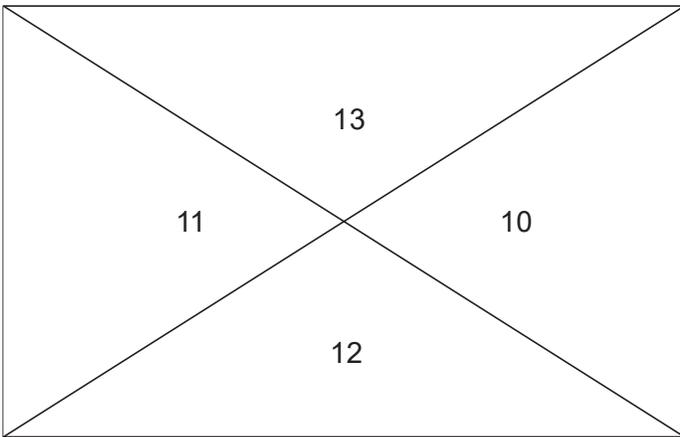
2-5 Subcut 4in x 6.25in



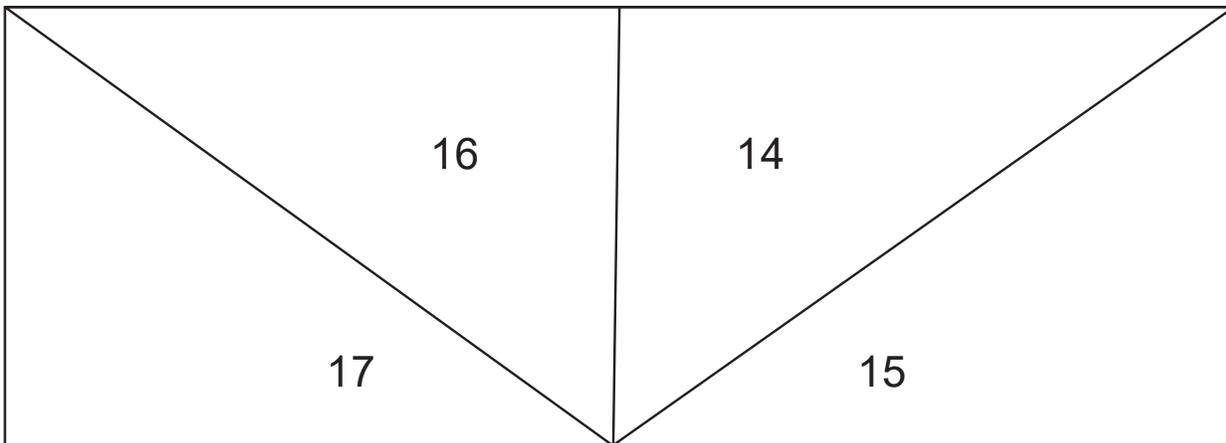
6-9 Subcut 5.75in x 6.25in



10-13 Subcut 6.25in x 8.5in

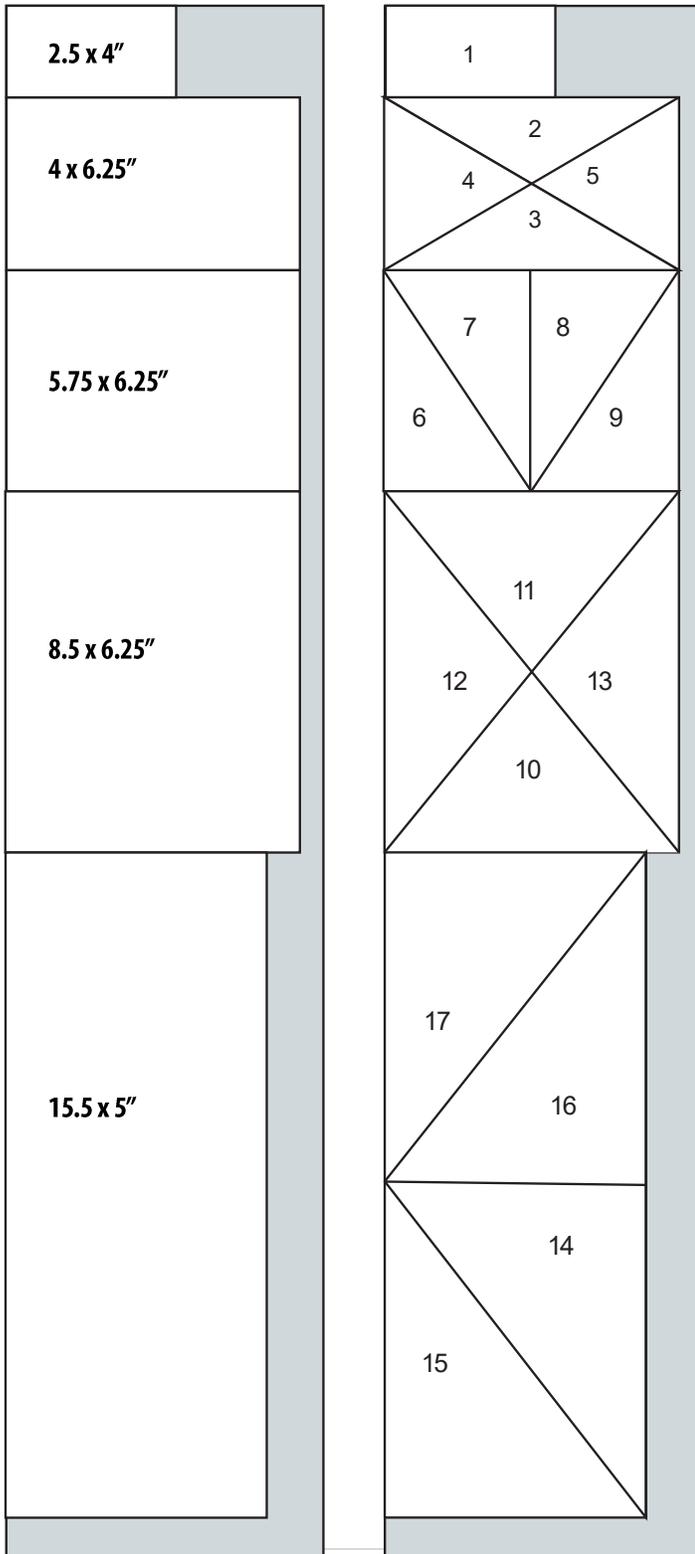


14-17 Cut 5 x 15.5



CUTTING TEMPLATE STRIP

Start with a width of fabric strip that is 6.5in. I used a piece of canvas and put the first cutting instructions on one side and put the sub cutting instructions on the other side. Here is the layout I used for each side. They are on the strip in order of number in the block, but if your strip is not 6.25in or the fabric is not straight when you open out the fold you can cut the pieces in any layout on the fabric strip.



Notes:

The gray area will not be used. I marked my template fabric with diagonal lines to help me visual the unused sections.

You will have about 7in left on the end of the WOF so if you have an oops when cutting or if you need to square up your fabric strip, there is a little room to help everything fil.

CUTTING THE BLOCK FABRIC

So, we've got our template strip made. Let's mark and cut the block fabrics.

SCRAPPY

If you are using fabric scraps, I recommend selecting the 5 prints you want for the block. Lay them out in order you prefer and make sure you have a large enough scrap to cut each section. Trim them to the subcut size on page 3. Put each blocks fabric aside in a baggie or pair with a sheet from the FPP booklet to keep them organized and ready to go, when it's time to sew.

BUNDLES

If you have purchased a Wensleydale bundle, I recommend cutting each of the strips down using the cutting template strip as a guide. Make 5 stacks, (1) for each block section. It's up to you whether you subcut all the block sections before you audition the fabrics for each block. If you do not have a place to leave all the pieces stacked or layered or are afraid of losing some of them if they have to be moved you can sub cut the sections for each block when it's time to sew it together, but if you want to get all that cutting out of the way you can do that now or after auditioning.

AUDITIONING BLOCKS

Start with the outer 5 x 15.5 section. Lay out as many sections as you can in the space you have. Take one fabric from the 8.5 x 6.25 section stack and find which fabric from the previous step you like with it the most. Continue picking and laying out sections by size until all of the 5 x 15.5 pieces have a piece from all 5 fabric stacks. If you did not cut all your fabrics in the cutting stage and want to wait and cut them as you are ready to sew put each completed set of block fabrics either in a baggie, or stack with a sheet from the FPP booklet. Start this process again until you run out of fabrics.

SEWING

If you have never done FPP, I suggest you either invite a FPP friend over for a block sewing party; or check out videos on YouTube. You can find different ways to FPP based on peoples "Tips and Tricks". We will have a video available when we get to that stage in the quilt a long, but everyone learns and understands differently so feel free to recommend your favorite in our online group or just browse until you find a way that clicks for you. Once you get the hang of it, you can zip right through to the end.