

## Hidden Wells Simplified

You will be making 4 blocks that will be joined together to make a four patch.

CUT strips 20"+ long (can use fat quarter)

2 medium 2.5" wide

2 light 2" wide

1 print 3" wide

SEW lengthwise to form a 10" wide strip in this order:

1 medium at 2.5" wide

1 white at 2" wide

1 print at 3" wide

1 white a 2" wide

1 medium at 2.5" wide

PRESS away from the white. Use starch to stabilize.

CUT the pieced strip into 2 ten inch squares.

Re-press one block toward the white.

Place the squares together right sides together at right angles- one vertical and one horizontal. Pin at the corners to make certain the corners meet exactly.

SEW all four edges around the outside. Do not pivot at the corners but go right off the edge.

CUT on both diagonals so you have 4 blocks.

Carefully press (not iron) the seams toward what had been the top triangle.

Exchange two opposing squares so that a square is formed in the middle of your four patch.

Sew together to form a hidden wells block. Make as many as you like for your sample quilt or for the raffle.

PLACE RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER



CUT & PRESS



PIECE & PRESS



A fun thing to try with your border fabric:

### Hidden Wells Using Stripped Fabric

You will be making 4 blocks that will be joined together to make a four patch.

Find a border print or stripe with wide strips. Center a stripe and cut into strips, ideally 8" or wider. Cut the strips into squares.

Place the squares together right sides together at right angles- one vertical and one horizontal. Pin at the corners to make certain the corners meet exactly.

SEW all four edges around the outside. Do not pivot at the corners but go right off the edge. CUT on both diagonals so you have 4 blocks. Carefully press (not iron) the seams toward what had been the top triangle.

Exchange two opposing squares so that a square is formed in the middle of your four patch. Sew together to form a hidden wells block. Look what happens when you sew four hidden wells blocks together! A secondary design forms in the center !!!!



ORIGINAL STRIPE

FOUR  
HIDDEN WELLS  
BLOCKS

# Hidden Wells

## Instructions for a Border Print (or Striped) Hidden Wells Quilt

1. Using a pair of scissors, or a ruler and rotary cutter, cut one repeat along the length or width of your fabric, as appropriate.

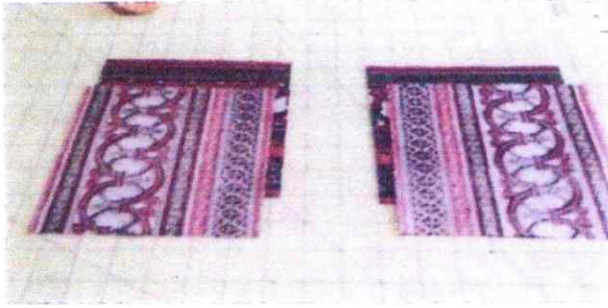


3. Take four squares and lay them out so the pattern forms a "T" with a double stem.



- a. Note: You'll eventually cut more of your fabric, but we don't want to spend the time during class.
  - b. Note: Depending on your fabric, you probably do not have complete repeats. This is a good thing. This will allow you to choose where to cut. The patterns on the top and bottom of the repeat will form the "diamonds" in your squares. See step 8.
2. Precisely measure the width of the repeat you have cut and cut squares from the length. It's important to be exact when you do this—using a ruler and rotary cutter.

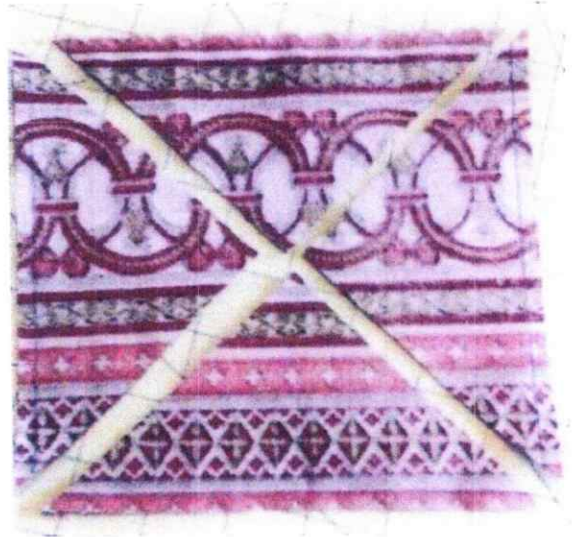
- a. Note: Where the stem and the top of the "T" meet (in the center), the pattern on each square should be the same part of the pattern in your repeat.
4. Place the squares at the stem of the "T" over the squares at the top of the "T," **right sides together**. You now have two square units showing, wrong side out.



5. Pin as you like and sew a quarter inch seam around the perimeter of each of the two units.



6. Cut diagonally in both directions across each unit.

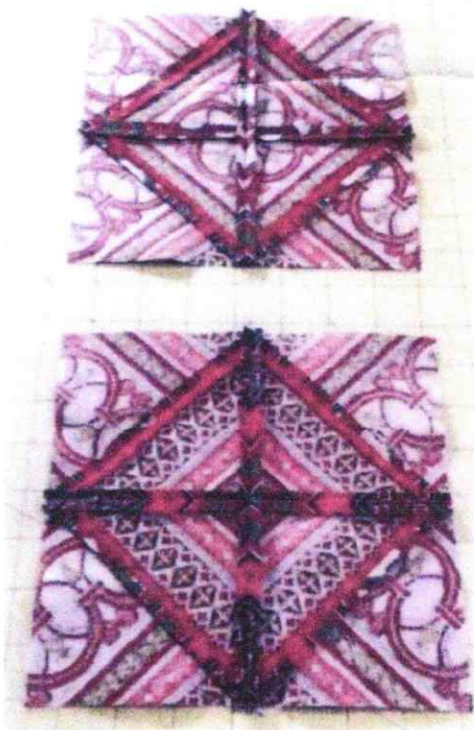


7. Open your four triangles. They are now four squares. Press the seams open and trim off the "bunny ears."



Note: To ease pressing your seams open, you may want to buy "The Strip Stick" from Babb enterprises. URL: [thestripstick.com](http://thestripstick.com); (409) 656-3013. Quiltique in Henderson regularly stocks them.

8. Arrange and sew the eight resulting squares into two Hidden Wells Squares. Press seams open as you work.



- a. Note: The patterns along the edges of connecting sides should match and should also be arranged to match the other squares to which they will be connected.

- b. Note: This pattern goes together nicely with an uneven number of squares, so you may have one leftover when you have finished.

9. Once you have completed a number of squares, you will arrange them to sew into a final quilt. There are some choices to be made concerning the orientation of the squares as you determine your layout.
- a. Notice how the arrangement of the squares can affect the overall look of the pattern.



- a. All connecting seams for squares should also be pressed open.

10. When the Hidden Wells squares are all sewn together, it's important to get a border sewn around your squares fairly quickly. You have been working on the bias in completing the squares, so hanging the quilt on a design wall for any length of time without adding the border will cause stretching. Also leaving it in your UFO pile for too long, unbordered, could cause problems.