

Broken Axle

A Quilt Pattern by Sarah Fulks - SnuggleBugStitching

Sample quilt uses all Benartex Fabrics:

“Always” by Belle Brunner of Seams Sew Me



I originally designed this one as a free project on my site with instructions and pictures instead of a formal pattern. You can read that blog post [HERE](#). Belle’s lovely fabric line, “Always” is great for making gifts. I thought of a wedding gift when I was mocking up this design. It’s not a small quilt, but it’s super quick and easy. The top is made entirely from two layer cakes with minimal cutting. I combined two “easier than it looks” techniques for this quilt that you could make in a weekend! It’s also the perfect size for a family picnic!

Just a little disclaimer: Since this is a FREE pattern, it has only been tested by me. I did my best to catch and correct any errors, but it’s possible that you may still find some.

Getting Started

- Level - Beginner
- Finished Quilt Top - Approximately 78 x 78"
- All seam allowances are ¼ inch
- All units are in inches
- You won’t have to sew bias seams together, but your quilt top will end up with bias edges. This makes them stretchier. Pressing your blocks with starch or sewing a “stay stitch” around the quilt top, about ⅛" from the edge can help.
- Layer Cake = a pack of (42) pre-cut 10" squares
- WOF = width of fabric - 42" for this pattern
- Most of the time I will instruct you to press seams to the sides in opposite directions and nest them. These are just guidelines. If another method works best for YOU, press them that way.
- Read the entire pattern before beginning.

Fabric Requirements

Quilt Top	2 Layer Cakes
Backing	7 ¼ yards of 42" wide fabric OR 2 ½ yards of 90"-108" wide backing fabric
Batting	85" x 85"
Binding	¾ yard

***Fabric requirements based on 42" WOF

***You will select (72) layer cake squares and have (8) layer cake squares left over.

***You will have (2) colorway/color placement options. See the diagram on Page 3 for guidance on fabric selection for each option.

***Backing requirements calculated based on having about 3" extra around all edges of the quilt and as few seams as possible. If you use 42" WOF, you will have 2 seams. Since this is a square quilt, it doesn't matter if you use horizontal or vertical seams. Use whichever works best for the print on your backing. This will give you a lot of leftover fabric.

I'm going to be honest... I don't use nearly that much backing. I would actually just use (2) 2 ½ yard pieces (5 yards total) with one seam in the middle. Some quilters are not comfortable with cutting it that close.

If you are sending your quilt to a long armer you will need go with the listed fabric requirements and use two seams. You may need even more excess. Talk to your long armer to see how much fabric is required.

***Binding requirements calculated based on cutting 2 ½" strips along the WOF (42"). You will need 9 strips.

Colorway Options

- Divide your layer cake squares into high volumes and low volumes.
- Mediums can be used for either high volumes or low volumes, depending on your needs.
- Refer to the diagrams below for the numbers of each volume that you will need for each option.

High Volume Foreground



(40) High Volume Squares
(32) Low Volume Squares

Low Volume Foreground



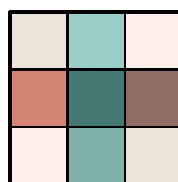
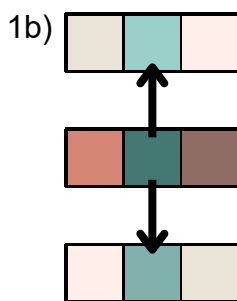
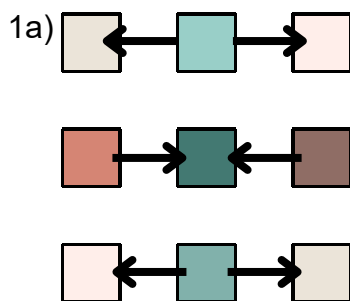
(40) Low Volume Squares
(32) High Volume Squares

Make Your Blocks

The diagrams show the color placement for the High Volume Foreground option with high volume squares in the centers and low volume squares in the corners. If you want to make the Low Volume Foreground option, you will need to have low volume squares in the centers and high volume squares in the corners.

1) Make your 9 Patches

- Lay out (5) 10" Foreground squares and (4) 10" Backgrounds squares as shown.
- Assemble your rows as shown by the arrows (Diagram 1a).
- Press seams to the sides towards the darker fabric.
- Sew your rows together as shown (Diagram 1b).
- Press the cross section seam as desired.



****TIP:** The piece in the center will be cut into (4) quadrants in the next step. So, consider choosing a small scale print for that spot.

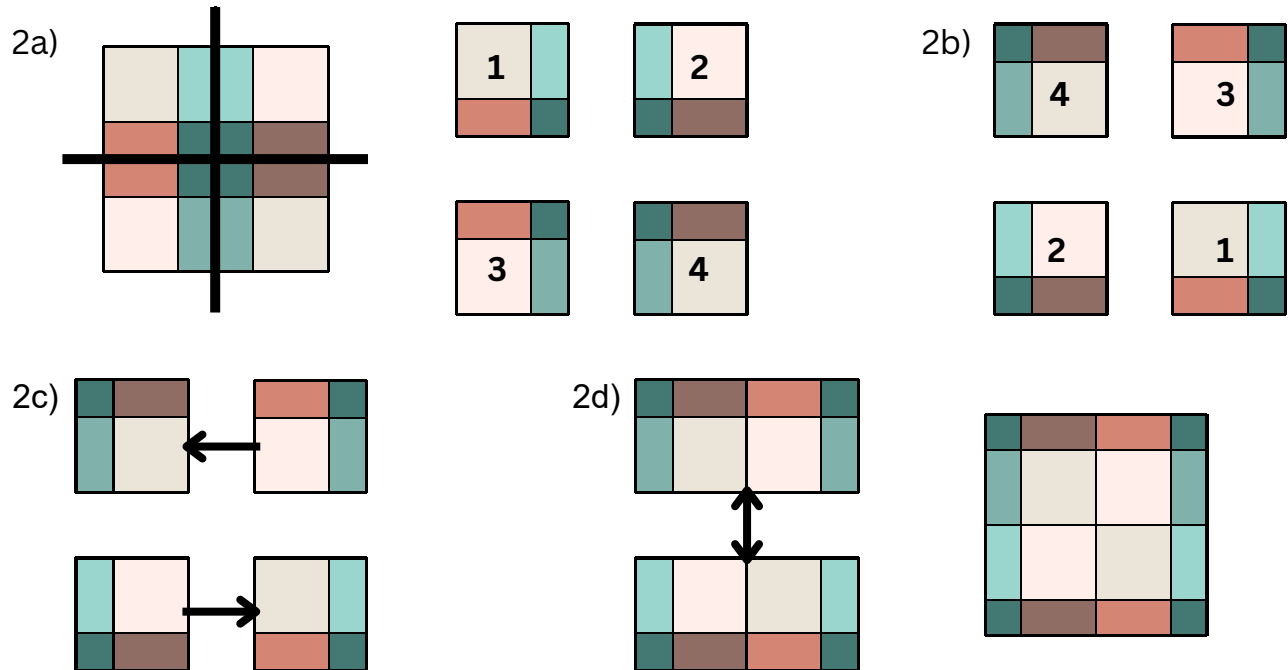
Repeat this process to make (8) 9 Patches.

2) Slice and Swap (Round 1)

- Cut your 9 Patch block into (4) quadrants as shown (Diagram 2a).

****TIP:** Line up the 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " line on your ruler with the seams to get accurate cuts.

- Rearrange the quadrants as shown (Diagram 2b). I have them rearranged within the same block so that it's easier for you to see the new quadrant placement. BUT, you can rearrange them throughout the whole quilt for better color balance.
- Assemble your rows as shown (Diagram 2c).
- Sew your rows together as shown (Diagram 2d).

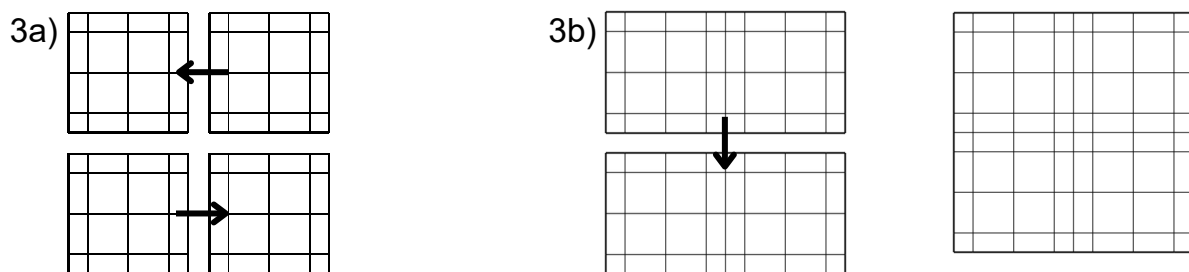


Repeat this process with all (8) 9 Patches.

Assemble Your Quilt Top

3) Make you Sections

- Lay out (4) blocks as shown.
- Assemble your rows as shown (Diagram 3a).
- Sew your rows together as shown (Diagram 3b).



Repeat this process to make (2) Sections.

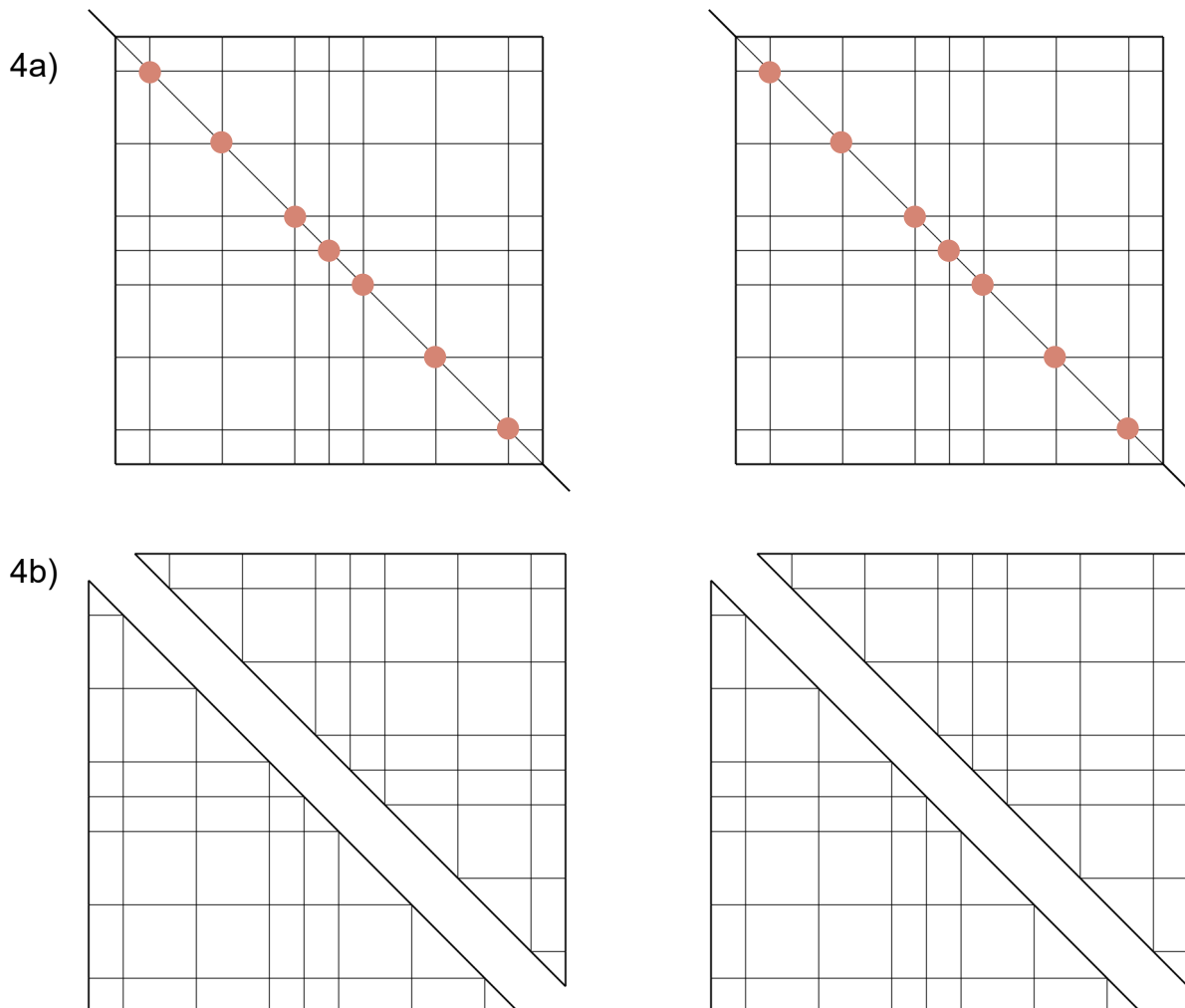
4) Slice and Swap (Round 2)

- Cut each of your sections in half on the diagonal. I have the cuts drawn from top left to bottom right on both sections, but it does not matter which direction you make those cuts (Diagram 4a).

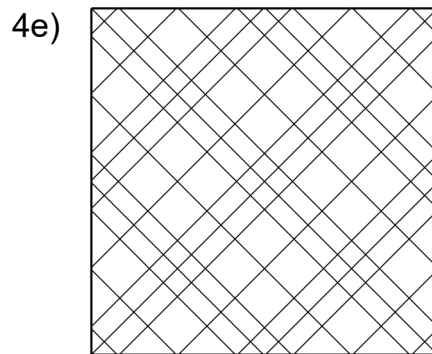
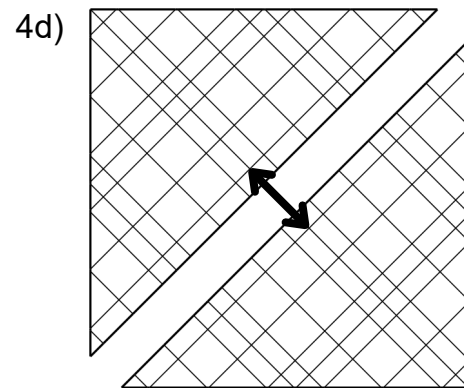
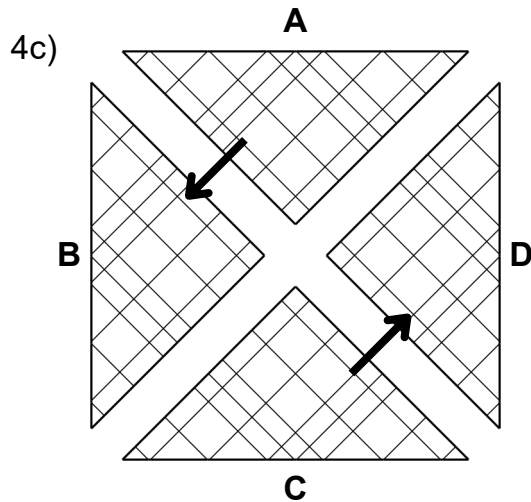
****TIP:** You will not have to sew bias seams together, but your quilt top will have bias edges. Starching liberally and pressing your sections before you cut them can help tame this stretch.

****TIP:** Don't worry so much about lining your ruler up with the corners of each section. You won't have a ruler long enough to do that for this quilt anyway. Instead, you'll want to prioritize lining the ruler up with the points where your seams match up. I have these points marked in red on the diagram.

- You now have (4) pieces (Diagram 4b).



- Rotate your pieces so that the right angle corners meet in the middle.
- Sew Piece A to Piece B, and sew Piece C to Piece D.
- Press your seams as shown by the arrows (Diagram 4c).
- Finish sewing your quilt top together.
- Press the cross section seam open (Diagram 4d).
- You did it! Your quilt top is finished! (Diagram 4e)



I thought I'd mention this again because it's important! Your quilt top will have bias edges. This means the fabrics on the outside/edges were cut on the diagonal, making it stretchier. I am going to quilt this myself on a domestic machine. So it won't be loaded into a long arm frame/the bias edges don't bother me. BUT, if they bother you, a stay stitch can help. What is a stay stitch? Just sew around the edges of your quilt top just inside where your seam allowance would be, about $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edges. This will help stabilize the bias edges.

Finishing your Quilt

- 1) Make your backing. Your backing should be the same size as the batting (page 2).
- 2) Baste your quilt using your favorite basting method. I have some tutorials and posts for my method for basting with glue sticks [REEL](#), [BLOG POST](#), [YOUTUBE TUTORIAL](#).
- 3) Quilt as desired. You can watch my demo of beginner friendly, easy walking foot quilting [HERE](#). I also have a YouTube playlist with some free motion quilting tutorials [HERE](#).
- 4) Make your binding so that you can bind your quilt. Note that the binding fabric amount listed in this pattern (page 2) was calculated based on strips cut 2 ½" wide along the width of fabric (42"). Changing the width of the binding strips could change the yardage needed. I have a full binding tutorial playlist on my YouTube channel. You can view that [HERE](#).

I hope you enjoyed this quilt pattern! I'd love to hear from you! If you have any questions, you can contact me at snugglebugstitching@gmail.com. If you want to see what I'm up to, you can find me at <https://snugglebugstitching.com/>.

I'd love to see what you made!

For Instagram, use #BrokenAxleQuilt #SnuggleBugStitching @SnuggleBugStitching

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