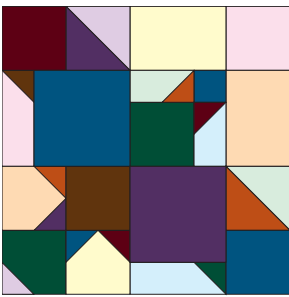




A free pattern for making a unique scrap quilt!

INTRODUCTION



Prairie Chicken is a stylized pictorial block with a design that is symmetrical to one diagonal. The block measures 18 inches square when finished and can be arranged in a variety of ways to form many different looking quilts. Prairie Chicken is simple enough for someone with only

basic quilting skills to construct very easily, yet because of its versatility, it will challenge and intrigue the more experienced quilter with respect to layouts, color schemes and fabric selections.

LAYOUTS

Using the block diagrammed in these instructions, we have illustrated several different layouts that you can build with this block.

Layouts with the Blocks Joined Flush

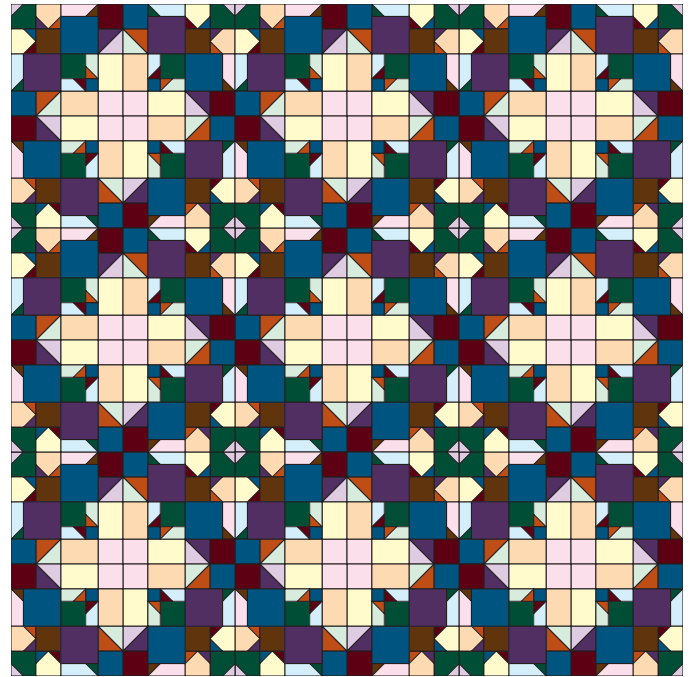
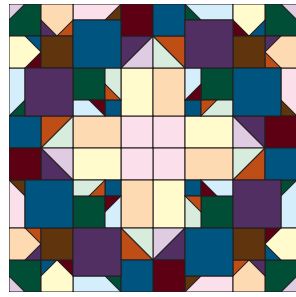
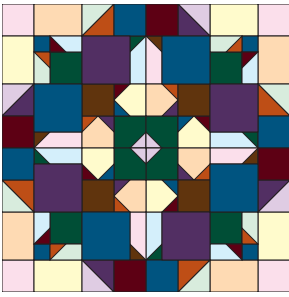
The sample quilt shown at right is one of many designs that can be formed by joining the Prairie Chicken blocks together flush, that is, arranged edge to edge without any sashing between the blocks. These layouts will produce a more contemporary, abstract design in which the Prairie Chicken in flight may in some cases not even be easy to discern. The blocks can be set all in the same orientation or they can be oriented around a center point with the heads or tails toward the center. The blocks can be set so that the chickens are flying in various directions either in a regular pattern or a more random array. Several of these

alternative layouts in which the blocks are joined together flush are diagrammed on the following page.

Layouts with Sashing Between the Blocks

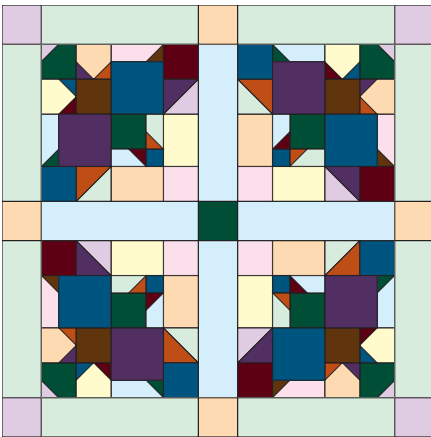
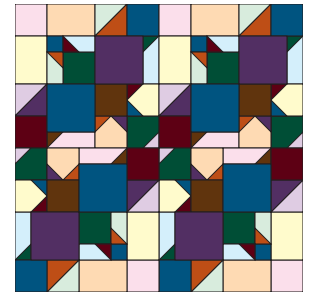
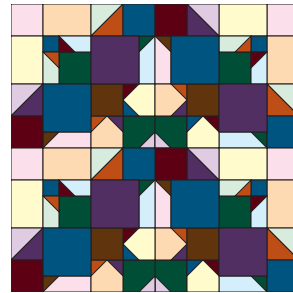
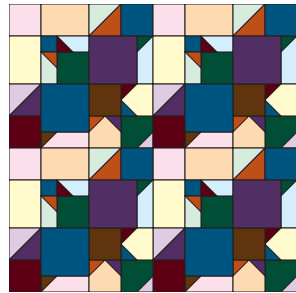
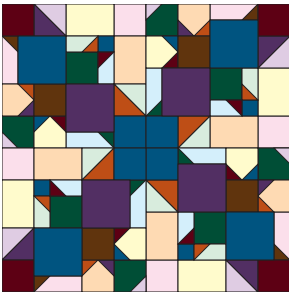
If you want a more traditional look to your quilt or want to be able to readily recognize the Prairie Chicken in flight, consider adding sashing between the blocks. Again, the blocks can be oriented in a number of ways relative to one another, some of which are shown in the diagrams on the following page.



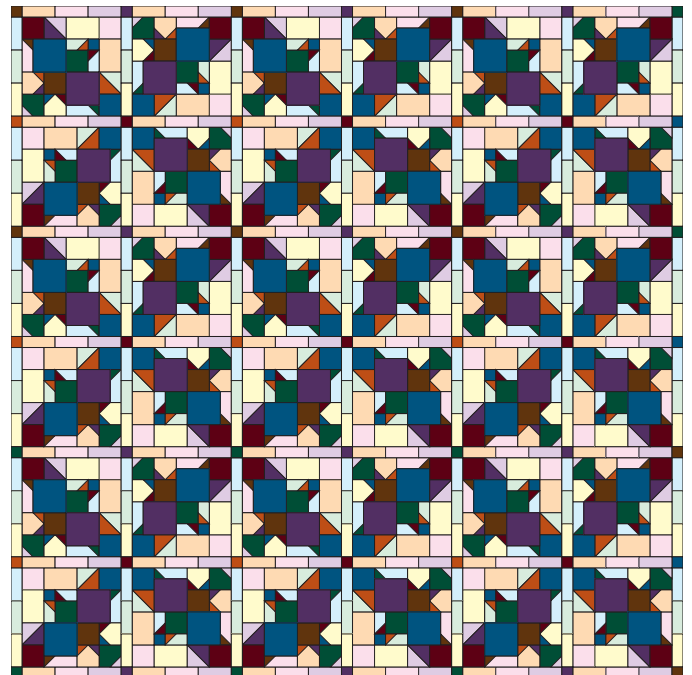
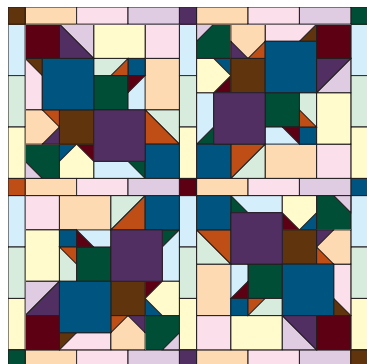


The four-block arrangement at left, above, is a diagram of the sample quilt, with the chickens flying away from the center. The layout to its right is the opposite, with the chickens flying into the center. When that four-block arrangement is repeated nine times, the overall pattern at right is formed, and, as you can see, it contains the upper left layout as well.

Below are four more ways the Prairie Chicken block might be arranged when joined flush. Each layout will form a unique pattern when repeated for a larger quilt.



At left and below are two examples of the Prairie Chicken blocks joined with sashing between them. The layout at left uses a 4-inch wide sashing, while the sashing in the layout below is 2 inches wide. When that arrangement is repeated nine times, the overall pattern at right is formed.



COLOR AND FABRIC SELECTION

The Prairie Chicken block was designed to be made of fabric scraps left over from other quilt projects. It is a two-value design consisting of light and dark fabrics. While the same block is repeated in the diagrams, there is no need to make all blocks of the same fabrics. For example, in the sample quilt no two blocks are identical in terms of specific fabric placement. As long as dark fabrics are used for the chicken and light fabrics are used for the background, the overall patterns will be striking. Select fabrics from your scraps that are compatible in hue and saturation. If you lay your fabrics out on a table or the floor and view them all together from a distance, you can usually spot any that just don't seem to fit in well with the others.

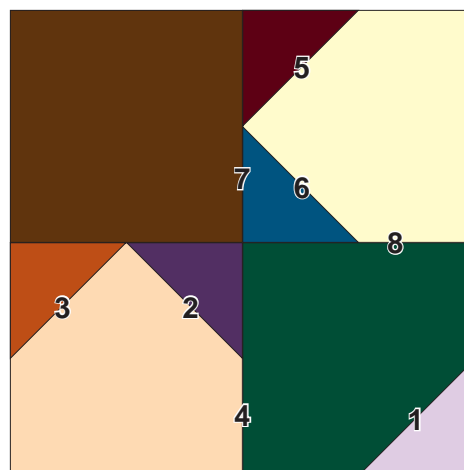
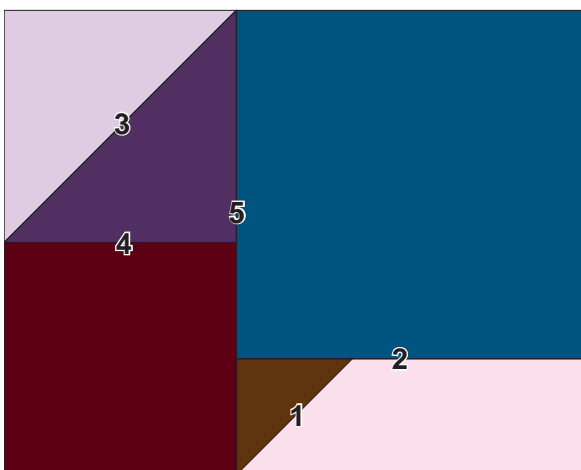
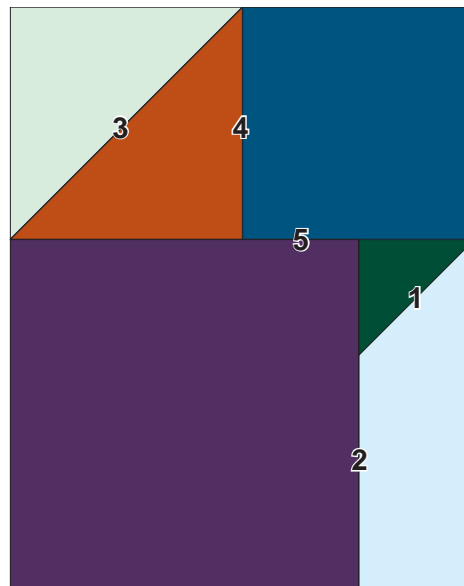
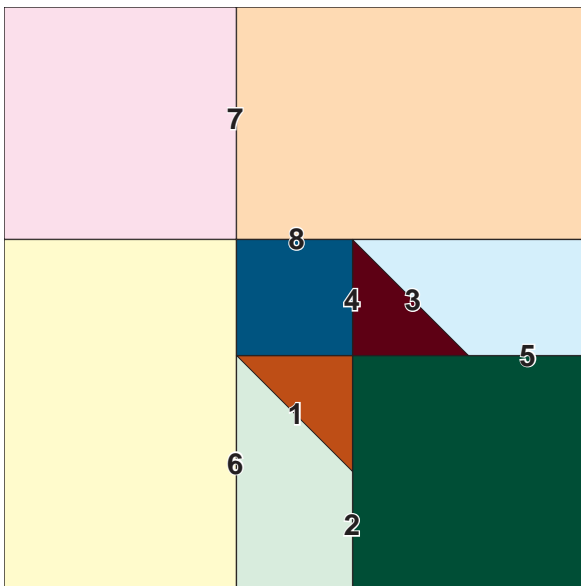
Of course, you can also purchase fabric for this pattern, but because we developed this pattern for scrap quilts, we have not included a yardage chart. However, the pieces you cut for this block are all squares or rectangles with common widths, so calculating the strips and yardage you would need to purchase would not be difficult.

BLOCK CONSTRUCTION

Cutting the Pieces

The following chart summarizes how many pieces of what sizes in dark and light fabrics you will need to cut for each Prairie Chicken block. In parentheses we've shown how many of certain squares that you cut will be used to create triangles, per the instructions that follow. The remaining squares will be used as full squares, although some of those may have smaller triangles added to them.

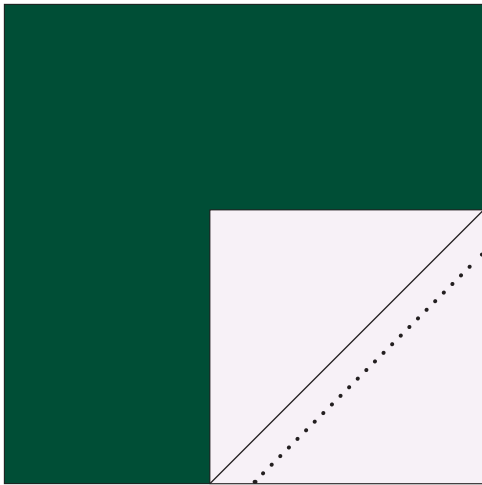
PIECE SIZE	LIGHT FABRICS	DARK FABRICS
2½" square	1 (1 for triangle)	9 (8 for triangles)
4½" square	5 (2 for triangles)	7 (2 for triangles)
6½" square	0	2
2½"×4½" rectangle	2	0
2½"×6½" rectangle	2	0
4½"×6½" rectangle	2	0



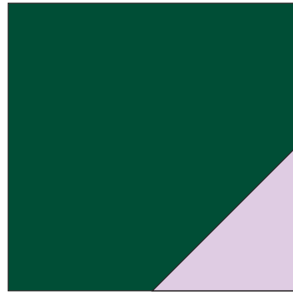
Joining the Pieces

The Prairie Chicken block is made by constructing each of four quadrants first and then joining those sections together by rows or columns. In the exploded block diagram at left, notice that the quadrants are not all the same size and shape. Two are squares of different sizes, and two are rectangles that have the same dimensions but are oriented differently. The numbers on the diagram indicate a suggested sequence in which the seams within each quadrant are to be sewn. Use ¼-inch seams and press each seam after you have stitched it.

The diagram on the next page illustrates how to form the triangular elements. Always make the triangular elements contained in a square or rectangle before joining that square or rectangle to another piece.



At right is how the pieces being joined in the illustration above will look within the finished quilt.



Making the Triangular Elements

All the triangles in the Prairie Chicken block are formed by sewing a small or medium square to either a medium square or a small or medium rectangle. As shown in the diagram above, attaching a square to another piece is quite simple because of the square's symmetry. On the back of the square to be attached, draw a line connecting one corner of the fabric edge to the opposite corner and place that square on the other piece (right sides together) so the line is in the position of the desired seam line. Stitch the seam (solid line), trim the corner $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the stitching line (dotted line), discard the trimmed material and press the seam.

BORDER DESIGN

This pattern does not include instructions for any particular border design, but one idea is shown on the sample quilt on the first page. To complement the layout, we used small squares to form the border, placing dark squares next to light ones along the edge of the quilt face and vice versa. And to continue the diagonal lines of the large diamond shape, we split some of the border squares into triangles. Then we used a single dark fabric from the quilt face for the binding. Because this quilt was made from scraps that did not include a remnant large enough for the backing, a solid color fabric similar in color to the binding fabric was purchased for the backing.

If you are using sashing between your blocks, you can simply use the same sashing design for your border, or you might

consider adding an additional, different border beyond the outer sashing.

QUILTING

This pattern does not include instructions for any particular quilting design, but one idea is shown on the sample quilt on the first page. Using a thread color that harmonizes nicely with all the fabrics in the quilt, we stitched straight diagonal lines at regular intervals in both directions across the entire quilt, including the border.

LEGAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION

This Prairie Chicken Patchwork Quilt Block Pattern is intended for individual, personal use only. It may not be reproduced in any form, nor may items made from this pattern be sold or distributed commercially, without the express written consent of Prairie Queen Pattern Company.

We have made every effort to ensure that these instructions are accurate and complete, but we make no warranties against errors that may result from typographical mistakes, misinterpretations, variations in individual workmanship or the like.

In any case, we welcome your questions and comments about this pattern as well as suggestions for subjects and themes you might like to see in our future designs.

Thank you very much for purchasing and using our patterns.

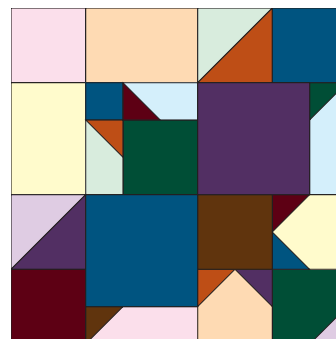
Nancy Harcourt
OWNER/DESIGNER

Prairie Queen Pattern Company

PO Box 771
Wellington, CO 80549

WEBSITE: prairiequeenpatterns.com

E-MAIL: service@prairiequeenpatterns.com



Prairie Chicken
Patchwork Quilt Block
Pattern

PRODUCT NUMBER Q-004