

## Alaska Homestead

The Alaska Homestead block is in honor of the Homestead Act passed by Congress in 1862, which started the westward migration. Thousands of Americans went west for the nearly free land. Any man over 21 years old could get 160 acres for less than \$20. After the purchase of Alaska from Russia by Secretary of State William H. Seward, that land was also opened up and available for homesteading. Although he purchased the land at the bargain price of \$7 million (2 cents an acre), people referred to it as Seward's Folly.

This is probably the most finicky block because it was designed to be a 10 inch block and doesn't divide easily to create a 9 inch one.

### Supplies

2 red 4 1/2 in squares

2 white 4 1/2 in squares

5 blue 2 1/4 inch squares

4 white 2 3/8 x 2 1/4 in rectangles

Draw a diagonal line on the 2 white 4 1/2 inch squares. Put them together with the red 4 1/2 inch squares and sew 1/4 inch from the diagonal line each side of the diagonal line. Cut on the diagonal line, press and trim to 3 5/8 inch squares.



Sew the 4 blue squares to the 4 white rectangles. Then sew 1 of these pieces on each side of the last blue square. That will be your middle row. Press all.



Construct the block as shown in the picture. Be sure to orient the red triangles toward the middle.

