

Massachusetts - Boston Common

What's more appropriate for Massachusetts than the Boston Common block, named for the famous "Boston Commons" - the oldest public park in the United States, founded in 1634. The Boston Common block (or Trip Around the World) is another very old block found on many websites and in most books of quilt blocks. It can be made any size using any size squares. We are using 1 1/2 inch squares to for a 9 inch finished block. It is always a center square with increasingly larger diagonal rounds in different colors and fabrics.

You may use three different reds, blues and whites or just one of each. All pieces are cut 1 1/2 inches square. You are making 9 rows of 9 squares each. Since they are such small pieces, staying organized is a must or pieces will get lost in that black hole in your sewing room where all other lost pieces go - never to be seen again until the quilt is finished!

What I did was use 2 pieces of graph paper and draw the 9 rows with 9 squares each. Then I labeled each row down the left side 1 - 9 and wrote in each square which fabric I wanted there - white, white 2, white 3, red, red 2, red 3, etc.



Then I cut all the fabrics and started taping one fabric square to each square on the paper. The four blue squares are not yet taped to the diagram - left off so you could see my notes of the row number and color in the square.



I always have a tough time keeping long strips straight so I cut 9 strips of paper numbered them 1 - 9, and used them to line up my rows for sewing - think paper piecing. I place one square on the end face up and another on top of it face down. Stitch those two together - open and press then add another piece face down to the end. Keep going until you have a 9 pieces sewn down. When you are done, measure the strip to make sure it is 9 1/2 inches exactly. If not, find the error and fix it now.



When you are done sewing all 9 rows, line them up on your table and start sew them together to complete the block.

