

Log Cabin Quilts

by Sharon Zerkel, Cincinnati, Ohio

One of the most popular quilt patterns is the Log Cabin Quilt. There are many variations, but most of the "settings" that make the quilt different are done by merely turning the block in different directions. So make nine blocks the same and try different variations.

LOG CABIN COURTHOUSE STEPS



1. Cut a pattern of card stock that is 1/2" wide and about 1-1/2" long. Choose 3 light, 1 dark and 1 center fabric. Cut strips from the fabric 1-1/2" wide and 1-1/2" long. This gives you a good size piece to work with. Cut a strip of fabric from the center color that is as wide as your pattern (1/2"). Then cut it crosswise to make a 1/2" square. This center was traditionally red, to represent a chimney, but we can make it any color that suits our quilt color scheme. Then cut 1/2" wide strips from the rest of your fabrics.



Log Cabin Courthouse Steps without binding.

2. Try to sew a consistent seam allowance of 1/8". Knot your thread at the end of each piece as you add to the block. The first two pieces you add to the center will be the same size as the center. Then the pieces will become gradually longer as you go. Do not cut out the pieces until you need them. The lengths will vary depending on your seam allowances. Add the pieces following the diagrams until you have 3 pieces on each side of the center square. One block will make a pillow. Make four blocks to make a wall hanging or baby quilt. Nine blocks will make a bed quilt.
3. When you have your blocks finished press them so they are flat and square. Then sew them in equal rows and sew those rows together to make your quilt top. If the quilt top is not big enough you can make more blocks or add a border to two sides or to all four sides. Press the pieced top flat and as square as you can get it. Do not trim the blocks. You will cut a thread. Cut a backing the same size as the top. Pin the backing to the back of the quilt top and add binding.

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Step
1

Step
2

Step
3

Step
4

Step
5

Step
6

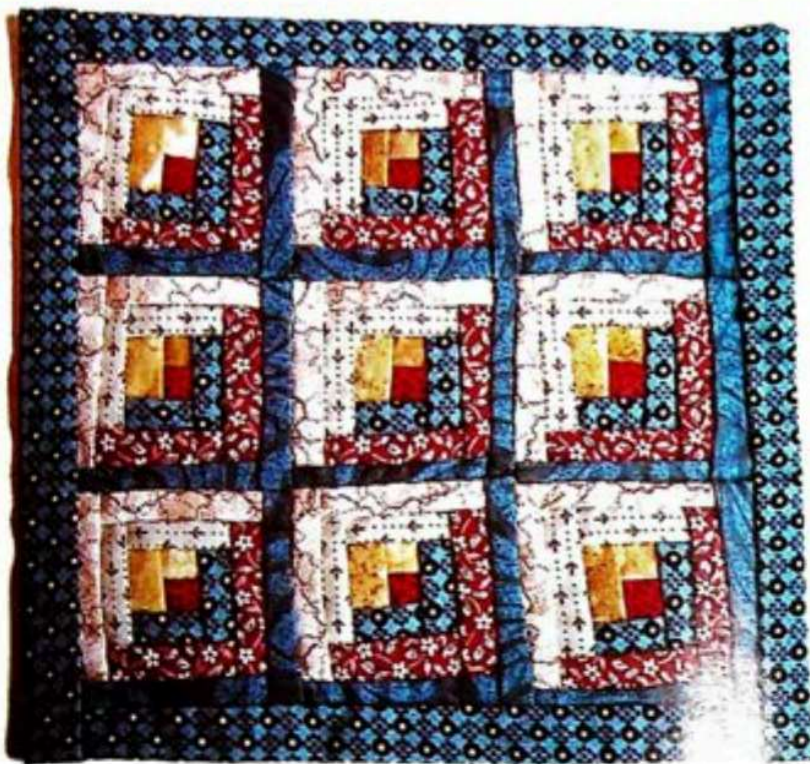
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LOG CABIN STRAIGHT FURROWS

This is the other traditional log cabin quilt block. This block differs from the Courthouse Steps in the way that it is constructed. The center square is one color and then the logs 1 & 2 are one light color, 3 & 4 are another dark color, 5 & 6 are a different light color, etc. Alternate the colors to form a diagonally colored block.



Log Cabin Straight Furrows without a binding.



Log Cabin Straight Furrows

1. Again choose 3 light, 3 dark and 1 center fabric. Cut the strips crosswise from your fabric.
2. The center is a 1/2" square like the other block. Your number 1 log is also a 1/2" square, but the second log is added across both the center and your number 1 log. Watch your diagrams and turn the block a quarter turn clockwise each time, so that you are sewing across the end of the last log that you added. Knot at the beginning and ending of each log as you sew them on.

Sew piece 1 to the center square, right sides together, finger press open. Turn a quarter of a turn clockwise and add piece 2. This piece is the same length as the center and piece 1 together. Continue to turn, sew, finger press until you have added all 12 pieces to the block.

Each side should have 3 pieces of each side of the center square, and the color should divide diagonally across each block, lights and darks.

3. Press your finished blocks so that they are flat and smooth. Do not trim the blocks, you will trim a thread. Try rearranging them to see how the pattern works as you turn the blocks.

Make 9 blocks to make a 3x3 quilt.

Cut a backing the same size as the top. Pin the backing to the back of the quilt top and add binding.

BINDING

1. Cut 4 strips from one of your fabrics 1-1/2" wide and longer than the sides of your quilt top.
2. Press binding strips in half lengthwise. Then open it and press the 2 edges into the center and repress the folded strip. This forms a double fold binding.
3. Sew binding to top and bottom of quilt on opposite sides. Cut binding ends even with quilt top.
4. Sew binding to other sides, but this time turn the under ends of binding so that raw edges do not show.

Next issue: Sharon will share instructions for a Windmill Quilt.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



Step 6



Step 7