

## Rainy Days & Sun Days Background Piecing





Throughout the year, to challenge the more advanced quilters, I will introduce a technique I call Advance Pre-Piecing, which will give dimension to some of the wedges within a block for an even more Distinctive Dresden look.





A photo of the fabrics I started with for my background piecing is shown on page 3 of the Guidelines (posted December 2017).

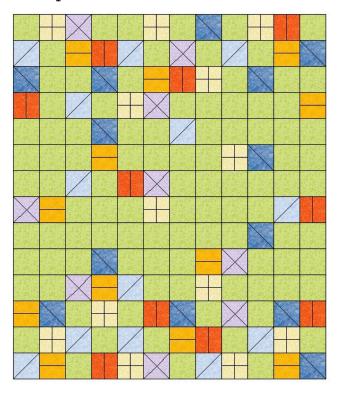
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Rainy Days and Sun Days consists of two coordinated quilts.

Quilt 1, **Rainy Day Umbrellas**, is a large quilt, 72" x 84", ample enough to cover a queen mattress. Addition of a border would result in a quilt sufficient to cover any of today's deep pocket queen mattresses.

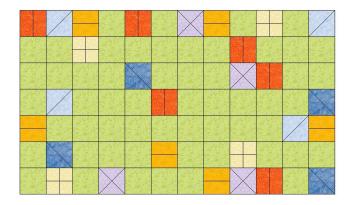
Quilt 2, **Sun Day Parasols**, is a wall hanging, 72" x 42", intended to compliment the bed quilt.





The backgrounds in both quilts start with similar, misty teals, aquas, & turquoise sky fabrics combined with city themed fabrics. In **Rainy Day Umbrellas** I've added in some darker valued and 'rainy' fabrics; for **Sun Day Parasols** more light & sunny themes have been used. In order to create the ultra scrappy look I wanted, each and every unit is individually cut and placed.

The top of each quilt consists of lighter airier sky fabrics, which blend and gradate downward to city life themed fabrics.





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In each quilt I have started with a basic selection of fabrics; from there I have added some 'rainier' fabrics for **Rainy Day Umbrellas** and some 'airier' fabrics for **Sun Day Parasols**.

In calculating yardage, I have allowed an 8" square of fabric for each of the 252 background blocks required. Total yardage required for the backgrounds of both quilts (based on providing scrappy backgrounds cut 8" x WOF, or 51 strips x WOF strips) is 10.5m or 11 1/2 yds.

Binding is not included in this calculation. Binding for both quilts requires 1m or 11/8 yds based on 21/2° x WOF strips.

# of 6" finished background blocks required (6 1/2" with Seam allowance)	Rainy Day Umbrellas	Sun Day Parasols
	98	56
* * * * * * *	10	6
	12	6
	13	4
	13	4
	13	4
	9	4



Each background block requires:

l piece cut 6 1/2" x 6 1/2"



Each 2 rail vertical background block requires: 2 scrappy pieces cut 3 1/2" x 6 1/2" each



Each 2 rail horizontal background block requires: 2 scrappy pieces cut 3 1/2" x 6 1/2" each



Each 4-patch background block requires:  $4 \text{ scrappy pieces cut } 3 1/2^{\circ} \times 3 1/2^{\circ} \text{ each}$ 



Each Half Square Triangle (upward right) background block requires:  $2 \text{ scrappy pieces cut from a } 6 \text{ } 1/2" \text{ strip using an EZ Angle Ruler}^{\text{TM}}$ 



Each Half Square Triangle (upward left) background block requires: 2 scrappy pieces cut from a 6 1/2" strip using an EZ Angle Ruler<sup>TM</sup>



Each Quarter Square Triangle background block requires: 4 scrappy pieces cut from a 3 1/2" strip using a Companion Angle Ruler™

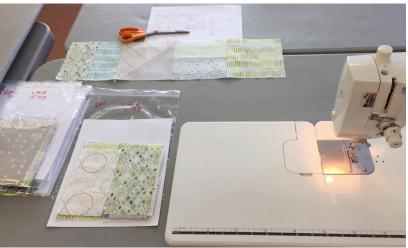
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As I indicated on pages 2/3, I cut and placed every piece individually to get the scrappy look I wanted. To make the piecing easier I laid out the quilt on a large surface as I selected and cut the pieces. Once I was satisfied with the effect, I stacked each row 'from left to right - top to bottom'. I placed each row in a labeled zipper seal bag. I sewed the rows one at a time, assembling the pieced blocks as I went. I kept a layout diagram handy to ensure everything was coming together as it should. Once all the rows were pieced, I sewed all the rows together, to assemble into the quilt top.









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