

President's Teachable Moment

October 2025

COURTHOUSE STEPS

The Courthouse block is similar to the log cabin block, but the logs do not go round and round. The Courthouse quilt block became popular during the Civil War. The Courthouse block does have a centre square and bars surrounding it, but the bars do not rotate around, they go top and bottom first and sides next.

The ideal combination for scrappy is:

Fabric A: ---you can use light, medium dark,

Fabric B; contrast colours, with an option of going light, medium, dark

Fabric requirements and cutting instructions for a 9 ½ inch unfinished block

Fabric A:

Centre square : 3 ½ inch

Cut 2 : 1 ½ x 5 ½

Cut 2: 1 ½ x 7 ½

Cut 2: 1 ½ x 9 ½

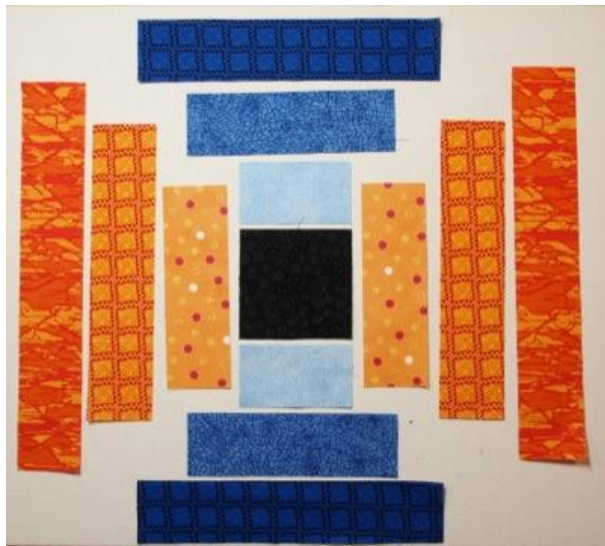
Fabric B:

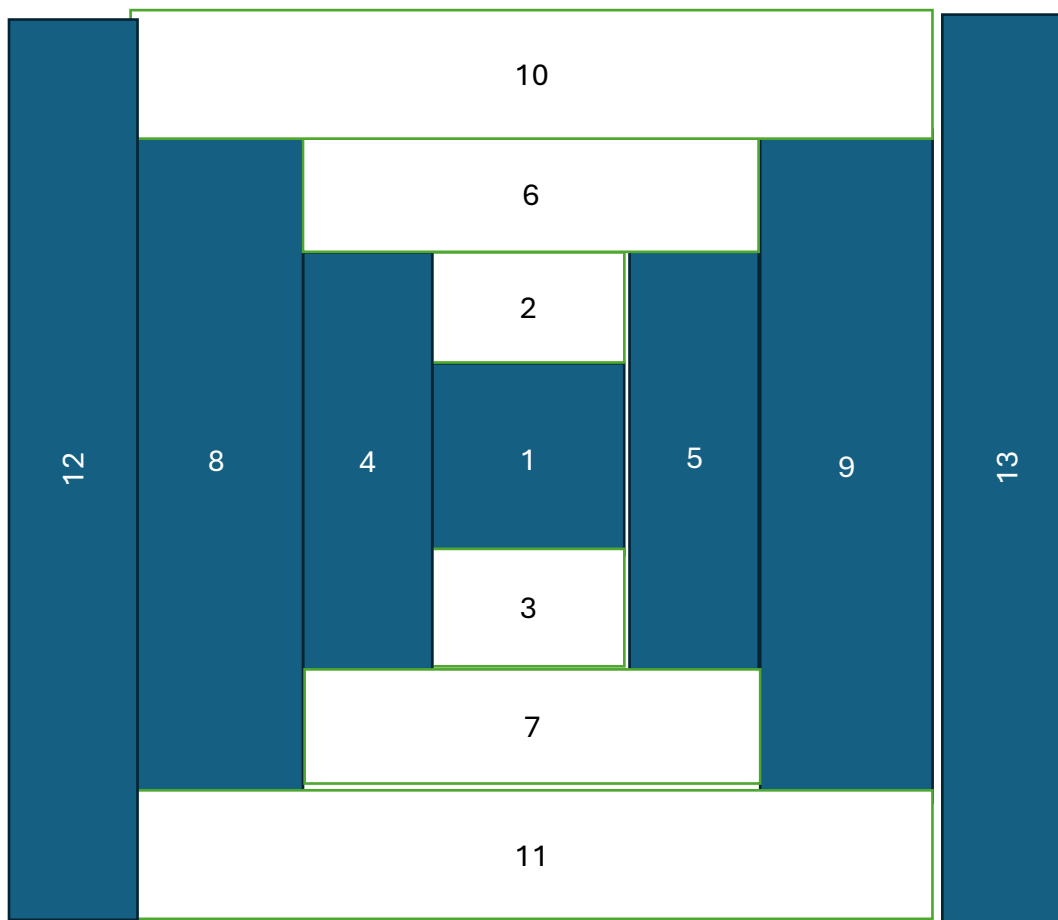
Cut 2 : 1 ½ x 3 ½

Cut 2: 1 ½ x 5 ½

Cut 2: 1 ½ x 7 ½

Lay out strips





Sew in the following order

To the centre attach the 3 ½ inch Fabric B bars – one to the top and one to the bottom

Attach contrasting 5 ½ inch Fabric A bars to each side of this piece.

Attach 5 ½ inch Fabric B bars to the top and bottom

Attach 7 ½ inch Fabric A bar to the sides

Attach 7 ½ inch Fabric B bars to the top and bottom

Attach 9 ½ inch Fabric A bars to the sides

Your block is complete!

If you want to make a bigger block you can make your bars wider.

2 inch bars with a 3 ½ inch centre will result in a 12 ½ inch unfinished block

Layout Ideas below, with many more on Pinterest

