

THE GRAND QUILT GUILD

ROW BY ROW PROJECT 2026 – 2027

BLOCK # 1 September 9, 2026 Due October 14, 2026

DIAMOND IN A SQUARE QUILT BLOCK



This Diamond in a Square (or square within a square) is closely associated with the Lancaster County Amish. The classic “Center Diamond” Amish quilt is basically one very large Diamond in a Square set on point surrounded by wide border of a contrasting solid colour. Amish quilters elevated this pattern to an art form. Done in bright jewel toned solid colours against a black background, this quilt is amongst the most imitated quilts in American textile history. Although dating back to the early 19th century its clean crisp lines take on a contemporary look.

Although simple in looks, this block is a critical technical skill requiring careful cutting and pressing.

Fabric Requirements:

- Two contrasting fabrics
- This block lends itself easily to a fussy cut center
- It would be ideal for a child’s I Spy Quilt
- So choose your center creatively
- This is a 6 (6 ½) inch block.
- All seams are ¼ inch

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS:

Center square: cut 1 x 4.75 inches

Outer triangles: cut 2 x 4 inches

Cut outer triangles in half diagonally to make 4 triangles

To make this block in a different size, there is a handy little formula that enables accurate cutting.

For the center square:

$$\text{Finished block size} \div 1.414 = X + \frac{1}{2} \text{ inch}$$

$$(6 \div 1.414 = 4.24 + 0.5 = 4.74 \text{ in})$$

For the outer triangle:

$$\text{Finished block size} \div 2 = X + 1 \text{ inch}$$

$$(6 \div 2 = 3 + 1 = 4)$$

✚ If you find the outer triangles a bit tight you can always cut them a tad bigger,
BUT the center square remains the same size

BLOCK ASSEMBLY:

1. Fold the center block in half twice and the triangles once. This will aide in placement.



2. Place the first outer triangle on the center square aligning its peak with the center of the square. Press the seam towards the outer triangle.



3. Place the second outer triangle on the opposite side of the center square aligning its peak with the center and pressing towards the outer triangle.
4. Now continue to place the remaining two outer triangles on the remaining two center block sides' pressing towards the outer triangles.



5. Trim the block to 6 ½ inches.
6. Now make 6 more
7. .Happy Stitching

As usual, any questions or issues don't hesitate to contact me:
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DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR COMPLETED BLOCKS TO THE OCTOBER MEETING