


# RUBY RED BLOCK

Finished: 12" x 12"  
Unfinished: 12½" x 12½"

 @3rdstoryworkshop #rubyredblock  
[www.3rdstoryworkshop.com](http://www.3rdstoryworkshop.com)



**ABOUT THE DESIGN** I am the daughter of Chinese immigrants to Canada. Some of the most valuable items in our family are small items that could be easily transported on an airplane across the Pacific. Back in Hong Kong, my grandmother often designed her own jewelry and had it made by her favourite local jewellers. These items hold meaning for me, not in their monetary value, but for the hand that she had in creating them.

These gem shapes are featured in my book, *Patchwork Lab: Gemology* but only as quick raw-edge appliqué colour studies. Here though, we piece them in a dynamic arrangement of three.

Red being the luckiest colour in Chinese culture, it seems fitting that this block features rubies. But feel free to try it in any colours that you have on hand. Ruby Red uses a few scraps in five different tones which gives a three-dimensional effect of gemstones gleaming in the light. I hope you enjoy making it.

— Andrea Tsang Jackson, 3rd Story Workshop

## FABRIC REQUIREMENTS

Light	<b>L</b>	(1) 3½" square (2) 2" square	SWATCH
Medium Light	<b>ML</b>	(4) 2" squares (8) 1¼" squares	SWATCH
Medium	<b>M</b>	(1) 3½" square (2) 2" square	SWATCH
Medium Dark	<b>MD</b>	(1) 3½" square (2) 2" square	SWATCH
Dark	<b>D</b>	(1) 3½" square (2) 2" square	SWATCH
Background	--	(1) FQ	SWATCH

## CUTTING THE BACKGROUND

From the background fat quarter:

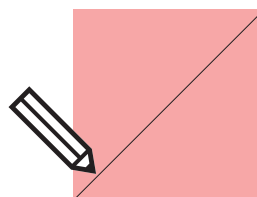
- Cut (2) 4" strips.
  - From first strip, subcut (5) 4" squares.
  - From the second strip, cut (1) 4" x 9" rectangle.

- Cut (1) 2" strip.
  - Subcut into (1) 2" x 12½" and (1) 2" x 7½" strip.

- Cut (1) 2¼" strip.
  - Subcut into (8) 2¼" squares.

## MAKING THE RUBIES

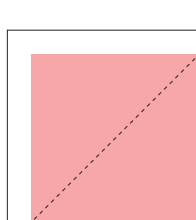
- Using a water-soluble marking pen or mechanical pencil, mark all coloured squares from corner to corner on the wrong side of the fabric (Figure 1).



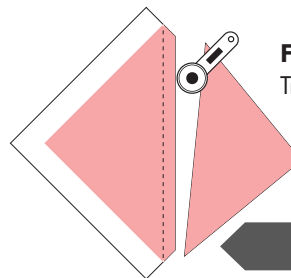
**FIGURE 1**  
Drawing a diagonal.

## Large Ruby

- Place the light 3½" square, right side down, on top of a 4" background square. Align the squares at the bottom right corner, as shown in Figure 2.
- Sew on the marked diagonal line.
- Trim the corner off, ¼" from the seam, as shown in Figure 3.



**FIGURE 2**  
Aligning squares.



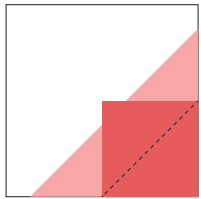
**FIGURE 3**  
Trimming off corner.

### TIP

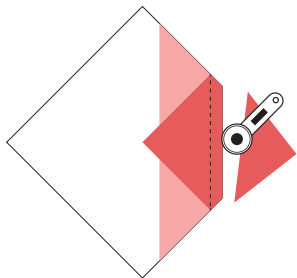
Check out this quick tutorial on how to trim multiple blocks at once: [bit.ly/2EtMHUO](http://bit.ly/2EtMHUO)

- Repeat with the 3½" medium, medium dark, and dark squares.

- Place a medium light 2" square, right side down, on top a unit from Steps 1-4. Align the squares at the bottom right corner, as shown in Figure 4.
- Sew on the marked diagonal line. Trim the corner off, 1/4" from the seam, as shown in Figure 5.
- Repeat Steps 5 and 6 with the three remaining units.



**FIGURE 4**  
Aligning medium light square.



**FIGURE 5**  
Trimming off corner.

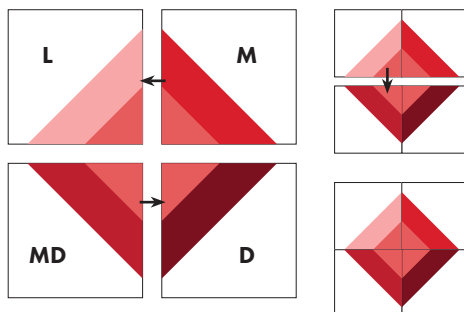
### Small Rubies Make 2 units

- Place a light 2" square, right side down, on top of a 2 1/4" background square. Align the squares at the bottom right corner, as shown in Figure 2.
- Sew on the marked diagonal line.
- Trim the corner off, 1/4" from the seam, as shown in Figure 3.
- Repeat with the 3 1/2" medium, medium dark, and dark squares.
- Place a medium light 1 1/4" square, right side down, on top a unit from Steps 1-4. Align the squares at the bottom right corner, as shown in Figure 4.
- Sew on the marked diagonal line. Trim the corner off, 1/4" from the seam, as shown in Figure 5.
- Repeat Steps 5 and 6 with the three remaining units.

## ASSEMBLING THE BLOCK

Use a scant 1/4" seam allowance.  
Check out [bit.ly/2CYvdOr](http://bit.ly/2CYvdOr) to ensure that you've have an accurate seam allowance on your machine.

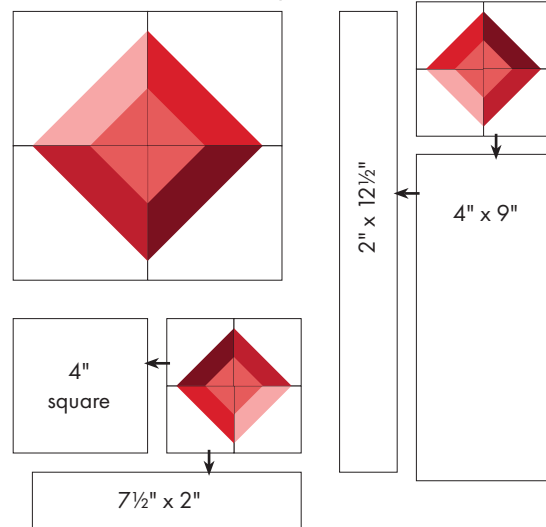
- Large ruby:** Arrange the four quadrants according to Figure 6. Join the top two quadrants and the bottom two with a scant 1/4" seam allowance. Press seams in the direction indicated.
- Join the two halves. Press toward the darker quadrants.
- Small rubies:** Repeat Steps 1 and 2 for the two (2) small rubies.



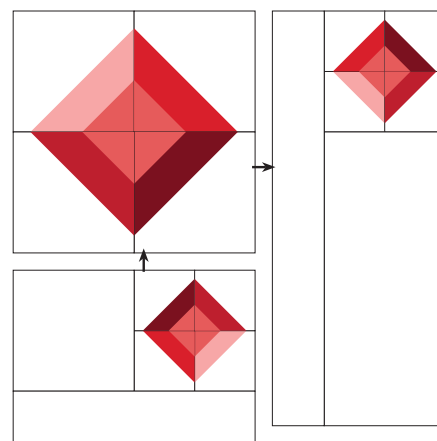
**FIGURE 6**  
Assembling rubies.

- Arrange the remaining background pieces with the assembled jewels according to Figure 7. Pay careful attention to the orientation of the toned fabrics.
- Join one small ruby to the 4" background square. Press the seam toward the background square as shown.
- Add the 7 1/2" x 2" rectangle. Press the seam toward the rectangle.

**FIGURE 7** Block assembly



- Join the other small ruby to the 4" x 9" rectangle. Press the seam toward the rectangle.
- Add the 2" x 12 1/2" rectangle. Press the seam toward the rectangle.
- Join the large ruby to the unit below it, as shown in Figure 8. Add the other to the right. Press the seams in the direction indicated.



**FIGURE 8**

Order your copy of  
*Patchwork Lab: Gemology*  
by Andrea Tsang Jackson  
here:

[bit.ly/2PGMWPz](http://bit.ly/2PGMWPz)

