

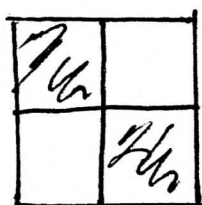
JULY BLOCKS OF THE MONTH

JACOB'S LADDER

The Jacobs Ladder block is an old block with rich religious roots. Some historians date it back to before the Revolutionary War, while others believe it was first used during the Civil War and was part of the underground railway code, leading thousands of slaves to freedom.

This brings us to the core mystery behind Jacob's Ladder. Finley noticed that the same pattern was often called the Underground Railroad, bringing to mind the story of Eliza in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, making the brave trek north toward Canada where runaway slaves could be free. While the pattern was unknown during the early 1800s, before the Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation, perhaps this was evidence that it was originally named in honor of this harrowing chapter of our country's history?

The 4 patches are made using $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares.

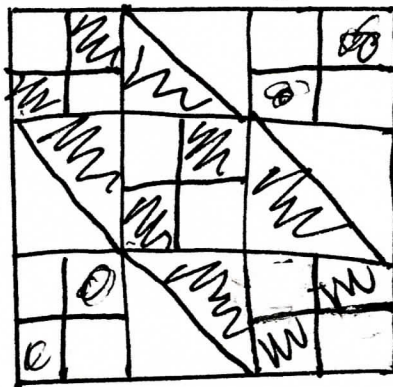


The $\frac{1}{2}$ triangles are made with $5\frac{1}{8}$ " squares.



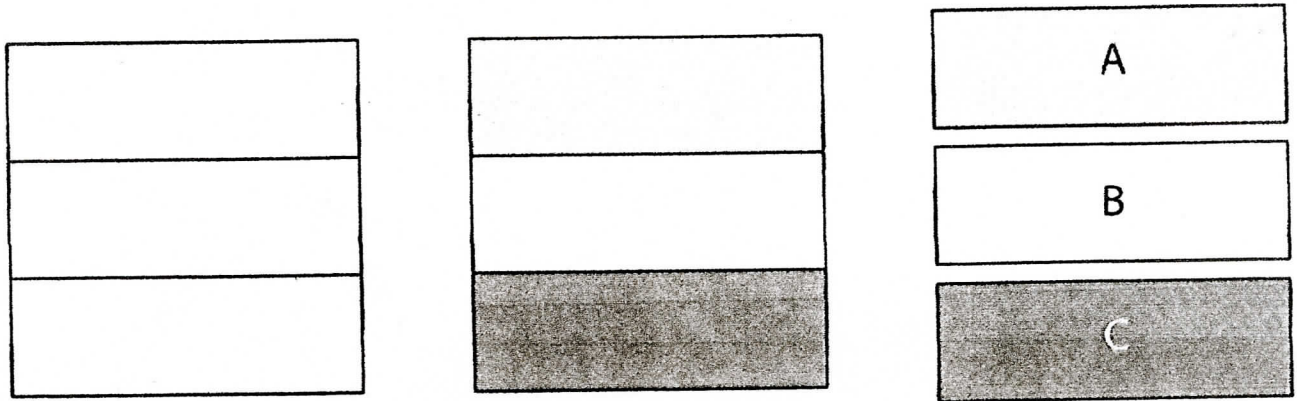
Trim each $\frac{1}{2}$ triangle unit to $4\frac{1}{2}$ "

Take the 3" background fabric and draw a line. Take a color 3" and place it under the background fabric. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " inch from the line on each side. Cut on the drawn line. Press to the dark fabric. Square the block to a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " square. Sew the block together.



RAIL FENCE

There are several beautiful examples of rail fence quilts made back in the 1860's and 1870's in museums across of the US. The rail fence pattern is also known as the "Roman Strips" pattern. The rail fence block was named after a scene common along county roads even today; the split rail or the cedar rail fence.



There are three strips that are $4\frac{1}{2}$ " X $12\frac{1}{2}$ ". Lay them out how you like them to be. Usual the lightest one is in the middle. In the quilt you normally see the block turned in different directions.

