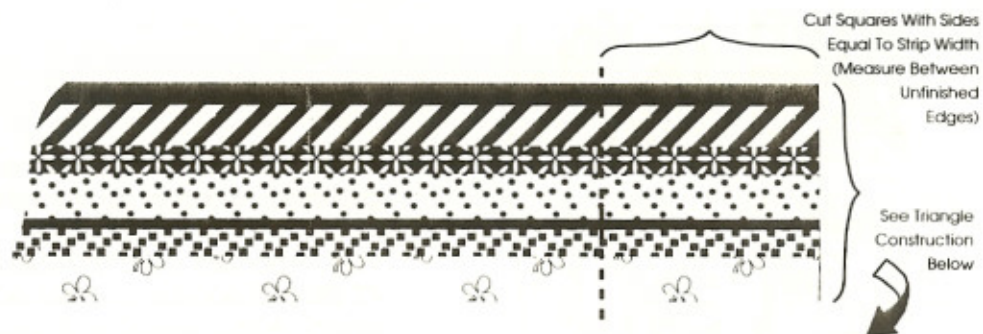


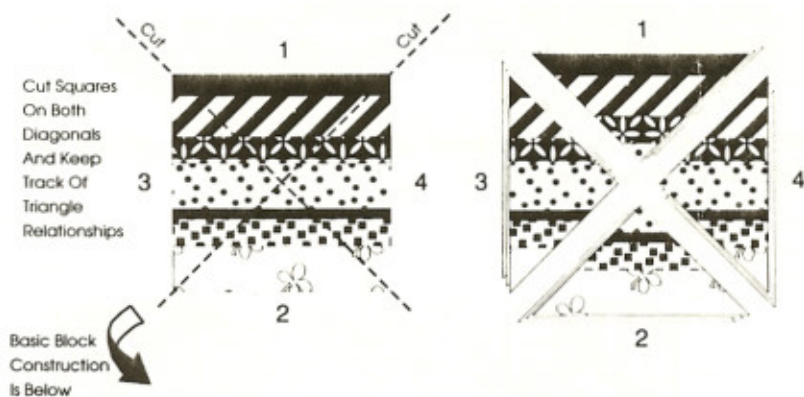
Mystify Your Friends With Hidden Wells . . .

First, select from five to nine fabrics and cut strips from each. The strips should be of varying widths, but make sure the outside two strips are of different widths (one wide and one narrow is good.) The strips at the top will make one square and the strips at the bottom will make another. You want these squares to look totally different in both color and size, so the size you cut these strips becomes very important. As an example of one way to use color, say you choose pinks and greens for your strips. Lump pinks together at the top and greens at the bottom (a "highlight" fabric in each group is fine.) This will give you good contrasting squares.



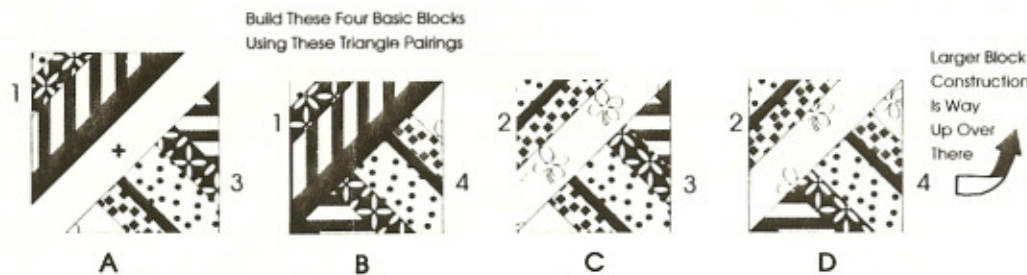
The flatter your set of strips is, the easier your life will be. I sew the strips together in pairs, press well, and then sew the the pairs together and press well again, keeping the set as flat and straight as possible. (A can of spray fabric sizing helps a lot.)

Now, measure the total width of your strip, unfinished edge to unfinished edge (as shown above.) Cut squares off of the strip with sides equal to the measured width. You'll need a 12 inch square plastic rule for this.



Then, cut your squares on the diagonals to get the triangles as shown (left) and place in stacks. Handle these pieces lightly because all the edges are bias. Keep track of which triangles are which! The numbering scheme I use is shown here, and it is important to use these triangles in the relationships shown below! Do not (this is a foot stomper) try to lay out these pieces all together yet! If you do this now, your squares will match, but your chevrons may be all messed up.

Next you will make four basic blocks (as indicated on the right) out of the triangles, using the relationships shown above: half of the number ones will be paired with half of the number threes and the other half of the number ones will be paired with half of the number fours. Pair the number twos with the threes and fours in the same fashion.





Now, the smaller blocks (the A's, B's, C's, and D's) will be grouped as shown on the left to make the larger #1 and #2 blocks: the A's with the C's and the B's with the D's. It is very important (foot stomper) that you sew sections #1 and #2 BEFORE you lay it all out on the floor. When you are sewing A to D and C to B, you will notice that it is VERY easy to line up perfectly because all your edges are bias and therefore an edge will pull like a rubber band.



Build These Two Larger Blocks Using The Basic Block Groupings



Now Put These Together As Shown Below

Sew the #1 and #2 blocks together in the relationship below. As for size, if your set of strips measures about 10 inches in width, then 9 sets of the larger blocks (I've only shown four here) will give you a quilt center about 44 inches square.

I think Hidden Wells is most effective when it is only the CENTER of the quilt. It is almost too much when it is the whole quilt. This pattern takes borders like a million bucks. And remember, the borders need NOT be just the fabrics that you use in the Hidden Wells part.

You won't be able to choose fabrics for your borders until AFTER you have sewn the Hidden Wells together because it will probably not look exactly like you thought when you began.

I strongly suggest that you put on your first border immediately after you finish sewing your Hidden Wells together. If you don't, and you pick it up to look at, your edges are going to pull out of shape, and you will never get that first border on without a pile of ripples.

When you first start making Hidden Wells, the final result is indeed a revelation, but after a while you will be able to kind of tell what you might be getting. It's a lot of fun.

Put The Larger Blocks Together In This Fashion To Get The Squares. Note The Lighter Square Frames Contrasted With The Narrower, Darker Frames

Different Widths And Contrasts Are Important

