Square in a Square

A lesson in the time of the corona virus! Since we are all supposed to stay in our houses, I thought the traditional Economy Block, with its square-in-a-square design might echo all that we are feeling now of being in our houses.

It's a versatile block and easy to make. I include a chart on the other side so you can make it any size, but you might want to start with a **smaller size** just to get your feet wet.

Check measurements for block size desired
   *(see chart, next page)*

A (center)--Cut **one** (1) square

B (First round of triangles)-- Cut **two** squares then cut them into diagonals

C (second round of triangles) – Cut **two** squares, then cut them into diagonals.
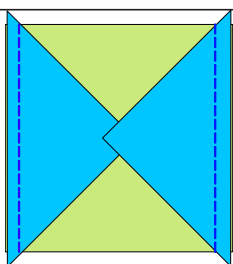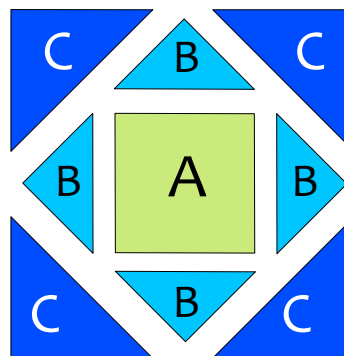
Step 1: Sew two B triangles onto each side of your Center Square A using a scant 1/4" inch seam allowance. Fold to the outside, pressing towards triangle. If they are a bit larger that is okay. Just center them on your block. Trim off dog ear points.
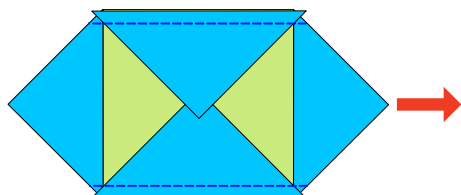
Step 2: Sew two B triangles onto each side of unit made in Step 1, using a scant 1/4" inch seam allowance. Fold to the outside, pressing towards triangle.
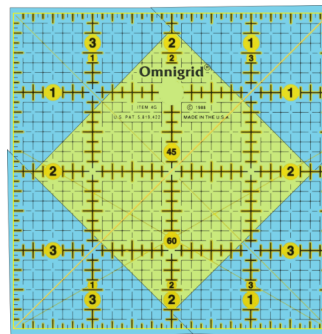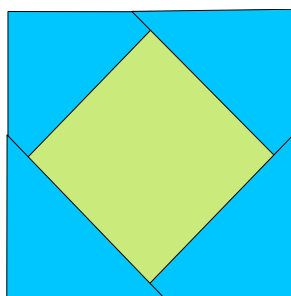
Step 3: Line up 1/4" marks of ruler at each point of square. Trim off excess, squaring up the block. See chart for dimensions.
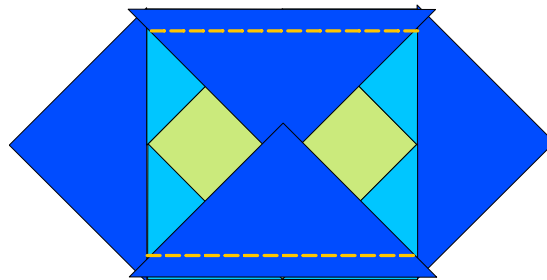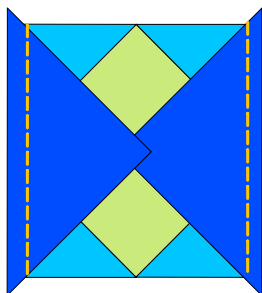
Step 4: Repeat Steps 1 and 2, but this time you are sewing on triangles C around the edges of your center unit. They may be larger that the side, so match up the centers of the triangle to the center square points, not worrying about the extra.
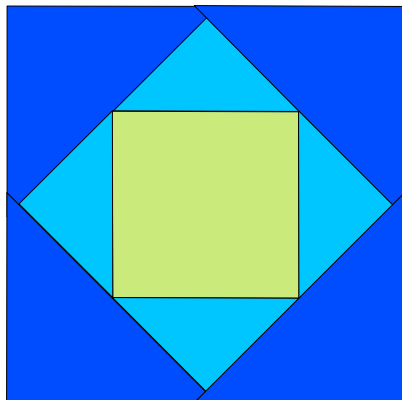
Referring to chart below, trim your block square, cutting off the excess, but making sure you leave 1/4" seam allowances all the way around at the points.

Finished Block	A (Cut one)	B (Cut two)	Trim to:	C (Cut two)	Trim to:
4"	2 1/2"	2 1/4"	3 1/4"	3"	4 1/2"
5"	3"	2 3/4"	4"	3 1/2"	5 1/2"
6"	3 1/2"	3"	4 3/4"	4"	6 1/2"
7"	4"	3 1/2"	5 1/2"	4 1/2"	7 1/2"
8"	4 1/2"	4"	6 1/4"	5"	8 1/2"
9"	5"	4 1/4"	6 7/8"	5 1/2"	9 1/2"
10"	5 1/2"	4 1/2"	7 1/2"	6"	10 1/2"
12"	6 1/2"	5 1/4"	9"	7"	12 1/2"
15"	8"	6 1/4"	11 1/8"	8 1/2"	15 1/2"

NOTE: Trimming up blocks is not an exact science. If your block needs a little more, or a little less in dimension, go with what's in front of you. **The measurement that counts the most is the final trim up, after both sets of triangles are sewn on.**

Catbird Quilt Studio website has an extensive discussion of this block. I used her measurements as a springboard for the above chart.