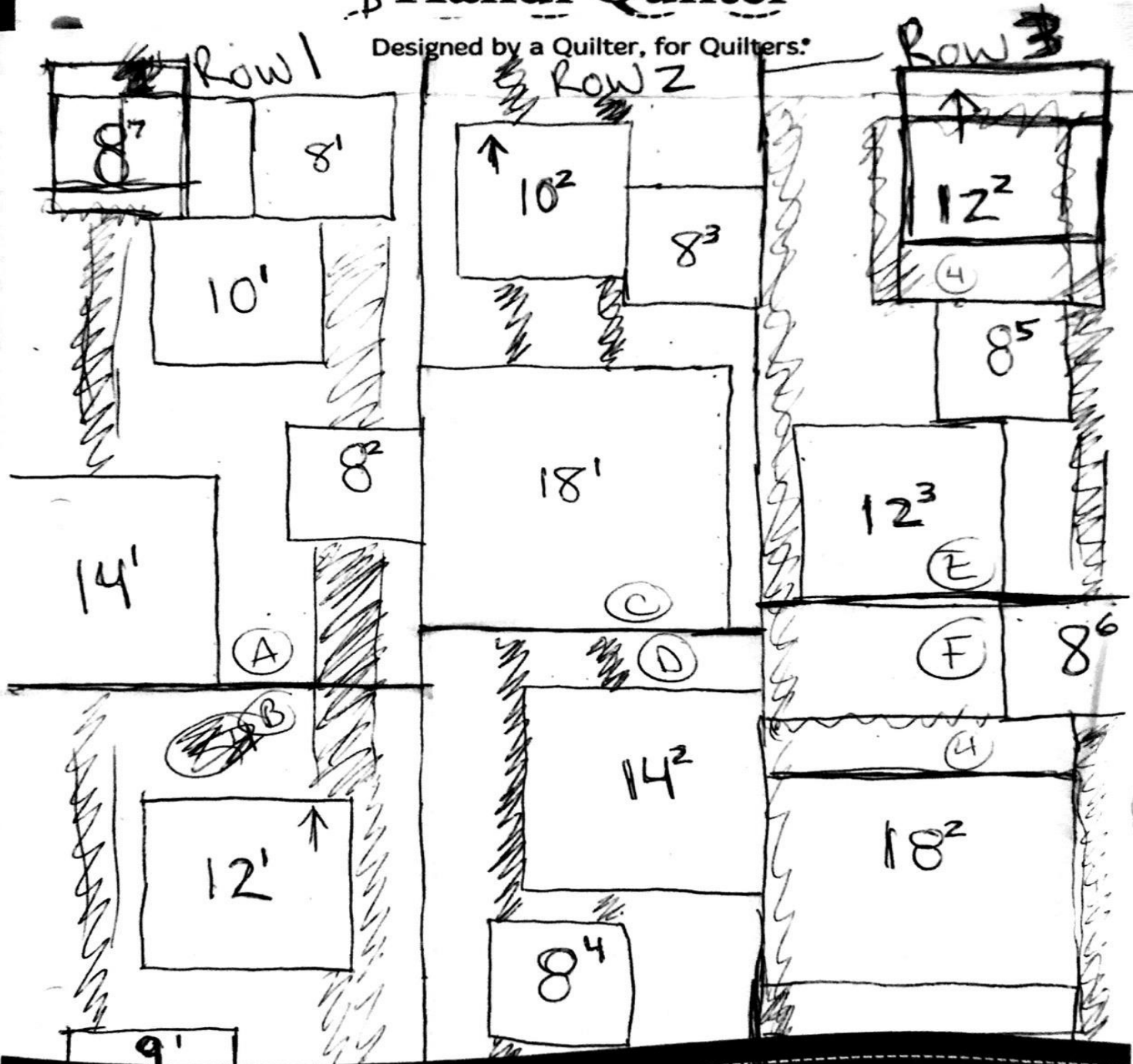




**DRAFT INSTRUCTIONS:** The finished size and many of the dimensions of background fabric sections are not available. Doing three settings for the blocks became overwhelming and Barbara Alama helped me by making the gypsy setting top. I have not made this setting. These instructions are being published early so you can read through the preparation needed to create the background. Additional instructions with the assembly information will be added by May.

# Handi Quilter®

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Notice that in Row 1 above the blocks on the right (8,10,8) are not aligned. On the photograph they are aligned, this made the assembly easier. Also, note on the drawing the darkened scribble line; that is a design element to put a bold strip that runs from top to bottom. Compare the location of that drawn line and how the photo shows a dark or unique fabric.

**QUILT TOP ASSEMBLY:** Be flexible when making this quilt design. I have over explained my design process to help you make decisions. If it is too confusing wait until version two is upload or hopefully, we have a class.

The design layout hand drawn above was on grid paper, with each grid representing a two-inch space. I was not aware that the blue grid doesn't show up in a photo.

You can reference the finished quilt top photograph to compare the instructions to when assembling the strips. Notice the width difference in the strips Barbara Alama used, follow this example. Mixing up the strip width to add interest. Other than size using a variety of tones, colors or prints will also add interest.

**Step 1 Choose background strip fabric.** Look online by searching “gypsy wife quilt” get ideas for what you want to use. Suggestions are neutral colors with different prints for a subtle difference; use a jelly roll; Barbara Alama used scraps mixed with her block fabrics.

The strips should provide contrast to the outer edge fabrics used on the blocks. Contrast is needed between the background and blocks for the blocks to show their detail or pop out.

When using the same fabric that was used in the blocks; plan ahead and move the strip away from the blocks that have that same fabric on the edges.

**Step 2 Cut strips.** Each row is 22 inches wide. That is 33, 2 ½ inch strips. Remember to replace some of those 2 ½ inch strips with skinner and wider strips.

I recommend some become 4-inch strips. Subtract 2 from 33 for every 4-inch strip used.

I recommend some become sets of two 1 ½ inch strips. Add 1 to 33 for every two 1 ½ inch strips added.

Recommend that ten of the strips be one continuous fabric the length of the quilt, approximately 75 inches. Other strips can be shorter as they fit below or above blocks.

**Step 3 Block Count.** You will need 2 – 18”, 2 – 14”, 3 – 12”, 2 – 10”, 1 – 9”, 7– 8”. On the drawing I marked the size with a small number to help me count and keep track. If you are missing blocks you can continue without them or add blocks in the same size. The quilt can be finished with less blocks.

You will need to add filler blocks to add length to the different rows. Filler blocks are your choice. The finished quilt top has a filler blocks in Row 2, one at the very top and two little blocks at the bottom to make the middle row the same length as the other rows.

Filler blocks can also be used to help distribute color. If you have a couple blocks with a strong color, make some filler blocks with that color to add in throughout the quilt.

### **Step 3 Layout the blocks.**

If you have all the blocks use the drawing pattern to lay them out. This step is important and should not be rushed. Take your time and look at your blocks and the fabrics within the blocks and move them around until you like the layout.

Swap your 18” and 10” to see which block looks best where, try to balance your fabrics. If four blocks are darker than the other move them around the quilt to different rows. Swap you 8” blocks and take a photo to see which way looks best. Send a photo to friends or me if you want suggestions.

**Set 4 Layout strips.** You need to look at where you placed your blocks. Pick a strip and see if that fabric is in the outside edges of any of your blocks, if it is move it away from that block. If you are using strips fabric different than your blocks, then lay our darker strips in a row with lighter block edges and lighter strips with the darker edge fabrics to create contrast. These are only recommendations to help new quilters that have never created a quilt using their own fabric choice. TAKE A PICTURE.

### **Set 5 Start sewing strips.**

Sew two long strips for the left side edge.

Sew two long strips for the right side edge.

Sew two long strips for Row 1 on the right side that goes through the 12” block and straight up.

Sew 2-4 strips (depending on width) for Row 2 the left side of 18” block.

You can create your own strip bundles from your layout. Sewing the fabrics, you choose together and then this will be cut into several sections to put under or beside blocks. Example: The space in Row 1 under the 10 block.

To help you get started I noticed you will need a set 14 ½ inches wide, and another 8 ½ inches wide. I would try for approximately 20 inches in length or whatever you have.

### **Step 6 Start assembling sections** as seen in the drawing.

This pattern is assembled by rows and sections:

Row 1 Section A: Knowing the width of the row is 22” Sew 6” or three strips to one 8” block and then sew the other side to the second 8” block.

Section B:

Row 2 Section A:

Section B:

Row 3 Section A:

Section B: