

Oh Yeah!

"Oh Yeah!" is one of the best optical illusion quilts I've ever designed. It's two colors, all of the blocks are the same size, no curves, and...it's NOT paper pieced. I found a computer generated image and deconstructed it so that this mind-blowing illusion could be made into a quilt. Its construction is very similar to one of the first quilts I ever made which was strip pieced. And don't worry about getting dizzy, that only happens when the construction is complete and you take 3 steps back:)

Bring to Class:

- Your pre-cut fabric strips and leftover yardage. We'll be cutting more strips in class.
- Pins
- Rotary cutter (with a fresh blade)
- Ruler for cutting strips
- Cutting mat large enough to cut strips of fabric
- Iron and ironing surface
- Pencil or pen and paper for taking notes. There'll be lots of notes:)

Let's Talk Fabric

What makes this pattern work so well? Contrasting fabrics. And how many different fabrics? Only two. I find that a dark and a light fabric, even in the same color family, work the best. And blenders do the trick. Any fabrics that read as solids from a short distance (and no, not from a galloping horse) work well. You definitely want to avoid large prints, directional fabrics, and fabrics that are too close in color value. Also, sometimes a really "bright" fabric can interfere with the illusion. But in the end, the choice is yours.

It's also best if your fabric has "body". If it's been pre-washed or doesn't have a lot of dye or sizing, it's best to starch it first. Your seams will be crisper, flatter, and your fabric will sew straighter. I use a mist bottle with liquid starch and water.

For the class, it might make sense to use fabrics you have on hand. Since you're ultimately investing in 6 yards of fabric, you might want to see how the quilt is made before deciding on your fabric choices. The cutting specs below are for the class, and below that, the full quilt.

The Ever-elusive 1/4" seam

If you don't want to trim your blocks to size after sewing, an accurate 1/4" seam allowance makes the construction of this quilt easier and quicker. So try your best to achieve an accurate 1/4" seam allowance. The best way to do this is to take two 2-1/2" strips of fabric and start sewing them together. Stop after about 6", finger press the seam open and flat and measure the sewn part of the strip. It should measure 4-1/2". If it doesn't, you'll need to either move your needle or landmark your machine and try again.

It's best if you test your 1/4" seam with the fabric, thread and needle you intend to use for your quilt.

Cutting Specs For Class...You Only Need to Cut

FROM EACH OF YOUR TWO FABRICS CUT:

- Four 1" Strips
- Six 1-1/2" Strips
- Four 2-1/2" Strips
- Four 4" Strips

Cutting Specs For Full Quilt

If you're like me, you're going to want extra fabric just in case. Using the yardages below should give you more than enough

- Light Fabric 3-1/4 yards (includes a 1" inner border)
- Dark Fabric 4 yards (includes a 5" outer border)

All strips are cut WOF or selvage to selvage, and assume at least 42" of useable fabric.

How many strips will you need?

**Total Number of Strips to Cut
For the Blocks and Strip Sets**

Strip Color	Strip Width	Total Number of Strips
Light	1"	16
	1 1/2"	4
	2 1/2"	6
	4"	6
	5 1/2"	6
Light Total	2 3/4" Yards	
Dark	1"	15
	1 1/2"	4
	2 1/2"	6
	4"	5
	5 1/2"	6
Dark Total	2 1/2 Yards	

For the Borders

Strip Color	Strip Width	Total Number of Strips
Light Inner Border	1 1/2"	8
Light Total	1/3 yd	
Dark Outer Border	5 1/2"	8
Dark Total	1 1/2 Yards	

How the Strips are Used

Needed For:	Strip Color	Strip Width	Number of Strips Used
Strip Set for 1L	Light	1"	3
	Dark	1 ½"	3
	Light	4"	3
Strip Set for 1D	Dark	1"	3
	Light	1 ½"	3
	Dark	4"	3
Block 1L	Light	1"	10
	Light	2 ½"	5
Block 1D	Dark	1"	10
	Dark	2 ½"	5

Needed For:	Strip Color	Strip Width	Number of Strips Used
Strip Set for 2L	Light	1"	1
	Dark	1 ½"	1
	Light	2 ½"	1
Strip Set for 2D	Dark	1"	1
	Light	1 ½"	1
	Dark	2 ½"	1
Block 2L	Light	1"	2
	Light	4"	2
Block 2D	Dark	1"	1
	Dark	4"	1
Plain Blocks	Light	5 ½"	6
	Dark	5 ½"	6

