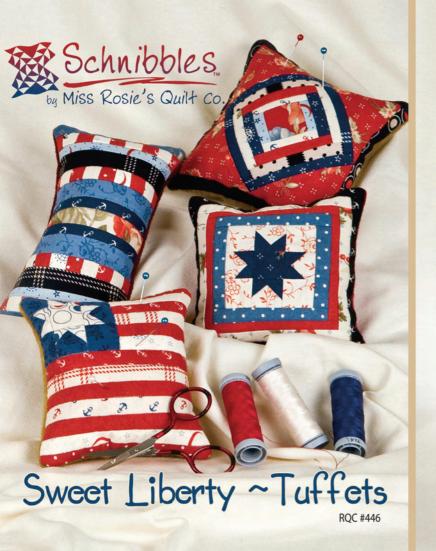


Sweet Liberty ~ Tuffets





Sweet Liberty~Tuffets

Pincushions
Measuring between 4" x 4" and 5" x 5"

This collection of tuffets started with the fabric and the notion of whether or not I could make a little flag block. Once I got started, it was hard to stop. And as long as I had squares and scraps, I just kept making tuffets.







Fabric Requirements:

Asst. Light, Medium & Dark charm squares — about 40

Muslin for foundation — ¼ yard or 1 fat quarter

Backing — each tuffet uses a single 6" x 6" piece of something

Any tight weave fabric will work ~ twill, cotton velvet, upholstery fabric, felted wool, whatever. The felted wool is my favorite.

Batting \sim optional – a 6" x 6" piece of a thin cotton batting Stuffing – I prefer crushed walnut shells.

All seven of these tuffets were made using a single charm pack of the Bar Harbor collection by Polly and Laurie ~ Minick & Simpson~ for Moda Fabrics.

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Sweet Liberty Tuffets PDF ~ RQC No. 446

What is it about pincushions, pinkeeps and pindrums that makes them so incredibly hard to resist? Whether I'm buying them or making them, I just can't seem to stop myself from adding "just one more"! Or seven more. Or fourteen... since I decided that I had to make these in different fabrics just to see how they would look. I know... I need help. \odot

About the tuffets... All seven of the tuffets shown on the pattern cover were made from a single charm pack of Bar Harbor by Minick & Simpson \sim Polly and Laurie \sim for Moda Fabrics. Seriously, I made all seven with a single charm pack. When they're finished, the square tuffets measure about $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ " and 5" x 5", and the rectangular tuffet measures about $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5".

Yardage Requirements ~ to make all 7 tuffets:

- Asst. Light, Medium & Dark charm squares about 40
- Muslin for foundation ¼ yard or 1 fat quarter
- Backing each tuffet uses a single 6" x 6" piece of something
 - Any tight weave fabric will work ~ twill, cotton velvet, upholstery fabric, felted wool, whatever. The felted wool is my favorite.
- Batting ~ optional a 6" x 6" to 7" x 7" piece of a thin cotton batting
- Stuffing I prefer crushed walnut shells.

Cutting Requirements

Before you begin cutting... While it isn't absolutely necessary, I prefer cutting my strips on the **lengthwise** grain of the charm square. To distinguish the crosswise from the lengthwise grains – gently pull the square about 1" in from the pinked edge of the square. Stretch = crosswise grain. No stretch = lengthwise grain.





Before you begin... A couple of things to tell you before you begin making Sweet Liberty Tuffets.

- The top of the tuffets are made in one of three ways ~ and you can choose the method you prefer:
 - On a muslin foundation. This gives the top of the tuffet a little more body without having to quilt it. It also helps keep the top square as you add the narrow strips.
 - On a muslin foundation with a layer of batting on top of the muslin. This creates a little bit of a "quilt-as-you-go" feel to the top of the tuffet.
 - A pieced top that is then layered with batting and muslin, and then quilted. It can then be washed, scrunched, aged, sanded... whatever you want to make it look old before its time.
- Pre-cutting the strips to the necessary length isn't required. If you want to do it, go ahead. Or you can just fold back the muslin foundation and trim the strips after you've attached them. Your choice.
- Backing. Any tightly woven fabric will work. My favorite backings are felted wool, cotton velvet, ticking, corduroy and upholstery fabric. Color-coordinated or not, the only requirement is that you like it.
- Light or dark. Shaded or random. Matching strips or whatever. These are pincushions, not the components of a bazillion-dollar lunar module. Use what you have and have fun! That single leftover scrap of a fabric you really, really love but it isn't big enough to use for anything... put it in!

Making the Star ~ This pieced star is used for both the Flag Tuffet and the Star Tuffet.

- 1. Cutting the Pieces ~ This is what is required to make one star block measuring 2 1/4" x 2 1/4" finished size.
 - Star Background. From 1 charm square, cut 8 squares 1 ¼" x 1 ¼".
 - Star. Select 1 charm square for the star. From the charm square, cut the following:

- Star Points. Cut 2 strips 1" x 5". From each strip, cut 4 squares 1" x 1". Cut a total of 8 squares.
- Star Center. From the remainder, cut 1 square $-1 \frac{1}{4}$ " x $1 \frac{1}{4}$ ".
- 2. **Piecing the Star.** Using a pencil or permanent pen, draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of the 8 squares 1" x 1" cut for the star points.
- 3. Select 4 background squares and 4 star point squares. With right sides together, align the corners of the star point square 1" x 1" in one corner of the background square as shown.

Stitch across the square as shown \sim the drawn line is your stitching line. Trim both excess layers to about a $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance and press the seam toward the corner triangle.





4. Using the remaining 4 star point squares, align the squares in the adjacent corner as shown ~ with right sides together.



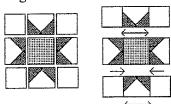




Stitch across the square as shown \sim the drawn line is your stitching line. Trim both excess layers to about a $\frac{1}{3}$ " seam allowance and press the seam toward the corner triangle.

- 5. Lay out the star parts as shown. Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance, join the squares to form rows as shown. Then join the rows to complete the star.
 - If desired, trim the seams to measure approximately ½".
 - Press the seams in the direction of the arrows ~ or press them open.

The pieced star should now measure $2 \frac{3}{4}$ " x $2 \frac{3}{4}$ ".







Flag Tuffet - Straight Setting ~ This is the tuffet in the bottom row on the left side.

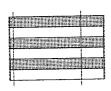
1. Required Pieces.

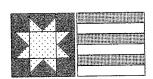
- Star. Follow the instructions for Making the Star to piece one small star block.
- Stripes. Cut 13 strips -% x 5". Red Cut 7 strips. White Cut 6 strips.
- 2. Sort the red and white strips to make 1 group with 4 red strips/3 white strips and 1 group with 3 red strips/3 white strips. Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance, join red and white strips to make 2 pieced sections as shown. Press the seams in one direction ~ or trim the seams to 1/8" and press them open.



3. Using the 6-strip set, cut a section measuring 2 3/4" wide as shown.

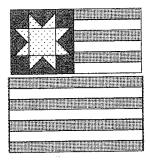
Using a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, join the trimmed edge of the strip set to the star block as shown. Press the seam toward the strips \sim or trim the seam to $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press it open.





4. Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance, attach the seven-strip set to the bottom edge of the star section as shown. Press the seam toward the strip section ~ or trim the seam to 1/4" and press it open.

The pieced flag should now measure 5" wide x 5 %" long.



Isnforugrand?;

The pieced flag was layered with a thin layer of cotton batting and muslin and then quilted in the ditch. It was then dampened, scrunched, pressed, scrunched some more, pressed some more... and so on to shrink and age it a bit. When you're finished, proceed to last page for instructions on how to finish the tuffet.

Star with Courthouse Steps ~ This is the tuffet in the middle row on the right side, right above the spools of thread.

- 1. Required Pieces.
 - Star. Follow the instructions for Making the Star to piece one small star block.
 - Courthouse Steps Rows. The strips for each row can be matching or different... it's your choice. ©
 - Row 1 & Row 3. Cut 4 strips -% x 5" for each. (A total of 8 strips.)
 - Row 2. Cut 4 strips $-\frac{3}{4}$ " x 5".
 - Row 4. Cut 5 strips 1" x 5".
- 2. Find the center of your universe. Using a pencil or permanent pen, draw two diagonal lines across the 6" x 6" muslin square to divide the muslin foundation into quarters as shown.



- 3. Align the corners of the Star block using the drawn lines to center the square. Place the pieced star block on the muslin backing with the **right side up**.
 - Pin to secure ~ and use a couple of pins!



- 4. Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance, attach two matching 7/8" strips to the sides of the star as shown.
 - To pre-cut the step strips \%" x 2 \%".





5. Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance, attach two matching 1/4" strips to the remaining two sides of the center square as shown. These strips can match the first two strips ~ or not.

Press the seams away from the center square – with an iron or your fingers.

• To pre-cut the step strips $-\frac{7}{8}$ " x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

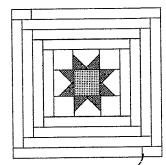


Press the seams away from the center square – with an iron or your fingers.

6. Using a scant ¼" seam allowance, keep adding strips until there are 4 "rows" of steps on each side of the center star.

For Row 4... The final two strips need to be pieced to be long enough. Use a diagonal seam or a straight seam to join three 1" x 5" strips to make one long strip. Cut the pieced strip in half for the last two "steps". ©

As you add steps and press, periodically press the piece from the wrong side – from the underside of the muslin foundation. It helps keep the piece really flat.



The proportion of this diagram is not exact - I wanted to make sure all the rows/logs could be shown: "

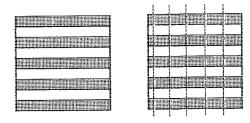
Theseam joining the strips. "

After the last row is attached, stitch the outside edge of the last step to the muslin foundation approximately 1/8" from the edge ~ and proceed to the last page to finish the tuffet.

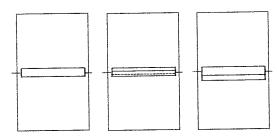
Pieced Rectangle Tuffet ~ This is the tuffet in the middle row on the left side.

- 1. Cutting the pieces. Cut the following:
 - Pieced Rows: Cut 5 red strips -%" x 5". Cut 4 white strips -%" x 5".
 - Center Strip: Cut 1 strip 1" x 5". Trim the strip to measure 1" x 4".
 - Row 1 & Row 5: Cut 2 matching strips $-\frac{3}{4}$ " x 5". (A total of 4 strips.) Trim the strips to measure $-\frac{3}{4}$ " x 4".
 - Row 2 & Row 4: Cut 2 matching strips 1" x 5". (A total of 4 strips.) Trim the strips to measure 1" x 4".
- Using a scant ¼" seam allowance, join the red and white strips ~ alternating the red and white strips as shown.
 Press the seams in one direction – or trim the seams to ½" and press them open.

From the pieced strip set, cut 4 strips $-\frac{7}{8}$ " wide.

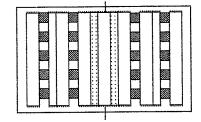


- 3. Cut a piece of muslin measuring approximately 4 ½" x 7".
 - If desired, cut a piece of thin cotton batting to the same size and lay it on top of the muslin. The strips will be placed on top of the batting for a quilt-as-you-go sort of finish.
- 4. Fold the muslin in rectangle to find the center. Lay the center strip 1" x 5" over the center with the right side facing up. With right sides together, lay one strip on one side of the center strip. Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance, join the strips as shown. Press the seam away from the center seam.
 - Repeat with the remaining strip on the other side of the center strip.



Continue adding pairs of matching strips on both sides of the center as follows:

- Row $2 \sim \frac{3}{4}$ " wide strips
- Row 3 ~ 1" wide strips
- Row 4 ~ pieced strips
- Row 5 ~ 1" wide strips
- Row $6 \sim \frac{3}{4}$ " wide strips
- Row 7 ~ pieced strips
- Row 8 ~ ¾" wide strips



The strips can be lined up on one edge that's what I did — or contered. Both work and both ways will still need to be trimmed. "

After the last row is attached, trim the rectangle to straighten the sides. It should measure about 3 %" x 6" including seam allowance. To finish, stitch the outside edge of the last step to the muslin foundation approximately %" from the edge \sim and proceed to last page to finish the tuffet.

Courthouse Steps with Triangles ~ Diagonal Setting. This is the tuffet in the top row on the right side.

- 1. Cutting the pieces.
 - Center Square. Cut 1 square $-1 \frac{1}{2}$ x $1 \frac{1}{2}$ for the center.
 - Row 1 & Row 2. Cut a total of 4 strips $-\frac{3}{4}$ " x 5". Cut each strip in half $-\frac{3}{4}$ " x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".
 - Row 3 & Row 4. Cut 4 pairs of 2 matching strips 3/4" x 5". (A total of 8 strips.)
 - Triangles. Select 1 charm square. Trim the square to measure 4 1/4" x 4 1/4". Cut the square twice on the diagonal to yield 4 triangles as shown.



Row 5. Cut 1 pairs of 2 matching strips and 1 set of 3 matching strips – 1" x 5".

2.	Find the center of your universe Using a pencil or permanent pen, draw lines to divide the 6" x 6" muslin foundation into quarters as shown.
3.	Align the corners of a center square $-1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " – using the drawn lines to center the square – the lines are merely a guideline. Place the square on the muslin backing with the right side up.
	 Pin to secure ~ or use a tiny swipe of a fabric glue stick to keep it secure for stitching.
4.	Using a scant ¼" seam allowance, join two ¾" strips to the sides of the center square as shown – light or medium/dark, your choice. • To pre-cut the steps – ¾" x 1 ½".
	Press the seams away from the center square - with an iron or your fingers.
5.	Using a scant ¼" seam allowance, attach two ¾" strips to the remaining two sides of the center square as shown – light or medium/dark, your choice. • To pre-cut the steps – ¾" x 2". • Press the seams away from the center square – with an iron or your fingers.
6.	Using a scant ¼" seam allowance, keep adding strips until there are 4 steps on each side of the center square ~ and the pieced square measures approximately 3 ½" x 3 ½".
	As you add steps and press, periodically press the piece from the wrong side – from the underside of the muslin foundation. It helps keep the piece really flat.
7.	Fold each triangle to find the center of the long edge and pinch-pleat it to mark the center point. Match the center mark of the triangle to the center point of the pieced square as shown. • Using a scant ¼" seam allowance, join the four triangles to the sides of the pieced square as shown. Press the triangles away from the center.
8.	Before you continue If you're like me, the outside edges of the square are probably a little wonky, and since you can't just square it piece up without chopping off the muslin backing, here's what you can do to line everything up. Using a permanent pen or chalk marker and a ruler, draw the lines in where you would have trimmed them. Then align the edges of the last row of strips with the drawn lines to square up the pieced block. How easy is that? ©
9.	Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance, join the last row of strips to the sides of the pieced square. • Note: The strips for the very last row will need to be pieced. Using a diagonal or straight seam, join the 3 strips – 1" x 5" – to make one long strip. Cut the pieced strip in half. After the last row is attached, stitch the outside edge of the last step
	to the muslin foundation approximately 1/8" from the edge ~ and

Pinwheel Tuffet ~ This is the middle tuffet on the back cover.

1. Cutting the pieces. Cut the following:

proceed to last page to finish the tuffet.

• For the little pinwheels: Cut 10 light squares $-1 \frac{3}{4}$ " x $1 \frac{3}{4}$ ". Cut 10 medium/dark squares $-1 \frac{3}{4}$ " x $1 \frac{3}{4}$ ". For each of the five nine-patch squares, cut 1 light strip -1" x 5" – and 2 medium/dark strips -1" x 5".

(-The seam from the pieced strip. :

• For the Setting Triangles: Select 2 coordinating charm squares.

- Side Setting Triangles. From one charm square, cut 1 square 3 ½" x 3 ½". Cut the square twice on the diagonal to yield four triangles.
- Corner Setting Triangles. From the remaining charm square, cut 2 squares 2" x 2". Cut each square once on the diagonal to yield a total of four triangles ~ two from each square.
- On the wrong side of each 1 3/4" x 1 3/4" light square, use a permanent pen/chalk marker/pencil to draw a diagonal line from one corner to the opposing corner as shown.



With right sides together, align the edges of each light square to those of a 1 3/4" x 1 3/4" medium/dark square as shown. Using the drawn line as your guide, stitch a scant 1/4" seam allowance on both sides of the drawn line as shown.





Cut each square apart on the drawn line. Trim the seam to about 1/8" seam allowance and press the seams toward the medium/dark triangle.





Trim the 20 half-triangle squares to measure 1 1/4" x 1 1/4".

Select 2 pairs of 2 matching half-triangle squares. Lay them out as shown. Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance, join the pieces as shown.







Press the seams to one side – or trim the seam allowance to 1/8" and press the seams open.

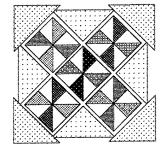
Each pinwheel should measure 2" x 2".

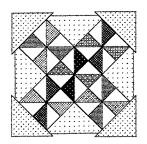
Repeat to make 5 pinwheel blocks.

Lay out the pinwheel blocks and setting triangles as shown.

Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance, join the pieces as shown ~ pressing the seams in the direction of the arrows.

The block should now measure approximately 5" x 5".

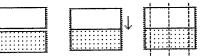




Layer the block with a thin batting and muslin and quilt as desired. Or not. To finish the tuffet... see the last page.

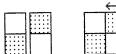
Four-Patch Tuffet ~ This is the third tuffet on the back cover, the one on the right side.

- 1. Cutting the pieces. Cut the following:
 - For the four-patches: Cut 4 light strips $-1 \frac{1}{4}$ " x 5". Cut 4 medium/dark strips $-1 \frac{1}{4}$ " x 5.
 - For the setting triangles. Cut 2 sets of 4 matching squares -2 1/4" x 2 1/4". (A total of 8 squares.) Cut each square in half once on the diagonal to yield a total of 16 triangles.
- Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance, join 1 light strip and 1 medium/dark strip as shown. Press the seam toward the medium/dark strip.



From each strip set, cut 2 segments $-1\frac{1}{4}$ " wide - as shown.

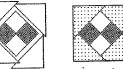
Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance, join two matching segments as shown. Press the seams in one direction.



The four-patch should now measure 2" x 2". Make 4.

- Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance, attach one triangle to each side of the four four-patch squares.
 - Each four-patch should be surrounded by four matching triangles.
 - Press the seams toward the triangles.

Trim the pieced squares to measure $2 \frac{3}{4}$ " x $2 \frac{3}{4}$ ".



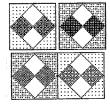


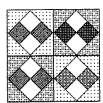


Make two of each ... or four aifferent blocks. "

Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance, join the four pieced four-patch squares as shown.

The block should now measure approximately 5" x 5".





Layer the block with a thin batting and muslin and quilt as desired. Or not. To finish the tuffet... see the last page.

Log Cabin ~ This is the first tuffet on the left side on the back cover.

- Cutting the pieces. All the strips are cut 3/4" wide except the last row ~ those strips are cut 1" wide.
 - Cut the following: Cut 1 square $-1\frac{1}{4}$ " x $1\frac{1}{4}$ " for the center. Cut at least 10 light strips $-\frac{3}{4}$ " x 5" and at least 10 medium/dark strips - 34" x 5". Then cut 2 light strips - 1" x 5" - and 2 medium/dark strips - 1" x 5". This is a great place to use up all the little odds and ends and leftover pieces of other tuffets.
- Find the center of your universe... Using a pencil or permanent pen, draw two diagonal lines across the 6" x 6" muslin square to divide the muslin foundation into quarters as shown.



- 3. Align the corners of a center square -1 1/2" x 1 1/2" using the drawn lines to center the square ~ the lines are merely a guideline. Place the square on the muslin backing with the right side up.
 - Pin to secure ~ or use a tiny swipe of a fabric glue stick to keep it secure for stitching.



- Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance, join one 3/4" strip to the 1st side of the center square as shown - light or medium/dark, your choice.
 - To pre-cut the strip/ $\log \frac{3}{4}$ " x 1 ½".





Press the seams away from the center square - with an iron or your fingers.

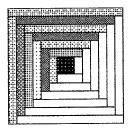
- Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance, attach one 3/4" strip to the 2nd side of the center square as shown - light or medium/dark, your choice.
 - To pre-cut the strip/log $-\frac{3}{4}$ " x 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".





Press the seams away from the center square - with an iron or your fingers.

- Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance, keep adding strips until there are 6 logs on each side of the center square ~ and the pieced square measures approximately 5" x 5".
 - As you add steps and press, periodically press the piece from the wrong side - from the underside of the muslin foundation. It helps keep the piece really flat.



After the last row is attached, stitch the outside edge of the last step to the muslin foundation approximately 1/8" from the edge ~ and proceed to last page to finish the tuffet.

Finishing the Tuffets

- 1. If you haven't already done so, use a rotary cutter and ruler to trim the finished square to a square use the lines on your ruler along the seams of the steps as a guide. Just make it a square ~ or a rectangle ~ or something close to it.
- 2. Center the pieced block on top of the backing square with right sides together.



* | would have drawn the stitching lines from the wrong side! - but I couldn't remember which one you wanted to make first: i

Using a ¼" seam allowance, stitch around all four sides of the pieced square – leaving approximately a 2" opening on the one side as shown.







- 4. Trim the backing fabric so that there is a 1/4" seam. Trim the corners as shown close, but not too close.
- 5. Turn the pincushion right side out and use something to poke out the corners as much as possible. Fill/stuff the pincushion with the filling/stuffing of your choosing to the desired firmness.

Stitch closed by hand... and now you're done.

Now it is time to start another one... ©

A few thoughts about stuffings... Not the Thanksgiving kind... the pincushion/pinkeep kind!

- My favorite stuffing ~ or filling! ~ for the pincushions I've made is crushed walnut shells. To find crushed walnut shells, go to your local pet store and ask for Walnut Litter for birds or lizards. I buy the 7 lb. bags by Kaytee at PetCo and PetsMart for about \$10.00. If you like, you can also use a mixture of walnut shells and lavender to fill the tuffets and give them a nice smell.
- I like fill my pincushions so that they are pretty firm not rock-hard, but not squishy either. Because you'll be pinching it to actually stitch it closed, you'll think you've got it filled a little bit too much but trust me on this... it won't be quite as firm when it's finished as it feels when you're still stitching it closed. This will make more sense after you've made one or two... and if you're not sure about how much to fill it, try basting the opening closed the first time. If you want to add/remove some fill, you won't have to pick out lots of itty bitty stitches to make the change. Adjust it and then stitch it like there's no tomorrow! To make stitching the opening closed a little easier when the pincushion is really full, cover the walnut shells with a little bit of cotton stuffing or batting before stitching the opening closed.
- Actually filling the pincushion is easy though I do recommend a couple of handy tools: an old baking pan with sides (like a jellyroll pan), a funnel and a measuring cup. The baking pan is your working surface... it will help keep the litter from winding up in your shoe. If you have the baking pan, you won't spill any shells... but if you don't have it, watch out. The funnel and the measuring cup lets you fill the pincushion through a 1 ½" opening without making yourself crazy.

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