Hi everyone, my name is Megan McNeilly and you can find me stitching away on my blog Lucy & Norman {http://lucyandnorman.blogspot.com}. I'm so excited to share with you my first Moda Bake Shop project, and my very first tutorial!

I fell madly in love with the new It's a Hoot line by Momo and wanted to come up with something bold and modern to really show off the vibrant colors and variety of prints. I'm not re-inventing the wheel here, the Bento Box pattern has been in the ranks of most popular quilt designs for a long while now, and with good reason. What I did want to do was show you how to slice up a layer cake or two to get the best use of color and pattern, and with a tiny bit of wiggle room in case your rotary cutter has a mis-slice!

**Ingredients:**

- One or two It's a Hoot layer cakes, depending on whether you'd like to make a baby-sized or large throw quilt
- 3/4 yard It's a Hoot print 32377 45 Fudge Turquoise for the binding
- 4 yards It's a Hoot print 32371 15 Sky for the backing
- a Design Wall (I highly recommend this, even if it is just a piece of batting tacked to your wall - that's what I use! I will make designing your quilt so much more easy and enjoyable.)
Instructions:

First, open up your layer cake(s) and pet all the yummy new fabrics:) Next divide them into three piles, trying for a good diversity of prints and colors in each stack. Then, combine two of the stacks into one pile. You will have one stack with 14 (28) prints and the other with 28 (56) prints.

You will begin by rotary cutting the larger stack as follows:
- 1 strip 6.5 by 2.5 inches
- 4 strips 4.5 by 2.5
- 4 squares 2.5 by 2.5

Make yourself a little cutting map of this diagram for easy reference. The cross-hatch sections indicate portions unused in the pattern - set those aside.

With the smaller pile, cut the following pieces:
- 2 strips 6.5 by 2.5
- 3 strips 4.5 by 2.5
- 3 squares 2.5 by 2.5

Here is the cutting diagram for that pile.

Phew! All done?

Now you can separate all the pieces by size.

You will start building your blocks by pulling two squares of different colors and prints and sewing these right side together. Finger press your seams to the left.
Next, chose a 4.5 inch long strip matching the square on the left and sew it, right sides together, to the top of the squares. Finger press this seam towards the new strip.

Chose another contrasting 4.5 inch strip and sew it to the left of your new square, finger pressing again to the left.

And finally add the matching 6.5 inch strip to the top and finger press again toward the new strip. Now, press your finished quarter block and start making a pile.

After I’ve completed a dozen or two, I like to start placing them in a pleasing way on the design wall, arranging four mini-blocks to make one larger window-paned square, or bento box. Try and be as diverse as possible with your combinations.

When you get near the end of your strips and squares, you will have some left over. I added these in with my cutting scraps and made myself a new mug rug and patchworked the front of a new tote! You could use them in piecing a backing, if you wish.

Now you’ll want to sew you quadrants together, and press your seams open to minimize bulk in the center where all the seams meet.

Original Recipe can be found at www.modabakeshop.com
Here is what your finished block will look like!

Now sew these beauties up in rows, 4 by 4 blocks for the baby size,

or 5 by 6 for the throw quilt!

Baste, quilt and bind! Enjoy your cozy new quilt!

Yield:

One generous baby quilt, approximately 48 by 48.

Or, if you used two layer cakes, one 56 by 68 throw quilt.

I hope this inspires you to whip up a “bento box” quilt with your favorite layer cake!

XXX,

Megan McNeilly

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