Stack and Whack/ Stack and Slash

- 1. Cut thirty 10 inch squares. These should be of assorted but coordinating fabrics. Use light and dark and a variety of big and small patterns. You can use 30 different fabrics or repeat some that you like.
- 2. Stack 6 sets of 5 squares, right sides up, alternating different fabrics and matching the raw edges. Using a SHARP rotary cutter and ruler cut the stacked squares into two parts. The angle is not important as long as it is not a 90 degree angle.
- 3. Move one piece of the top square to the bottom of the stack. Sew the squares back together. Match the edges as closely as possible, they will not be exact. There should be two different fabrics in each new square. Press the seams carefully. Repeat this process with each set of 5 squares. Now you have 30 new squares with 2 different fabrics.
- 4. Re-stack the squares again right sides up in 6 stacks of 5....remembering that variety is the spice of life. Again use the rotary cutter and ruler to cut across the blocks. Move one of the two top pieces to the bottom of the stack and sew the squares back together again. Press the squares carefully. The squares should have 4 different fabrics now. Do this to all 6 stacks.
- 5. You can leave your block with four different fabrics or you can repeat stacking and whacking a few more times to get 6 or 8 different fabrics. Remember the more you stack and whack the smaller your finished square will be.
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- 6. Trim each square to 8 or 8½ inches, which ever fits best and depending on how many slashes you made. Thirty finished 8" blocks will make a quilt about 49"X48" without any shashing or borders. Consider adding a border, even if it is a narrow one, to hold all those wiggly blocks visually together.
- 7. You can arrange the blocks in a 5x6 layout or get creative and add shashing and or a border. Or add plain blocks in between the patched blocks. You can start with larger squares as well: a 12 inch square after stacking and slashing will trim down to a 10 inch block. Get creative and have fun!

