



It's March. The weather is warming up, daffodils are blooming, spring is on its way. This month let's look at a pattern that celebrates St. Patrick's Day, the Irish chain. If you google Irish chain, you will get all kinds of results from single chains to double and triple chains. All use combinations of squares to make the design. Some are very planned, and some are totally scrappy. I'm going very basic — just two sizes of squares — just two colors. With a colorful border, you can have a child-sized quilt in the time it would take you to dance a jig. There are several videos on YouTube that show how to make one.

I cut 12 large squares at 6-1/2". The small square 9-patch blocks were made from 2-1/2" strips. I made 13 of those. I also made 4 more as corners for my border. Sew them together in an alternating pattern and the center is done. I then added two borders. I found a remnant of leprechaun fabric for the large border. I try to find places to use fabric like this that doesn't make me decapitate too many people or animals. That's all there is to this one.

The April issue of *American Patchwork and Quilting* is featuring its 2021 quilt along. With 9-patches and center squares. An added connector block and sashing make for a more visually complex quilt, but the elements are as simple as they come. Check it out for another idea.