

Block of the Month: September 2015

What's In Your Mason Jar?

For September, we are thinking harvest, canning jars, and even back to school. Perhaps you store other things in large Mason Jars? A fun and fast block for stash busting, practicing accurate cutting and sew and flip corners.

Materials Needed for an 8 ½" Block

Jar: Check your stash for fun fabrics to put in your jar: objects, food, flowers, bugs, fish etc.
One piece needed: 5 ½"x6 ¼"

Background: Use low volume (subtle) prints or tone-on-tone in a light color. Two 2"x6 ¼" strips, two 2"x3" rectangles, one 1 ¼"x3 ½" strip, two 1 ½" squares (= corners of the jar).

Shelf: Black print - One 1 ¼"x8 1/2" strip

Jar Lid: Use a print or solid to contrast your jar contents: One 1 ¼"x 3½" strip

Instructions

Sew the corners of the jar using the "snowball" method: On the wrong side of the 1 ½" background fabric square, draw a diagonal line in the center from corner to corner. Place each square right side down in top 2 corners of the jar (right sides of fabrics together - as shown in pic on the right). Sew on the drawn line, trim corner with ¼" seam, fold back and press in your favorite method. Then, sew together the lid piece to the background 3½"x1¼" piece on the 3½" side. Now sew one 2"x3" rectangles on each side of the lid/background piece. Sew the 2"x6 ¼" background strips on each side of the jar. Add lid piece to the top of jar, and black strip shelf to the bottom. Your block should be 8 ½" square. Admire your handy work.



Make one or several of these blocks (each should be different, please) and bring to the September 14 meeting to start collecting points to win all BOM made by guild members. 5 points/blocks will get you to enter your name into the drawing pot. See specific BOM guidelines on how to collect points on www.mpqg.org - Activities tab.

Block of the Month: October 2015

Ribbon Twist

For October Breast Cancer Awareness, we selected a block that reminds us of the pink ribbon. Use two different pink fabrics - one darker than the other and a light background to really make the twist pop. Practice accurate cutting and your 1/4" seams with the 2" strips and pieces.

Materials Needed for a 12 1/2" Block

FAB A (light pink on diagram): A pink fabric (solid or print). Cut: A minimum of 19"x2" strip, sub-cut into two 6 1/2"x2" strips and three 2"x2" squares.

FAB B (dark pink on diagram): lighter or darker pink than FAB A. Cut: A minimum of 31"x2" strip; sub-cut into one 9 1/2"x2" strip, three 6 1/2"x2" strips, and one 2"x2" square.

Background (BG): Use low volume prints or tone-on-tone in a light color. Cut: One 6 1/2"x5" piece; two 6 1/2"x 3 1/2" piece, one 5"x2" strip, one 3 1/2"x2" piece, and one 2"x2" square.

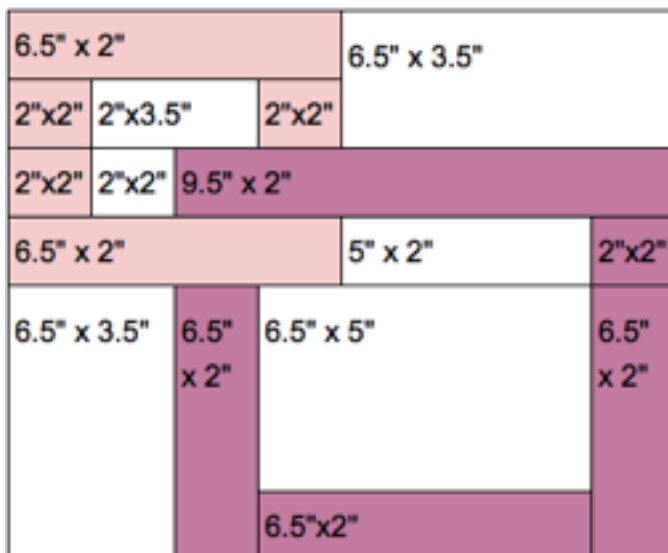
Instructions

Layout all cut pieces per diagram, and then sew them together in **units** starting in the second row: sew FAB A 2"x2" squares to each side of BG 3 1/2"x2" piece. Sew this unit to FAB A 6 1/2"x2" piece. Add the BG 6.5"x3.5" piece to this unit on short end (referring to diagram for direction). Now make 2 long 12.5" strips: FAB A 2"x2" + BG 2"x2" + FAB B 9.5"x2"; then FAB A 6.5"x2" + BG 5"x2" + FAB B 2"x2". Sew these 2 strips together per diagram. Then sew this long unit to the first unit along the 12.5" side matching seams.

Now sew BG 6.5"x3.5" piece to FAB B 6.5"x2". Sew 6.5"x5" BG to 6.5"x2" FAB B strip. Add to this unit FAB B 6.5"x2" strip as shown in drawing. Sew this unit to BG+FAB B unit as shown, and finally sew the bottom half of block to the top half of block matching seams. Voila.

Make one or several of these blocks (each should be different, please) and bring to the October 5 meeting to start collecting points to win all BOM made by guild members. 5 points/ blocks will get you to enter your name into the drawing pot. See specific BOM guidelines on how to collect points on www.mpqg.org Activities tab.

Cutting and Layout Diagram
(pieces shown in cut sizes not finished)



Block of the Month: November 2015 Instructions

Maple Leaf

Do you recall the guild's beautiful opportunity quilt from last year? Well, with fall in the air and Thanksgiving knocking, here is your chance to make your own Maple Leaf Block to use some of your favorite fall colored fabrics.

Materials Needed for a 9 ½" Block

Leaf: Use any color that represents a leaf in the fall or make it scrappy: Three 3 ½" squares, one 4" square, and two 2 ½ squares, and two 2"x3 ½" rectangles.

Stem: Brown, grey, or use leaf fabric: One 5"x1 ¼ strip.

Background (BG): Use contrasting color that represents: sky, clouds, or sand: One 4" square, two 3 ½" square, and two 2 ½" squares.

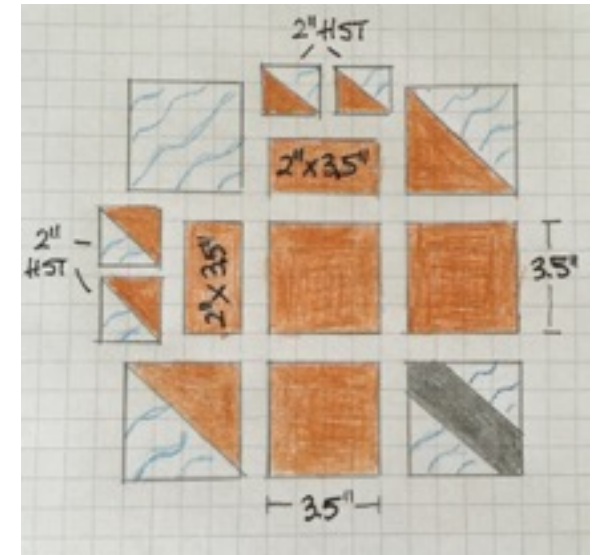
Instructions

Stem: Take one of 3 ½" BG squares and cut in half over the diagonal. Pin (optional) and sew the 5x1 ¼" stem fabric strip to the longest edge of one of the triangles you have just cut from the 3 ½" BG block. Pin and sew the other side of the 5x1 ¼" strip to the longest edge of the remaining triangle. Press seams to outside and trim to 3 ½" square.

Next make the large 3 ½" corner half-square triangles (HST): On the back of the 4" BG square draw a diagonal line. Place that square, right sides together (RST), on top of 4" leaf square. Sew a scant ¼" on each side of the line, cut on the line, press seams open, and trim to 3 ½" HST - you will have 2 HST. Use the same method for the small HST: draw diagonal lines on back of the 2 ½" BG squares. Place those squares, RST, on top of 2 ½" leaf squares. Sew scant ¼" on each side of the line, cut on line, press seams open - and you will end up with 4 HST - trim each to 2".

Assembly: Sew 2 small HST together per diagram. Sew these units to 2"x3 ½" leaf rectangles. Then sew together the 9 squares as illustrated in rows - pressing seams to the left on the top and bottom row, and to the right in the middle row. Nest seams and sew rows together. You will end up with a 9 ½" square. Admire!

Make one or several of these blocks (each should be different, please) and bring to the November 9 meeting to collect points to win all BOM made by guild members. 5 points/blocks will get you to enter your name into the drawing pot. See specific BOM guidelines on how to collect points at http://www.mpqg.org/activities/block_of_the_month/.



Block of the Month: December 2015 Instructions

Pine Tree or 16-Patch

This month we have an easy 16-patch Block or a Tree Block with some measuring and marking - hopefully you can fit making one of these (or both) into your busy pre-holiday season.

16-patch Block - 8 1/2" unfinished

You will need sixteen 2 1/2" fabric squares in holiday/Christmas colors.

Sew squares together in pairs, then each pair to another pair to make a row. Then sew the rows together to make the 16-patch.

Tree - 8 1/2" unfinished

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Tree: Use any green, teal or mix of 1, 2 or 3 fabrics. Cut (3) rectangles as such: 4 1/2" x 2 1/2", 6" x 2 1/2", and 8" x 2 1/2".

Trunk: Brown, gray, black: (1) 1 3/4" x 2 1/2" piece.

Background (BG): Use any contrasting color. Cut: (2) 4 1/2" x 2 1/2", (2) 3 3/4" x 2 1/2", (2) 2 3/4" x 2 1/2", (2) 4" x 2 1/2"

ASSEMBLY:

Trunk: Take the two 4" x 2 1/2" BG pieces and sew one on each side of the trunk piece along the 2 1/2" sides - trim to 8 1/2" long.

Tree: Take the smallest tree piece (4 1/2" x 2 1/2") right side up. Place longest BG piece (4 1/2" x 2 1/2") on top, right side down, with the 2 1/2" side lined up with top edge and you can see the bottom edges intersect. Draw a 45 degree line from top corner to bottom intersection as shown.

Pin in place with the raw edges lined up. Sew a hairpin above marked line. Press seams toward tree fabric and trim. Then repeat drawing diagonal line on other 4 1/2" x 2 1/2" BG piece:

To make things efficient, you can draw all of the diagonal lines and pin the pieces together and then chain piece. background pieces 3 3/4" x 2 1/2" go onto 6" tree piece, background pieces 2 3/4" x 2 1/2" go onto 8" tree piece. Mark lines, sew just above line, press, and trim. You will end with 3 branch units.

Assembly by arranging the branch and trunk units in order and sew together in rows.

You will end up with a 8 1/2" square. Admire!

Make one or several of these blocks (each should be different, please) and bring to the December 7 meeting to collect points to win all BOM made by guild members. 5 points/blocks will get you to enter your name into the drawing pot. See specific BOM guidelines on how to collect points at http://www.mpgg.org/activities/block_of_the_month/.

Special Thank you to Julie Cefalu aka The Crafty Quilter for allowing us to use her tutorial on the tree assembly for this block. Please see her tutorial and blog here: <http://thecraftyquilter.com/2012/11/holiday-mug-rug-tutorial/>



Block of the Month: January 2016 Instructions

Disappearing Nine Patch (DNP)

For January we thought to do something quick and still fabulously effective. If you are experienced or new to quilting, this block continues to surprise everyone. Make sure to use scant 1/4" seams.

Materials

Four 4" squares Black-with-white fabric
Four 4" squares White-with-black fabric
One 4" square - Any **bright** color

Directions

Sew together the nine 4" squares as pictured with the bright color in the center, the black-with-white in the corners, and the white-with-black in-between. Your block should measure 11". Cut in half in both directions (5 1/2" from edge). Turn two opposite corners 180 degrees so that the bright squares are in two outside corners instead of the center (see picture 3). Sew together. Press seams. Block should now measure 10 1/2" square.

How to participate

Make one or several of these blocks and bring to the January 4 general meeting to collect points to win all BOM made by guild members. 5 points/blocks will get you to enter your name into the drawing pot. See specific BOM guidelines on how to collect points at http://www.mpgg.org/activities/block_of_the_month/.



Block of the Month: February 2016 Instructions

Heart Block

For February we chose a Heart block in light of Valentine's. This is yet another quick block so that you can fit in a bit of piecing with fun fabrics while finishing your show quilts.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

| Heart: Red Fabric | Background: Text fabric or low volume | Side Sashing: Any blue solid or reads-as-blue fabric |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| (2) 3 1/2" squares | (4) 1 1/4" squares | (1) 3" x 10 1/2" strip |
| (1) 4" square | (1) 4" square | (1) 2" x 10 1/2" strip |
| | (2) 2 1/2" x 6 1/2" rectangles | |

ASSEMBLY:

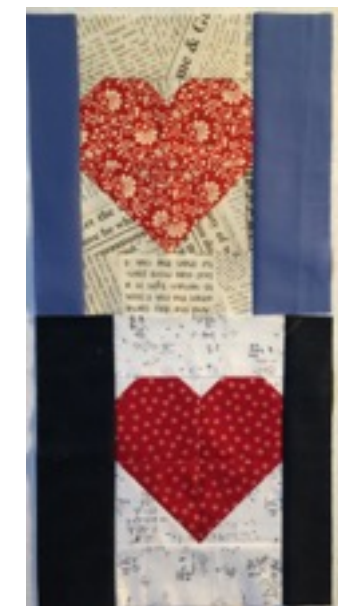
Take the two 4" squares (red and light) and make a half square triangle (HST): Mark a diagonal center line on the lighter fabric with a pencil. Place the two 4" squares right sides together and sew 1/4" from the drawn line on both sides. Cut on the drawn line, press seams, and trim each newly created square to 3 1/2".

Now, take the (4) 1 1/4" BG squares, mark diagonal lines on the back, place one each in the upper two corners of the two 3 1/2" red squares as shown in picture and sew a thread width above that line. Flip, press, and trim.

Layout your new pieces and sew together as a heart as shown. Then add the two background rectangles to the top and bottom of the heart. Press. Last, sew the two outside sashing strips to the sides - it doesn't matter which strip goes where - changing it up is part of the design as the winner won't have to match seams then.

You will end up with a 10 1/2" square. Admire!

Make one or several of these blocks (each should be different, please) and bring to the February 1 meeting to collect points to win all BOM made by guild members. Five points/blocks will get you to enter your name into the drawing pot. See specific BOM guidelines on how to collect points at http://www.mpgg.org/activities/block_of_the_month/.



Block of the Month: March 2016 Instructions

Modern Irish Chain

March equals Green and Irish. Here is a modern version of the Irish Chain block named "North Star Block". Hope you enjoy looking for just the perfect green fabrics in your stash as much as we did.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

For the Chain: **Dark Green** (either one fabric or scrappy):
2.5", 3.0", 3.5", 4.0" squares

Secondary Fabric: **Light Green** (either one fabric or three different fabrics):

(2) 2.5"x3.0", (2) 3.0"x3.5", (2) 3.5"x4.0"

Background: **Solid White:**

2.5"x3.5", 2.5"x7.0", 4.0"x3.0", 4.0"x5.0"

ASSEMBLY:

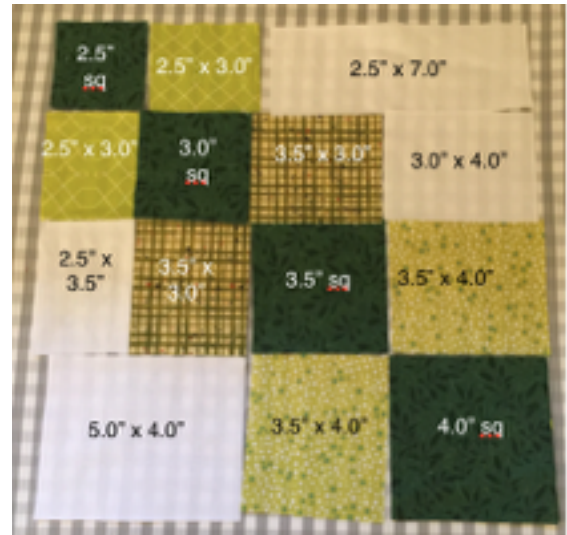
- Cut and layout pieces as shown in cutting diagram.
- Sew pieces together by row.
- Press seams to the dark side.
- Sew 2 tops rows together nesting the seams, and 2 bottom rows. Then sew center seam. Press row seams open.

You will end up with a **11 ½" square**. Admire!

Make one or several of these blocks (each should be different, please) and bring to the February 1 meeting to collect points to win all BOM made by guild members. Five points/blocks will allow you to enter your name into the drawing pot. See specific BOM guidelines on how to collect points at

http://www.mpgg.org/activities/block_of_the_month/.

Cutting and Layout Diagram:



Block of the Month: April 2016 Instructions

Broken Dishes

For this month we selected HST (Half Square Triangles) to make and arrange in the Broken Dishes layout. You need nicely contrasting fabrics (**ORANGE or YELLOW** plus a **low volume/light** fabric) to get the most of the block. Shouldn't this shape be called *Half Triangle Square* to really describe its shape? Well, Triangle Squares are all the rage as they have endless layout possibilities. Here are three different methods to make multiple at once. You will need a total of 16 HSTs for this block, so why not try out all methods?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

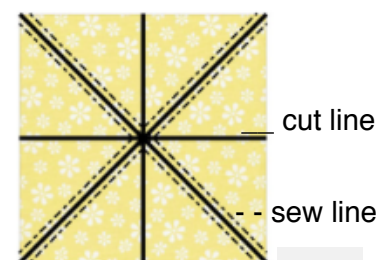
| Finished Square | Fabrics NEEDED: LOW VOLUME & ORANGE OR YELLOW | Method | Yields |
|-----------------|--|-------------|--------|
| 2.0" | 3.0" squares (1 of each color) x 2 | Traditional | 2 HST |
| 2.0" | 4 1/8" squares (1 of each color) | Alternative | 4 HST |
| 2.0" | 6.0" squares (1 of each color) | Magic 8 | 8 HST |



HOW TO:

Let's start with the Magic 8.

Cut your two fabrics to size indicated above and place right sides together. Mark your light colored fabric with diagonal lines corner to corner BOTH directions. Sew a 1/4" from the lines on both sides = 4 sew lines. Cutting: start with the horizontal cut, then vertical and then cut on both drawn lines which will give you 8 HSTs. Press seams and see *Trimming to Size* below.



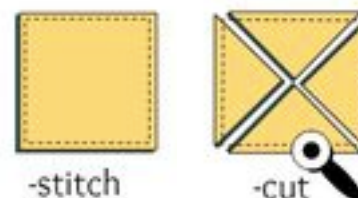
Alternative Method. (Makes 4)

Again, cut your two fabrics to indicated square size, and place them right sides together. Now, sew around the outside a 1/4" from the edge. Cut on both diagonals to get four pieces. Be aware that you have bias edges when pressing these triangles open to squares and sewing them. See *Trimming to Size* below.



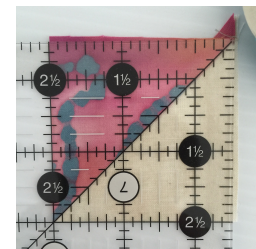
Traditional Method. (Makes 2)

Cut your two fabrics to the size indicated, place them right sides together, draw a line across ONE diagonal. Sew 1/4" from the drawn line on both sides (or if you have a special ruler, you can draw the sew lines.) Cut in half on the drawn line and press seams to darker fabric. See *Trimming to Size* below.



Trimming to size:

Use the 45 degree line on your ruler lining it up with your seam. Then line-up the 2.5" marks on both sides and trim to size.



Make 12 HSTs using Magic 8 and Alternative Method, and 4 HSTs using the Traditional Method twice. Layout per diagram with the light and dark fabric alternating as shown. Sew together in rows. Press seams on rows 1 and 3 to the right and 2 and 4 to the left. Sew rows together by nesting the seams. Press row seams open to reduce the bulk.

Your final block will measure 8.5". Admire! Questions: Send email to kbkreativ@gmail.com

Make one or several of these blocks (each should be different, please) and bring to the April 2nd meeting to collect points to win all BOM made by guild members. Five points/blocks will allow you to enter your name into the drawing pot. See specific BOM guidelines on how to collect points at http://www.mpgg.org/activities/block_of_the_month/.

Block of the Month: May 2016 Instructions

Scrappy Flower Basket

Spring has sprung and colorful flowers are all around us. Thus, pull out your colorful fabric scraps to make this Scrappy Flower Basket. Use the half square triangle method you learned in the [April BOM](#), and this involved looking block will be complete in an hour.



| | |
|---|--|
| Material Needed: | |
| <i>Fabrics 1-5 are for the flowers, counting from left to right</i> | |
| Fabric 1 & 5 (colorful): | (1) 2.5" square, (1) 3" square |
| Fabric 2, 3 & 4 (colorful) | (1) 2.5" square, (2) 3" squares |
| Green for the leaves: | (2) 2.5" squares |
| Brown for the basket: | (2) 2.5"x4.5", (1) 2.5" sq., (1) 5" square |
| Background: (use a cream or off-white) | (1) 5", (1) 4.5", (4) 2.5" & (4) 3" squares, (2) 2.5"x4.5" pieces |

Instructions:

Use a 14" piece of cardboard or tray on which you can lay out your pieces in rows as they will be sewn together. Note: Block sits on the diagonal.

First, take the two 5" squares (brown and BG) to make Half Square Triangles: fabrics right sides together; draw a diagonal line on the BG back; sew 1/4" from the line on each side. Cut on the line, and press seams. You will have (2) HST, but will only need (1) per block. Trim to 4.5"x4.5".

Now, make HST with the 3" squares. Place right sides together of these 3" fabric squares:
 BG + Fabric 1 (use both HST)
 BG + Fabric 5 (use both HST)
 BG + Fabric 2 (use one)
 BG + Fabric 4 (use one)
 Fabric 2 + Fabric 3 (use one)
 Fabric 3 + Fabric 4 (use one)

Draw your diagonal line on the back of the lighter fabric, sew 1/4" from each side of the line. Cut and press seams. You will get (2) HST each that need to be trimmed to 2.5". See [April BOM](#) for detailed instructions on HSTs.

You now have all your pieces needed for this block. Assemble them on your board as shown in the picture to the right.

I like sewing pairs and then rows. However, as there are some larger pieces that go over two



rows, you will need to sew partial rows. Starting left on row 1 and 2: sew your pairs; then pair to pair; press seams. Sew partial row 1 to partial row 2, press, then sew large cream square to that piece which is partial rows 1 and 2. Continue with the other rows in that same manner.

Press and square up if needed. **Your block will measure 12.5"**. Admire your beautiful Scrappy Flower Basket.

Contact me, Kathrin Brown, at kbkreativ@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Make one or several of these blocks (each should be different, please) and bring to the [May 2nd](#) meeting to collect points to win all BOM made by guild members. Five points/blocks will allow you to enter your name into the drawing pot. See specific BOM guidelines on how to collect points at http://www.mpqg.org/activities/block_of_the_month/.

Block of the Month: June 2016 Instructions

Double Pinwheel

This month the block requires only three colors/fabrics to create this double pinwheel. After making half-square triangles for the last couple of months, practice partial quarter triangles and working with bias. Since the fabric is cut on the diagonal, it creates bias, thus **use starch**.

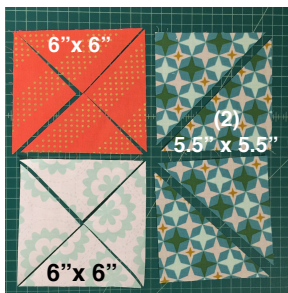


Material Needed:

- (1) 6" square in orange
- (1) 6" square in low volume
- (2) 5.5" squares in teal or aqua

Instructions:

1. Cut the two 6" squares in the diagonal both directions. Cut the (2) 5.5" squares over the diagonal once like this:



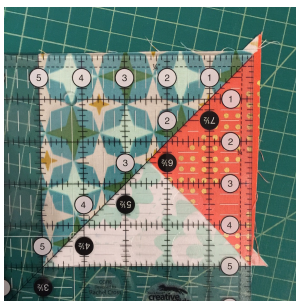
2. Layout the 12 pieces created in this manner creating 4 blocks:



First sew the two smaller triangles on each block together; press seams to the orange fabric.

Then sew the large triangle to the quarter triangles. Press seam to the large (aqua) triangle.

3. Trim all four blocks to 5" x 5" square using the 45 degree line on your ruler.



4. Sew the 4 blocks together in this arrangement creating the pinwheel:



Press the last seam open to reduce bulk in the center.

Your final block will measure 9.5" x 9.5".

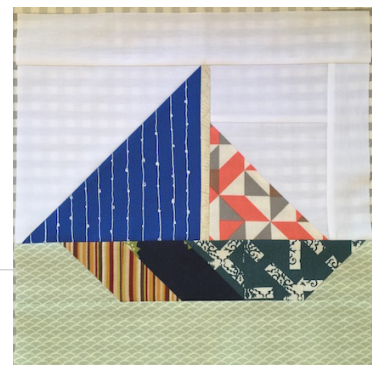
Make one or several of these blocks (each should be different, please) and bring to the June 13th meeting to collect points to win all BOM made by guild members. Five points/blocks will allow you to enter your name into the drawing pot. See specific BOM guidelines on how to collect points at http://www.mpgg.org/activities/block_of_the_month/.

Contact me, Kathrin Brown, at kbkreativ@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Block of the Month: July 2016 Instructions

Sail Away

When I was at the Baltic Sea recently, it was kick-off for the sailing season. I saw a cute graphic image in the newspaper and made it into this quilt block. Use any fabrics you want for the sails and the boat - make it a one color boat or scrappy as shown in the sample and just have fun. *Questions: kbkreativ@gmail.com*



FABRICS NEEDED:

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Sky (white, off-white, very light blue or grey): (1) 12"x2" (1) 7"x7" (1) 5"x5" (1) 4.5"x2.5" (1) 6.5"x1.75"</p> | <p>Large Sail (any color): (1) 7"x7" square</p> |
| <p>Small Sail (any bright color to go with the large sail): (1) 5"x5" square</p> | <p>Mast (any contrasting color): (1) 6.5"x 3/4"</p> |
| <p>Boat (any 3 fabrics to make it scrappy): Color A: (1) 3" square, (1) 2.5" square Color B: (1) 3" square Color C: (1) 3" square, (1) 2.5" square</p> | <p>Water (green or aqua - with movement): (1) 12"x 2.5" (1) 3" square (1) 4"x2.5"</p> |

INSTRUCTIONS:

Make the Sails

Make Half-Square

Triangles with the 7"x7" and 5"x5" sky and sail pieces. Place the squares right sides together, draw line over diagonal, sew 1/4" from line, cut on line, press, and trim to sizes: 6.5"x6.5" for the large sail and 4.5"x4.5" for the small sail.

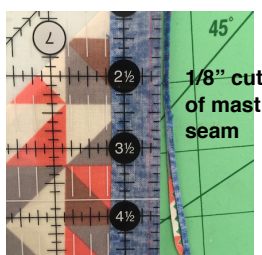


sides together: A on B, B on C, and C on Water. Sew 1/4" seam along cut side to create squares - as these are bias seams, use starch or be careful not to stretch the fabric.

(You will be using both B and C triangles but only (1) each of A and Water). Trim these triangles squares to 2.5" squares, using the 45 degree line on your ruler.

Take your **A** 2.5" square and draw line on the diagonal on the back. Lay that square on 2.5"x4" water piece - right sides together - aligning the square on the right of the rectangle. Stitch on the line, flip A fabric, press and trim not needed fabric on the back.

Sew 4.5"x2.5" sky piece to top of small sail. Press seam. Sew 6.5"x2" piece to the right of the sail, press.



Sew 6.5"x3/4" mast to large sail with 1/4" seam. Trim seam to 1/8" to reduce bulk. Press seam to mast. With the mast on top, carefully sew the small sail unit to the mast with 1/4" seam allowance. Press fabric to mast.

Layout all the boat row pieces as shown in top picture, sew together with 1/4" seam, press seams open to reduce bulk. Measure that you have a 12" wide piece. If it's wider, trim on the left side.

Make the Boat

Cut all (includes Water) 3" squares on the diagonal to get triangles. Now match up triangles as follows right

Sew the boat row to the 12"x2.5" water piece. Press seam to water.

Last seam: sew sails to boat. Press seam open. **Trim block if needed to 12"x12"**.

Remember, we appreciate DIFFERENT blocks, so if you make multiple blocks, please use different fabrics. This BOM is due at the guild meeting on July 12, 2016. More info on the BOM on our [web](#).

Block of the Month: August 2016

Chinese Coin



The block for this month is called Chinese Coin or Four-Patch Friendship Star depending on where you look up information for this block. It calls for the use of one of those beautiful **Asian prints**. I made three very different blocks in quick succession as I had so much fun choosing fabrics.

FABRICS NEEDED:

Check your stash for some great Asian fabric. The “coordinating” fabric can be Asian or not but should be a high contrast color that you can find in the Asian fabric.

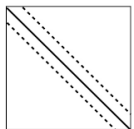
Center Square: One 4” square of Asian print.

Half Square Triangles (HST): Two 4 1/2” squares of the Asian print. And two 4 1/2” squares of the coordinating fabric (see above).

Corner Four-Patches: One 2 1/4” x 18 1/2” strip of the coordinating fabric and one 2 1/4” x 18 1/2” strip of a low-volume fabric.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Start by making the corner four-patches. Sew together the two 18 1/2” strips (coordinating fabric and light fabric). Press seam to darker fabric. Cut into eight (8) 2 1/4” x 4” strips with a bit extra to account for skewing. Sew two each together rotating one of them to create four sets of 4-Patches.



Now construct the half square triangles (HST). Place right sides together of the two sets of 4 1/2” squares (Asian print and “coordinating” fabric). Draw a diagonal line on the back and sew 1/4” from both sides of the line (see picture left). Cut on the line to produce two sets of half square triangle blocks each. Trim to 4” squares.



Carefully arrange the 9 sections as shown in the photo since it’s easy to twist one of them in the wrong direction. The block will measure 11”x11”.

Questions: [k bkreativ@gmail.com](mailto:kbkreativ@gmail.com)

Remember, we appreciate DIFFERENT blocks. So if you make multiple blocks, please use different fabrics. This BOM is due at the guild meeting on August 1, 2016. More info on the BOM on our [web site](http://www.mpqg.org/activities/block_of_the_month/) at www.mpqg.org/activities/block_of_the_month/

