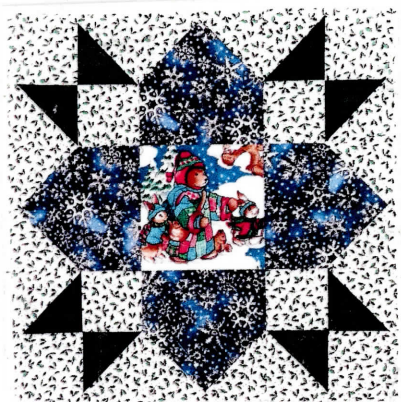


Block of the Month – August, 2023



WEATHERVANE

The August block was found in Best Blocks by "Quilters Newsletter".

Best Blocks informs us that "Ruby McKim included this lovely old block pattern in *One Hundred and One Patchwork Patterns* and claimed that it dated back to the time when Great Grandmother had to rely on her weathervane, rather than listening to the reliable scientific forecast we enjoy today."

Weathervanes or wind vanes have been around since ancient times. It is believed that the first weathervane was built in about 48 B.C. by the Greek astronomer Andronicus for the Tower of the Winds in Athens.

Because knowing the wind speed and wind direction is a vital clue to the weather, the weathervane had an important place in keeping quilters and their loved ones safe. Long ago a quilter honored the Weathervane with its own block and our Block for August.

The Weathervane block is a charmer. Think garden party, placemats, table runner or a child's quilt. The block is fast and easy. By pre-cutting fabric, chain piecing can be used on the entire block to make assembly a breeze. Using only squares and HSTs, this block can be FPP or simply pieced in a jiffy. Try putting four together and a secondary design appears.

I hope you will join the fun.

Please join us on ZOOM, the Monday following our regular Guild Meeting, Monday, for tips and conversation.

Questions: Marjorie Longo, Coordinator
(831)624-8649 or frumml@gmail.com

ZOOM link: August 14, 6:30 PM

<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/85141597785?pwd=dTVvSigvMjB5V280d3VoajNwaGFYdz09>

Meeting ID:851 4159 7785

Password:868067

This month's block is #11 of 12 and we are nearly done with an entire year of blocks and looking like FPP experts, so few instructions will be given on this one. Please refer to previous months for general FPP instructions or you can call me or email me with questions.

I suggest that you make a few extra copies of the layout to use as a coloring sheet to experiment. What is the effect if you switch the lightest and darkest on your coloring sheet. Which way is the most playful? Which could pass for transitional/modern?

The Weathervane block may be the second easiest block that we have done. Pre-cutting your pieces and chain piecing will make the assembly amazingly fast.

Fabric values given below are based on my sample block.

For FPP, I suggest that you cut the fabric a little larger than my measurements. One half inch extra is the standard for FPP. It is better to be safe and trim off a little than to throw away entire piece because you are a tiny bit crooked. OOPS, there goes the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

You will need five sheets of FPP.

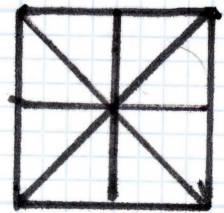
Focus fabric for the center, cut 1 @ $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ " square

Middle value fabric, cut 4 @ $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ ". Glue tack onto pattern and trim to the pattern shape. Careful, don't cut off the seam allowance or the pattern.

Darkest value fabric, cut 1 @ $5\frac{3}{4}$ " X $5\frac{3}{4}$ " square (yields 8 HSTs)

Subcut: If you mark the cutting lines for this process, you can't make a mistake. Mark the two diagonals first, now fold the fabric in half to find the center horizontal and center vertical line placement. Now you are ready to cut and not worry if your fabric slips a bit; just follow the lines. Without moving the fabric, slice fabric diagonally corner to corner both directions to make four large triangles. Now without moving the fabric, cut across the middle side to side vertically and then horizontally.

HINT: It helps to stick the fabric to your cutting surface so it cannot move. I used Scotch removable double sided sticky tape. Several small dabs of a temporary glue should also work.



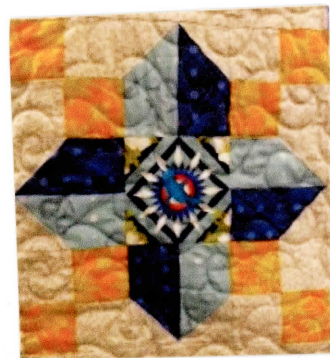
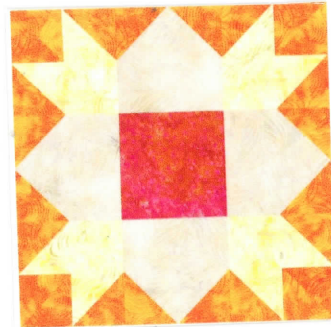
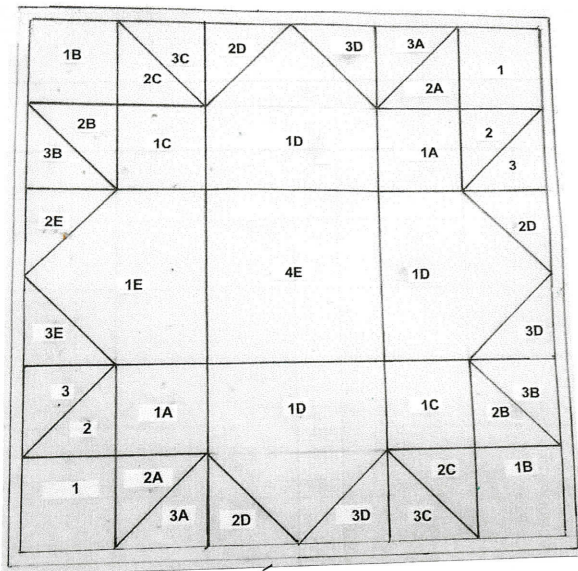
Lightest value fabric cut 2 @ 5-³/₄" x 5-³/₄" squares to (yields 16 HSTs)

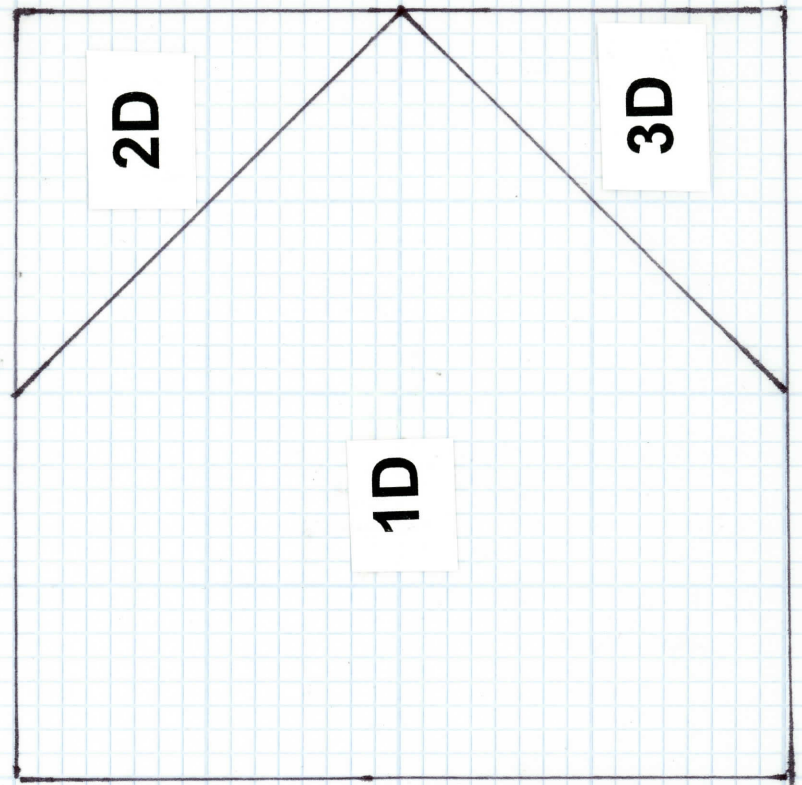
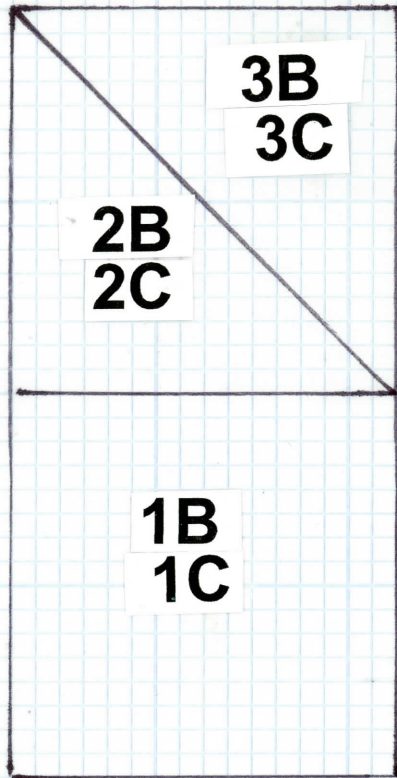
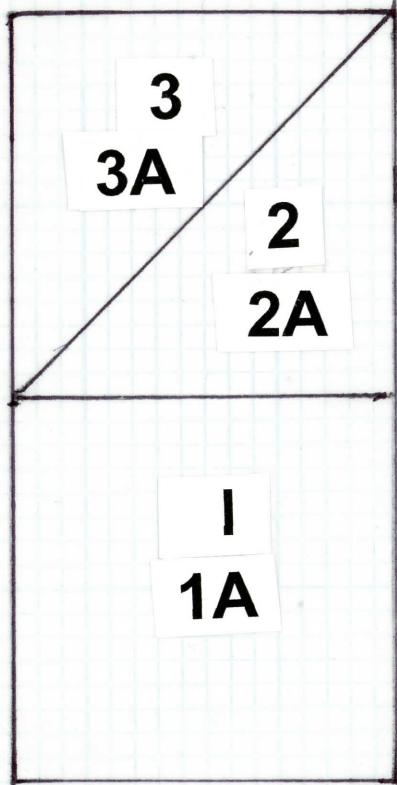
Follow the above sub-cutting directions. To prevent slipping, I suggest that you cut up one square at a time.

Lightest value fabric, cut 8 @ 2-¹/₂" x 2-¹/₂" squares.

Each addition of fabric can be chain pieced, then each of the small sections you just made can be chain pieced together, until each third created can be chain piece together. Time to join the rows of thirds and you are done. The only thing that I would suggest is that you slow down long enough to match those points. If you are very accurate, that will also be a quick process.

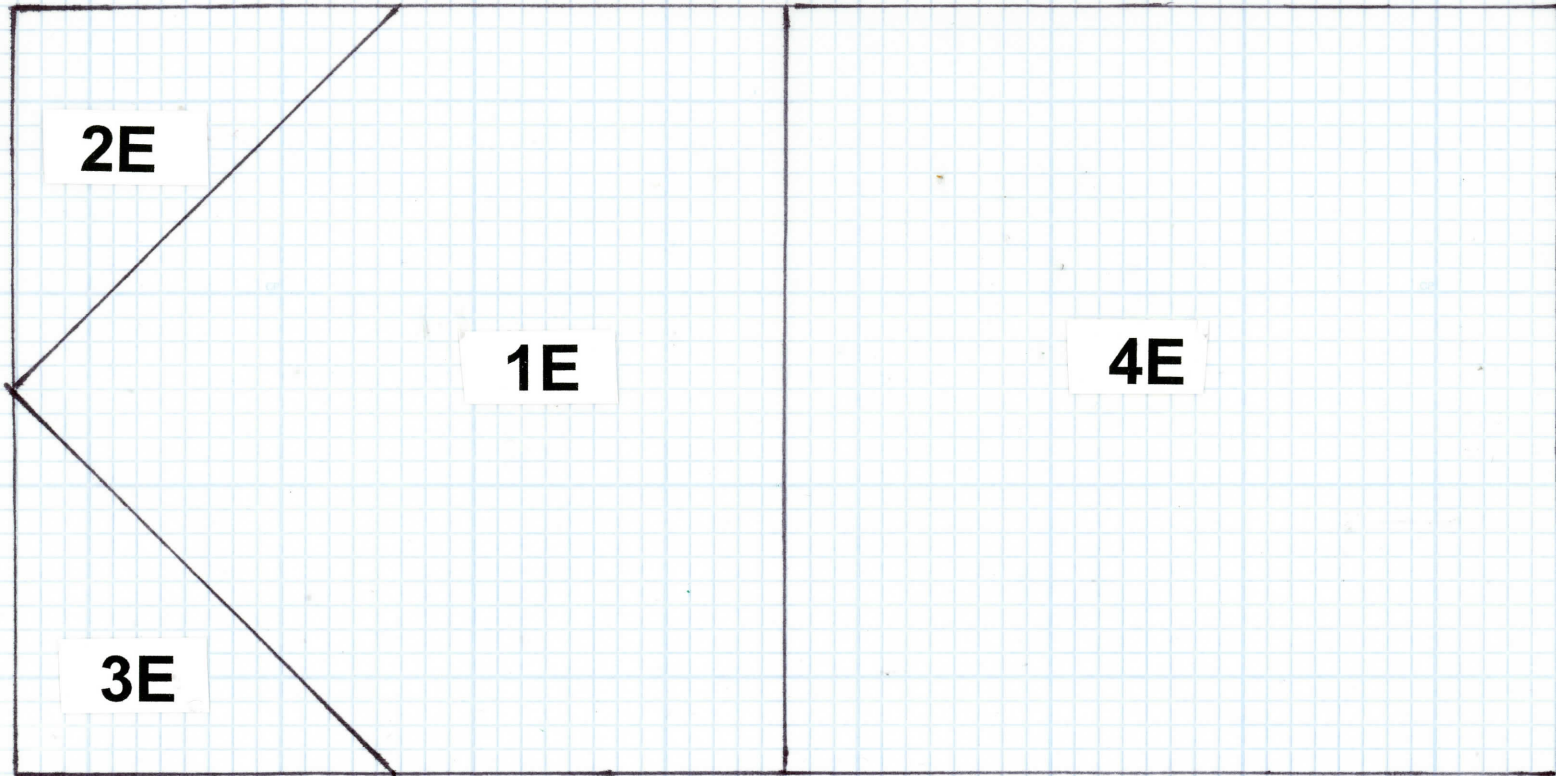
No surprises with this one. It is fast and easy. Have fun.
Hope to see you on ZOOM.





Make four copies of each
on foundation

Make three copies on foundation



Make one copy on foundation