

## Block of the Month: September 2018

### \* What Color is your Tulip? \*



You might wonder: It is September, and Tulips are a spring flower. Well, maybe the lucky winner of these blocks will have the top completed by next spring :-). This Tulip block is a re-creation of the Tulip block by Missouri Quilt Star company.

([www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEMr02zvjjU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEMr02zvjjU))

#### **Materials Needed**

**Leaves:** (2) 5" squares of 2 different greens, (2) 5" squares of background (low volume)

**Stem:** 1.5" x 8.5" dark green or grey

**Flowers:** (4) 5" squares of four different fabrics of same color family (think Tulip), (4) squares of 2.5" squares of background fabric

Note: All seams are 1/4" unless noted otherwise.

#### **Instructions**

1. Mark a diagonal lines on all background squares - 2.5" and 5" squares
2. **Make flowers:** Place one each 2.5" background square in one corner of each 5" flower square to create 'snowball corner' aka 'flip & sew method' - see picture to the right. Sew on drawn diagonal line. Press to darker fabric. Trim off bottom corner piece.
3. Sew all four flower pieces together per picture. Press seams open.
4. **Make leaves:** Place one each background 5" square on top of each green square (right sides together). Sew 1/4" from drawn diagonal line on each side. Cut on diagonal line to create two each half square triangles. Press to dark side.
5. Sew each top leaf to bottom leaf per picture. Press seam open.
6. Sew stem to 2-leaf unit; then sew other 2-leaf unit to other side of stem. Press seams toward stem.
7. Sew flower unit to leaf unit. Press seam open.
8. Your flower should measure: 9.5" x 17.5"



Contact [kathrin.brown@gmail.com](mailto:kathrin.brown@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Remember, we appreciate DIFFERENT blocks. So if you make multiple blocks, please use different fabrics. This BOM is due at the guild meeting on September 10, 2018. More info on the BOM on our [web site](http://www.mpgq.org/activities/block_of_the_month/) at [www.mpgq.org/activities/block\\_of\\_the\\_month/](http://www.mpgq.org/activities/block_of_the_month/)

## Block of the Month: October 2018

### \* Plaid Improv Plus \*



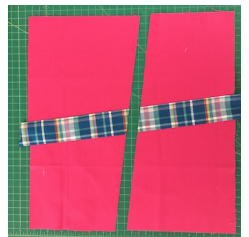
This month we have a fun, easy improv block. You can make a small, medium or large block. Find some plaid fabric in your stash and team it with a matching solid. You can even use shirt fabric.

#### **Materials Needed**

There are three sizes this month: 4.5", 8.5" or 12.5" blocks. Choose one or make all - the materials needed are listed in order of size as such 4.5" {8.5" {12.5"}

**Plaid:** two 6" x 1.25" [two 10"x1.75"] {two 15" x 2.25"} strips of plaid fabric

**Background:** One 5" {9"} {13"} square of solid fabric that coordinates with the plaid

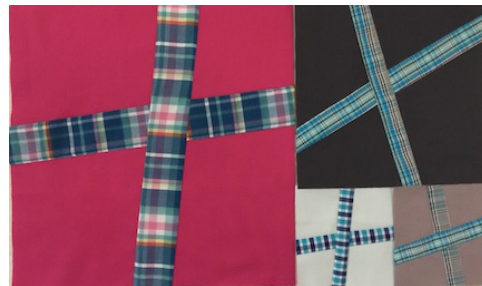


Note: All seams are 1/4" unless noted otherwise. If you are using shirt fabric, spray with starch or sizing to keep it from stretching.

#### **Instructions**

1. Take the background square and make a random cut from bottom to top for the first leg of the plus - a slight angle cut is okay, but think more + not x.
2. Take one of the plaid strips and sew it between the cut. Press seams to the strip.
3. Turn the created unit 90 degrees, so that the square lies with the strip horizontally. Make a cut from bottom to top - again your choice of placement and slight angle or not.
4. Take the other plaid strip and sew it between the cut. Try to line-up the first leg as best as you can - but it's improv. Imperfection is expected! Press seams to the strip.
5. Square up your block to size 4.5" or 8.5" or 12.5".

Since these blocks are multiples of 4, you can use them together in the same quilt. See picture below with all three sizes.



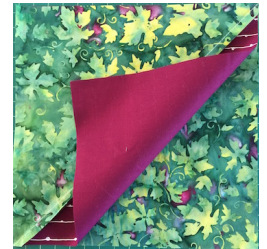
Remember, we appreciate DIFFERENT blocks. So if you make multiple blocks, please use different fabrics. This BOM is due at the guild meeting on **October 1, 2018**. More info on the BOM on our [web site](http://www.mpgg.org/activities/block_of_the_month/) at [www.mpgg.org/activities/block\\_of\\_the\\_month/](http://www.mpgg.org/activities/block_of_the_month/)

## Block of the Month: November 2018

### \* Delectable Mountain \*



This is the last block for 2018. Let's make it Fall. This block is called Delectable Mountain and Bonnie Hunter of Quiltville put out a great tutorial here: [quiltville.blogspot.com/2005/06/scrappy-mountain-majesties.html](http://quiltville.blogspot.com/2005/06/scrappy-mountain-majesties.html). This block requires two contrasting fabrics - light and dark. Fall is in the air, so pull out your autumn colored fabrics and participate. Once you start, it becomes addictive to pair more fabrics and make these units!



#### **Materials Needed**

(2) 8.5"x8.5" squares in contrasting fabrics in Fall Colors

Note: All seams are 1/4" unless noted otherwise.

#### **Instructions**

1. Draw a diagonal line on the lighter of the squares. Make two half square triangles (HST) with the two squares. (Review HST: draw the diagonal line on the square; place squares right side together on top of each other; sew 1/4" away from diagonal line on both sides; cut square on diagonal line; press to the dark side; trim HST to 8" square.)
2. Layer HST one on top of the other, with the dark of the top triangle on top of the light of the bottom. This way you will be sure that you have one 'uphill' block and one 'downhill' block when you are done cutting. See picture 1.
3. Cut 2" segments through both layers. Start by cutting 6" from the left; then cut 4" from the left, and last cut at 2" (avoids movement of already cut units). Pic 2
4. Carefully peel the top layer off the bottom layer and you will have uphill and downhill strips! Simply rearrange the strips by moving the far right to the far left; then the next far right, to the right of the first moved, etc. Pic 3 and 4
5. Sew strips together in pairs; then sew first pair to second pair keeping the design. Repeat with the other 4 strips. Press seams open. (Hint: if you sew the first two seams from top to bottom, make the final seam bottom to top to even out any skewing of the fabric).
6. You end up with two blocks each measuring 6.5"x8" - do not sew the units together.



This block is ideal for BOM since blocks will all be different = scrappy. To the right is just one layout of all fall colors scrappy units.

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December 2018 Block Missing

# Block of the Month: January 2019

## \* Scrappy Arrow \*



We all have scraps of varying sizes and colors. Each arrow should be a specific color - your choice: NAVY, PURPLE or TEAL. Go find your blue, purple or teal scraps that are at least 2.5 inches wide and some LOW VOLUME 2.5" scraps for the background. Remember, LOW VOLUME is the "modern" term for light colored fabrics.

### Materials Needed

- (2) 3" squares in either navy, purple or teal
- (2) 3" squares in low volume
- 10) 2.5" squares for arrow — either all navy, all purple or all teal scraps
- (10) 2.5" squares in low volume scraps for background

Note: All seams are 1/4" unless noted otherwise.

### Tips and Techniques:

- When pressing seams open in an area that has lots of intersecting seams, it's difficult to avoid pressing side seams a bit wonky. The secret is to lay the seam you're pressing open over a "seam roll" or "dressmakers ham" or pressing bar. Check with our affiliate members -- it's a good investment.
- If you are looking for low volume fabrics, look at both sides of your fabrics, perhaps the wrong side works better for the requested "low volume"/light background.

### Instructions

1. Make half square triangles with the 3" arrow and low volume squares like this:  
Draw a diagonal line on the two 3" square background fabrics. Place background squares on top of 3" arrow fabric - right sides together. Sew 1/4" from drawn line on each sides on both squares. Cut on drawn line, press toward dark fabric. Square up units to **2.5" squares**. You will have 4 Half Square Triangles.
2. Layout all squares as shown in picture. Sew together squares in rows.
3. Press seams to opposite sides: If first row is pressed to the right, press second row to the left — this way, you can nest the seams when you sew rows together.
4. Once all rows are sewn together, press seams open.
5. Final block will measure 8.5" x 12.5".

Here are two blocks next to each other:



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## Block of the Month: February 2019

### \* Bird House \*



This is a paper piecing block. It's easy for a first-time paper piecer as the pieces are large and there is really no matching required. Find fabric with a bird or multiple birds for the center piece (or fussy cut and add fabric to all four sides to get required size). Then add colors that coordinate and say: Sky and Roof.

#### Materials Needed

- Bird (#1): 7.5 x 7.5" square (this can be pieced or embroidered)
- Sky (#2, #3): each 5"x3.5" rectangle
- (#6, #7): 6" square cut on diagonal
- Roof (#4): 6.5"x2" strip;
- (#5): 7.5"x2" strip
- Bottom (#8): 9"x3" strip

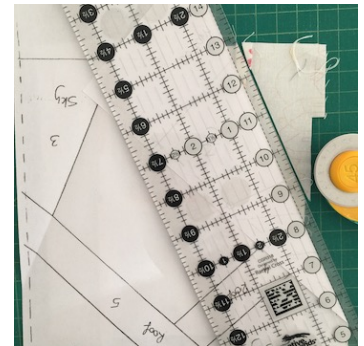
#### Tips for Paper Piecing:

Set stitch length to 1.8 or less to perforate paper and easier removal. Starch fabric as some edges might be cut on the bias. Fabric is placed on the backside of the pattern. Sew on the marked lines. Fabric pieces are added in the numerical order given on the block pattern, 1 through 8. More tips here: <https://weallsew.com/paper-piecing-for-beginners/>

#### Instructions

**Paper Piecing is done in numerical order as given on pattern.**

1. Place the bird fabric - right side up - on the back side of the pattern making sure it covers the entire #1 area. Use a bit of temporary glue at the top and bottom to secure the fabric on the paper. With the bird fabric secured on the back side, turn pattern side up. Using a postcard/index card, fold over just the paper on line between #1 and #2, creating a nice crease on that first sew line. With the paper still bent back, using a ruler and rotary cutter, trim fabric 1/4" beyond paper fold. Repeat on the line between #1 and #3.
2. Take a 3.5"x5" sky rectangle and lay it right sides together on the just trimmed 1/4", raw edges on top of each other. To check that the new piece will cover that area, fold back the paper on the line. (pic 3). Hold pieces, turn paper over and sew on that line only. Press fabric. Repeat with #3 sky rectangle on the other side.
3. Roof. \*Again, with fabric side up, fold paper back on the line of #4 and trim fabric 1/4" away from paper (pic 2). Place roof piece #4 on top of the trimmed line extending at least 1/4" on both ends. Press.\* Repeat from \* to \* for roof piece #5 (2"x 7.5").
4. Top sky pieces: same procedure: fold back paper; trim fabric to 1/4" beyond paper fold; place triangle with long side on top of roof piece; sew on reverse side on the paper line; press.
5. Bottom piece - also same procedure: fold back paper; trim fabric with 1/4" extra; place fabric right sides together; sew on other side on the paper line; press.
6. **Trim block to 8.5" wide and 10.5" tall** - ensuring you keep at least 1/4" from the roof intersection. Remove paper.



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sky # 6

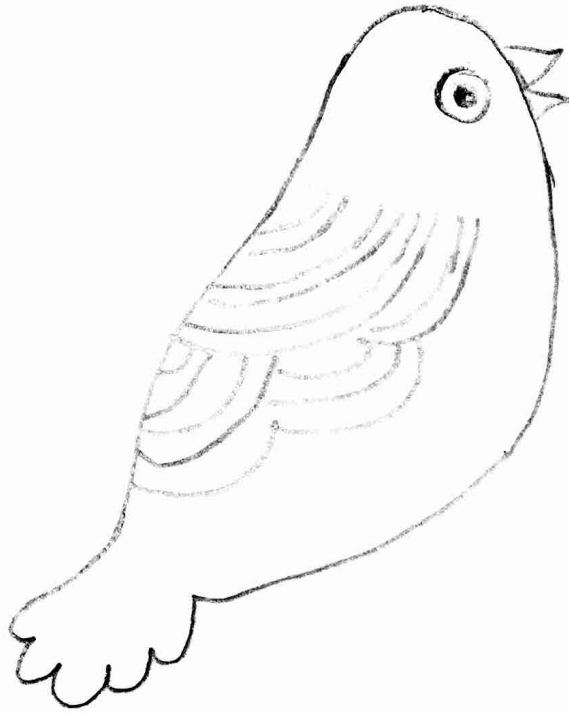
sky # 7

Roof

# 5

Roof # 4

Bird # 1



sky # 2

sky

# 3

Bottom # 8

1" Square

## Block of the Month: March 2019

### \* Wonky Star \*



Well, when you were looking for bird fabric last month, did you find other animals or some Tula Pink fabric that you forgot about? So, let's continue with a fussy cut center block. If you have Tula Pink fabric in your stash with a hidden animal, use it. Otherwise, choose another animal or a flower fabric, and solids for the star and a cream/off-white/light background.

#### **Materials Needed**

- (8) 3.5" squares in cream/off-white/light for background
- (1) 3.5" square for center - fuzzy cut a Tula Pink animal, or other animal or a flower
- (4) 4" squares in 4 different solid or reads-solid colors to coordinate with center square for star points

Note: All seams are 1/4" unless noted otherwise.

#### **Instructions**

1. Starch the 4 star point squares as they will be cut on the diagonal to avoid bias stretch. The "stitch & flip" method will be used to create the star points.
2. Stack the 4 solid squares on top of each other and cut on the diagonal to create 8 triangles.
3. Take 4 background squares and 4 triangles. Stitch a triangle to the right side of a background square. (see pic 2, top 2) Changing the angle of the triangles will help create the wonky-ness of the star. **(Make sure that when the triangle is flipped and pressed to the correct side, it extends past the edges of the background square.)**
4. Flip the star point and press with hot iron. Cut the excess background off.
5. Sew the remaining 4 triangles to the left side of these 4 background blocks (see pic 2, bottom 2) — mixing up the colors and ensuring it extends past the edge of the 3.5" square. You can overlap the triangles slightly at the bottom, or leave a space. Each variation just adds to the wonky-ness.
6. Again, flip the star point and press with hot iron. Cut the excess background off.
7. Trim all 4 blocks to 3.5" squares by cutting off the excess.
8. Layout the block in final layout, and sew squares together in rows. Press seams to the solid squares. This will create nesting seams when sewing the rows together.
9. Press last 2 seams open. Finished block will measure **9.5" Square**.



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## Block of the Month: April 2019

### \* Paper Pinwheel\*



Something quick and easy and of course always FUN - to make for the April meeting - just before our big show. Find some polka dot fabric - I know we all have some - and cut some 2.5" squares to make this twist on a friendship star.

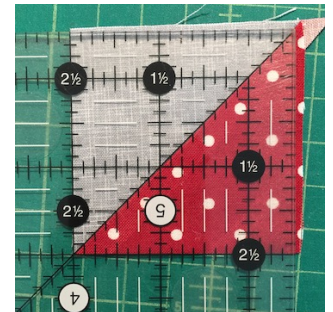
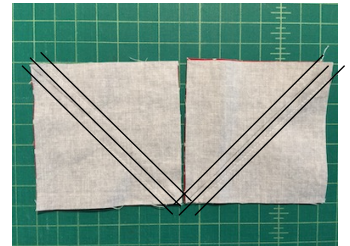
#### **Materials Needed**

- (8) 2.5" squares in grey for background
- (4) 2.5" square polka dot - center
- (2) 3" squares same polka dot for traditional method to make Half Square Triangles
- (2) 3" squares in grey background for Half Square Triangles (HST)

Note: All seams are 1/4" unless noted otherwise.

#### **Instructions**

1. Make Half Square Triangles with the 3" squares like this:  
Draw a diagonal line on the two grey 3" background squares. Place a grey square on top of 3" polka dot square - right sides together. Sew 1/4" from drawn line on both sides (see pic 1). Repeat for second squares. Cut on drawn line, press toward dark fabric. Square up units to **2.5" squares**. You will have 4 HSTs.
2. Layout all squares as shown in picture.
3. Sew squares together in pairs and in rows.
4. Press seams to opposite sides: If first row is pressed to the right, press second row to the left — this way, you can nest the seams when you sew rows together.
5. Once all rows are sewn together, press seams open.
6. Finished block will measure **8.5" Square**.



Contact [kathrin.brown@gmail.com](mailto:kathrin.brown@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Pattern was adopted from Marcia Hohn at [www.quilterscache.com](http://www.quilterscache.com) ([pattern](#)).

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## Block of the Month: May 2019

### \* Large Flying Geese\*



Here are the instructions to make four large flying geese in the “4 at Once No Waste Method”. You will need one large square and four smaller squares in different colors for some scrappiness. Here is the tutorial and other sizes: <http://www.modabakeshop.com/2018/09/building-blocks-4-from-1-flying-geese.html>

#### **Materials Needed**

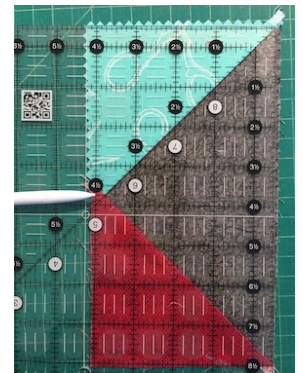
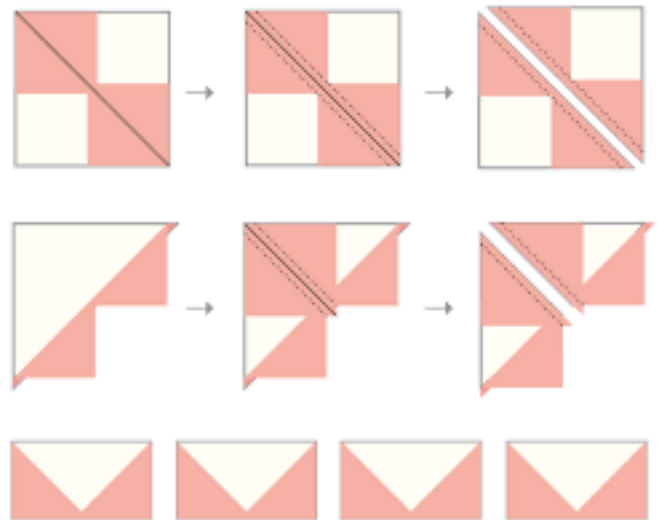
**One 9 1/4” squares of black or dark gray fabric**

**Four 4 7/8” squares in four different bright colored fabric**

Note: All seams are 1/4” unless noted otherwise.

#### **Instructions**

1. With a pencil draw a diagonal line on the back of each of the four smaller squares.
2. Place two of the small squares on the large black/grey square face down (right sides together) in opposite corners, lining up the diagonal lines.
3. Pin the squares to hold them in place and sew a **scant 1/4” seam** on both sides of the drawn diagonal line.
4. Cut unit in half on drawn line. Press seam allowance toward small triangles.
5. Place another small square in the corner of each “goose” unit and sew scant 1/4” seam again on both sides of the drawn line. Cut on the line and press seams toward the smaller triangles.
6. You will now have four Flying Geese units. But you’re not done. Because of sewing and cutting on diagonal/bias edges, they can be a little mis-shapen. It’s important to square-up each unit.
7. Place ruler with 45 degree line on seam and measure 4 1/2” x 8 1/2” making sure to keep 1/4” seam allowance at the top point of each goose (see photo on right).
8. Next, sew together two pairs (press seam open) to create two units that measure **8 1/2” x 8 1/2”** each.



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## Block of the Month: June 2019

### \* What Color is Your Suitcase?\*



Do you have any travel plans for this summer? Well, before you start the trip, make a block of the month for June. Use fabrics that coordinate and perhaps travel-related fabrics for the suitcase body.

#### **Materials Needed**

Suitcase: (1) 4"x6.5"; (2) 2.5" x 6.5"

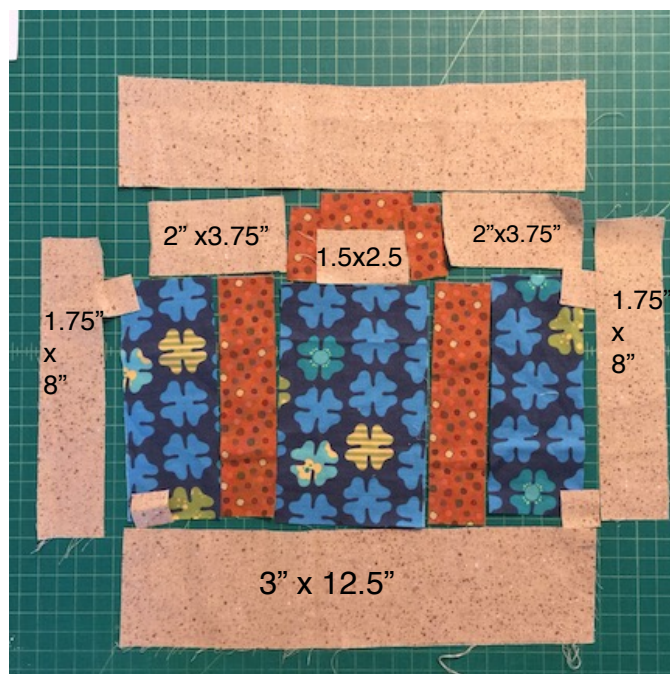
Handles/Straps: (2) 1.5" x 6.5"; (1) 1" x 2.5"; (2) 1"x 2"

Background: (4) 1" squares; 1.5" x 2.5"; (2) 2" x 3.75"; (2) 1.75" x 8"; 3" x 12.5"; 2.5" x 12.5"

Note: All seams are 1/4" unless noted otherwise.

#### **Instructions**

1. Layout all pieces as they will be sewn together - see pic on the right.
2. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of (4) 1" background squares. Position a marked square in the outside corners of each of the 2.5" 6.5" suitcase pieces to do some "Sew-and-flip" corners. Sew on the drawn line. trim seam allowance to 1/4" and press open.
3. Sew together these pieces to a 1.5" x 6.5" strap piece; then add the 4" suitcase piece in the middle. Press seams open.
4. Create handle Sew 1"x2.5" handle to 1.5x2.5" background. Press seam open. Add 1"x2" handle fabric on each side. Press. Add background 2"x3.75" pieces to both sides. Press.
5. Sew handle unit to suitcase unit. Press Seam open.
6. Add 1/75" x 8" background to right and left sides.
7. Add 2.5"x12.5" strip to the top. Add 3"x12.5" strip to bottom. Press seams open.
8. Block should measure 12.5"x12.5" square. Trim to size if needed.



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## Block of the Month: July 2019

### \* Patriotic Log Cabin Triangle\*



Picture above shows Four blocks

July brings Red, White & Blue to my mind. I was just introduced to this block through a Bee that I belong to. I resized the block to start with an easily available 5" squares. **These instructions will make two blocks.** Hope you will join the fun. [Block Source](#).

#### **Materials Needed**

- (1) 5" square in Red or Blue;
- (2) 5" square in Light - this can be white, or any fabric that "reads" light/white aka "Low Volume"
- (3) 2.5" x 4.5"
- (4) 2.5" x 6.5"
- (2) 2.5" x 8.5"

Note: All seams are **scant 1/4"** unless noted otherwise.

#### **Instructions**

1. Make Half Square Triangles (HST) with the two 5" squares. Place light square on top of red/blue square right sides together. Draw line diagonal line on the back of the white square. Sew 1/4" from that line on both sides. Cut squares on the line to create two HSTs. Press seams to dark side. Trim HSTs to 4.5" squares.
2. Follow picture to build the log cabin to only the light side of the triangle:
3. Add 4.5" strip to the light side of the triangle. Press seam.
4. Add 6.5" strip to the other side. Press seam. Measure: Should be 6.5" square!
5. Add 6.5" strip to 4.5" strip. Press seam.
6. Add 8.5" strip to first 6.5" strip. Press seam.
7. **Repeat steps 2-6 with the second HST or sew both blocks at once chain piecing.**
8. You will end up with two **(2) blocks measuring 8.5" x 8.5"**. Whether you started with a blue square or red square, both blocks will either have the red triangle or a blue triangle. Make more to see both color versions.



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## Block of the Month: August 2019

### \* Canning Jar\*



Canning season has started. Why not can some fabric vegetables or fruits? We made the Mason Jar block [“What’s in your Jar”](#) in August 2015. As this was our most popular block and it’s been four years, we can make it again slightly bigger here.

#### **Materials Needed**

A (1) 6.5” X 8” **Vegetable or Fruit Fabric**

**Background in light grey, cream or white:**

F (4) 1.25” squares

B (2) 2.5” x 8” strips

C (2) 3.75” x 2.75”

E (1) 4” x 1.75”

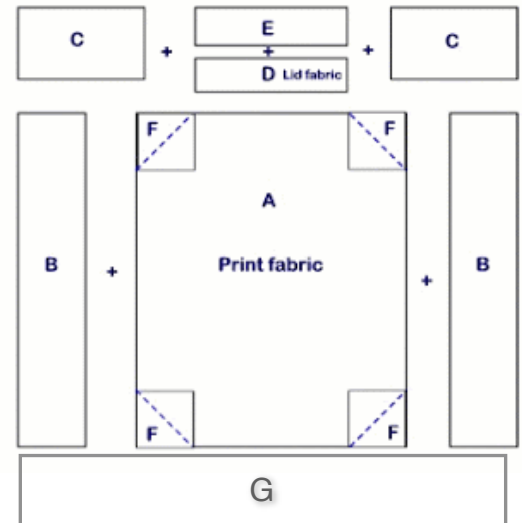
**Lid Fabric - Black** D (1) 4” x 1.5”

**Shelf Fabric - beige or brown** G (1) 10.5” x 2”

Note: All seams are **scant 1/4”** unless noted otherwise.

#### **Instructions**

1. Draw a diagonal line on the back of the four corner squares.
2. Sew & flip the small squares into the corners of the vegetable/fruit fabric: Place a square right-sides-together into each corner; sew on the drawn line; flip & press, trim 1/4” from the line. Measure: 6.5”x8”
3. Sew B strips to each side of the jar. Press seams to B.
4. Sew lid fabric to E. Press seam to lid.
5. Sew C to each side of the D+E unit on the short side. Press seams to C.
6. Sew the two created units together paying attention that the fruit/vegetable has a top and bottom. Press seam open.
7. Sew G (shelf fabric) to bottom of the jar. Press seam to G.
8. The **final block should measure 10.5” wide by 11” tall**. Since G is 1/4” wider, trim to size.



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