

Block of the Month: September 2016

Improv Strips



This month try your hand at “Improv”. This block is created by free flow layout and cutting. Use 1/4” seam allowance (but it is not important here). Press your seams to the strips. Always press after each seam.

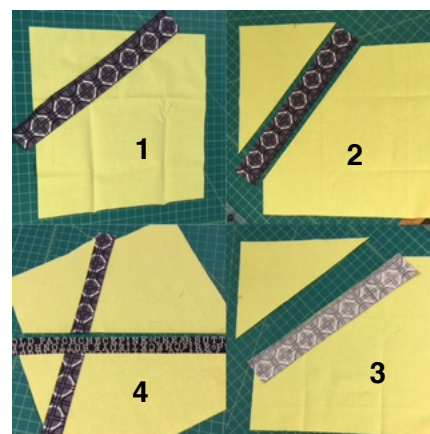
FABRICS NEEDED:

Background: One 10” square in a solid or reads-as solid fabric of any bright color that will show off the black-white sticks.

Sticks: Black and White fabric strips in a variety of values (some more black, some more white). You need: One (1) to four (4) 1”- to 2”-wide strips (used different width) 12” long to cover the entire square; some maybe shorter if they only cover the corners.

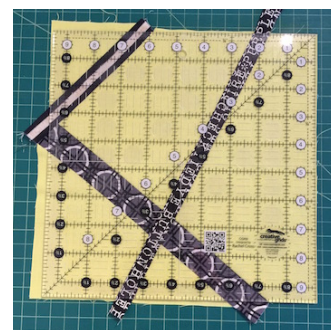
INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Take your 10” square and your first black-and-white strip. Lay the strip on the background where you want to insert it.
2. Now, cut your square along the side of the first strip.
3. Sew in the strip with a 1/4” seam. Press seams to strip. Sew the other piece (a triangle if you cut on diagonal) of your background square to the strip. Press seam to strip.
4. Now place your second strip on the newly created fabric. Cut the fabric where you want to insert the second strip. Sew strip to the larger piece of background. Press seam. If you had cut thru the first strip, you want to make sure to match the imaginable line of the first strip thru the new insert. I pin 1/4” seam at that intersection, turn over the fabric and see if it is lined up. If not, I move the fabric into the direction to get the best line-up possible. Sew on second background piece. Press.



Continue in this method if you want to add more strips. I added four strips to my yellow block and only two strips to the green as I found that pleasing.

Last step, **trim your block to 9 1/2” x 9 1/2”**. It should be larger as you started with a larger square and inserted fabric.



Questions: kbkreativ@gmail.com

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Block of the Month: October 2016

Row of Geese



I love efficiency and not wasting fabric whenever possible. Here is something for your quilter's tool box: The "[no-waste flying geese 4-at-a-time method](#)". Try it and make a block or two **in fall colors**.

FABRICS NEEDED:

Each block should be made from the same color family. Please use one of these autumn colors for each block: Orange; Yellow; Purple; Green or Brown.

Geese: One 5 1/4" square in a dark value of one of the 4 color families.

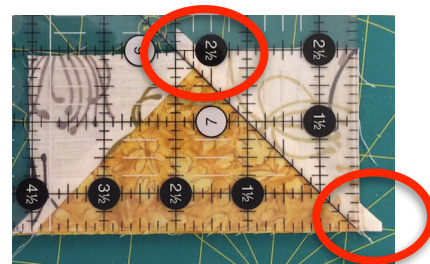
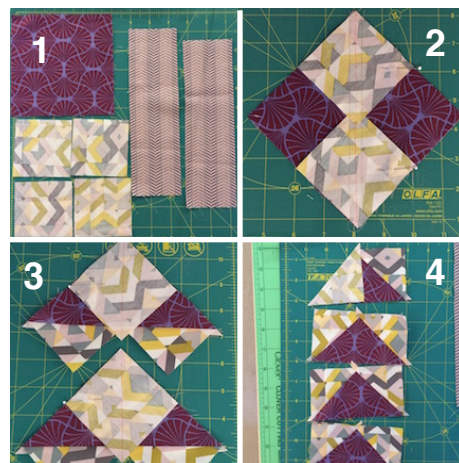
"Sky" (Geese background): Four 2 7/8" x 2 7/8" squares in a light value of same color family or cream.

Side strips: Two 8 1/2" x 2 1/2" rectangle in a dark or medium value of the same color family in a stripe or other directional pattern for a strong border.

TIP: You can see fabric values by using the black-and-white function on your camera.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Draw one diagonal line on the wrong side of all four "sky" squares. With right sides together, place two 'sky' squares in opposite corners of the large 5 1/4" square. Note, the small squares will overlap slightly in the middle.
 2. Stitch a 1/4" on both sides from the marked line through all layers. Cut on diagonal line to get two units. Press seams to small triangles.
 3. With right sides together, place another small square in the corner of one of the new units. Sew 1/4" seam on each side of the drawn line.
 4. Open the triangle and press. Repeat with the other unit and the fourth small square.
 5. If needed, trim flying geese to 4 1/2" x 2 1/2" size by lining up your ruler as shown in the picture - line up 45 degree line on seam and keep 1/4" at top.
- Sew the four geese units together as shown. Press seams to top. Sew a side strip to each side. Press to strip.



The block will measure 8.5" x 8.5".

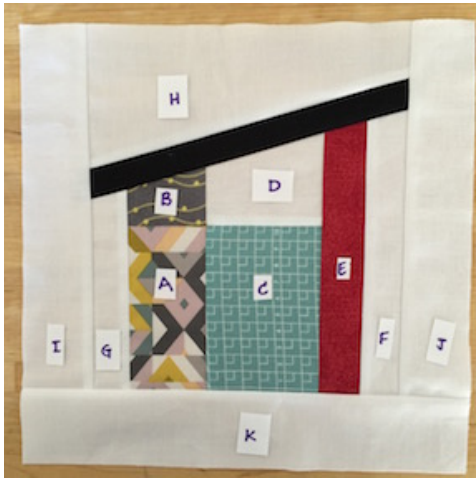
There are many tutorials and charts on the web for this method. I googled "no waste flying geese" and used a variety of sites to write these instructions. [Here](#) is a great video tutorial.

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Block of the Month: November 2016

Mid-Century House



There was a request for a mid-century house block. Isn't it appropriate for the holiday season for all to be safely at home? This block is made oversized and trimmed to size.

FABRICS NEEDED:

You surely have some geometric and architectural prints and solids in your stash to make this block modern.

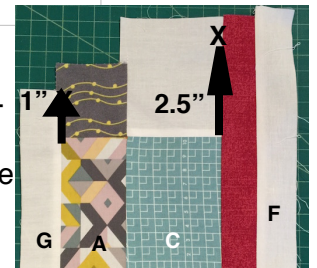
House (any four geometric fabrics that harmonize)	Background (white or light fabric that reads sky/skylight)	Roof (dark or bright to contrast)
(A): 5.0" x 2.5" (B): 2.5" x 2.5" (C): 5.0" x 3.5" (E): 8" x 1.5"	(D): 3.5" x 3.0" (F): 9" x 1.5" (G): 6" x 1.5" (H): 10.5" x 6.5" (I), (J): 11" x 2" (K): 11.5" x 2"	10.5" x 1.25"

INSTRUCTIONS:

- House:** Sew piece (B) to (A) on the 2.5" side; press seam to B. Sew piece (D) - skylight - to (C); press seam to C. Sew A/B-unit to C/D-unit interlocking seams. Start sewing all pieces from bottom of the house - only the bottom pieces will be aligned. Pieces will be longer at the top from left to right - which is fine as they will be trimmed later. Sew (E) to A/B/C/D-unit aligning the bottom. Sew (F) to the right of the unit aligning the bottom. Sew (G) to the left of unit making sure it aligns with bottom - start to sew at the bottom.
- Now trim your house to add the roof as follows: Make a mark 1" above left corner of piece B. Make a mark 2.5" above right corner of piece D. Place ruler on both marks to create a slanted line and cut. Sew roof strip to the house. Again, it will be longer so that you need to trim after pressing.
- Place the (H) 10" x 6.5" background piece right side up on your cutting board. Lay the house unit on top (right side up) - about in the center. Line up your ruler on the top edge of the roof and cut the background piece. Flip top piece of background onto roof and sew with 1/4 seam to the roof. Press, and trim off excess.
- Add strips (I) and (J) to each side. Press and trim bottom if needed. Add strip (K) to bottom. Square up the block to 11.5" x 11.5" at the top and sides ensuring the house sits straight and keeping the bottom strip at 1.75".

You will end with an **11.5"x11.5" block!** Admire your beautiful new house!

If you want to challenge yourself, make another block facing the other direction - you could use the discarded (H) piece if you used a solid as you won't have to worry about right and wrong side.



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No BOM found for December 2016

No BOM saved for January 2017

Block of the Month: February 2017

Hearts on Fire

On Valentine's Day, you'll be happy to wrap up in this very contemporary quilt to celebrate some love.... even if it is "from you to you." If you're the winner, these blocks will be easy to put together as you'll also receive the sashing pieces.

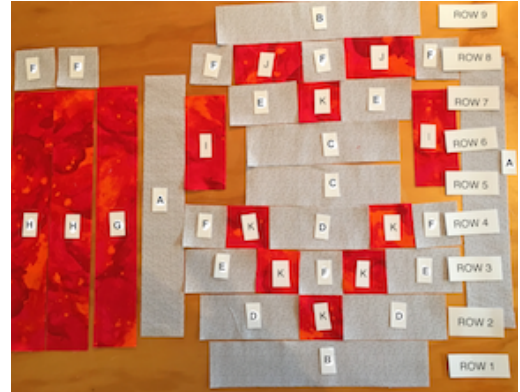
FABRICS NEEDED

Palest lavender - Background: Two strips 1½ inches wide x width of fabric (total 80 inches, or so). Texture - Reads as lavender.

Red/Orange/Pink or combo - Heart: Two strips 1½ inches wide x width of fabric (total 80 inches, or so). Solid-like, batiks, small prints, or mushy prints work well. Avoid stripes and plaids (unless you're willing to line them up).

CUTTING - From the strips above, cut the following:

Background: Lavender	Heart: Red/Orange/ Pink or combo
(A) Two 9.5" x 1.5"	(G)&(H) Three 9.5" x 1.5"
(B) Two 7.5" x 1.5"	(I) Two 3.5" x 1.5"
(C) Two 5.5" x 1.5"	(J) Two 2.5" x 1.5"
(D) Three 3.5 x 1.5	(K) Six 1.5" x 1.5"
(E) Four 2.5" x 1.5"	
(F) Eight 1.5" x 1.5"	



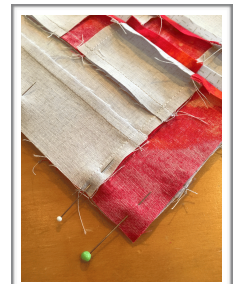
PRESS: All seams are pressed to the dark side. Finished rows are pressed open.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Sashing:** Sew piece (F) to (H) along the short sides. Repeat. Set aside along with (G) 9.5" x 1.5". These three strips will be not be sewn to anything.
- Layout the remaining pieces as shown above. If necessary, fine tune the heart pieces so that printed fabrics will make sense visually when sewn together.
- SEW** along short side of pieces. Starting with **Row 2**, sew (D) 3.5 x 1.5 to (K) 1.5" x 1.5" to (D) 3.5 x 1.5.
Row 3 Sew (E) 2.5" x 1.5" to (K) 1.5" x 1.5" to (F) 1.5" x 1.5" (not 9 as shown) to (K) 1.5" x 1.5" to (E) 2.5" x 1.5". **Row 4** Sew (F) 1.5" x 1.5" to (K) 1.5" x 1.5" to (D) 3.5 x 1.5. (K) 1.5" x 1.5" to (F) 1.5" x 1.5".
- Center area - **Rows 5 and 6** sew (C) 5.5" x 1.5" to (C) 5.5" x 1.5" along the long side. **Row 7** Sew (E) 2.5" x 1.5" to (K) 1.5" x 1.5" to (E) 2.5" x 1.5".
- Row 8** Sew (F) 1.5" x 1.5" to (J) 2.5" x 1.5" to (F) 1.5" x 1.5" to (J) 2.5" x 1.5" to (F) 1.5" x 1.5".
- Press all pieced rows to the dark side and return to correct places in pattern layout.
- Row 5/6 to Row 7.** Press. Sew the two (I) 3.5" x 1.5" to either end. Press.
- Give the rows one last check to make certain nothing is out of order. Sew all rows together in pairs, pressing as you go. Sew (A) 9.5" x 1.5" to either side. Press

Make one 9.5" block and three sashing strips. Admire your pixelated **Hearts on Fire**. P.S. the younger people in your life will be amazed that you know about the concept of pixelation.

Tip: Perfect Corners In this pattern, each row's seams are pressed in opposite directions so that when they are sewn they will nestle into each other for a perfect fit. How to guarantee it? Pinning. Fit the seams together, then open them slightly to make sure they are aligned, then pin using a thin pin. When sewing, leave the pin in place until the machine needle pierces the seam allowance.



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Block of the Month: March 2017 Instructions

Butterfly

Our March Block-of-the-Month is a Butterfly “on point.” Nearly all butterflies have relatively bright colors. Thus, pull out your batiks and other bright fabrics scraps in any color family. I can’t wait to see all those happy and fun butterflies on display at the meeting.

Material:

Background (any light fabric)	Large Wings (bright color)	Small Wings (bright & contrasting)	Body
12.5"x2" & 11"x2" pieces	(2) 3.5" squares	(6) 2" squares	(3) 2" squares
(1) 5" square	(1) 4" square		
(1) 4" square			
(4) 5"x2"			
(1) 3.5"x2"			
(1) 2" square			

Instructions:

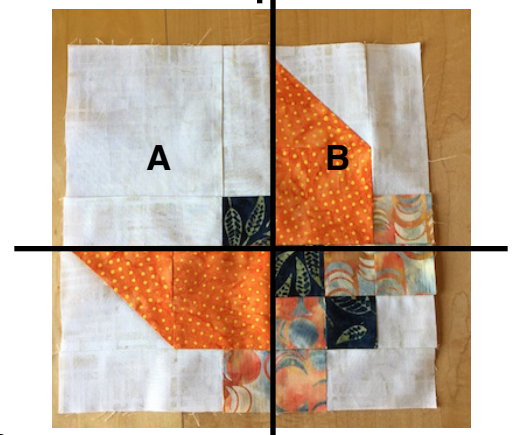
Layout all pieces as shown in the top picture. First, make the half square triangles with the two 4" squares (background and large wing). Draw a diagonal line on the back of the background square and sew 1/4" from both sides of the line. Cut on the line to produce two half square triangles. Trim to 3.5" squares.

Now sew pieces together in quadrants: sew pieces in A, B, C & D (picture 2). Then sew together A to B, C to D, and then the two halves.

Add the two long background pieces to each bottom side as shown in picture 3 as sashing.

The final block should **measure 12.5" square**. Place on point and ADMIRE!

Note: Inspiration for this block from [Pinterest](#) and [here](#) with modified instructions).



Remember, we appreciate DIFFERENT blocks. So if you make multiple blocks, please use different fabrics. This BOM is due at the guild meeting on March 6, 2017. 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/

Block of the Month: April 2017

Feeling the Blues

How about a 1/4 Log Cabin in blues with a touch of color this month? These are not precise instructions but rather explaining the method - a great use for your blue scraps and to make it your own. Pull out a bit of white fabric, strips of blue, and a strip of blue with some color - avoid stripes and plaids. This is a great strip scrap buster. Looking forward to seeing the design wall at the April meeting with these blocks as they can be arranged in so many different ways.

FABRICS NEEDED

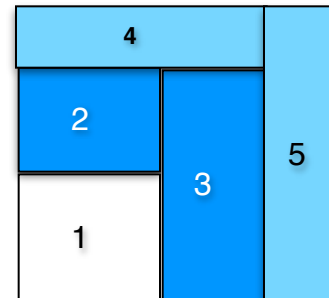
White fabric: Use one square any size from 2"x2" to 3"x3"

Blue fabrics: Use light, medium and dark blue fabrics (as Mac said at the February meeting, value is more important than fabric). You need 5 to 7 strips of blues in width from 1" to 2 1/2" and length starting to fit around two sides of the white square to 23". One of these strips should have some color other than blue.



INSTRUCTIONS:

- Layout the white square and all the strips in the order they will be sewn. Remember to change the value for each log.
- Start sewing a strip to the square. Press seam. Trim end of the strip (I used the full length strips and trimmed them down). Then use the same fabric and sew it on the adjoining side. Press. Trim if needed.
- Continue in this way, sewing two strips of blue on each of these sides, building your quarter log cabin. Press after each seam and trim as needed. Make sure to sew the next colored log first onto the same side, and the second onto the second side. (see numbers to the right to show sewing sequence).
- Remember to add one strip that has blue background with some color for that extra punch.
- Continue until your square is just over 11" x11" so that you can trim it to an exact 11"x11" or bring it oversized.



Admire.

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Block of the Month: May 2017

* Appliqué Circle *

Were you inspired to try out some appliqué after the humorous lecture by David Taylor in April? Well, we are not going to be appliquéing hundreds of pieces, only one or maybe two or three for this block. And this block only needs circles (no edges or tips to turn under). Use your favorite method of appliqué: whether it's needle turn, freezer paper or machine stitched. Instructions here will be for freezer paper.

FABRICS NEEDED

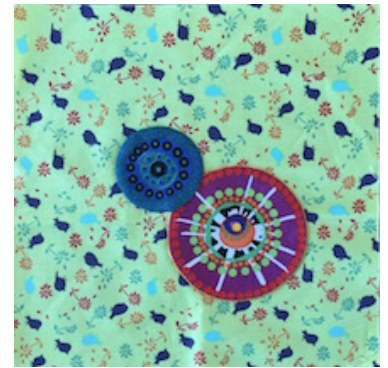
Background: Green fabric: 9"x9" square

Circle:

- Any fabric smaller than 9"x9" square to fit on the background.
- Perhaps find a flower or a circle fabric and fussy cut.
- Do you have an orphan block that you want to cut into a circle?
- Or make your own fabric, sewing snips and scraps of fabric and cut out the circle.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Take a piece of freezer paper to create a template. Draw a circle on the freezer paper using a plate, cup or other round shape - any size you want to fit onto the background square. And cut out on the drawn line.
- Iron the freezer paper template on the wrong side of circle fabric.
- Cut the fabric circle with a generous 1/4" seam allowance.
- Stitch around the very edge of the fabric with a large basting stitch leaving long beginning and ending tails. Carefully gather fabric and tie off threads.
- With hot iron press the seam allowance to the inside of the circle for a sharp folded edge.
- Snip gathering thread and carefully remove the freezer paper. Press seam allowance again using steam.
- If you are using multiple circles repeat the process.
- Pin circle/s onto your background.
- With a fine thread matching the circle fabric, stitch down the circle with slipstitches (Alternatively, if you prefer to machine appliqué the circles in place, use an invisible thread and your sewing machine's appliqué stitch.)



See these websites for more info:

<http://www.quiltingdaily.com/blog/tips-for-how-to-appliqu-circles>

<http://thecraftyquilter.com/2017/03/product-review-microquilter-a-new-thread-for-invisible-machine-applique/>

*BOM Team: Claudia Sammis, Linda Garofalo, Janyce Anderson and Kathrin Brown
Contact kbkreativ@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 May 1, 2017. 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/

Block of the Month: June 2017

* Churn Dash*

This month we will make a traditional block that teaches good information and techniques: The Churn Dash. It is fun to fussy cut and show case a special fabric in the center. Thus, pull out your flower fabrics and use it for the center and **use warm colors: red-orange, orange, gold, caramel, coral, or peach** around it.

Materials Needed

Center

One 3-1/2" square of a dark or light value flower print or fabric with any insect that might be on a flower

Churn Dash: a medium tone warm print or solid (see color options above)

Two 4" squares

One 14" x 2" strip

Background: ivory, pale cream or any pale warm color

Two 4" squares

One 14" x 2" strip

Instructions

1. Sew together the two 14" strips lengthwise. Press.
2. Cut that strip set into four 3-1/2" x 3-1/2" squares.
3. Draw a diagonal line on the backs of the two background squares.
4. Place the background and churn dash squares right sides together.
5. Sew 1/4" lines on each side of the drawn diagonal line; then cut on the diagonal line to form four half-square triangle (HST) blocks. Trim the HSTs to a perfect 3-1/2" square.
6. Layout the nine units and sew together in rows. Press seams around center block toward the center so that it will be more prominent visually. Other seams press toward the dark.

Your finished block should be 9-1/2" square.

Tips and Techniques:

This block is quick and easy because it utilizes "smart" cutting and sewing techniques such as:

*Sewing the two longer strips together and cutting them into units.

*Cutting and sewing squares to make half-square triangles

History:

The Churn Dash is a very old 9-Patch quilt block pattern, originating between 1800 and 1849. Its name is a result of the resemblance of the triangle and rectangle perimeter of the block to a butter churn and the center square to the stick (or "dash") of the butter churn.

For more information, go to Churn Dash Quilt Block - Quilting in America at:

www.quilting-in-america.com/churn-dash.html



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Block of the Month: July 2017

* Star Spangled*

For July, our colors are Red, White & Blue with some a star. The star is created by making four flying geese in our favorite method: No-waste-four-at-a-time-Flying-Geese". Make it scrappy as seen here with four different corner squares or not.

Materials Needed

Center

One 4-1/2" square in patriotic fabric

Flying Geese:

One 5 1/4" square in blue

Four 2 7/8 squares in white

Corners: red

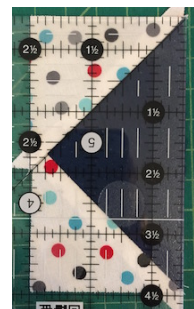
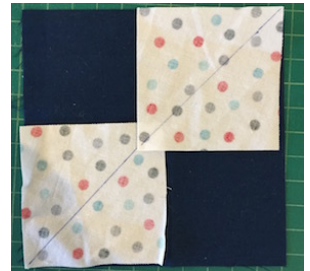
Four 2.5" squares in red (scrappy or all the same fabric)

Instructions

1. Draw a diagonal center line on the four white squares.
2. With right sides together, place two white squares in opposite corners of blue square, overlapping. Sew a 1/4"-seam on each side of the diagonal line (see picture).
3. Cut on diagonal line. Open triangles and press.
4. With right sides together, place one each of the remaining white squares in the corner of the two units. Again sew 1/4"-seam on each side of the diagonal line.
5. Cut on diagonal line. Open up triangle and press.
6. You now have four Flying Geese 4.5"x2.5". Trim off dog ears and to size if needed using your rulers' 45 degree line.
7. Layout the nine units in rows and sew together in rows. Press center row seams to center square. Press upper and lower row seams to small red squares.
8. Sew together the rows by interlocking the seams.
9. Press last two seams open.

Your finished block should be 8-1/2" square.

Contact kbkreativ@gmail.com if you have any questions.



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Block of the Month: August 2017 * Hourglass *

Here is an easy and basic block with a cool technique that creates two blocks at a time. We all know the Hourglass Block, right? It's also called quarter-triangle-square, and could be made with bias edges, but here is a better technique.

Materials Needed

- (1) 9 1/4" square in black print fabric
- (1) 9 1/4" square in gray or white/black print fabric

Instructions

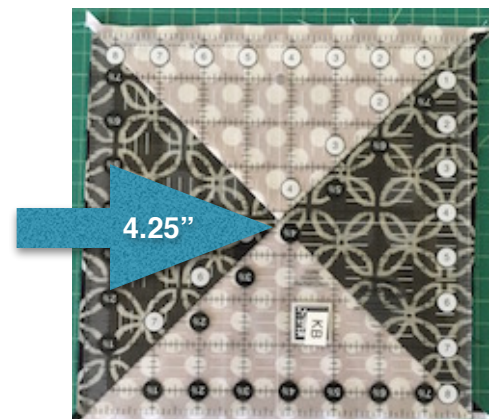
1. Draw a diagonal center line on the light fabric square.
2. With right sides together, place the light colored square on top of the black fabric. Sew 1/4" away from the drawn line on both sides.
3. Cut on diagonal line. Open units and press to dark side. You have two half square triangles.
4. Draw a diagonal line perpendicular to the sewn line on one unit.
5. With right sides together, layer the two units with opposite fabrics touching, nesting the seams. Sew 1/4" away from the drawn line on both sides. (Pic 2)
Tip: Place a pin near the nested seamline to keep squares from shifting while sewing.
6. Cut on diagonal line. Open units and press.
7. You now have two Hourglass blocks. Trim blocks to an exact 8.5" square by lining up 45 degree line of ruler on the seam to find the midpoint of the unfinished block (4.25" in this case). Trim all four sides. (Pic 3)
8. Repeat on second Hourglass.

Your blocks should be 8-1/2" square (or 8" finished).

To make other size Hourglass blocks, add 1 1/4" to each starting square.

For example:

- 5" finished block - Use (2) 6 1/4" squares
- 4" finished block - Use (2) 5 1/4" squares
- 3" finished block - Use (2) 4 1/4" squares etc...



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