

Block of the Month: September 2017

* Double Hourglass *



After learning to make the Hourglass block in August, why not move up and try your hand at a Double Hourglass. For this one, you create a template from card stock or a cereal box. So, your learnings are: making your own template, sewing bias cuts carefully, and easily “nesting” for perfect intersecting seam lines.

What’s “nesting”? When you want two seams to match up perfectly, iron one seam allowance to one side and the other seam allowance to the other side. Pin right sides together fitting the two seams in place. It’s like locking them against each other. Pin before and after the seam allowances before you sew. Quick and easy! Perfectly matched seams.

Materials Needed

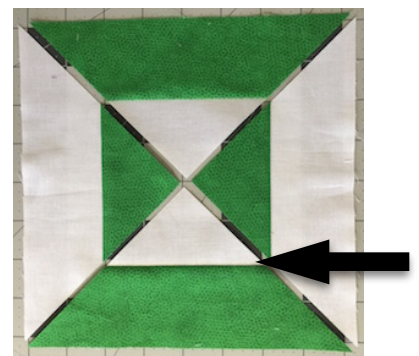
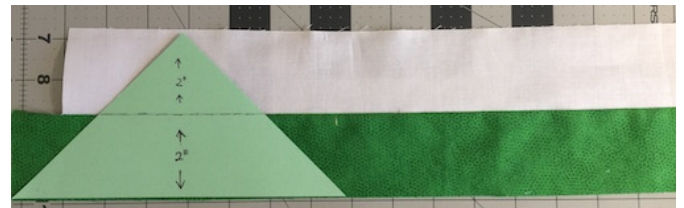
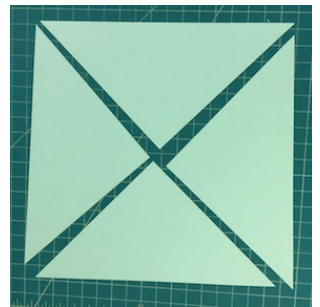
8” square piece of card board or cereal box

(1) 20” 2 1/4” strip of “happy” print fabric (red, yellow, blue, orange, green - happy colors, nothing muted)

(1) 20” 2 1/4” strip of white fabric

Instructions

1. Cut an 8” square out of card board. Cut the square twice on the diagonal to create 4 isometric triangles. Pic 2.
2. Take your two strips of fabric, off-set them by 1.5”, and sew them together on the long side with 1/4” seam to create a 4” strip of fabric. Press seams to the print fabric. Starch to help with later bias cut.
3. Take a triangle template, and lay it on the strip with the point of the triangle to the edge of the fabric. It doesn’t matter whether white or print is at the top. Pic 3.
4. Cut out your first triangle, then turn the template to cut the second triangle, turn again, cut the third, and turn a fourth time to cut fourth triangle. You will now have four triangles that make a block - two with a white tip and two with a colorful tip. Handle with care as they are cut on the bias. Lay them out as shown in Pic 4.
5. Nest seams on two adjoining pieces (see arrow) and pin on either side of seam allowance. Then pin at either end. Sew with 1/4” seam. Repeat. Press seam allowances in opposite directions.
6. Then, place the two units together, again nesting seams. Pin on either side of the three seam allowances and at either end. Remember! Pins can be your friend. Press this final seam open to reduce bulk.
7. Voila, here is a colorful double hourglass block.
8. Don’t trim the block - it will measure approximately 7 1/2” to 7 1/4”.



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 11, 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/