

Block of the Month: September 2017

* Double Hourglass *

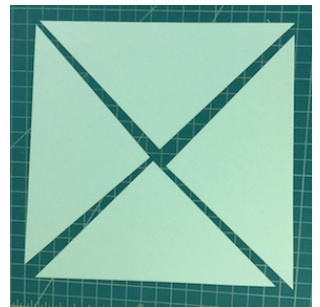


After learning to make the Hourglass block in August, why not move up and try your hand at a Double Hourglass. For this one, you create a template from card stock or a cereal box. So, your learnings are: making your own template, sewing bias cuts carefully, and easily “nesting” for perfect intersecting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

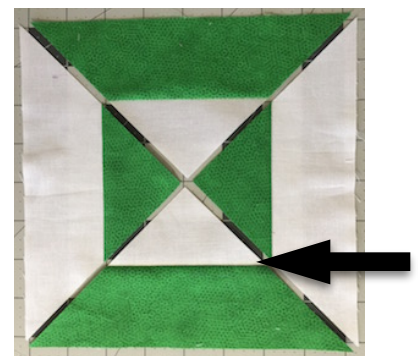
Materials Needed

- 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/

Block of the Month: October 2017

* Pink Arrow *



Do you have any PINK FLAMINGO - Kona Color of the year and it's just sitting there waiting for a project? Well, I cut into mine and made this arrow block for October. There are some fun layouts to make with it. And October is pink for breast cancer month. Let's team it up with some aqua for a nice color punch. We are making 2 Flying Geese. Follow the directions below or use a speciality ruler to make (2) 8 1/2 x 4 1/2" unfinished Flying Geese.

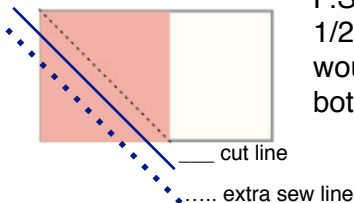
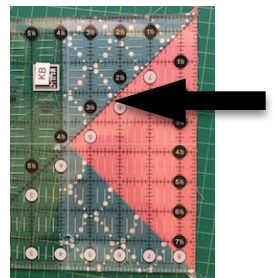
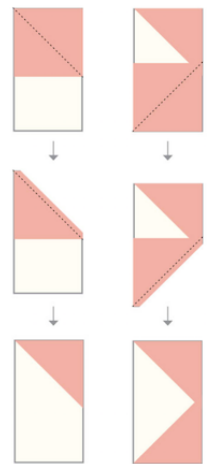
Materials Needed

Coral Pink Fabric: (1) 8 1/2" x 4 1/2" rectangle, (2) 4 1/2" squares

Aqua Fabric: (1) 8 1/2" x 4 1/2" rectangle, (2) 4 1/2" squares

Instructions

1. Draw a diagonal line corner to corner on the back of all (4) 4 1/2" squares.
2. Layer an aqua square on one end of the coral pink 8 1/2 x 4 1/2" rectangle. Stitch just a hair away (toward outside corner) from the diagonal line across the square. Trim corner to 1/4" seam allowance and press toward outside.
3. Now place the second aqua square on the opposite side of the rectangle, RST. Note the second square will slightly overlap the previous piece - that's okay! Stitch just a hair away (toward outside corner) from drawn line. Trim the corner to 1/4" seam allowance and press toward outside.
4. If necessary, square up the unit lining up the 45 degree angle on your ruler with the seam. This unit should measure 8 1/2 x 4 1/2".
5. Now repeat steps 2 to 4 with the aqua rectangle and coral pink squares.
6. Sew the two flying geese together on the long side so that it creates a pink arrow.
7. You end up with an 8 1/2" block.
8. Enjoy your accomplishment.



P.S. If you don't like waste, you can stitch a second sewing line 1/2" from the first toward the corner. See picture to the left. You would then trim between the lines with a 1/4" seam allowance for both pieces. You will end with four extra half square triangles in pink and aqua that you could use for another project. Or bring them along with your BOM to pass on to the winner for a border.

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 October 2, 2017. 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/

Block of the Month: November 2017

* Double Hourglass On Point*



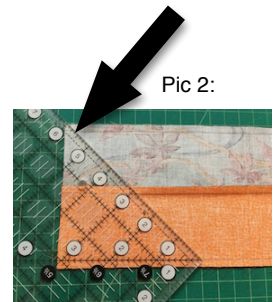
The September Double Hourglass was a huge success for our BOM. So, Marjorie Longo found this version of the block put on point with background. And the method is mind-blowing and super easy - of course, because Jenny Doan from Missouri Star Quilt Company shows it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOWSp0mTTqE> (Search: "Tube Tutorial - How to Quilt" - there is a mistake though - strips sew to 4.5" not 4.25")

Materials Needed

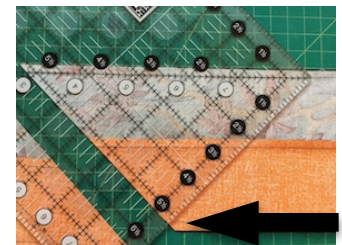
- (2) 21" x 2.5" strips of contrasting "AUTUMN" fabric
- (1) 21" 4.5" strip of background fabric (beige, brown, black, anything that works well with your other 2 strips to make them shine).
- Spray Starch

Instructions

1. Lightly spray starch fabric strips and iron dry to help with bias cuts.
2. Take the two 2.5" strips of fabric and sew them together on the long side with a 1/4" seam - use 2.0 stitch length or smaller. Press seams to the darker fabric. Unit should measure 21" x 4.5".
3. Now lay the background 4.5" strip right side up, and place the strip unit that you created in No. 1 on top (right sides together). Pin if desired.
4. Sew a 1/4" seam along the long side - on both sides. You are creating a tube. Place on cutting board.
5. Pick a ruler with a 45 degree line. Place the 45 degree line on the bottom sew line so that the top of the ruler just goes thru top seam line - as shown in pic 2 - cut. Save first cut triangle for other use.
6. Turn the ruler and line up the 45 degree line with the top seam line, and the cutting line will go right through the bottom seam line at 5.75". Cut.
7. Turn ruler again, now lining up with bottom seam line, and ruler going through top seam at 5.75". Cut.
8. Repeat No. 5 and 6 once more to create four units. Open up the units and see the surprise - you have two different units in duplicate. Press to background fabric.
9. Sew the units together as you see in top picture: sew together 2 units, press seams in opposite directions, nest the seams, sew together the double unit, and then press seam open. Trim the dog ears.
10. Block will measure 11"x11".



Pic 2:



Note: Create another unit from first and last cut triangle scraps - use for border or another use.

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Block of the Month: December 2017

Improv Trees



Here are some fun instructions for creating two improv tree blocks at once. You will need two contrasting fabrics - contrasting in color and scale work best. Use any fabrics that read Winter: Red, Green, White, Cream, Pink, light Blue.

These blocks will look great together with those Christmas quilts during our December Fundraiser.

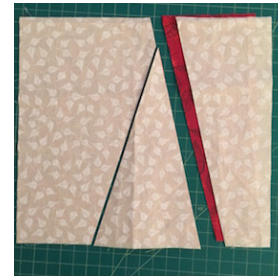
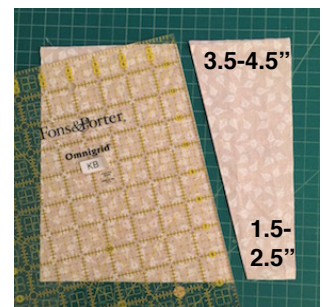
Materials Needed

- (2) 9" x 9" squares of contrasting fabrics - in green, red, white, pink, cream, or light blue
- (2) 2" x 9" rectangles in the same fabrics as above
- (2) 1.5" x 2" piece in brown fabric for trunk
- Spray Starch

Instructions

1. Lightly spray starch fabric and iron dry to help with bias cuts.
2. Cut the two 2"x8.5" rectangles in half to create (2) sets of 2"x4.5" rectangles.
3. Sew a brown tree trunk between each of the (2) sets of 2"x4.5" rectangles. Press seams open.
4. Stack the two 9" squares on top of each other (right sides up). Place a ruler at an angle (1.5" to 2.5" from bottom edge and 3.5" - 4.5" from the top edge) to make a diagonal cut. (Pic 2). Move right piece to side.
5. Make a second diagonal cut the other direction to create a tree shape. — Make sure to leave about 1" above the point for seam allowance and squaring up. (Pic 3)
6. Move the bottom tree to the top (Pic 4) and sew it to the contrasting background starting with the side of the second cut. Press seams to dark fabric.
7. Place second side on top of unit with a 1/4" overlapping at the top edge (Pic 5). Sew 1/4" seam. Press to dark side.
8. Once the sides are attached to tree, trim the bottom edge to straighten it.
9. Sew the trunk unit to the bottom of the tree — the trunk unit will be wider than needed, so that you can center it under the wonky tree. Press seam open. Repeat for second block.
10. Square up all sides to create two units of **7.5" wide x 9.5" tall**.

Pic 2:



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

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No January 2018 Block Found

Block of the Month: February 2018

Water Wheel



This old traditional block is called water wheel. Let's make a zillion of these blocks this month in the hope that a lot of rain will soon come our way. We sure could use it!!!

Materials Needed

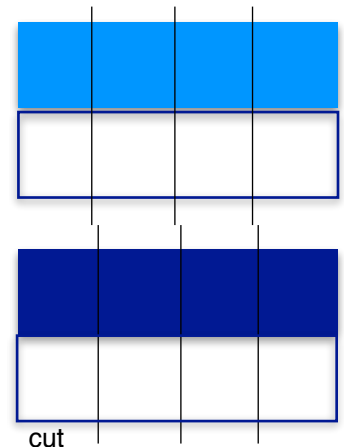
Medium Blue Print: (1) 10"x2.5" strip, (2) 5" squares, (1) 4.5" square

Dark Blue Print: (1) 10"x2.5" strip

Light background: (2) 10"x2.5" strips, (2) 5" squares

Instructions

1. Make two sets of the following half square triangles. Place, right sides together, a 5" medium blue with a 5" light background. Draw a diagonal line on the back of the white piece, and sew 1/4" on both sides of the line. Cut on the drawn line to produce two half square triangles. As this unit is oversized, you need to trim it to 4.5" square aligning your ruler on the diagonal line.
2. Repeat with the other two 5" squares.
3. Now for the corner four square blocks. Sew two strip sets with each of the blue strips paired with a white strip. Press to the dark. Cut into four 2.5" pieces (by 4.5" tall).
4. Sew together a dark blue/light unit with a medium blue/light unit, offsetting the blue squares.
5. Sew together your nine units as illustrated, carefully observing that a white is in each corner and the medium blue touches the medium blue half square triangle.
6. Your block will measure **12.5"x12.5" square**.



To participate in the BOM, make the block described, bring it to the February meeting, post your block on the design wall, write down your name on the count sheet, and if you want to win all blocks of that month, place your name in the basket to win.

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Remember, we appreciate DIFFERENT blocks. So if you make multiple blocks, please use different fabrics. This BOM is due at the guild meeting on February 5, 2018. 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/

Block of the Month: March 2018

MOD Pineapple



Pineapple block patterns have been around the quilting world for a long time. That doesn't even take into account the paper-pieced "pineapple" variation of the Log Cabin. For 200 years, the pineapple has been a sign of hospitality and a nice, welcoming sentiment for our new members.

This month, we've taken the block and made it **BIG** and **MODERN**. Who says that pineapples have to be yellow? Think bright, tropical colors. Here, we've started with five scrap strips that are analogous colors (next to each other on the color wheel) but don't let that stop you from experimenting with colors for both the leaves and the pineapple strips. The strips have been given texture with lined prairie points. Last (and optional), we raided the bulging button/bead box for more textural interest to be added later.

Outer Borders - Materials Needed:

White background: (2) 16.5"x1.5" strips, (2) 10.5"x2.5" strips

Pineapple & Lined Prairie Points - Materials Needed:

Light to dark prints: (5) 8.5"x2.5" strips, (3-8 your choice) 4"x2.5" strips

Prairie point lining prints: (3-8, your choice) 4"x2.5" strips

White background: (4) 2.5"x2.5" squares

Leaves - Materials Needed: (Note - Light colors within the green prints really adds sparkle)

Light green print (2) 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ " squares

Medium green print (3) 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ " squares

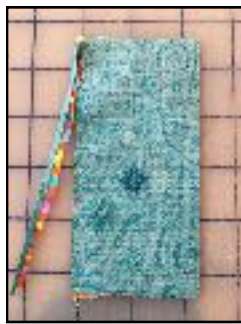
Medium-dark green print (2) 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ " squares

White background: (2 upper corners) 2.5"x2.5" squares, (3) 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ " squares

Optional Buttons or Beads - Your choice about 1/2" diameter or smaller

Instructions - Pineapple & Prairie Points

1. Arrange 8.5" strips with the lightest at the top and the darkest at the bottom.
2. See image below left. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of each 2.5" white square. Place white squares on either end of the lightest and darkest strip as shown. Sew a hair/thread to the outside of the diagonal line. Cut off the seam allowance to .25" and press to the dark side.



3. **To make prairie points:** Place 4" strip of pineapple fabric and strip of lining fabric with right sides together. Sew on one long side. Cut seam allowance to 1/8". Press to the lining fabric. Next, fold lining fabric back over seam allowance so that just 1/8" of lining fabric is visible. Press to crease. Trim long raw edge so that strip is 2" wide x 4" long.
4. **To fold prairie points:** With lining facing up, fold each corner down to meet the raw edge and so that the thin line of lining meets in the middle. Pin to hold in place and press. Trim raw edge if necessary. **Repeat for remaining strips** to make from 3 to 8 prairie points.

5. **Arrange prairie points**, pointed side up, on pineapple strips taking care that the ends don't come into the .25" seam allowance on either side. Prairie points placed on the top or bottom strips should be centered on the strip. Pin each side of the prairie point to pineapple strip. Stitch to secure about an 1/8" from the raw edge.
6. **To assemble Pineapple:** Sew pineapple strips together on long side; press seam allowances toward the bottom. This unit will measure 8.5" wide x 10.5" long.



Instructions - Leaves

7. Make sets of the following half square triangles. Place right sides together of 2 7/8" squares: (1 ea) white/light green, (1 ea) white/medium green, (1 ea) white/medium-dark green, (1 ea) light green/medium green, (1 ea) medium green/medium-dark green.
8. Draw a diagonal line on the back of the lighter piece in each set, and sew 1/4" on each side of the line. Check to make sure of your 1/4" seam allowance. Cut on the drawn line to produce two half square triangles.
Repeat with the remaining 2 7/8" squares. Press to the dark.
9. Arrange leaf squares as shown in photo.
10. Sew squares together. Press seams open. Sew rows together and press open. This unit will measure 8.5" wide by 6.5" long

Assemble:

11. Sew the leaf unit to the pineapple unit. Press seam open.
12. Sew 16.5"x1.5" background strip to each side. Press to the light.
13. Sew 8.5"x2.5" background strip to top and bottom. Press to the light.
14. Your block will measure 10.5" wide x 20.5" long.

Optional Buttons/Beads:

String your buttons and beads on thread or place in a small zip lock bag and safety pin to the block.

Lined Prairie Points — Don't you love them!!

Become web famous! Make a pineapple block and see it on the MPQG website in the membership column each month. A different pineapple block will be featured each month.

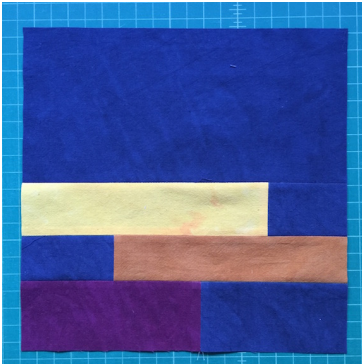
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Block of the Month: April 2018

Strippy Sunset



This month it's an easy block so that you can participate in the BOM and also finish your Show quilts. For this block think Sunset or Sunrise: Midnight or deep blue sky, warm yellow sun, staying in the warm colors getting darker from yellow to copper to burgundy.



Materials Needed

Dark Blue Solid (or reads as solid): (1) 9.5" x 5" piece,
(A) 2.5"x2" piece, (B) 3"x1.75" piece, (C) 4.5"x2.25" piece
Yellow Solid (or reads as solid): (A) 7.5" x 2" strip
Copper Solid (or reads as solid): (B) 7" x 1.75" strip
Burgundy/Purple Solid (or reads as solid): (C) 5.5" x 2.25"

Instructions

1. Make strips by sewing together the two A pieces on the shorter side, then the two B pieces, and last the two C pieces. You will have 3 strips that should all measure 9.5" length.
2. Sew together the strips on the long sides from light to dark and keeping the blue pieces on opposite sides.
3. Add the large blue piece to the yellow strip.
4. Your block should measure 9.5" x 9.5".

To participate in the BOM, make the block described, bring it to the April meeting, post your block on the design wall, write down your name on the count sheet, and if you want to win all blocks of that month, place your name in the basket to win.

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

Block of the Month: May 2018

MOD Pineapple, Plaid Version



This month, we've taken the block from March and and given it a new twist ... a stash busting, *you-make-it plaid*. Think bright, tropical colors. Or, crazy fabric scraps such as sharks, chili peppers, or hot rods. They all work well when skinny cut.

Here, we've started with strips and woven them over a base fabric to make a plaid. Oh wait! We see a modern pineapple sampler quilt when you add this block to the one from March.

Two Looks: Left - Both blocks have a yellow pineapple base. On the left, there are fewer blue strips which are narrower than those on the right. On the right, there are more, slightly wider strips so there is much less pineapple base visible.

Background - Materials Needed:

White, or white-on-white

Outer border (2) 16.5"x1.5" strips, (2) 10.5"x2.5" strips

Pineapple background (4) 2.5" squares

Leaves background (2) 2.5" squares, (3) 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ " squares

Pineapple - Materials Needed:

Pineapple base - 9"x11" any solid color, or reads-as-solid

8 to 12 scrap strips of any color print fabrics, repeats ok, 7"-11" long x 1"-2.5" wide (avoid white or same color as pineapple base)

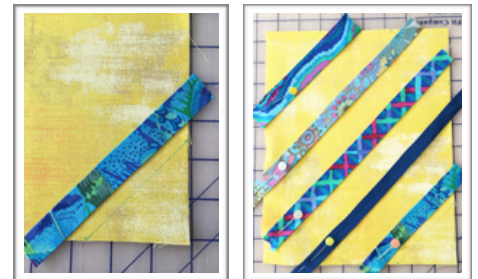
Spray starch

Leaves - Materials Needed: Note - Light colors and other colors within the print really adds sparkle (avoid solids)

Any color print fabric (3) 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ " squares, (4) 2.5" squares

Instructions - Pineapple

1. Mark each corner of pineapple base with a diagonal line to indicate where white 2.5" squares will be sewn.
2. On the long sides of each print strip, press under 1/4" seam allowance. Spray starch lightly on wrong side of 2 strips at a time; and repress seam allowance. Repeat process until all strips are starched. (Don't skip this step because spray starch will make the strips behave much better as you weave them.)
3. Place first strip a generous 1/4" inside the diagonal line drawn at the corners of the pineapple base. See diagram to right.
4. Lay out remaining half of the strips on the Pineapple base and pin in place at one end.
5. Begin weaving the remaining strips in the other direction. If desired, weave over or under 2 strips instead of one.
6. Adjust strips to space evenly; secure each end with a pin. Be sure that remaining corner strips are a generous 1/4" away from drawn line.

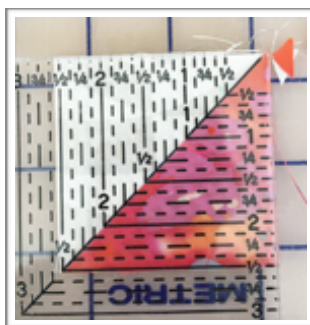
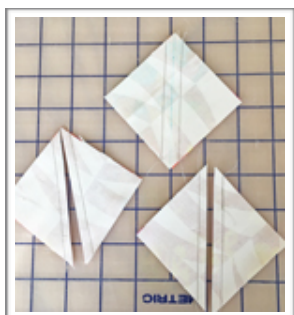


7. Secure strips in place by top stitching along edges using a walking foot. Trim pineapple base and strip tails so that pineapple base measures 8.5"x10.5".
8. See image on right. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of each 2.5" white square. Place white squares on each corner of the base, as shown. Sew a hair/thread to the outside of the diagonal line. Cut off the seam allowance to 1/4" and press to the light side. This unit will measure 8.5"x10.5".



Instructions - Leaves (Note: This is a simpler version of the leaves in March MOD Pineapple block.)

9. Place right sides together of 2 7/8" squares: (1 ea) white/colored fabric.
10. Draw a diagonal line on the back of the white piece in each set, pin and sew 1/4" on each side of the line. Check to make sure of your 1/4" seam allowance. Cut on the drawn line to produce two half square triangles. Trim as needed. Arrange leaf squares as shown below.
11. Remember, pins are your friends. Sew squares together. Press seams in each row in alternate directions. Nest seams, pin, and sew rows together; press seams open. Unit will measure 8.5" wide by 6.5" long



Assemble:

12. Sew the leaf unit to the pineapple unit. Press seam open.
13. Sew 16.5"x1.5" background strip to each side. Press seam allowance to the light.
14. Sew 8.5"x2.5" background strip to top and bottom. Press seam allowance to the light.
15. Block will measure 10.5" wide x 20.5" long.

Become web famous! Make a pineapple block and see it on the MPQG website in the membership column. A different pineapple block will be featured each month.

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No June 2018 Block found

Block of the Month: July 2018

* Log Cabin Chicken *



There was a lot of interest for the Chicken Mini at the Quilt Show Mini Raffle. Thank you, Jane Garrettson for writing up the instructions of this chicken block.

Materials Needed

Assortment of black and white prints 1.5" strips

Optional: Cut as follows for traditional log cabin setting:

White: 1 each 1.5", 2.5", 3.5", 4.5"

Black: 2.5", 3.5", 4.5", (2) 5.5", 6.5"

Orange or Gold (for beak): 2" square

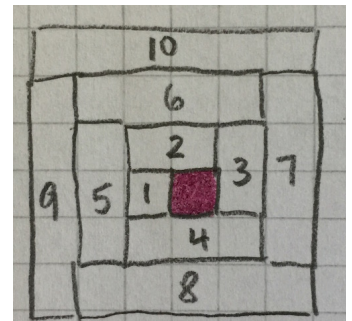
Red prints (variety): (1) 1" square, (1) 1.5" square, (1) 2" squares

Background - light: (3) 2" squares; (1) 1" square, (1) 4.5" x 1.5"; (2) 5.5" x 1.5"; (1) 8.5" x 6.5"; (1) 8.5" x 1.25"

Tear away stabilizer 8.5" x 6" Tip - For decorative stitching of the feet, pin stabilizer to the wrong side of fabric to prevent gathered stitches and wavy fabric.

Instructions

1. Start the log cabin chicken with one 1.5" red square. Build the log cabin by adding black and white print strips until you have added 10 pieces forming a 6.5" square. Note: Pieces 7, 8, 9, and 10 should be darker than background.
2. Make the tail by creating two half square triangles with black 2" square and background 2" square: Draw diagonal center on background square; sew 1/4" distance from drawn line on both sides; cut on line; press to dark side; trim to 1.5" square. = 2 HSTs.
3. Make comb with one red 2" square and 2" background square. Follow HSTs instruction from #2.
4. Make beak with one orange 2" square and one 2" background square. Follow HST instructions from #3. You will only use one of the HSTs.
5. Make wattle with (1) red 1" square and (1) background 1" square. Sew together, press, and trim.
6. Sew (2) tail HSTs together as shown in picture and sew 4.5"x1.5" background strip to it. Sew to log cabin unit.
7. Sew (2) comb HSTs together as shown in picture. Add 5.5"x1.5" background strip to it. Sew to log cabin unit at the top.
8. Sew wattle unit to orange beak as shown in picture. Add 5.5"x1.5" background unit. Sew to log cabin unit.
9. Sew 8.5"x1.25" background to top of block, and sew 8.5"x6.5" background to bottom of block.
10. Add legs with zigzag stitch, embroidery or add mini rick-rack. Make them look a bit goofy.
11. Finished unit should measure: **8.5" x 14.25**.



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 2, 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/

Block of the Month: August 2018

* String Block *



Why don't you pull out your red, blue and white strips on July 4th to make this patriotic string block. String blocks are everywhere on social media right now. They are so easy to make and ADDICTIVE. Accuracy is not critical - don't worry about a perfect 1/4" seam or whether the center strip is exactly in the center as everyone will use different width, nothing will need to line-up. Let's see if you can only make one block!

Materials Needed

+ **Assortment of white, red, and blue strips** including one white strip at least 13" long. Vary the strip width but not wider than 2.5" though as this is a small block (8.5" squared up).

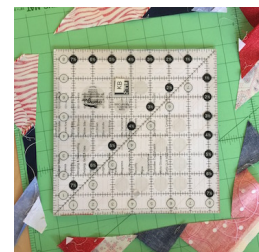
For the corners you need some chunkier pieces that can be wider than 2.5 so that you don't finish with a skinny piece where all the seams come together.

+ Sizing

+ **11" x 8.5" piece of paper** (or pull out that foundation paper piecing packet that you bought ages ago and haven't used yet)

Instructions

1. Cut the piece of paper to 8.5"x8.5" - this will be your foundation on which you sew your fabric strips.
2. Take the long white strip and lay it **right-side-up** on the paper on the diagonal from corner to corner (all blocks will thus have a consistent white center strip).
3. Now pick the longer red and blue strips and lay them next to the white strip making sure the fabric is longer than the piece of paper.
4. Start sewing. Take the second strip and place it right sides together on top of the white strip and attach by sewing 1/4" seam from raw edge through paper - a smaller stitch length is helpful to remove the paper later (1.8). Open press fabric to the corner. Take the second strip and attach it to the other side of the white strip - again right sides on top of each other. Sew. Press. Continue in this manner adding a strip on each side. Press.
5. When you come to the corners and have about 2.5" width remaining, take a chunkier piece and sew to the corner.
6. The piece of paper should now be fully covered with overhang. Turn your piece over so that you can see the piece of paper. Using an 8.5" ruler, trim the block along the paper to 8.5" square.
7. Spray block with some starch or sizing as all the edges are on the bias after cutting. Press. Let the paper dry and remove the paper.
8. Voilà - a perfectly square 8.5"x8.5 patriotic block is done.



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 6, 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/