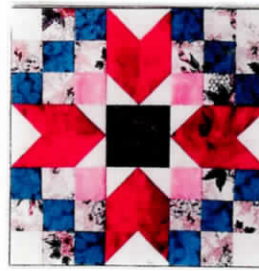


## BLOCK OF THE MONTH - April, 2023



Original



From Best Blocks

### GOOD CHEER

Found in "Quilter's Newsletter's Best Block publication; the Good Cheer block combines a traditional nine patch, accomplished with strip piecing; and a variation on the paper pieced Variable Star. First published in 1910 by Needlecraft Magazine, the block has had many names and many tweaks to its variations over the years.

Secondary design possibilities can be created by setting Good Cheer blocks in straight or on point. Experiment with changing the placement of light, dark, and medium patches for an entirely different effect.

This is another block that looks complicated, but with simple strip or string piecing and a little FPP, it's quite fast and isn't hard. If you like modern, with a couple of simple tweaks, this one lends itself beautifully to a taste of modern.

Let's get started

#### YOU WILL NEED:

Your favorite foundation or foundation paper

Six (6) different fabrics

Four (4) copies of the FPP pattern. Make sure "fit to page" is turned off on your copier.

A simple legend of your fabric choices, identified by number or location. This is essential. The nine patches can get confusing. I found it helpful to identify the colors as 1, 2, 3, and 4 and the rows as A, B, and C. See illustration.

#### Cutting for the nine patches:

Fabric #1 lightest/light color - cut strip 2" x 6"

Fabric #2 light/medium color (could be a small print)  
cut strip 2" X 24", subcut 4 @ 2" x 6"

Fabric #3 medium/light color (same color as center and arrows)  
cut strip 2" x 6"

Fabric #4 dark/medium (contrasts with center and arrows)

cut strip 2" x 24", subcut 3 @ 2" x 6"

**IMPORTANT:** Before assembling, make sure that the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on your machine is the same as the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " you will be using to trim your FPP units. When combining methods, this is essential.

#### Assembling your nine patches

If you cut and stack in order, this can be strip or string pieced.

Join all fabrics long sides together. Iron rows in opposite directions so they nest or iron them open.

Row (A) Sew fabric #1 strip to #2 strip, then add #4 strip to #2. Set aside.

Row (B) Sew #2 strip to #4 strip, then the other #2 to #4. Set aside.

Row (C) Sew #4 strip to #2 strip, then add #3 strip. Set aside.

Now cross cut to make perfect 2" strips of each of the above units to make the rows.

Join Row A to Row B to Row C. Iron final seams open.

#### Cutting for foundation paper piecing (FPP) and large center piece

How accurate are you? I will give you the measurements that are perfect to make the half square triangles (HST). I cut mine a little bigger and trim down once they are in place on the foundation.

Fabric #1 - cut eight (8) squares at  $2\text{-}\frac{3}{8}$ " x  $2\text{-}\frac{3}{8}$ " or more. Subcut each from corner to corner on the diagonal to get sixteen (16) HSTs.

Fabric #5 - cut one (1) strip 2" wide or wider x 40" or longer; subcut to make eight (8) strips @ 5" x 2".

Fabric #6 - cut one at  $3\text{-}\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $3\text{-}\frac{1}{2}$ " for the center.

#### Assemble foundation paper pieced sections.

Assemble from the top of your paper or the underside. It doesn't matter, just be consistent.

Once the first piece is tack-glued in place, continue adding pieces in order of their numbers.

You can string piece the triangles, eight numbered sections at a time.

Trim and finger press the additions before adding the next numbered section.

Join the right side to the left being mindful of the direction of the points.

**DO NOT BE TEMPTED TO REMOVE THE PAPER NOW.** If you wish, remove it only in the final seam to press it flat and open.

With all units complete, lay out your units in order on your design wall or table. Be careful not to rotate the nine patches and make sure all arrows are pointing to the center.

Add the center #6 to the pointed end of one of the arrows in Row B.  
 Join row A to row B. Iron seams open to be very flat or to the the right or left to nest.

Join row C to B of the completed A,B unit. Iron seam open or in the opposite direction.

You are done.

Please find illustrations below.

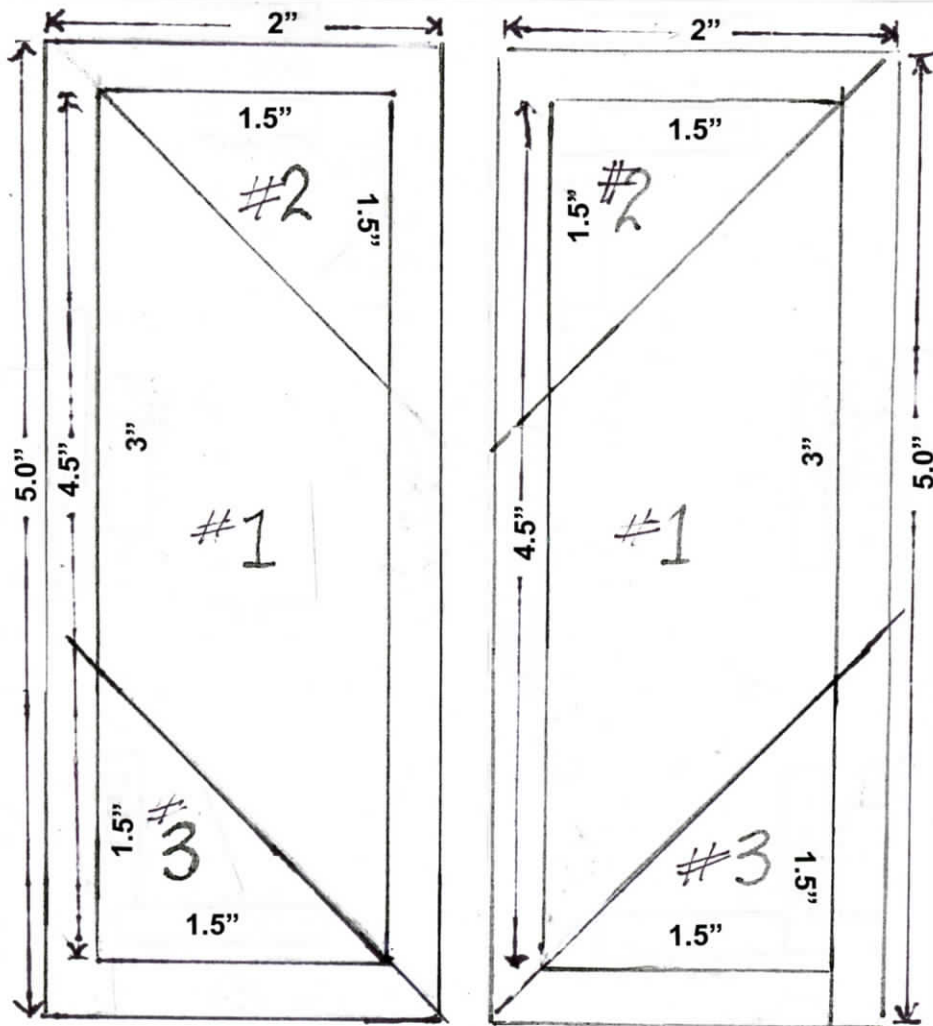
Questions: Marjorie Longo, (831)624-8649 or frumml@gmail.com

My seam allowance around the outside will not be accurate.

Always measure and cut around the finished unit using a ruler and rotary cutter.

Your rough block should measure 3.5" x 5.0".

When set in, it will be 3" x 4.5".



1	2	4			4	2	1
2	4	2	5	5	2	4	2
4	2	3			3	2	4
1	5			6		5	1
	5					5	
4	2	3			3	2	4
2	4	2	5	5	2	4	2
1	2	4			4	2	1