

2022-2023 Block of the Month

What Goes Around Comes Around

Traditional Modern quilts spring from traditional blocks. Found in an older publication, "Best Blocks" by Quilter's Newsletter, a wonderful variety of published blocks, circa 1840 - 1950, with a short story about each block's origin, will be presented over the next twelve months.

Directions for both traditional piecing and paper piecing will be offered whenever practical to do so. Most blocks will be offered in a standard 12" X 12" finished size. For those preferring a traditional modern quilt, some blocks will also be offered in smaller sizes allowing for some asymmetry or negative space in the sashing. That will be up to each individual.

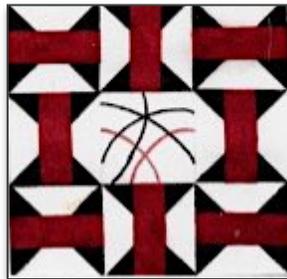
The blocks featured will go from easy, to somewhat more challenging. Each block will be complete, so you can do all of the blocks for a lap quilt or some of the blocks for some other use, possibly a nice table runner or wall hanging. Join the group and make a traditional quilt or challenge yourself for a traditional modern creation.

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Block of the Month – October 2022



*As seen in Best Blocks
Quilter's Newsletter.*



*My version of
Transitional Modern.*



My holiday sampler.

Beggar's Block

Our first Block, called Beggar's Block, shown above, is a Depression-era block which transitions nicely from traditional to modern or traditional modern. While the examples are shown rather matchy-matchy, the original block was made by begging scraps of fabric from neighbors and friends. "In One Hundred and One Patchwork Patterns, first published in 1931, Ruby McKim suggested this pattern as a good one for using those precious scraps of silks and wools, and even neckties." quote from Best Blocks, Mary Leman Austin.

By pre-cutting all pieces and using a dab of glue instead of pins, it is easy to continuous feed your piecing units through the sewing machine. The Holiday sample and the blue example shown used four fabrics @ the quantities for the values shown below. The black and red example (my attempt at modern traditional) uses four fabrics too, but the quantities for each value will need to be rearranged.

Accurate cutting is important. I suggest starching your fabric. I used a light spray of Faultless Heavy starch for more stability while cutting and piecing. Ellen's Best is my usual go to, but for this block I found starch a better choice. Accurate 1/4" seams are also important. Scant or regular 1/4", it doesn't matter; you must be consistent.

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Beggar's Block (cont.)

I will not be offering this block paper pieced as fabric B, well starched, acts as a stabilizer. It should stay exactly as originally cut and the corner pieces do not have to be perfect for this block.

Color A - Focus fabric for center, cut (1) @ 4-1/2" X 4-1/2".

Color B - Darkest value fabric; cut (2) strips @ 1-7/8" X WOF, subcut 16 @ 1-7/8" X 4-1/2".

Color C - Mid value fabric; cut (1) strip @ 1-7/8" X WOF, subcut 8 @ 1-7/8" X 4-1/2".

Color D - Lightest or light value fabric, cut (2) strips @ 1-7/8" X WOF, subcut 32 @ 1-7/8" X 1-7/8".

1. Draw a diagonal line, corner to corner on the wrong side of all D pieces.



2. With right sides together, place small squares D on rectangles B as shown.

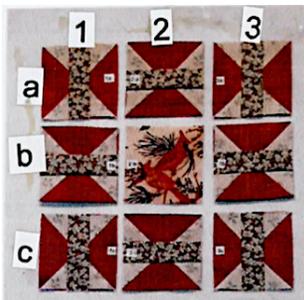
A tiny dab of glue in the corner helps keep this unit in place for sewing. Sew on the diagonal line. Press as shown. If you would like, remove the section of D that will only add bulk. Don't remove any of the bottom fabric B. That is your stabilizer. Don't worry if your triangle is a bit wonky as long as it catches in your upcoming 1/4" seam, it will be fine.



3. Join the units that you just created to rectangle fabric C as shown. Be mindful of the direction of your arrows. Press to center fabric C.



4. Lay your block units out in order being mindful of the direction of the arrows.



Join 1a to 2a. Press to the outside.

Join 1b to 2b. Press to the inside.

Join 1c to 2c. Press to the outside

Now add 3 a, b, & c to the units you just made.

Press 3a to the outside, 3b to the inside and 3c to the outside

5. With rows complete, join row a to row b and row b to row c. **Voila!** I pressed toward center.

Is your block traditional or modern?

Questions: please give me a call,

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Depression era Beggar's Block

Measurements for 6" X 6" finished block as the Black, white and red example

Make eight (8) units

Cut 1 @ 1-3/16" x 40" - subcut 16 @ 2-1/2" x 1-3/16" (White in the small example)

Cut 1 @ 1-1/8" x 20" - subcut 8 @ 2-1/2" x 1-1/8" (Red in the example)

Cut 1 @ 1-3/16 x 38" -subcut 32 @ 1-3/16 x 1-3/16 (Black in the example)

Center block is 2-1/2" x 2-1/2"

Instructions are the same as they are for the larger block.

Caution: When joining units be very careful to line up the corner points. This would be a good time to match and pin the corner points carefully.

PAPER PIECING OPTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Paper pieced pattern for 6-1/2" x 6-1/2" rough or 6" x 6" finished size.

Make eight units. Each unit should finish out at exactly the same size. Completed, my block is 6-7/16" x 6-7/16" with perfect points.

4A ----- Cut 1 @ 1-1/2" x 24", subcut 8 @ 1-1/2" 3".

1A and 1B ----- Cut 1 @ 1-1/2" x WOF plus 1- 1/2" x 9", subcut 16 @ 1-1/2" x 3".

2A, 3A, 2B, 3B--- Cut 1 @ 2" X 32", subcut 16 @ 2" x 2", subcut on diagonal to create 32 HST. Center block is 2-1/2" x 2-1/2".

1A and B can be trimmed carefully to the correct shape once tacked onto the paper pattern or a simple template can be made to pre-cut those pieces. HST are a little large so that placement is less of an issue. Trim once in place.

Copy pattern below eight times. I did my copies by hand and found that my minor misalignments became problems. Copy machines are more accurate. Make sure to **turn off the Fit to Page**.

If you are new to Paper piecing, google beginner paper piecing. Crafty Gemini has a good youtube. I like to use tracing paper because it can be run through the copier, it tears easily when using small stitches and it is quite transparent. Help needed? Give me a call, email or meet me at 6:30 on the Monday following the regular Guild meeting on ZOOM.

I am putting measurements on the pattern below because in the process of turning copy into PDF, the pattern is distorting. It is simple to redraw the pattern so yours is correct or email me and I will snail mail a correct pattern to you.

Verify your copies before you start.

