

BLOCK OF THE MONTH - January, 2023



WATER WHEEL



The January Block of the Month is an oldie but a goodie. Over the years, Water Wheel has sometimes been referred to as Windmill or Whirlwind. Best Blocks by "Quilter's Newsletter" tells us our block was given its earliest name of Twin Sisters by the Ladies Art Company. The Ladies Art Company published from 1879 until 1970, so this block has seen a lot of history. The Ladies Art Company cautioned about "the diagonals stretching". We will solve that problem using Foundation Paper Piecing.

With just eight pieces, Water Wheel is a fast and easy block for even a novice quilter or foundation paper piecer (FPP). Joining four Water Wheel blocks will form a more elaborate block to use alone or as a terrific background. The more elaborate block can be made quickly by chain piecing. This block is perfect for those wanting to dip their toes, or fingers, into foundation paper piecing and for those looking for simple repetitive practice to perfect their FPPing.

I hope you can join the fun.

Let's get started

Any foundation or foundation paper will work for this foundation paper pieced or FPP block. I suggest a see through foundation such as tracing paper, or my personal favorite, called Foundation Stuff, which is available online at www.georgesiciliano.com. It costs \$19.00 for 50 sheets and it is worth its weight in gold. The best "stuff" ever.

The pattern shown will make one 6" completed Water Wheel block.

Double the size of the pattern to make one 12" finished Water Wheel block.

Four, 6" completed Water Wheel patterns, will make a more elaborate 12" finished block and offer a perfect opportunity to practice some chain piecing of your FPPed block.

All of the #2 and #4 pieces should be very dark, dark or a very light, light. Those pieces need to provide a large contrast to the blades of the water wheel. The blades are the #1 and #3 pieces.

I suggest making a small legend identifying your fabrics and their position on the foundation. This time I used one extra printed pattern to make my legend.

You will need:

Pattern copies on the foundation of your choice:

Always turn off fit to page on your copier.

One 6" Water Wheel, copy the pattern given once.

One 12" Water Wheel, double the size of the pattern given. (200%)

One 12" elaborate W.W. block, make four copies of the pattern given.

Cutting fabrics:

Fabric and measurements are for the more elaborate block that joins four 6" blocks to make one elaborate 12" block.

Darkest, dark or lightest, light, cut strip 27" x 3-3/8",

Subcut 8 @ 3-3/8" square, cut again diagonally to create 16 HSTs (half square triangles) One 6" Water Wheel would take two 3-3/8" squares.

Four different fabrics, cut strip 22" x 3", subcut 4 each 5-1/2" x 3" for a total of 16 blades at 5-1/2 x 3" each.

One 6" WW block would take 4 pieces at 5-1/2" X 3".

TIPS:

There is a left side and a right side to this pattern, so if you start with your fabric on the back, stick to it. If your fabric is on the top, stick to that.

If the right sides of the fabric are always facing each other, it is hard to make a mistake.

Using a little temporary glue helps keep that first piece and others in place.

When adding a HST, I suggest using a pin to check your placement before you sew.

Chain Piecing:

If you are making the elaborate Water Wheel, you can set yourself up for chain piecing by sewing all four of the 1A and 2A pieces and all four of the 1B and 2B pieces at the same time. Those pieces will not chain piece, but with those in place, the rest can be chain pieced quickly and easily.

All ready? Let's do it.

Start by glue tacking all of the 1A pieces in place.

Right sides together, add all of the 2 A pieces to the 1A pieces .

Repeat process for all of the 1B and 2B pieces.

Sew on the line and finger press. Always fold the pattern back and out of the way before you trim excess fabric.

Right sides together, pin in place all of the 3A and 3B pieces to all of the 1A & B and 2A & B pieces. You can begin and end off the pattern so you can line up the stack you have just pinned and sew them all chain piecing style. Finger press and carefully trim away excess fabric..

Add 4A and 4B to the 3A and B pieces in the same way. Sew on the line, finger press and carefully trim the seam.

Using the quarter inch mark on a ruler, rotary cut $\frac{1}{4}$ " around each unit you just made.

When all the As and Bs are complete and trimmed, join each A section to a B section and sew on the diagonal line. Use a pin to line up the points. You can do all of the pinning at once and chain piece again. You now have $\frac{1}{4}$ of the complete elaborate block. Pressing the center seams open will help the pieces lay flat.

Join two block units together (pin to line up points) to make $\frac{1}{2}$ of the complete block. Press to one side. Do the same thing with the two remaining block units. Press to the opposite side. Join those two halves together to make the elaborate Water Wheel or Double Water Wheel.

Questions: please email me or give me a call.

Marjorie Longo, Block of the Month Coordinator

(831)624-8649

frumml@gmail.com

Join Block of the month on ZOOM at 6:30 every Monday evening following the regular Guild Meeting. Next ZOOM, January 16th.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85141597785?pwd=dTVvSlgvMjB5V280d3VoajNwaGFYdz09>

