

Block of The Month 2017: Block #11

Block is due at the January 2018 meeting.

This month we are continuing our color scheme for the year: black, white, the monthly birthstone color, and a shade (or tint) of that color. This month's color is yellow, so your second color should be a yellow shade or tint. Please look at the January newsletter for the color chart.

This block is called Retro Bloom and is one of the Janome 100 blocks in 50 days. It is designed by Nydia Kehnle and is a paper-pieced block. We encourage you to make two blocks, one to enter in the drawing and one to keep. If you know how to paper-piece, print out four templates for each block and use your favorite technique. Otherwise, we are providing the basic instructions that Nadia gave with her block and encourage you to look up further instructions online.

Printing out paper piecing template. Please pick up a template at the November guild meeting or get it from the guild web site because the one in the newsletter will not be accurate. Make sure when you print that the setting is for 100% -- no scaling. Print four templates for each block.

Cut list -- For one block:

You will save fabric if you use strips of fabric and don't cut to size for each piece. We are giving the size you need for each piece and this takes more fabric, but may be easier for beginning paper-piecers to understand.

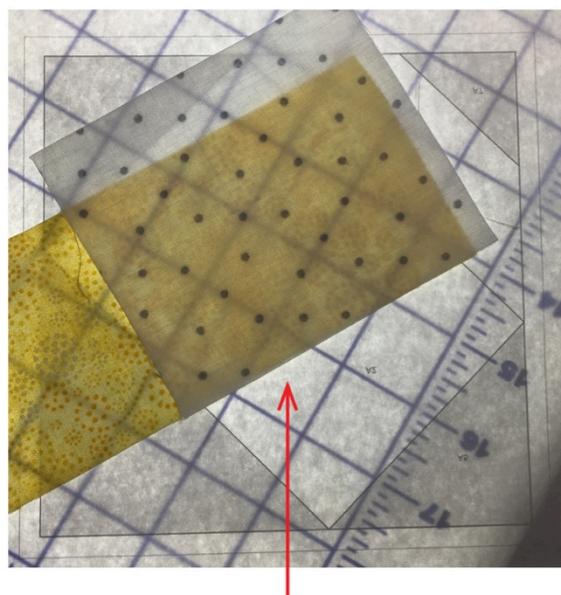
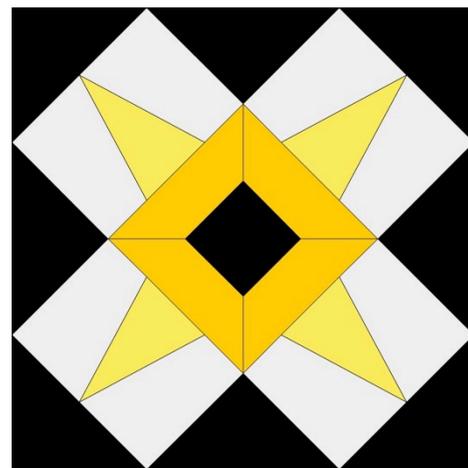
Light Yellow; Piece A1: Four 3" X 4.25" rectangles;

White; Pieces A2 & A3: Eight 3.25" X 5.25" rectangles

Black; Pieces A4 & A5: Eight 3" X 5" rectangles; Piece A7:

Four 2" X 3.5" rectangles; Piece A8; Four 3.5" X 6.25" rectangles

Yellow; Piece A6: Four 2.5" X 6.25" rectangles



Line between A1 & A2.

Assembling the block:

On the foundation paper, the outer line is part of the block and is the seam allowance. Some of the lines have been drawn into the seam allowance, so you don't forget to include these when building the square. Cut the foundation away from the printed page on the outer line.

When paper piecing, you will be placing the fabric on the unprinted side of the paper and looking through it to see where to place the fabric, but sewing on the printed side on the line between the two pieces you are working with. It is recommended that you shorten your stitch length when paper piecing to make removing the paper easy without pulling out the stitching. We recommend making it slightly smaller, but not so short that you can't unsew when necessary. If the paper tears, you can tape it and sew over the tape. The most important thing is to sew on the entire line between each piece and even extend the line a quarter inch on each end.

Step 1: For the first two pieces, on the reverse side of the foundation, place the light yellow fabric right side up so it extends outside the lines of the A1 section at least a quarter inch on all sides. You can use two-sided tape or a pin to hold it in place. Don't place a pin so it extends over the line between A1 and A2.

Step 2: Now place the white A2 piece facing the A1 piece, overlapping the line between A1 and A2 by at least 1/4 inch. I test flip it open to make sure the A2 fabric will cover the A2 section once sewn with at least 1/4 inch extra on all sides Use another pin to hold in place.

Step 3: Turn foundation paper over and sew on line between the two pieces – extend 1/4 inch on each

Repeat steps 2 and 3 for each subsequent piece, going in order of the piece numbers.

When all four foundations are complete, arrange as shown and sew the four squares together, using the border line on the paper as a guide. You can remove the paper to make it easier once you are sure of the placement. Removing the paper before or after sewing together is your choice. Leaving the paper on will prevent the fabric from stretching, but it can get bulky and make removing the paper more difficult. Repeat to make a second block!

This is great practice for half square triangles. Have fun!

Adriane Ridder & Shelly McNeely
Block of the Month Coordinators

