

Block of The Month 2018: Block #4

April is here and so is block #4. This block is due at the May meeting. This is another nine-patch variation, but we were inspired by last month's speaker, Jean Impey. This is a simple friendship star variation but we are making simple by just cutting off the corners to make the star. This goes together really fast and if you are having trouble – you are thinking too hard!

The fabrics you need this month are our focus fabric -- Effervescence – Wild by Robert Kaufman, your coordinating fabric based on the colors in the focus fabric, a black fabric and a white fabric.

We will be selling fat quarters of the focus fabric at the meetings for \$2 each. It should only take one fat quarter to make the twelve blocks for this year.

We encourage you to make two blocks, one to enter in the drawing and one to keep.

Cut list -- For one block:

- Focus fabric: one 2½" X 5½" rectangle
- Coordinating fabric: four 4½" squares
- White fabric: four 4½" squares
- Black fabric: one 4½" square, three 2½" X 5½" rectangles

Assembling the block:

- Use the photos to get the color placement.
- After cutting your coordinating fabric (mine is orange), fold one block in half. Stack all blocks together **right sides up with the square with the fold marks on top. Refer to pictures 2 and 3.** Use a ruler with a ¼" line or just eyeball it and line up the ruler so the cutting edge is ¼" away from the fold mark on one side and ¼" away from the bottom corner.
- Cut this corner off. Look at picture 3. This should give you the same angle for each of your star points.
- Sew the feature fabric and black rectangles to the trimmed color squares. See picture 4 (photo is zoomed in): line up the long edge of 2 ½" X 5 ½" rectangle along the cut you made in the last step. Just have the tip of the rectangle (1/4") hang over the top edge. Press toward the color fabric.
- Trim these squares to 4 ½" square as in picture 5.
- Layout pieces in correct order as shown in photo one.
- Using a precise 1/4" seam allowance and right sides together, sew the horizontal rows together. Alternate pressing of seams to allow the to nest against each other in the next step.
- Keep rows in order and now sew rows together. If pressed correctly, the seams should nest and help patches aligned.
- Press seams and square the block to 12 1/2" x 12 1/2". Repeat to make a second block to keep!

Don't worry if the stars are a little wonky – that is part of their charm.

Adriane Ridder & Shelly McNeely

Block of the Month Coordinators

