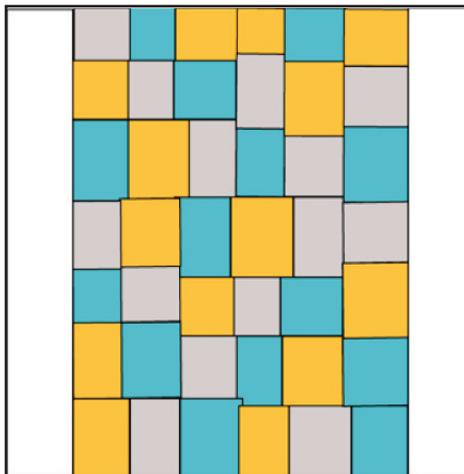


## Block of the Month: Block 2--blocks due at the March meeting

Remember we are still using a neutral color palette. The colors shown in the instruction are not in the palette. There is a picture below on the right and additional information about the palette is in the January newsletter. For block 2, we're going to tackle some improvisational piecing. This means that rather than following a strict pattern, you'll "wing it" and piece without following strict cutting sizes.

If you've never done any improv piecing before, it can seem daunting because it seems like the choices are limitless. However, doing it within the context of just one block, with a technique to follow, makes it completely manageable for your first try. Dive in and give it a shot. You can't make mistakes with this type of piecing and every single block you make will be unique. Enjoy the process!



Neutral color palette

### Fabric requirements for one Block 2:

Fabric A: (border on two sides) 4" x 12.5" rectangle

Fabric B: (small improv rectangles) 10" x 9" rectangle

Fabric C: (small improv rectangles) 10" x 9" rectangle

Fabric D: (small improv rectangles) 10" x 9" rectangle

### Cutting:

1. Working with fabrics B, C, and D cut out four rectangles of each color, all between 2" & 3" wide and 9" long. Do this at random and make sure you have variety in their widths.

Note: If you are making two blocks (one to keep) then start with a 10" x 18" rectangle and cut 18" strips. If you are making a whole quilt of this block, you'll want to cut the strips of fabric B, C and D much longer than 9".

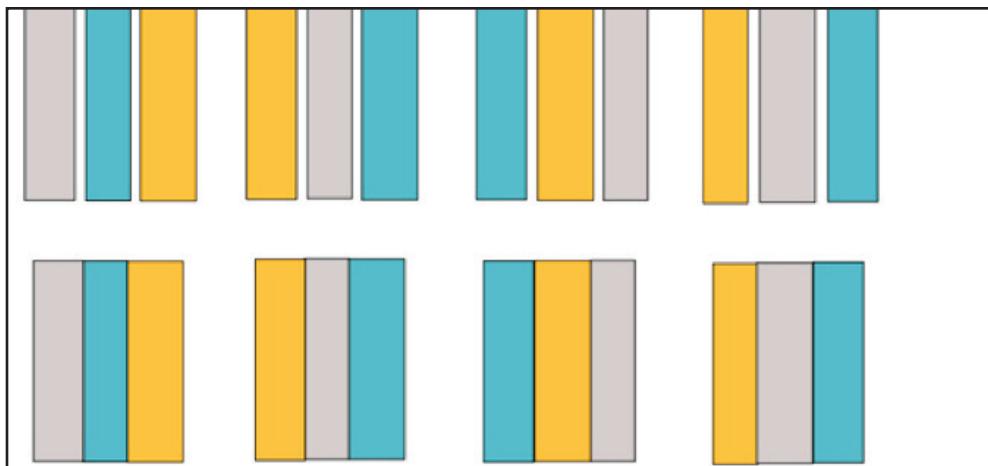
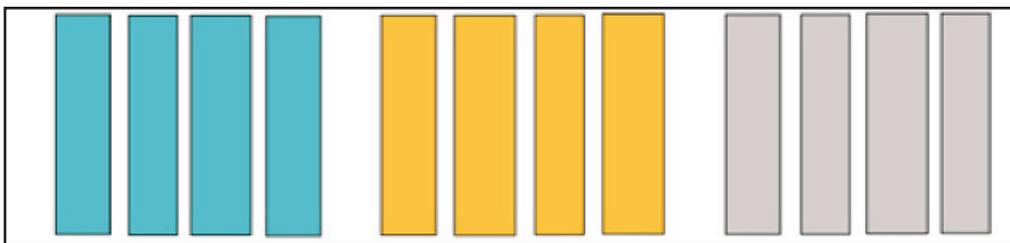
If you're making lots of blocks, cut them the entire WOF and just cut more as you need to. A estimate of how much fabric you'll use is about a 1/4 yard of fabrics B, C, and D for every four blocks you make.

Next, cut Fabric A into two 2" x 12.5" strips.

### Assembling the block:

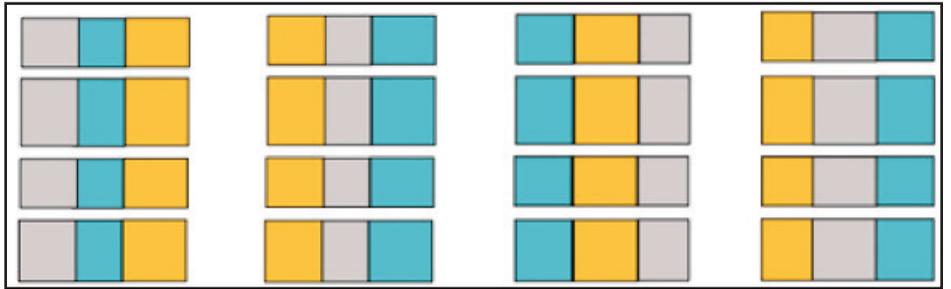
*Always use a 1/4" seam allowance while piecing.*

2. Mix up the strips and assemble into four panels of three colors. Make sure that you have different strip widths in the panels and different variations in the color order.



3. Cut the panels into four strips of piecing.

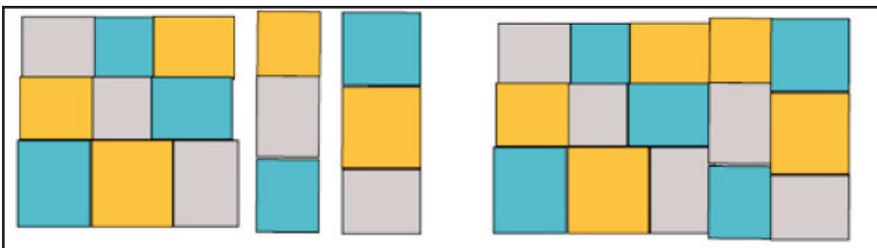
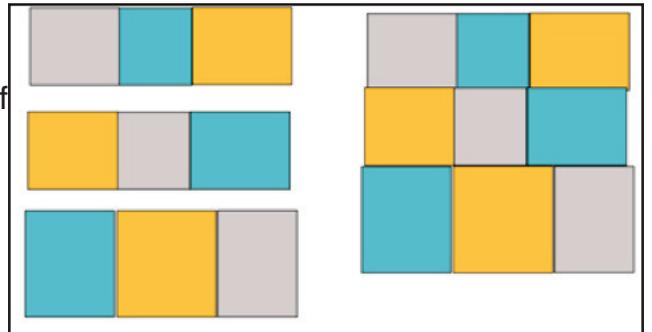
*Tip: Do this step without a ruler and that adds to the imperfect "wonky" look. If you prefer straight lines, use your ruler. The more you do this sort of improv piecing the more you'll get a sense of what you like and with time, you'll develop your own look and style.*



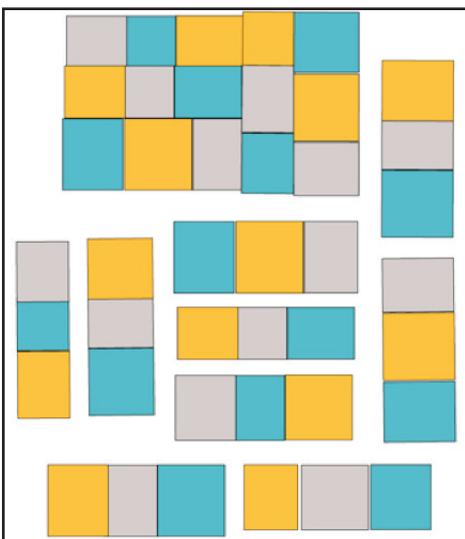
4. Now, start assembling the different strips into a panel. Then end goal is a 9.5" x 12.5" panel.

You can really do this any way you'd like, but if you need a bit of guidance, start by sewing three together...

Then sew two more on to the side.



Keep growing your panel in this manner, checking its size on your cutting mat as you go so that you're know you're headed toward 9.5" x 12.5".

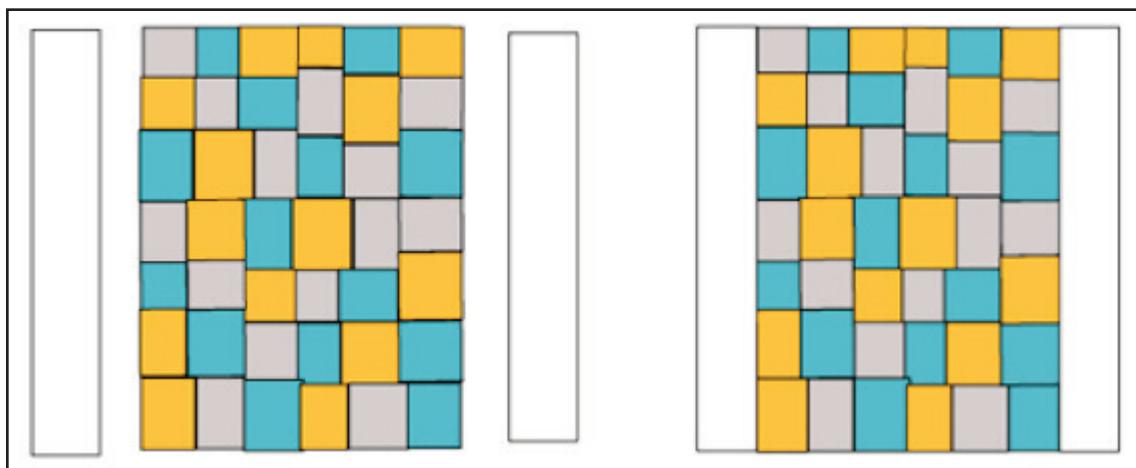


Grow your panel until it is slightly larger than 9.5" x 12.5". Below is how an untrimmed panel may look.



5. Trim your panel down to a perfect 9.5" x 12.5"

6. Sew the 2" x 12.5" background fabric strips to either side of your panel and your block is complete!



Hope you enjoyed this block. Remember, make a second block to keep if you want a sampler quilt at the end of the year.

Adriane Ridder  
Block of the Month Coord.