

Block of The Month 2020: Block #1

Welcome to our 2020 block of the month. Here is our first block for the year with our new focus fabric. It is an improvisational version of the windmill block. The focus fabric is: Western Washington Quilt Shop Hop 2017 by In the Beginning fabrics. The blocks are due at the February 2020 meeting.



The fabrics you need this month are our new focus fabric (we will have half yards for \$5 at the meeting), your coordinating fabric based on the colors in the focus fabric, a black fabric and a white fabric.

We encourage you to make two blocks, one to enter in the drawing and one to keep. Also, the Guild's Facebook page should have a post directing you to the YouTube instructions for this block.

Cut list -- For one block:

- White: one 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ " square
- Black, focus, and coordinating-color fabric: cut a total of four strips from these three fabrics, at least 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long, with a width of 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". You can choose how many of each fabric, but of the four strips, have at least one focus fabric and one coordinating fabric. You don't have to cut these strips to the 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ " length at this point, just make sure they are at least that long.



Photo 3

Assembling the block:

- Cut the white square into four triangles. You don't need a ruler, just a rotary cutter. Being careful not to cut yourself, make a freehand diagonal cut from one corner to the opposite. Then without lifting the fabric, you can move the mat or yourself if that make it easier, cut the other diagonal. See photo 3.
- Stack up the triangles right sides up. Position the triangles so the widest side is at the bottom (this was the outside edge of the original block.) Place a strip of one of the other fabrics along the right side edge of each triangle. Sew a strip to the right side of each triangle using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam and press away from the white fabric. You can trim the bottom edge if you like or you can leave the extra on at this point. If you do trim it as shown in photo 4, don't trim it exactly at the edge, leave a little extra – like 1/8th inch.
- Arrange the triangles to find the final look that you want. When looking at the block in a square position flip the top triangle over onto the triangle on the right and line up the inner seam and mark it so you remember which seam to sew. Do the same with the two remaining triangles, flipping the left triangle down over the bottom triangle. Sew these two seams with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance and press away from the white fabric.
- Now for the final seam. Lay the pieces in their final position and flip on down over the other. Match the centers and sew this seam. You can sew it as one long seam, but if you have trouble with starting a seam with the long pointy ends, then sew in two steps starting in the middle each time.
- Press seams and square the block to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Repeat to make a second block to keep!



Photo 4



Photo 5