

Block of The Month 2021: Block #8

Our block this month is an improv-ish version of a pinwheel /spinner block. Don't feel constrained by the name, depending on how you assemble the sub-blocks, it will look more or less like a spinner. This is another four-patch block, so each sub-block is 6.5".

To get started, here are the fabrics you need: your focus fabric, a coordinating fabric based on the colors in the focus fabric, and two neutral color fabrics. Pick ones that contrast with each other. (Neutral colors include black, brown, grey, white, and shades or hues of these.) Remember, all our blocks end up 12.5" X 12.5" (a 12" finished block.)

Also, the Guild's website and Facebook page should have a post directing you to the YouTube instructions for this block.

Cut list -- For one block -- you decide fabric placement

Four strips of each fabric 5.25" long or one 21" of each color. The width of each strip can vary. You will pair up the four fabrics and the combined width of the two when sewn together needs to be 5.25" – or 5.75" before sewing with a 1/4" seam. Another option is to use 3" strips and trim to size after sewing.

Assembling the block: Use a quarter inch seam

- As mentioned above, pair up for fabrics so you are making strip sets, combining the fabrics so you have two sets of the two fabrics. See photo 2. Press to the darker fabric and then trim to 5.25" squares. If you are using 21" strips, you should have just enough to get this.
- Lay all of these squares right sides up as shown in photo 3. Using a ruler or free cutting – make a diagonal cut in the same direction on all squares.
- Now for the fun. You need to decide the look that you like. If you want the sub-blocks to look more like pinwheels or spinners, use one stack of pieces as shown in photo 4 to make each sub-block. If you want more variety, try mixing up the pieces to get your look. Arrange each set of four pieces as in photo 5. Sew two adjacent pieces together then press the each half the same direction. Now sew the center seam of each sub-block and press. You should end up with four of these.
- Now arrange the sub-blocks as you like. Try different arrangements to get your favorite. After you decide your arrangement, double check to make sure each of the small squares is at least 6.5" square. Use a 6.5" square up ruler as shown in photo 6. Only trimming blocks that have irregular edges or are considerably larger than 6.5". Sew together horizontal rows. Press the seams in opposite directions. Nest the center seams and sew the final seam. Press.
- Now to square it up. Use your 12½" X 12½" square up ruler, place it over the block. Make sure there is fabric under all parts of the ruler and trim to 12½" X 12½". You can make it wonky or not, it is your decision what you like best.

We hope you enjoy this block – see you next month.

Adriane Ridder & Shelly McNeely
Block of the Month Coordinators



Photo 2

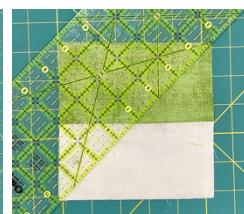


Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6