

## Block of The Month 2021: Block #1

Welcome to 2021! We have some interesting changes for this year. We aren't sure when we will be able to meet and exchange blocks, so we have new plan. Each of us will work on making blocks for our own quilt and we encourage you to post them at the guild's Facebook group – Friends of Valley of the Mist Quilters. In addition to this, we are also creating a round robin for the guild and it will incorporate some of the blocks from the block of the month. See the Round Robin article for more information.

To get started, here are the fabrics you need. First find a focus fabric. This fabric should be one that includes several colors but remember you will be cutting this up and the pattern/colors need to be seen even in small pieces. In addition to the focus, you also need a coordinating fabric based on the colors in the focus fabric. You can pick one coordinating fabric or use different ones each month but only one per block. Finally, you need two neutral color fabrics. Pick ones that contrast with each other. (Neutral colors include black, brown, grey, white, and shades or hues of these.)

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: Improv Quarter Circle Block

one -- 8.25" square of each of the four fabrics

#### Assembling the block: Use a quarter inch seam

- Fold each of the squares diagonally and press the diagonal to mark center.
- Unfold and stack the square right sides up. Free-cut a gentle curve from one side of the square to an adjacent side. See photo 2. You will make three cuts. Plan them ahead so there is at least one inch of fabric on each side of each cut.
- Now you have four stacks of pieces. Mix up the pieces in each stack then make four groups that contain one of each piece. Photo 3 shows some options. These will be the new sub-blocks that make up this four square block.
- Start with the two smallest pieces in each sub-block, use the press mark to line up the centers. The inner piece is smaller, so when lining up the sides, let 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch of fabric to stick out on the larger piece. Sew together with the larger piece on the bottom to allow any extra to ease in. Press to the direction the fabric wants to go. Continue adding the next two pieces with the same method for each sub-block. See photo 4.
- Take a square up ruler that is at least 6.5". Put the zero corner of the ruler on the corner of the first (smallest) piece and trim to the largest square you can get from the block. Your sub-blocks should be at least 6.5" square.
- Arrange your sub-blocks in two rows of two. Sew the two horizontal rows and press in opposite directions. Match the center seams and the two rows along the middle seam. Press this last seam and then press the whole block.
- Now to square it. 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" –wonky is okay!

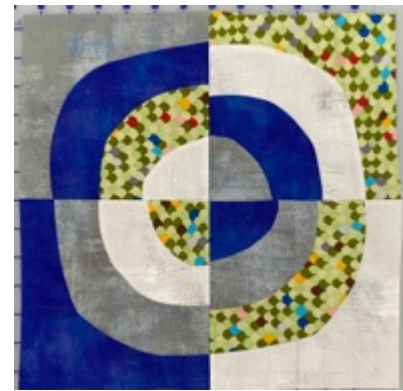


Photo 2

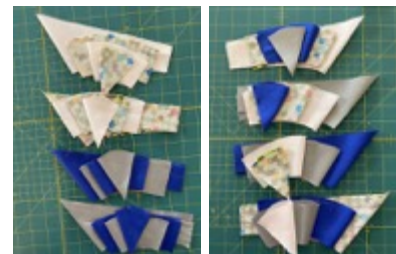


Photo 3



Photo 4

We are really looking forward to the new year.

This is not only the first block for your block of the month, it is also the first block for the Round Robin – so make two!

Adriane Ridder & Shelly McNeely  
Block of the Month Coordinators