

Block of The Month 2021: Block #7

Our block this month is an improv 4-point star. You get to decide the fabric placement, we just want you to use at least one piece of each fabric in your block. The photo of the block shows each piece as the same fabric, but you can mix it up. For example, piece #1 can be a different fabric in each sub-block.

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 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 – remember you decide fabric placement but use at least on piece of each fabric in the block. Refer to photo 2 for piece diagram.

Piece 1 (star center): Four 3" x 6.5" strips

Pieces 2, 3 & 4: Eight of each piece. The average width of these pieces should be 2.75". The lengths needed are: piece #2 -- 6"; piece #3 -- 4.5", piece #4 -- 3". When laying next to each other, before sewing, the total width of the three pieces should be at least 8.25".

Assembling the block: Use a quarter inch seam

- To make the center diamond pieces: press each piece 1 rectangle in half so you end up with folded 1.5" X 6.5" rectangles. Using a square ruler with a center diagonal line or 45° guide, line up the guideline to cut off a 45° corner. See photo 3. Now line up a ruler to the lower point of the just cut off corner and the bottom fold of the rectangle. See photo 4, cut along the ruler, cutting off these bottom triangles to end up with the diamond shown in photo 5.
- Now, prep a ruler to use as a reference for creating each of the four triangles that make up the block. If you have a 9.5" square up ruler, then you are set – the triangles that make up the block are the same size as half this ruler – you will either use the diagonal line marked on the ruler or make a diagonal mark with blue painter's tape marking a line between two opposite corners. If you don't have this size ruler, use your 12.5" square up ruler and place blue painter's tape 2.25" above the center diagonal. This will make a same size triangle to use as a guide.
- Refer to the photo 2 diagram. We need to make these four triangle pieces shown. Start with one of your diamond pieces (piece #1) and one piece #2. It can be placed on either side of the diamond but note which side you start with and do the same for each triangle if you want them to look symmetrical. You are sewing the piece #2 to one of the long sides of the diamond. Start at the edge that connects to one of the short sides. These corners are less pointy and easier to sew to. Place the corner of piece #2 about ¼" past the corner of piece #1. You will need to do this whenever adding a piece to the triangles we are sewing. Sew the two together along a long side. Press the seam. It doesn't matter which way you press it, but all seams will be pressed the same direction. After this first seam, trim off the extra at the bottom that will get in the way of the next seam. See photo 6. Now sew on the other piece #2 on the other side of the diamond and press. After sewing on each piece, use a ruler aligned with the short side of the diamond to mark the edge of the triangle we are forming. See photo 7. Each piece added should be aligned ¼" above this line as shown in photos 8 and 9.
- Continue adding pieces 3 & 4 to the triangle in order. After the piece #4's are added the triangle should be as big as the area marked on half the 9.5" ruler or the 12.5" ruler marked with painter's tape. Use the ruler to trim off the excess corners/fabric on the inner sides of the triangles as shown in photo 10. Don't trim the edge that will form the outside of the final block just yet. Now make three more of these triangles.
- Now arrange the triangles as in photo 2. Sew together each pair of neighboring triangles. Press the seams in opposite directions. Nest the center seams and sew the final center 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

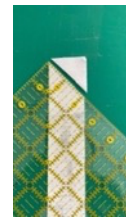


Photo 3

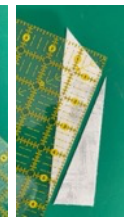


Photo 4



Photo 5

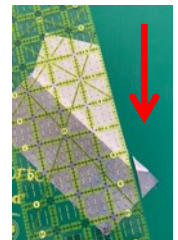


Photo 6

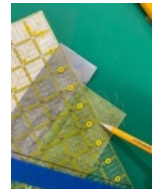


Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10