

Block of The Month 2021: Block #6

Our block this month is an improv version of the Hourglass Block. This is another four-patch block, so each sub-block is 6.5". It is a fun block to make, but fabric placement needs to be watched to get the right look.

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

Fabric 1 (side handles): Eight 1.5" x 8" strips

Fabric 2 & 3 (sand & air above sand): Two 6" squares of each

Fabric 4 (background): Four 4" squares

Assembling the block: Use a quarter inch seam

- To make the side handle pieces: press fabric 4 squares on one diagonal and then cut them on the other diagonal. See photo 2. If using a long strip of fabric for fabric 1 – then press as follows: press a mark across the 1.5" width at 4" and then every 8" along the length of the strips. If using 8" pieces for fabric 1, press to mark the center of each strip. Center the press mark on fabric 4 to the pressed mark on fabric 1 strips and sew fabric 1 to the hypotenuse (long edge) of the fabric 4 triangles. Press to the darker fabric and then use a ruler to trim the extra off as shown in photo 3.
- To make the sand and air pieces: stack fabrics 2 and 3 in pairs – one of each fabric, both fabrics facing up. For each pair, press one diagonal and then cut on the other. You should now have four triangle pairs, keep them stacked facing up, one of each color. With each pair, make a wonky cut roughly parallel to the hypotenuse as shown in photo 4. Between each cut pair, switch the top portions and sew to the bottom portions, using the press mark to match the centers. Now each of the new triangles should be made of both fabrics. Press to the darker fabric. Use the corner of a ruler and align it with the top of each triangle, trim off excess as shown in photo 5.
- To make each of the small hourglass squares you need two of the side handle sections and both halves of one of the sand/air pairs. Arrange the pieces as shown in photo 6. First join together a handle piece to the neighboring sand/air piece, sewing from the inside point to the outer edge as the arrows in photo 6 show. Repeat with the other two pieces of the square. Press both pieces in the same direction – toward the darker fabric. Now sew the middle seam of the square – the centers should nest. Make four of these.
- Now arrange the hourglass squares as you like. Try different arrangements to get your favorite. After you decide your arrangement, we want you to trim just the inner edges that will be sewn together. Use a 6.5" square up ruler as shown in photo 7. Only trimming the two edges gives you more trimming options at the end. 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.

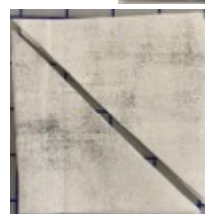


Photo 2

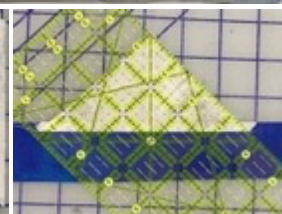


Photo 3

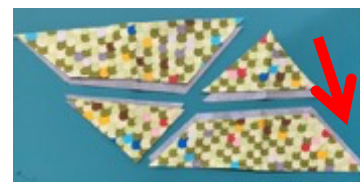


Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7

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

Adriane Ridder & Shelly McNeely

Block of the Month Coordinators