

Block of The Month 2021: Block #5

Our block this month is an improv version of the Friendship Block. The idea of the block is that each group of four squares represents four friends holding hands.

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 where to use each of the four fabrics

Fabric 1: Eight 4" squares

Fabric 2 & 3: Four 4" squares

Fabric 4 (strips): Sixteen 6" strips that are between $\frac{3}{4}$ " and $1\frac{1}{4}$ " wide -- 90" total, scraps work good for this.

Assembling the block: Use a quarter inch seam

- Press the 4" squares on both diagonals. Align a ruler $\frac{3}{8}$ " from one diagonal using the press mark as a guide. Cut off this small triangle (photo 2.) Repeat for each 4" square. Sew a 6" strip to the edge of each of the larger pieces. Press seam open.
- Refer to photo 3. Use the press mark you made on the other diagonal and line up the point of the small triangle with press mark and align the cut edge with the other side of the strip just sewn on. Sew this seam and press seams open.
- Now we want you to trim just the inner edges of these squares which are the edges you just sewed together. Make a mark at the 3.5" point on two adjoining edges of a ruler that is at least 4" square. (See photo 4). Line up these marks with the inner edge of the strip you sewed into the square. Make sure your block extends under the ruler to be at least 3.5" square and trim the two edges with seams.
- Divide these new squares into four groups with two squares of fabric 1 and one each of fabrics 2 & 3 in each group. Arrange the groups into 4-patches in a pattern that pleases you. The first photo shows one possible arrangement, but keep in mind the small triangles should all point to the middle of each 4-patch. Sew together each 4-patch by sewing each row of two together and pressing center seams in opposite directions, then sew the two rows together, nesting the the center seam.
- Now arrange you 4-patches 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 5. 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 $12\frac{1}{2}$ " X $12\frac{1}{2}$ " square up ruler, place it over the block. Make sure there is fabric under all parts of the ruler and trim to $12\frac{1}{2}$ " X $12\frac{1}{2}$ ". You can make it wonky or not, it is your decision what you like best.

We think this block would make a beautiful quilt mixed with large versions of the block that are just one 4-patch.

Adriane Ridder & Shelly McNeely
Block of the Month Coordinators

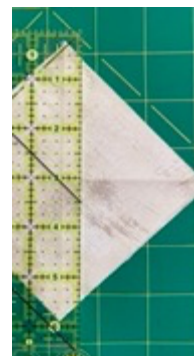


Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

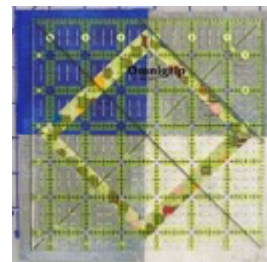


Photo 5