

Quiltmakers Puzzle BOM

Credit to: Quiltmakers May/June '02 Magazine

The New Quick & Easy Block Tool! Reference Guide (for measurements) Blocks Designed by Leanna Williams for the Quilters Guild of Plano

Overview: This block of the month project is a study of value and fabric selection. All the blocks in this quilt are constructed the same, but by creative placement of colors and their values, each block looks distinctly different from the next.

About Value: The value of a color, its lightness or darkness, plays a more important role in a quilt design than the actual color. When value is used well, it can create depth, add emphasis, as well as add a lot of interest to a quilt. If you have ever finished a quilt top and found that the colors look “muddied” or the pattern seemed to be lost, you may have suffered from the mistake of only having one value in your quilt, thus making it appear washed out. Here are some tips to help you when picking out your fabrics:

- Is there enough contrast between your color choices? Try taking a black and white photo on your cell phone. By doing this, it turns everything to grayscale making true color values more obvious.
- Distinguishing darks from mediums or lights is important when working with color value. To make this easier, try organizing your colors from light to dark.
- Try auditioning different fabrics to make sure that you have a good value of colors. Take photos on your phone and flip back and forth to compare.
- Don't have a camera phone? Try turning down the lights and squinting your eyes. Viewing your fabric in low light allows you to focus on value contrasts. Or, put some distance between you and your fabric by standing across the room.
- Once you are pretty sure of your fabrics, ask a friend! Most often two heads are better than one!

General Instructions: I have provided a swatch sheet to help keep your fabric choices organized. Please attach your fabric swatches securely. Each month you will receive a different pattern that will use these same fabrics. The block construction will remain the same, but the color placements and cutting instructions will reference your color swatch page. Fabric requirements have been given (on the fabric swatch page) to account for mistakes but does not include yardage for sashing and borders. I would highly suggest waiting until all your blocks are made before you pick out these fabrics.

Fabric Selection Guidance: You'll need (1) multicolored theme fabric and (7) tone-on-tone fabrics in different values. You can use prints instead of the tone-on-tone fabrics, but keep in mind, prints can be more difficult to decipher their value. Take the fabric swatch sheet with

you to the shop (or your stash) when picking your fabrics to help remind you of what you need. And don't forget to have fun!

How to Read the Cutting Chart

| FOR | CUT | NEED | SIZE |
|-----|-----|------|-------|
| T | 4 □ | 4 □ | 2 1/2 |
| M1 | 2 □ | 4 ▧ | 2 7/8 |

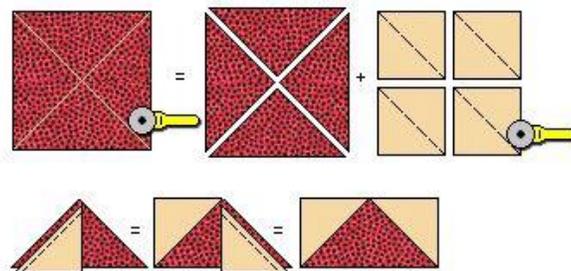
FOR Column: This column refers to which fabric you will be cutting. Reference your swatch page to stay organized.

CUT Column: This column lets you know how many squares you will cut.

NEED Column: This column lets you know if you will need to cut down the square from corner to corner making two triangles, or possibly four. Look at the cutting instructions in the above chart for fabric M1. You need to cut two squares, then cut them on the diagonal to give you four triangles.

SIZE Column: Lastly, this column tells you what size squares you will be cutting for a particular fabric. Using M1 once again as our example, you will cut out two 2 7/8" squares. Then you will cut them on the diagonal, giving you the four triangles that you need.

Making Flying Geese When Not Using the "Quick Flying Geese Method"



All the flying geese in each of the block patterns can be done using the "Quick Flying Geese Method", **with the exception of block number 9**. Due to the unique color placement of block number 9, this method is not used. Above is a diagram for how to put together flying geese using the traditional method.



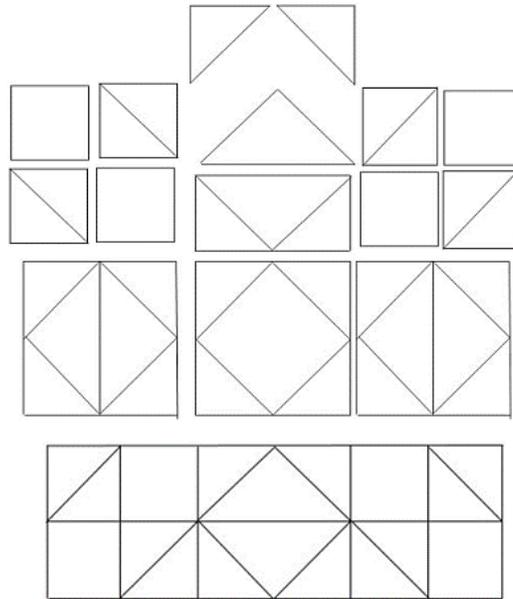
The above picture illustrates how to properly line up your triangles before you sew them together, when using the traditional piecing method. The bottom corner should meet up, leaving the dog ear at the top. Sew along the long edge of the triangle and then flip open and iron. Repeat with the other side and you have a finished flying geese block. Although you can make flying geese using either method, **I highly recommend** using the “Quick Flying Geese Method” when applicable to save time. A tutorial for this method can be found on the QGP website under Resources, How To: Quilting Tips and Tuts #8- Quick Piecing Flying Geese. On each pattern you receive, I have noted which pieces will be cut for the flying geese, giving you the option of using either method. If you plan on using the quick method and are unfamiliar with it, print out the instructions and keep them with your patterns for easy reference.

Tips to Stay Organized

- Use a binder to organize these instructions, and keep your patterns and fabric swatch page all in one place.
- Use a scrapbook case to keep your fabrics and blocks all together. These bins are only a few dollars and can be found at Michaels. They are flat and measure about 14 inches square, allowing your finished blocks to lay flat and not become wrinkled.
- When cutting, keep your fabric and scraps for each color together, in one stack. As you cut a color, move it into the “already cut” pile to keep track of which colors you have cut and which you haven’t. That way, you ensure that you cut everything out for each block.
- If you are not planning on piecing your block after you have cut it, put the pieces into a zip lock bag, labeled with the block number.
- Do not trim your blocks as you go. Wait until you have finished all blocks before you do any trimming. Also, be careful not to trim off the points off your flying geese and half square triangles.
- Number your blocks as you go by pinning a number to them to keep track of what block they are. In the event that you like a block enough to make a second, you will be able to tell easily which one it is.
- Take a picture of your completed blocks as you go and label them. Once your quilt is quilted and bound, you won’t remember which block is which. By having color photos,

using this pattern again in the future will be easier when you have your photos to serve as examples.

Block Assembly Diagram



Use the diagram above to help guide you in putting your blocks together. Breaking up your 12" block into units can make assembly a little easier. Remember to press seams open, or nest seams when applicable to reduce bulk.

Let's Get Started!

Good luck! Remember to stay organized and this block of the month should be a breeze! The last blocks will be released in March of next year, as will a couple of options for block layouts. Our goal is to have quilts quilted and bound so we can have a special exhibit in the 2019 show. I know it is a tight schedule, but you can do it! Even if you only finish four of the blocks, we can still exhibit a smaller quilt in the show!