

# December 2024 - Block of the Month

## Crossroads-Under Ground Railroad



Materials Needed: (Cutting mat, ruler, rotary cutter, and iron)

1. Background fabric: (3) 5" squares for side triangles, (9) 2 3/8" squares, and (2) 3" squares for corners.
2. Contrast fabric: (16) 2 3/8" squares

Instructions:

Step 1: Cut the (3) 5" squares into (4) triangles

Step 2: Line up the squares as follows in stacks of two except for the center strip.

- A. Center: 4 contrast squares alternating with 3 background squares (Row 4)
- B. Rows 1 and 7: One contrast square flanked by side triangles (3 units)
- C. Rows 2 and 6: Two contrast squares surrounding a background square flanked by side triangles (5 units)
- D. Rows 3 and 5: Three contrast squares alternating with 2 backgrounds squares flanked by side triangles (7 units)



\*This picture shows the layout, before stitching, with the corner triangles in position as well.

Step 3: Sew each strip together using 1/4" seams and press toward alternate sides to allow seams to sit together nicely in rows.

Step 4: Sew the rows together, watching the placement of the side triangles.

Step 5: Cut the two 3" squares into equal triangles and sew to the corners.

Step 6: Trim to 10" or 10.5" to match the other blocks in the series.

**\*\*The reason I put a border on my block was that I used 2" squares and it was too small. 2 1/2" squares will give you a 12" inch block.**



Now what: I've got all these mismatched blocks from incomprehensible instructions (except where Bonny translated into Quilt speak), do I make 12 potholders or what?

My plan is to put these in the Ozella McDaniel Williams order as stated above, probably without sashing. I have purchased the 14th Amendment on printable fabric for backing, and also plan to include a map of the routes enslaved people took to get out of slavery.

In case you didn't know, we have a Black History Trail in Portsmouth, and we had free and enslaved Black people living in Keene (aka Upper Ashuelot) in the censuses of the early 1800s. While we think of the North as never participating in slavery, the Northern colonies did and indigenous peoples as well as Africans were enslaved. By the time of the Constitution, most had abandoned the practice.