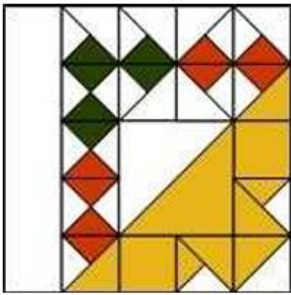


September 2024 - Block of the Month

The Basket-Under Ground Railroad



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

1. 1/3 yard of a light solid background fabric. Cut a 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 3" rectangle to form the left border of the block. Cut one 5" square for space between basket top and handle. Cut twelve 4" squares for combination units and quarter square triangles.
2. $\frac{1}{4}$ yard Basket base (Color A): Cut a 5" square for the center half-square triangle, cut two 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares and cut five 4" squares.
3. 1 or 2 fat quarters for handles (Colors B & C): Cut four 4" squares of Color B and three 4" squares of Color C or seven total squares. These will be used for combination units and quarter square triangles to make the design as shown.

Instructions: HST=Half Square Triangles

Step 1: Place background and basket 5" squares right sides together and make a HST. You will end up with two of them. Trim to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square. Press to the dark side.

Step 2: Make four HST's using 2 squares each of (Color A) and (Background) fabric. Trim 2 of the HST's to 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ " square. Do NOT trim the other 2 HST's yet. They are used in the next step. Carefully align your ruler to achieve the correct placement and size of the triangles when trimming.

Step 3: Make combination units by combining a HST unit with a (Color A) square. Mark, sew and cut perpendicular to the seam of the HST to create two combination units. Trim to the final measurement of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".



Step 4: Sew one of the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (Color A) squares and one combination block together to be on one side of the center HST and then sew together. Press to the darker color, or to the best side to minimize bulk at the seam and make the triangles approximate correctly. (Note: You will be correct if you

notice that I did not trim the blocks correctly. This is where the deviation from perfection started. But I committed to a "full steam ahead" approach.)



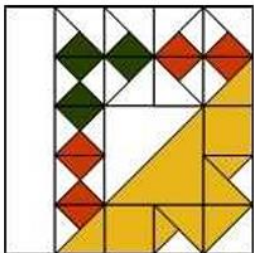
Step 5: Place the HST to the right of the combination block and add a combination block and the second 2 1/2" square to the row. Sew the three units together and then attach it to the right side of the middle HST. Even up the edges slightly if needed and press to the darker color.



Step 6: The next rows build the handle for the block. You will make 8 combination blocks and 3 quarter square triangles. First, make 8 HST's with (Background) and (Color B) and 6 HST with (Background) and (Color C). Do NOT trim yet. Create the follow combination units: (Background/Color B) HST with (Color A) twice; (Background/Color B) HST with Background twice; (Background/Color C) with Background twice. Trim 3 of the (Background/Color B) and (Background/Color C) units to 2 1/2" square. Also trim the 2 (Background/color B/Color A) units for the ends of the basket.

Step 7: You will also make 1 quarter square triangle (QST) with (Color B), one with (Color C) and one with (Color B and C) alternating. To make a quarter square triangle you position two HST's with the dark sides on opposite sides of each other and cut perpendicular to the original sewing line. Carefully align the diagonals. Trim the needed QST's to 2 1/2" square.

Step 8: Assemble the units as shown below. When all the other pieces have been assembled, add the 3" x 10 3/4" rectangle on the left side of the block and trim the block to 10 1/2" square.



For reference on how to do all this triangulation and trimming, you can get assistance at Studio180Design.net and other sites that describe how to get these QST and combination units perfect.