

October 2024 - Block of the Month

The Wheel-Under Ground Railroad



Materials Needed

(Cutting mat, 8-1/2 x 8-1/2 or larger square ruler rotary cutter, and iron)

Background fabric (a little less than half of a fat quarter) Cut 4- 6 1/2-inch squares and 4- 2 1/2-inch squares

Wheel fan wedges: Cut 12- 3 3/4 x 4 1/4-inch rectangles in a variety of colors

Instructions:

1. Prepare 4 fan templates on tracing paper or just copy the template giving you 4 fans to make one full block.
2. Cut around templates outside the 1/4-inch seam line.
3. Place one wedge right side up on either right or left fan of wrong side of foundation paper, overlapping the seam line by 1/4 inch. This does not have to be completely accurate. Place a second wedge face down on the first, again overlapping the seamline and sew on that line from the right side of the foundation paper.
4. Fold paper away from seam line, trim excess fabric to 1/4 inch and finger press top wedge covering the center fan. Repeat with third rectangle for that block, trim, press gently and set aside. Repeat this with 4-wheel fans. (See Fig. 1)



5. Trim around the wheel fans at the 1/4-inch seam line. Do not remove paper yet.

6. Attach outside border piece by matching the center lines of the cut border with the wheel fan. Pin right sides together at that point. Starting from one edge, match the excess border piece with the edge of the fan and gently ease to the center pin, then ease around the rest of the seam. You will probably have excess. Don't worry. Repeat this for the remaining fans and outside borders. (See Fig. 2-4)



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4

7. In a similar fashion, match the center of the inside border piece with the center of the smaller side of the fans. Sew together in a similar manner. This will be more difficult.
8. When all 4 are finished, press flat and remove paper.

9. Trimming the blocks. This is best done using a square ruler (8.5 or 9.5) with a diagonal (45 degree) line. Do the outside border first. Place the diagonal line at the corner of the block and line it up with the center line you matched to place the borders on the block. Leave 3/4 inch between the fan and the outside of the border and cut around the outside edge of the border, squaring the block. Then, keeping the same alignment, trim the center and sides of the block to 5 1/2 inches. (Figs. 5 & 6)



Fig 5



Fig 6

10. Press the blocks flat and line them up, matching the edges of the fan with each other. (Fig 7) Sew together and then give the block a final press. You may need to trim it to make 10" but you should have a reasonably circular wheel at the end of this.





