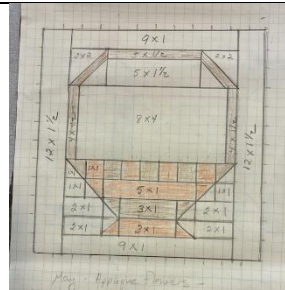


May 2026 Block of the Month

May Basket – designed by Maurine Henry

This month I wanted to do a May basket with flowers but could not find any free patterns that met my needs so I decided to create one from scratch. After trying to design pieced flowers to fit in the basket without much success, I decided to go with my least favorite piecing technique, raw edge applique.

Here is my draft of the basket. I drew on graph paper with each square indicating $\frac{1}{2}$ " inch. The numbers on each piece indicate finished size. From this I added $\frac{1}{2}$ " to each dimension, except for the angled basket handle pieces (I used 3" squares) and the $\frac{1}{2}$ " square triangles (2" squares)
The finished block is 12" square (12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " unfinished).



Materials

Fabric (A), Fabric (B),
Fabric (C) (background)

Fabric A – includes handle

- 2 – 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 1" rectangles
- 1 – 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 1" rectangle
- 2 – 5" X 1" rectangle
- 3 – 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares
- 1 – 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle
- 2 – 2" squares

Fabric B

- 4 – 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares
- 1 – 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle
- 1 – 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle
- 2 – 2" squares

Fabric C (background)

- 2 - 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 2" rectangles
- 2 – 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles
- 4 – 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles
- 2 - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares
- 2 – 3" squares
- 1 – 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 2 " rectangle
- 1 – 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle
- 4 - 2" squares

Directions

Half Square triangles:

- Draw line $\frac{1}{4}$ " on either side of the diagonal on each of the 2" (C) background squares
- Match these squares with the 2 color (A) 2" squares, and the 2 color (B) 2" squares
- Right sides together, stitch on the drawn lines.
- Cut between the lines (on the diagonal)
- Press to the dark side
- Trim to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square



The basket is put together in rows starting with the **bottom row.**









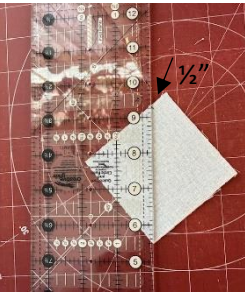
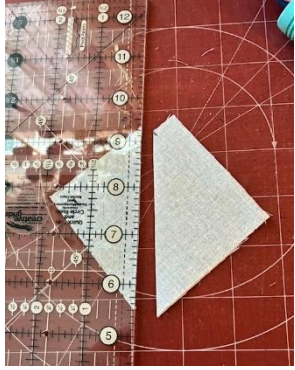


- 2 – 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (C) rectangle
- 2 – (B) 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "- $\frac{1}{2}$ square triangle blocks
- 1 – 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (B) rectangle
- Sew the blocks together as shown
- Press seams to the left
- Piece should measure 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "



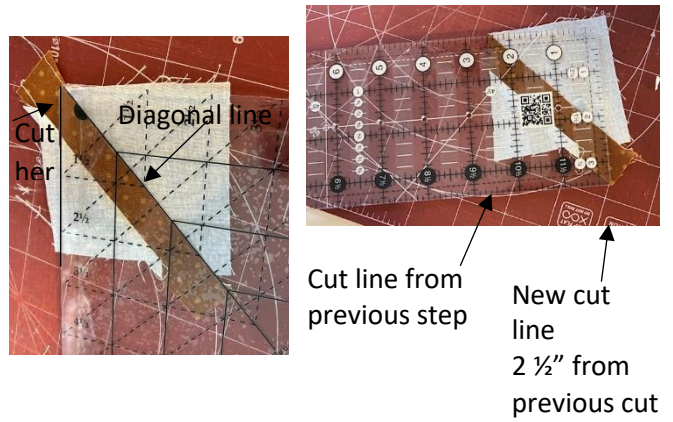
Next row

- 2 – 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (C) rectangles
- 2 – (A) 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "- $\frac{1}{2}$ square triangle blocks

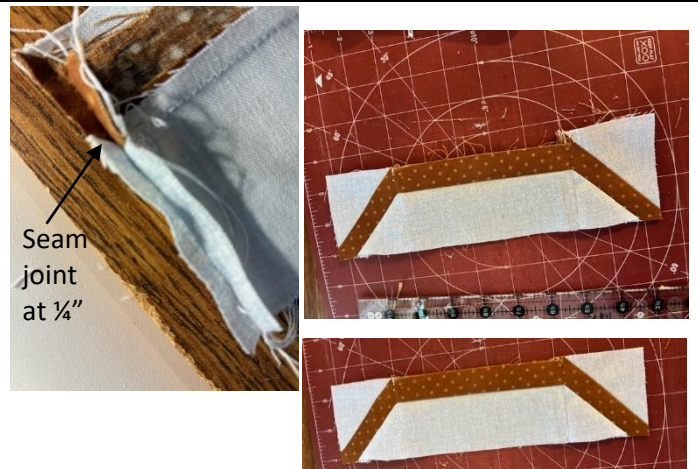


<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 – 3 ½" X 1 ½" (A) rectangle • Sew the blocks together as shown • Press seams to the right • Piece should measure 9 ½" X 1 ½" 	
<p>Next row</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2 – 1 ½" squares (C) ➤ 2 – (B) 1 ½" - ½ square triangle blocks ➤ 1 – 5 ½" X 1 ½" (B) rectangle • Sew the blocks together as shown • Press seams to the left • Piece should measure 9 ½" X 1 ½" 	 
<p>Top row of basket</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2 – (A) 1 ½" - ½ square triangle blocks ➤ 4 – 1 ½" X 1 ½" (B) blocks ➤ 3 – 1 ½" X 1 ½" (A) blocks • Place blocks in line alternating A and B as shown • (It is important to have accurate cutting and ¼" seams here as the finished row should measure 9 ½" X 1 ½") Ask me how I know. • Press seams to the right 	 
<p>Side handle row</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2 – 4 ½" x 1" (A) rectangles ➤ 1 - 8 ½" X 4 ½" (C) rectangle • Place the (A) rectangles on each side of the (C) rectangle and sew in place • Press seams to the left • Piece should measure 9 ½" X 4 ½" 	
<p>Top handle row</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2 – 3" (C) squares ➤ 2 – 5" X 1" (A) rectangles ➤ 1 – 5 ½" X 2" (C) rectangle ➤ 1 – 5 ½" X 1" (A) rectangle • Sew the 5 ½" X 2" background (C) rectangle to the 5 ½" X 1" (A) rectangle, should now measure 5 ½" X 2 ½" <p>Corner pieces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place the 3" (C) squares, right sides together on a cutting mat. • Measure ½" from the top right corner • Place a ruler from the marked point to the opposite corner point • Cut (Make sure to keep your square pieces together as you are making mirror image pieces) 	     

- Place the 1" X 5" (A) rectangle along the cut edge of the larger piece. Stitch a ¼" seam, press
- Line up the smaller triangle on the other side of the (A) rectangle, stitch ¼" seam, press open
- The picture shows the right hand side handle
- I used my Tucker Trimmer for this step. I lined up the diagonal line with the top of the (A) strip and trimmed the block so that the handle piece was square to the top.
- Next measure 2 ½" from that cut line, and cut a parallel line, see illustration. You will trim the top and bottom of the piece after it is sewn in place. This allows for lining up the pieces correctly.
- Repeat for the left side creating a mirror image piece.

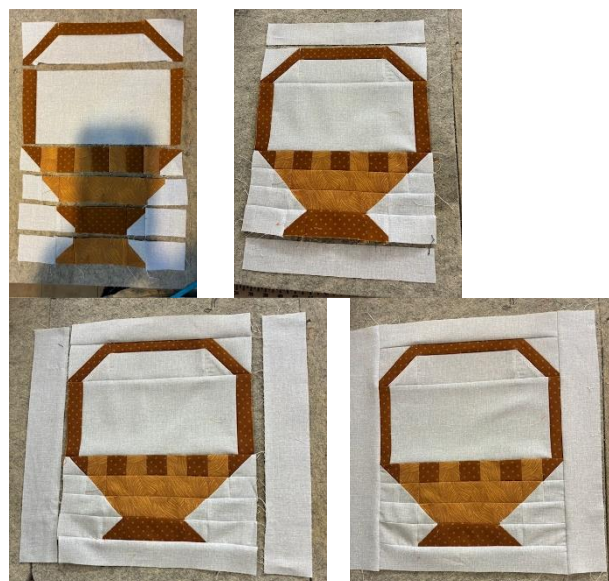


- When lining up the pieces, the smaller triangle is at the inner bottom.
- Line up the corner piece with the center piece trying to get the seam to line up at ¼". The corner square piece may extend a bit above the center piece on each end. (This is why it wasn't trimmed earlier)
- Trim the finished row so that it measures 2 ½" X 9 ½"



Putting it together

- Lay out the basket rows
- Stitch together (You might notice that I switched the bottom two rows, I like how it looked so I left it.)
- Add the 9 ½" X 1 ½" (C) rectangles to top and bottom of basket
- Add the 12 ½" X 2" (C) rectangles to each side of the basket



<p>Now we are ready for some flowers!</p>	
<p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scraps of green, yellow, and 2 colors for each flower. I used 2 shades of blue, purple, orchid • Misty fuse or other 2 sided fusible web • Nonstick ironing/pressing sheet, one for top and one for bottom or one large enough to fold over the top of project • Copy of patterns, small scissors, optional Small Leaves Galore template from Sue Pelland Designs 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere the misty fuse or fusible web to back of fabric scraps as per product directions 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trace pattern pieces onto the back of fabric scraps • (If you have Sue Pelland's Leaves galore templates you can just use the smallest ruler to cut your pieces, which is what I used to create the stem and leaf patterns.) • Cut out all your pieces. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position small flower in center of larger flower on nonstick ironing sheet • place another nonstick pressing sheet on top of flowers • press as per product directions • add the small circle to the center of each flower • cover, and press 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut stem section into 3 pieces • Position stems, leaves, and flowers in your finished basket • Cover with pressing sheet (be careful not to move any of your pieces) • Press as per product directions 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Machine stitch along the edges of all pieces. • If you have an applique foot for your machine, now is the perfect opportunity to use it. • I used a straight stitch around the stems, leaves, flower petals, and a blanket stitch around the center circles. • To add a bit more character, I added straight stitching from the circle to the valley of each petal 	

A few notes:

- I used the darker color when choosing my thread for the flowers and stitched inside and outside petals using the same thread. I used green thread for the leaves and yellow for the flower centers.
- I chose to make just 3 flowers, you can add what you would like, or add different flowers or smaller flowers to the basket. Feel free to applique flowers in your preferred style.



For this month's runner I added 1 ¼" (Finished at ¾") sashing between the blocks and a 2 ½" border.

