## The Craftsy Block of the Month

Specific fabrics and a cutting chart are included in each month's block patterns. Here's a list of everything you'll need all year to complete your quilt!

Fabric

- Solid fabric (Robert Kaufman Kona Cotton Solids in Snow, or your choice) - 4 yards ( 3.75 m ) will give you enough for background, sashing and border.
- Binding fabric of your choice - $1 / 2$ yard
- Backing fabric of your choice-41/2 yards
- Batting - The quilt is $55^{\prime \prime} \times 68 \frac{1}{2}$ " ( 3.75 m ). If you buy batting prepackaged by bed size, in most brands, this is a twin. Off a 96" (244 cm) roll, you'll need 2 yards (2 m).
- 35 fat quarters (FQ) in a variety of prints and colors (Free Spirit Fabrics' Boho by Annette Tatum, or your choice) - l'm working with a 35 -print bundle, but I'll probably have a few unused fat quarters at the end, of prints I chose not to incorporate. You may not need 35 exactly; it really depends on which fabrics you choose for which blocks, as it's a very scrappy quilt. I'm not sure l'd go out and purchase 35 individual FQs , but if you're buying a bundle, a 36-print one will be perfect.
- Thread - I use a huge $3,600-y$ yard
( $3,292 \mathrm{~m}$ ) cone of off-white Presencia 50 -weight cotton thread, which will last me for several quilting projects. Keep in mind that you'll need additional thread of your choice to complete the quilting.


## Tools \& Supplies

- Rotary culter and mat
- Fabric scissors
- Sewing machine
- Iron
- Water-soluble fabric marker/pen
- Faultless Heavy Starch
- 24 " clear quilt ruler
- $121 / 22^{\prime \prime}$ square quilt ruler
- $41 / 2$ " square ruler for half square triangles
- Fabric glue stick
- Templates (optional, see patterns)
- Template plastic, or cardboard
- Hand sewing needle

Note: Quilt rulers come in English measurements.

## Block No. 1 - January



## Materials

- One fat quarter or $12^{\prime \prime}(30.5 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ width of fabric (WOF) of print fabric
- $4^{\prime \prime}(10 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF of background fabric


## Cutting

- Cut one 12" ( 30.5 cm ) square from print fabric
- Cut two 2" x 40" ( $5 \mathrm{~cm} \times 102 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) strips from background fabric


## Construction

1. Align ruler to opposite corners and cut the square in half diagonally.
2. Beginning $1^{\prime \prime}(2.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ in from the end of the strip, stitch the strip to the diagonal edge of one triangle. Press seam allowance toward the darker fabric.
3. Aligning straight sides of the triangle, fold in half and finger press the strip to mark its center. In the same way, fold the remaining triangle in half and finger press to mark the center of its diagonal edge.
4. Matching center folds, stitch remaining triangle to other edge of the strip. Press seam allowances toward the darker fabric.
5. Trim the strip to $1^{\prime \prime}(2.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ beyond the corner.
6. Align the ruler diagonally in the opposite direction and cut in half.
7. Repeat Steps 2 through 6.
8. Now fold this square in half horizontally and finger press to mark halfway points.
9. Align your ruler along these marks and cut in half horizontally.
10. Stitch a background strip between these cut edges as you did in Steps 2-6.
11. Press and trim.
12. Repeat Steps 8 through 10 now in the vertical direction.
13. Center the design and trim the block to a $12 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}(32 \mathrm{~cm})$ square.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month with Amy Giteson (2) patiems

## Wonky Pound Sign Block Pattern

## Block No. 2 - Jamuary



## Materials

- One fat quarter or $3^{\prime \prime}(8 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ width of fabric $(W O F)$ of print fabric
- $12.5^{\prime \prime}(32 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF of background fabric

Cutting

- Cut one 12.5" (32 cm) square from background fabric
- Cut four $1.5^{\prime \prime} \times 18^{\prime \prime}(4 \mathrm{~cm} \times 46 \mathrm{~cm})$ strips from print fabric (if using fat quarter) or cut two $1.5^{\prime \prime} \times 40$ " ( 4 cm x 102 cm ) strips from print fabric (if using yardage)


## Construction

1. Cut an off-centered, angled (wonky) verticle line through the 12½" (32 cm) square. Add and press a strip just as you did for the Asterisk Block. Trim the strip back to the top edge. Repeat with another vertical strip.
2. Cut a wonky horizontal line and again stitch in a strip. Repeat with another horizontal strip.
3. Trim the block to a $12^{1 / 21}$ " $(32 \mathrm{~cm})$ square. Since it's wonky, you don't need to center the design.

The Craftsy Block of the Month with Amy gilbsen 2

## Balkan Puzzle Block Pattern

## Block No. 3 - February



## Materials

- Two print fabric fat quarters or $51 / 2^{\prime \prime}(14 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF of two print fabrics
- $51 / 2^{\prime \prime}(14 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF of background fabric


## Tools

- 4½" (11.5 cm) square ruler (optional but very helpful)


## Cutting

- Cut two 5½" (14 cm) squares from Print 1
- Cut two 5½" (14 cm) squares from Print 2
- Cut four $51 / 2^{\prime \prime}(14 \mathrm{~cm})$ squares from background fabric


## Construction

1. Layer a print and background square together and pin.
2. Sew $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam around the entire square, stopping $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ from each corner and pivoting with the needle down to sew the adjacent side.
3. Line up the ruler corner to opposite corner and cut the square diagonally. Being careful not to move the square, now cut diagonally in the opposite direction.
4. Open each of the four squares, press seam allowances toward the darker fabric, and trim the dog ears. Edges on these units are on the bias, so be careful not to stretch them as you press and sew.
5. Repeat for the seven remaining pairs.
6. Arrange units as shown in the illustration.
7. Stitch together each of the four rows.
8. Press seam allowances in the first and third rows in one direction. Press the allowances in the second and fourth in the opposite direction.
9. Nest seam allowances, pin, and join rows in order.
10. Press these seam allowances open or to the side.
11. Square up to $12^{1 / 21}(32 \mathrm{~cm})$ exactly, if not already.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month

## Chunky Chevron Block Pattern

## Block No. 4 - Feleruary



## Materials

- Three print fabric fat quarters or $41 / 2^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF of three print fabrics
- $41 / 2^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF of background fabric


## Tools

- $41 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ ( 11.5 cm ) square ruler (optional but very helpful)


## Cutting

- Cut one $4 ½^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) square from Print 1
- Cut one $41 / 2^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ square from Print 2
- Cut four $312^{\prime \prime}(9 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) squares from Print 3 (These will not be half-square triangles, so set them aside for now)
- Cut four $41 / 2^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ squares from Print 3
- Cut six 4½" (11.5 cm) squares from background fabric


## Construction

1. Draw diagonal lines on the wrong side of all six background squares.
2. Pair each print square (except those set aside) with a background square, right sides together, with the drawn line facing up. You will have six pairs. Pin each pair together.
3. Stitch a scant $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ away from the drawn line through each pair, chain piecing as you go. Remove this chain from the sewing machine, turn it around and again stitch $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) away from the line along the other side.
4. Cut squares in half diagonally along the drawn lines. Flip each pair open with the prints on top and press toward the darker fabric. Clip threads to separate the squares.
5. Centering the diagonal seam, trim each square to $31 / 2^{\prime \prime}(9 \mathrm{~cm})$. Trim away the dog ears.
6. Referring to the block illustration, lay out the zigzag pattern, including four 3½" (9 cm) squares from Print 3.
7. Stitch together each of the four rows.

The Craftsy Block of the Month

## Chunky Chevron Block Pattern

8. Press seam allowances in the first and third rows in one direction. Press the allowances in the second and fourth in the opposite direction.
9. Nest seam allowances, pin, and join rows in order.
10. Press these seam allowances open or to the side.
11. Square up to $12^{1 ⁄ 21}$ " ( 32 cm ) exactly, if not already.


## The Craftsy Block of the Month

## Block No. 5 - March



## Materials

- Assorted scrap strip prints (or cut them fresh from FQs as you go)
- $61 / 2^{\prime \prime}(16.5 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF of background fabric

Tools

- Pencil


## Cutting

- Cut four 6.5" ( 16.5 cm ) squares from background fabric
- Cut 30 to 40 strips 1"-2" ( $2.5 \mathrm{~cm}-5 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) wide from the assorted FQs (if not using existing scraps)


## Construction

1. At one corner of a background square, make pencil marks 1" $(2.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ out on both its adjacent sides. Do the same to the opposite corner.
2. With right sides together, line up one long 10" ( 25.5 cm ) strip of print fabric with two corresponding 1" ( 2.5 cm ) marks, going across the square diagonally. The width of your strip should extend toward the center of the square. Pinning is recommended but optional.
3. Stitch $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ from this edge of the strip. Flip the strip right side up and press. Trim away any excess strip length.
4. Now choose another strip and align it to the raw edge of your first strip, right sides together and width extending toward the center of the square.
5. Stitch another $1 / 44^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam, flip, press and trim. Continue this process until strips completely cover the corner.
6. Repeat this entire process on the opposite half of your square, aligning its first strip to the remaining marks, width of the strip toward the center of the square.

The Craftsy Block of the Month
7. Once this entire corner is covered, flip the square over and trim off excess ends of the strips down to the original 612" (16.5 cm) square.
8. Repeat with remaining three squares to create four total.
9. Arrange the blocks as shown in the illustration, join in two rows of two blocks each and then join the row. Press the seam allowances open. Your block should measure 12½" (32 cm) square.


## The Craftsy Block of the Month

## Broken Spider Web Block Pattern

## Block No. 6 - March



## Materials

- Assorted scrap strip prints (or cut them fresh from FQs as you go)
- $131 / 2^{\prime \prime}(34 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF of background fabric

Tools

- Water-soluble fabric marker


## Cutting

- Cut one 13½" 34 cm ) square from background fabric
- Cut various scrap prints 3"-10" (7.5 cm-25.5 cm) long x 1"-2" ( $2.5 \mathrm{~cm}-5 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) wide


## Construction

1. Using your ruler as a guide, cut the square along the diagonal both ways to make four triangles.
2. Fold and finger press to mark the center of the long side of each triangle. Measure and mark $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ up from the edge on the center fold line. See the video for details.
3. Measure and mark 7" ( 18 cm ) in from the outer corner on both sides of all four triangles.
4. Align ruler from the center mark to one of the 7" ( 18 cm ) marks and add an extra $1 / 4$ " (not $1 / 2$ ") for seam allowance. Draw a line connecting them with a water-soluble fabric marker. Repeat on both sides of all four triangles.
5. RST, align the edge of a strip along the marked line with the width of the strip toward the center corner, and stitch using $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam allowance.
6. Flip this strip over. Press and trim any excess length.

## The Crafisy Block of the Monih

## Broken Spider Web Block Pattern

7. Fold back the background fabric that extends past this strip, so that now only the strip is exposed.
8. Add another strip. Repeat to cover the corner completely, folding open the background fabric corner after sewing each strip to make sure the sewn strips follow the angle of the corner and extend beyond the edges.
9. Repeat this process for both sides of all four triangles.
10. Flip them, just as you did with the String Block, and trim excess strips to the size of the original background fabric triangles.
11. Fold pieced corners back to trim background fabric down to ¼" (6 mm ) from the first strip seam.
12. Stitch two pairs together and press seam allowances open. Stitch both sections together, taking care to align the center seams. Press this seam allowance open.
13. Centering the design, trim the block to
 12½" (32 cm) square.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month

## Hexi Stripe Block Pattern

Block No. 7 - April

Materials

- 13 print fabric scraps, each at least $3 ½^{\prime \prime}(9 \mathrm{~cm})$ squares
- $121 / 22^{\prime \prime}(32 \mathrm{~cm})$ square of background fabric
- Hand sewing needle
- Contrasting thread
- Starch (I use "Faultless Heavy Starch")
- Fabric glue stick
- 13 1¼" $(3 \mathrm{~cm})$ hexagon paper pieces

Pre-cut paper pieces are available from www.paperpieces.com.

## To Create Your Own Hexagons

- Template plastic or heavy cardboard (a piece of cereal-box cardboard works great)
- Copy paper
- $11 / 4{ }^{\prime \prime}(3.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ hexagon template from your course materials, printed and cut out

Trace around this printed paper template on template plastic or cardboard and cut it out to make a sturdy template. Then trace around the heavy-duty template on copy paper to make 13 hexagons.

Please note that the size of a hexagon is determined by the length of each side, not by the diameter of the entire piece.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month with Amy Gibson <br> 2 <br> Patterns <br> Hexi Stripe Block Pattern

## Construction

1. Position a hexagon paper piece in the center of the wrong side of one of your scraps. Add $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam allowance to all six sides, and cut around the shape using scissors or a rotary cutter. Keep the paper pinned to the patch. Repeat for the remaining 12 hexagon patterns.
2. Pin the fabric to the center of the paper piece using a single straight pin, or use a dab of fabric glue to keep the fabric in place.
3. Thread a needle and knot one strand. Fold one raw edge of the fabric over a straight line on the paper and hold in place, making sure the fabric is taut along the entire edge. Now fold an adjacent edge of fabric over the paper. Bring the needle up through both the fabric and the paper on the corner fold, $1 / \mathrm{s}^{\prime \prime}(3 \mathrm{~mm})$ from the edge. Continue folding and basting around the entire shape at each corner, leaving a 1 " $(2.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ tail at the end rather than a knot. Complete each hexagon patch this way.

## Culting

- Cut 13 3½" ( 8.5 cm ) squares from scraps, FQs or yardage
- Cut one $12 \frac{1}{2}$ " $(32.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ square from background fabric


## The Craftsy Block of the Monih

## Hexi Stripe Block Pattern

8. Position the stripe on the $12 \frac{1}{2 \prime \prime}$ ( 32 cm ) square of background fabric as desired, and dab fabric glue in the center of each hexagon to hold in place. The two patches extending beyond the background edges will be trimmed later.
Tip: You may pin the piece to your background fabric instead, but take care to avoid puckering. Some quilters prefer small dots of liquid fabric glue. I recommend using flat flower head pins. Experiment to find your own favorite method.
9. Appliqué the stripe to the background along the edges, using your preferred method. Consider a machine zigzag or straight stitch in matching or monofilament thread, or hand stitch using a blind stitch. There is no right or wrong way to appliqué these; each method has pros and cons and preferences vary with each quilter.

10. Centering the design, press and trim excess hexagon fabric even to $12 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}$ ( 32 cm ) background square.

## The Crafisy Block of the Month

 with Amy gibeorn 2
## Sunny With A Chance of Hex Block Pattern

## Block No. 8 - April



## Materials

- 15 or more warm-colored fabric scraps, at least $21 / 22^{\prime \prime}(6.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ square for the rays (Consider a variety of prints for a scrappy look, or one to four prints for a cleaner, more simplified look)
- One scrap at least 5 " ( 12.5 cm ) square for the sun
- One FQ or scrap of yardage at least $123 / 4$ " $\times 2 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}$ ( $32.5 \mathrm{~cm} \times 6.5 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) in green for the grass
- $123 / 4^{\prime \prime} \times 103 / 4^{\prime \prime}(32.5 \mathrm{~cm} \times 27.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ of background fabric
- Starch (I use "Faultless Heavy Starch")
- Fabric glue stick
- Hand sewing needle (like a Sharp No. 8 or No. 9)
- Contrasting thread
- $143 / 4^{\prime \prime}(2 \mathrm{~cm})$ hexagon paper pieces
- One 2" $(5 \mathrm{~cm})$ hexagon paper piece


## To Create Your Own Hexagons

- Template plastic or heavy cardboard (a piece of cereal-box cardboard works great)
- Typing paper
- 3/4" (2 cm) and 2" (5 cm) hexagon templates from your course materials, printed and cut out
(more)


## Sunny With A Chance of Hex Block Pattern

## Construction:

1. Stitch the green strip to the background fabric along the $12^{3} / 4^{\prime \prime}$ $(32.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ edge, right sides together, using a scant $1 / 4$ " ( 6 mm ) seam. Press your seam allowance toward the green and set aside.
2. To create the hexagon pieces for both the sun and the rays, position and pin an appropriate size hexagon paper piece in the center of the wrong side of one of your scraps. Add $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam allowance to all six sides and cut out the shape. Keep the paper template pinned on the patch. Repeat for the remaining hexagon patches.
3. Pin the fabric to the center of the paper piece using a single straight pin.
4. Thread a needle and knot one strand. For each hexagon, fold one raw edge of the fabric over a straight line on the paper and hold in place, making sure the fabric is
taut along the entire edge. Now fold an adjacent edge of fabric over the paper. Bring the needle up through both the fabric and paper on the corner fold, $1 / 8^{\prime \prime}(3 \mathrm{~mm})$ from the edge. Continue folding and basting around the entire shape at each corner, leaving a 1 " ( 2.5 cm ) tail at the end rather than a knot.

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## The Craftsy Block of the Month with Amy Gileson

## Sunny With A Chance of Hex Block Pattern

5. Arrange the smaller hexagons into rows to form the rays. Place two adjacent hexagons right sides together, and whip stitch along the side you want to join, knotting the thread at the beginning and end. Complete all the rays in this manner.
6. Starch and press the rows on both the front and back sides.
7. Clip the basting threads and remove them, along with the papers.
Tip: Remember to save the papers, as they can be re-used.
8. Using the block illustration as a guide, lay out your hexagons in a sunshine pattern as desired. Be sure to leave at least 1 " ( 2.5 cm ) between the edges of your patches and the edges of the background fabric, for later trimming and seam allowance.
9. Once you're pleased with your arrangement, stick in place using small amounts of fabric glue stick.

Tip: You may pin the piece to your background fabric instead, but take care to avoid puckering. Some quilters prefer small dots of liquid fabric glue. Experiment to find your own favorite method.
10. Appliqué the hexagon stripe to the background around the edges, using your preferred method. Consider a machine zigzag or straight stitch in matching or monofilament thread, or hand stitch using a blind stitch. There is no right or wrong way to appliqué these; each method has pros and cons and preferences vary with each quilter. Use your skill level, available time, and desired look to choose what's right for you.
11. Press the entire block and trim to $12 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}(32 \mathrm{~cm})$ square.

April Templates


## The Crafisy Block of the Month with Amy gitasorn 2 <br> Patterns

## Modern Log Cabin Block Pattern

## Block No. 9 - May



The nature of this block is extremely improvisational, with very liftle measuring or pre-cutting. You can almost count on your block not looking exactly like my sample block, and that's OK! Explore the idea of an entire quilt made of log cabin frame blocks, each unique and relatively unplanned. Dive into the excitement of designing the block (or letting it design itself!) as you stitch it.

Iron pressing (until the very end) and pinning are optional as well. Please add these steps if you like.

## Materials

- Variety of scrap strips from the background fabric, as well as three or more print fabrics, ranging from 1 " to 3 " ( 2.5 cm to 7.5 cm ) wide, and in a variety of lengths. If you don't have scraps, simply cut strips from the FQs or yardage you are working with. To save waste, you may cut as you go.


## Construction

1. Cut a $21 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ to $3^{\prime \prime}(6.5 \mathrm{~cm}$ to 7.5 cm$)$ square for the center of your block. A "fussy cut" would be great here, e.g., a specific, centered motif from your fabric, such as an animal or an object.
2. Choose a small strip of background fabric in any width; align an end and side edge with your square, right sides together, and stitch $1 / 4$ " ( 6 mm ) along one side.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month <br> with Amy Gileson 2

## Modern Log Cabin Block Pattern

3. With the pieces still right sides together, use scissors or a rotary blade to trim the extended end of the background strip even with the edge of the original square.
4. Finger press the strip open, rotate your piece counterclockwise, and align another background strip (again, any width), perpendicular to the first, right sides together, and stitch $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$.
5. Just as before, trim the end of the strip even with work, rotate, and add another background strip. Continue until your center square is framed by four background fabric strips.
6. Repeat this entire process, adding frames to your piece, alternating between the background fabric and print fabric for contrast. Consider experimenting with using different width strips within the same frame to throw the design off-center for a more asymmetrical look.
7. Continue adding frames (at least three or four) until your block measures at least $121 / 2^{\prime \prime}(32 \mathrm{~cm})$ on all four sides. Trim to a $12 \frac{1}{1} 2^{\prime \prime}(32 \mathrm{~cm})$ square as needed using your $121 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ ( 32 cm ) ruler.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month

 with Amy gibson 2 Patterns
## Wonky 5-Sided Log Cabin Block Pattern

## Block No. 10 - May ........................................



The nature of this block is extremely improvisational, with very little measuring or pre-cutting. You can almost count on your block not looking exactly like my sample block, and that's OK! Explore the idea of an entire quilt made of wonky 5 -sided log cabinblocks and/or Modern Log Cabin blocks. Dive into the excitement of designing the blocks (or letting them design themselves!) as you stitch them.

You will have to iron press this block, but pinning is still optional.

## Materials

- Variety of print scraps, strips, rectangles, squares and odd shapes - whatever you have left over from previous blocks should work well, and you can also cut fresh pieces from your fabric if you find your scrap selection lacking.


## Construction

1. Select a "square-ish" piece to start with for your center- around 3 " (7.5 cm ) works great.
Tip: A "fussy cut" would be great for this piece, e.g., a specific, centered motif from your fabric, such as an animal or an object), or perhaps a piece of your background fabric.
2. Select a scrap that is at least as long as the right side of your center piece. Stitch it on, right sides together, using a $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam.
Press the seam allowance toward the piece you just added (toward the outside of the block).

## The Craftsy Block of the Month with Amy Gileson 2

## Wonky 5-Sided Log Cabin Block Pattern

3. Trim the bottom edge of your block if needed and then sew another strip in the same fashion to the bottom edge. Press the seam allowance toward the piece you just added (toward the outside of the block).
4. Continue adding scraps, working around your piece in a clockwise direction, pressing and trimming as you go.
5. Once you've circled around your shape one or two times, cut off a corner (your choice) to avoid any obvious square angles from forming. This block is all about wonky, improvisational lines, not clean, right angles.
6. Continue this process until your block measures at least $121 / 2^{\prime \prime}(32 \mathrm{~cm})$ on all four "sides." Don't worry if your piece doesn't have nice straight edges, or doesn't even look like a square - it will once we trim it down. A $121 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ $(32 \mathrm{~cm})$ square ruler comes in very handy here, as you can simply place it over your block to see where more pieces are needed to reach past the $121 / 2{ }^{\prime \prime}(32 \mathrm{~cm})$ size.
7. Once your block has reached this size, simply square it up by placing the center markings of your $12 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}(32$ cm ) square ruler over your center piece, and align it however is most visually pleasing to you. Nothing will be "straight" in such a wonky block! Trim around the edges to create a perfect $12 \frac{1}{2}$ " square.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month

 with Amy Gileson
## Greek Cross Block Pattern

## Block No. 11 - June



## Materials

- One fat quarter or $51 / 2^{\prime \prime}(14 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF of print fabric 1 (corners)
- $41 / 2^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF of print fabric 2 (cross)
- $5 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}(14 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF of background fabric


## Cutting

- Cut two 5½" (14 cm) squares from print fabric 1 (corners)
- Cut one $4 ½^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ square from print fabric 2 (cross)
- Cut four $4 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime} \times 2^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm} \times 5 \mathrm{~cm})$ rectangles from print fabric 2
- Cut two $512^{\prime \prime}(14 \mathrm{~cm})$ squares from background fabric
- Cut four $4 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime} \times 3^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm} \times 7.6 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) rectangles from background fabric


## Construction

1. Pair a $4 \not 1 / 2^{\prime \prime} \times 2^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm} \times 5 \mathrm{~cm})$ print patch with a $41 / 22^{\prime \prime} \times 3$ " ( $11.5 \mathrm{~cm} \times 7.6$ cm ) background patch, right sides together, aligning two $41 / 22^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) edges. Using the scant $1 / 41$ " $(6 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) seam, chain piece the pairs along these matched edges.
2. Clip threads to separate the pieces, open, and press seam allowances toward the darker fabric.
3. Using a ruler and water-soluble pen, on the wrong side of each $51 / 22^{\prime \prime}$ ( 14 cm ) square of background fabric, draw a diagonal line from corner to opposite corner.

## The Crafitsy Block of the Month

 with Amy Gibson
## Greek Cross Block Pattern

4. Pair each $5 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}(14 \mathrm{~cm})$ background fabric square with a $5122^{\prime \prime}(14 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) print square, right sides together, and pin along the diagonal line. Pinning is optional, but recommended.
5. Stitch a scant $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam on each side of the drawn line. Repeat for the second pair.
6. Using a rotary blade or scissors, cut through both layers of fabric along the drawn line. Repeat for the second pair.
7. For each pair, press to set seam, open, and press the seam allowances toward the darker fabric. You have made four half square triangle blocks.
8. Trim each half square triangle block to $41 / 2^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ and set aside.
9. Using the block illustration as a guide, lay out all nine squares to create the block design.
10. Stitch the blocks together in rows of three, using a scant $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam allowance.
11. Press the seam allowances for rows 1 and 3 in one direction, and press the seam allowances for row 2 in the opposite direction.
12. Nest seam allowances together and stitch the rows together using a scant $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam. Press all these allowances in one direction.
13. Press the entire block, and trim to $12 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}(32 \mathrm{~cm})$ square if needed. Excess will be minimal, if any.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month

 with Amy ghloson
## Octagon Block Pattern

## Block No. 12 - June



## Materials

- One fat quarter or $51 / 2^{\prime \prime}(14 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF of print fabric
- $5 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}(14 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF of background fabric


## Cutting

- Cut two 5½" (14 cm) squares from print fabric
- Cut four $4 \not 1 / 2{ }^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ squares from print fabric
- Cut two $51 / 22^{\prime \prime}(14 \mathrm{~cm})$ squares from background fabric
- Cut one $41 / 2^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ square from background fabric


## Construction

1. Using ruler and water-soluble pen, across the wrong side of both $51 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ ( 14 cm ) squares of background fabric, draw a diagonal line from corner to opposite corner.
2. Pair each $5 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}(14 \mathrm{~cm})$ background fabric square with a $51 / 2^{\prime \prime}(14 \mathrm{~cm})$ print square, right sides together, and pin along the diagonal line. Pinning is optional, but recommended.
3. Stitch a scant $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam on each side of the drawn line. Repeat for the second pair.
4. Using a rotary blade or scissors, cut through both layers of fabric along the drawn line. Repeat.
5. Press to set seam, open, and press seam allowances toward the darker fabric. You have made four half square triangle blocks.
6. Trim all four half square triangle blocks to 4½" (11.5 cm) squares.

## The Crafisy Block of the Month with Amy Gileson

## Octagon Block Pattern

7. Using the block illustration as a guide, lay out all nine squares to create the octagon shape.
8. Stitch the blocks together in rows of three, using a scant $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ ( 6 mm ) seam allowance.
9. Press the seam allowances for rows 1 and 3 in one direction, and press the seam allowances for row 2 in the opposite direction.
10. Nest seam allowances together and stitch the rows together using a scant $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam. Press all these seam allowances in one direction.
11. Press the entire block, centering the design to a $121 / 2^{\prime \prime}(32 \mathrm{~cm})$ square if needed. Excess will be minimal, if any.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month

 with Amy giveson 2
## Traditional Dresden Plate Block Pattern

## Block No. 13 - July



## Materials

- 20 scraps, at least $3^{\prime \prime} \times 41122^{\prime \prime}(6.5 \mathrm{~cm} \times 10 \mathrm{~cm})$ - may be any variety of prints
- $121 / 2^{\prime \prime}(32 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF of background fabric
- Darlene Zimmerman's Easy Dresden tool, available wherever quilt notions are sold (optional)
- Template plastic - if not using Easy Dresden tool. A piece of cereal box cardboard works too!

To Create Your Template: (if not using Easy Dresden tool)

- Print the Dresden plate template on page 6 and cut it out with non-fabric scissors
- Trace around printed paper template onto template plastic or cardboard and cut it out with non-fabric scissors or a craft/utility blade


## Cutting

- Cut two $12^{3 / 4} 4^{\prime \prime}(32.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ squares from background fabric
- Using the circle template, pencil trace and cut out two 4" ( 10 cm ) circles from your background fabric
- Using either the template or the tool, and the smallest rotary cutter you have, cut out 20 blades (If you are using the Easy Dresden tool, align the edge of your fabric with the 4 " ( 10 cm ) marking, mark and cut around the remaining three sides)

The Crafisy Block of the Month with Amy Gileson (2) Patterns

## Traditional Dresden Plate Block Pattern

## Construction

1. Fold a blade in half, lengthwise, right sides together, making sure the corners of the wider end are aligned. Stitch $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam along this end (perpendicular to the fold) feeding the raw edges in first (fold toward you).
2. Chain piece all 20 blades in this fashion. Clip threads to separate blades.
3. Trim seam allowance to $1 / \mathrm{s}^{\prime \prime}(3 \mathrm{~mm})$ at the corner fold to reduce bulk, and turn the blade right side out. Use a knitting needle or scissors to gently push the point out.
4. Starch and press all 20 blades.
5. Next to your sewing machine, lay out the blades in a circle in the order you would like for your finished block.
6. Stitch two adjacent blades together along one of the long sides, right sides together, using a $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam.
7. Continue adding blades in this fashion as shown in the video, going all the way around the circle. Once all of your blades have been sewn together, sew the first and last blades together, right sides together, to complete the circle.
8. Press all seam allowances in the same direction. Starch and press the entire circle. Trim excess threads
9. Center the Dresden plate ring on the background square and pin it in place.

Tip: To find the center of the background square, fold in quarters, and finger press or iron the center point.
10. Appliqué the Dresden plate ring to the background square using your method of choice. Consider a blind stitch by hand, or a zigzag or straight stitch by machine if you prefer a faster option.
11. Using a $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam, with the right sides together stitch the two 4 " ( 10 cm ) background fabric circles together around the entire outside edge.
12. Clip approximately $1 / 8^{\prime \prime}(3 \mathrm{~mm})$ into the seam allowances around the seam circles as shown. Now pull the two layers of fabric apart and make a $2^{\prime \prime}(5 \mathrm{~cm})$ cut in the center of one circle with scissors.
13. Turn the piece right side out through the slit and press.
14. Pin this circle over the open center of the Dresden plate and appliqué in place.
15. Press the entire block and trim to a $12 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}(32 \mathrm{~cm})$ square.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month

 with Amy Gileson 2 Patterns
## Modern Dresden Wheel Block Pattern

## Block No. 14 - July



## Materials

- One fat quarter of print fabric or 10 scraps, each at least $21 / 2^{\prime \prime} \times 5$ " $(6.5 \mathrm{~cm} \times 12.5 \mathrm{~cm})$
- $123 / 4^{\prime \prime}(32.5 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF of background fabric
- Darlene Zimmerman's Easy Dresden tool, available wherever quilt notions are sold (optional)
- Template plastic - if not using Easy Dresden tool. A piece of cereal box cardboard works too!

To Create Your Template: (if not using Easy Dresden tool)

- Print the Dresden plate template on page 6 and cut it out with non-fabric scissors
- Trace around printed paper template onto template plastic or cardboard and cut it out with non-fabric scissors or a craft/utility blade


## Cutting

- Cut two $123 / 4$ " $(32.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ squares from background fabric
- Using either the template or the tool, and the smallest rotary cutter you have, cut out 10 blades from print fabric, and 10 blades from background fabric - 20 blades total. If you are using the Easy Dresden tool, align the edge of your fabric with the $41 / 22^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ marking, and cut around the remaining three sides.
- Using the circle template, pencil trace and cut out two 4" (10 cm) circles from your background fabric.

The Crafisy Block of the Month with Amy gitasorn 2 Patterns

## Modern Dresden Wheel Block Pattern

## Construction

1. Place a printed blade and a background blade right sides together, and stitch $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ ( 6 mm ) along one of the long sides.
2. Continue adding blades and stitching, alternating colors every other blade, until all 20 blades have been stitched together.
3. Sew the first and last blades together, right sides together, to complete the circle.
4. Press all seam allowances in a clockwise direction. Starch and press the wheel.
5. Center the wheel onto one of the $123 / 4^{\prime \prime}(32.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ background squares, right sides together, and pin.
6. Stitch $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ around the entire outer edge of the wheel.
7. Trim the excess background fabric to the wheel's $1 / 4$ " ( 6 mm ) seam allowance.
8. Turn the entire piece right side out, through the hole in the center of the wheel, and press.
9. Center the Dresden wheel on the remaining background square and pin.
10. Appliqué the Dresden wheel to the background square around the edge using your method of choice. Consider a blind stitch by hand, or a zigzag or straight stitch by machine if you prefer a faster, more modern option.
11. Stitch the two 4" $(10 \mathrm{~cm})$ background fabric circles together, right sides together in a $1 / 44^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~m})$ seam around the entire outside edge.
12. Clip around the seam allowance in intervals around the circle. Now pull the two layers of fabric apart and make a 2" ( 5 cm ) slit in the center of one of the circles.
13. Turn the piece right side out and press.
14. Pin this to the center of the Dresden wheel and stitch in place using your preferred appliqué method.
15. Square the block to $121 / 2^{\prime \prime}(32 \mathrm{~cm})$.


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July Templates


## The Crafisy Block of the Month

 with Amy gitasorn 2
## Ohio Star Block Pattern

## Block No. 15 - August



This pattern uses just one of several methods for making quarter square triangles. Each method has pros and cons and, since preferences do range from one person to the next, feel free to construct your quarter square triangles via a different method if you would like.

## Materials

- $51 / 2^{\prime \prime}(14 \mathrm{~cm})$ or one fat quarter background fabric
- $51 / 22^{\prime \prime}(14 \mathrm{~cm})$ or one fat quarter print fabric

Use two fabrics if you want your center square to be different from your points.

## Cutting

Print fabric (star)

- Cut one $41 / 22^{\prime \prime}(11.4 \mathrm{~cm})$ square (for the center)
- Cut two $5 \frac{1}{2}$ " $(14 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) squares (for the points


## Background fabric

- Cut four $41 / 2$ " $(11.4 \mathrm{~cm})$ squares (for the corners)
- Cut two $51 / 22^{\prime \prime}(14 \mathrm{~cm})$ squares


## Construction

1. From the $51 / 2$ " $(14 \mathrm{~cm})$ background squares, create 4 quarter square triangles as follows:

- Layer each background square on top of a 5 12" ( 14 cm ) print square, right sides together and pin.
- Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner on the wrong side of the two background squares.


## The Craftsy Block of the Month with Amy Giteson <br> 2 Patiems

## Ohio Star Block Pattern

- For each pair, stitch a scant $1 / 4$ " (6 mm ) seam on both sides of the drawn line. Cut along the line and press the units open with the seam allowance toward the darker fabric. You'll have four half square triangle (HST) units at this point.
- Using a ruler and rotary cutter, on the wrong side of each of these HST units, make two unit by cutting a diagonal line corner to corner, perpendicular to the seam.
- Switch halves and pair up units, right sides together. Make sure your coordinating fabrics are opposite one another and the center seams are "nested." (Feel with your fingers to make sure there's no bump.)
- For each pair, pin at both sides of the center intersection. Stitch a scant $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam on both sides of the drawn line.

Tip: Stitching these seams with the top seam allowance pointing toward the presser foot will aid in the center seams aligning more closely, as the presser foot will slightly push the seam allowances toward one another as you stitch.

- Press open and trim these units to $41 / 22^{\prime \prime}$ ( 11.4 cm ).

2. Lay out all the squares and units, using the block illustration as a guide.
3. Join each row, using a scant $1 / 4$ " ( 6 mm ) seam.
4. Press the seam allowances away from the quarter square triangles.
5. Nest and pin all of the matching seams between rows. Now stitch the rows together using a scant $1 / 4$ " ( 6 mm ) seam.
6. Press. Double check that the block is $12 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}(31.8 \mathrm{~cm})$ square and trim if necessary.

## The Crafisy Block of the Month

## Double Star Block Pattern

## Block No. 16 - August



## Materials

- 4½" (11.4cm) background fabric
- $41 / 22^{\prime \prime}(11.4 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF of three different print fabrics or three print fat quarters

For clarity in the instructions, I'll refer to the the colors used in my block (white, purple, green and pink); you will, of course, "translate" each of them to your personal color choices. It's crucial that your three prints have different values, i.e. light, medium and dark. You may certainly choose to change the placement order of the different fabrics, such as making your inner star light, not dark like mine, but do be sure your three fabric choices have a nice contrast against one another so these star patterns are obvious.

## Cutting <br> White Fabric

- Cut four $21 / 2^{\prime \prime}(6.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ squares
- Cut eight $4 ½^{\prime \prime} \times 21 / 22^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm} \times 6.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ rectangles


## Purple Print

- Cut one $41 / 22^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ square
- Cut eight $21 / 2$ " $(6.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ squares

Green Print

- Cut four $4 ½^{\prime \prime} \times 21 / 22^{\prime \prime}(11.5 \mathrm{~cm} \times 6.5 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) rectangles
- Cut four $21 / 22^{\prime \prime}(6.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ squares


## Pink Print

- Cut 16 2½" ( 6.5 cm ) squares


## Double Star Block Pattern

## Construction

For this block, you'll be making 12 flying geese units, eight for the pink star and four for the purple star. There are three methods to make flying geese: traditional, magic, and corner-to-corner.
We will be using the corner-to-corner method in this pattern.

1. Sort your pieces to pair two small squares with each rectangle. You should have the following combinations:

- Four pairs of two small purple squares with one green rectangle
- Eight pairs of two pink squares with one white rectangle. Set aside the remaining four white squares, four green squares, and one large purple square.

2. Using one pink and white pair, make one flying goose unit as follows:

- Draw a diagonal line, corner-tocorner, across the wrong side of both pink squares.
- Lay one pink square on a white rectangle, right sides together, aligning at one end as shown.

- Pin. Stitch on the drawn line.
- Trim away the outer corners to $1 / 4$ " ( 6 mm ) seam allowance and press the pink triangle open.

- Align and stitch a second pink square to the other end of the rectangle, trimming and pressing open just as before.

- Repeat to make a total of 12 flying geese units, four with the green and purple patches and eight with the pink and white patches.

3. Following the block diagram, lay out all your pieces on a design board or flat next to your machine to create the Double Star pattern.

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## The Craftsy Block of the Month with Amy Giteson <br> 2 <br> Patterns <br> Double Star Block Pattern

4. To assemble: Be sure your seams are a scant $1 / 4$ " ( 6 mm ) throughout the assembly.

- Join purple/green flying geese units to two opposite sides of the large purple square as shown, nesting and pinning as needed.

- Stitch another purple/green flying goose unit between two green squares. Repeat with the remaining unit and squares. Stitch these to the remaining sides of the purple square, orienting them as shown.
- Join two pink/white flying geese units. Repeat. Stitch these to opposite sides of the purple/green section.

- Stitch white squares to both ends of one remaining unit. Repeat. Stitch these to the remaining sides to complete the assembly.


5. To finish, press the block and trim to $12122^{\prime \prime}(31.8 \mathrm{~cm})$ as needed. Expec $\dagger$ very little waste.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month

## Chain Block Pattern

## Block No. 17 - September



## Materials

- One fat quarter or $1 / 4$ yard (. 25 m ) of four different print fabrics
- $1 / 4$ yard ( .25 m ) background fabric
- Perfect Patchwork Drunkard's Path Template Set \#8960 by Marti Michell (available at www.frommarti.com and most quilt shops). We will use templates B and C.
- Print the attached templates B and C (page 5) to trace for a pattern


## OR

- To make your own templates, print the template (page 5). Add approximately $1 / 4 "$ ( 6 mm ) outside the line (for taping edge) and cut out the shape. Tape the paper pieces to template plastic or cardboard and cut out the shapes on the lines. Label your smaller template B and your larger template C.


## Construction

1. Fold a print wedge in half along the curved edge and fingernail press to mark the center point. Repeat for a background L-shaped patch.
2. With the wedge tip facing you (as seen in the video) and patches' right sides together, match and pin the curved edges together in the center, then at the ends, and then between the pins, easing in the fabric to align curved edges.

The Crafisy Block of the Month with Amy ghloson 2 Patterns

## Chain Block Pattern

Tip: Taking small pin bites $1 / 4$ " $(6 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) from the edge with the center pin and double pin bites with the side pins will help keep the sides stable, while the center portion stays flexible for easing during stitching.
3. Flip the pieces so the L-shape is on top and carefully stitch a scant $1 / 4$ " $(6 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) seam along the curved edge, easing in the fabrics to fit one another and avoiding any pulling or stretching.
4. Prepare and chain piece all 16 pairs this way and then clip these units apart.
5. Press seam allowances to the darker fabric. Starch as desired to help avoid any distortion when piecing the units together. Trim units to $31 / 2$ " (9 cm ) as necessary.
6. Lay out units according to the block illustration. Join them in rows of four, using a scant $1 / 41(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam.

## Cutting

- From background fabric, cut two $31 / 21$ " $(9 \mathrm{~cm}) \times$ WOF strips and sub-cut these into $1631 / 212(9 \mathrm{~cm})$ squares.
- From all 163 ½" $(9 \mathrm{~cm})$ background squares, cut out one corner per square using template B . This will give you the 16 L-shaped patches needed. (Either discard the small wedges cut from the background fabric or save them for another project.)
- Cut 3" strips of all 4 prints.
- From print 1 (top left chain), cut three wedges using template C (see page 5).
- From print 2 (second chain from top), cut seven wedges using template C .
- From print 3 (second chain from bottom), cut five wedges using template C .
- From print 4 (bottom right chain), cut one wedge using template C .

Tip: All the curved edges are on the bias so handle with care! Also, I do not recommend starching until after your curved seams are stitched, as it's important for the fabric to be soft and pliable to ease it into the seam.
7. Press seam allowances in rows 1 and 3 in one direction, and rows 2 and 4 in the other. Stitch the rows together using a scant $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seam, nesting and pinning at each seam intersection.
8. Press the block and trim to $121 / 2$ " (32 cm ) as needed.

## The Crafisy Block of the Month

## Cleopatra's Puzzle Block Pattern

## Block No. 18 - September

## Materials

- One fat quarter or $1 / 4$ yard ( .25 m ) $\times$ WOF of one print fabric
- $1 / 4$ yard ( .25 m ) background fabric
- Perfect Patchwork Drunkard's Path Template Set \#8960 by Marti Michell (available at www.frommarti.com and most quilt shops). We will use templates B and C.

OR

- Print the attached templates (page 5) to trace for a pattern


## Cutting

- To make your own templates, print the template page (page 5). Add approximately $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) outside the line (for taping edges) and cut out. Tape the paper pieces to template plastic or cardboard and cut out the shapes on the lines. Label the smaller template "B" and the larger template "C".


## Construction

1. Pair each of the L-shaped patches with a wedge in the opposite fabric, i.e., print L-shapes with background wedges, and background L-shapes with print wedges.
2. Fold each wedge and L-shaped patch in half along the curved edge and thumbnail press to mark the center point of its curved edge.

The Crafisy Block of the Month with Atmy Gileson 2 Patterns

## Cleopatra's Puzzle Block Pattern

3. With the wedge tip facing you (as seen on the video) and the patches' right sides together, match and pin the curved seam in the center, then at the ends, and then between the pins, easing in the fabric to match the curved edges.

Tip: Taking small pin bites $1 / 4$ " ( 6 mm ) from the edge with the center pins and double pin bites with the side pins will help to keep the sides stable, while the center portion stays flexible for easing during stitching.
4. Flip the pieces so the L-shape is on top. Carefully stitch a scant $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ ( 6 mm ) seam along the curved edge, easing in the fabrics to align edges and avoiding pulling or stretching.
5. Chain piece all 16 pairs this way and then clip these units apart.
6. Press seam allowances to the darker fabric. Starch as desired to help avoid any distortion while piecing all the units together. Trim units to $31 / 22^{\prime \prime}$ (9 cm ) as necessary.

## Fabric

- From print fabric, cut eight $31 / 2$ " squares.
- From print fabric, cut eight wedges using template C (page 5).
- From background fabric, cut eight $31 / 2$ " squares.
- From background fabric, cut eight wedges using template C .
- From all 16 of these $31 / 2$ " squares (eight print and eight background), cut out one corner per square using template $B$. This will give you the 16 L-shaped patches needed. (Either discard the small wedges cut from the background fabric or save them for another project.)

Tip: All the curved edges are on the bias so handle with care! Also, I do not recommend starching until after your curved seams are stitched, as it's important for the fabric to be soft and pliable to ease it into the seam.
7. Lay out the units according to the block illustration. Stitch these together in rows of four, using scant $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seams.
8. Press seam allowances in rows 1 and 3 in one direction and allowances in rows 2 and 4 in the other. Then stitch the rows together using scant $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ (6 mm ) seams, nesting and pinning at each seam intersection.
9. Press the block and trim to $12.5^{\prime \prime}$ ( 32 cm ) as needed.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month with Amy Giluson



Note: Make sure your print settings are set to 100\% scaling, not "Fit to Page." Check your printer manual for more information.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month

## Friendship Circle Block Pattern

Block No. 19 - Qetober


## Materials

- Fat Quarters of three different print fabrics, labeled as follows:
Print 1: Center of the star
Print 2: Points of the star
Print 3: Inner border
Print 4: Corners (you may choose a fifth fabric for the outer corners if you like)
- $1 / 4$ yard $(.25 \mathrm{~m})$ or FQ of background fabric
- Four printed copies of each of the two Friendship Circle paper piecing patterns A and B, eight triangular templates total. Print them on either regular printer paper or foundation paper available at most fabric and quilt shops.
- Fabric glue stick (optional)


## Culting

- Cut out all eight paper piecing patterns on the outside dotted line.
- You will cut fabrics for patches as you go. Notice the location of each fabric on the foundationpiecing pattern.

The Crafisy Block of the Month with Amy Gildson 2 Pations

## Friendship Circle Block Pattern

## Construction

1. Unthread your sewing machine and set the stitch length to shorter-than-normal. Stitch along all the lines of your paper piecing patterns to perforate them. Rethread your machine. I suggest that you complete each of the following steps on all four Section A's as you go and then complete the Section B's in the same manner.
2. Cut a piece of Print 1 fabric for space Al to a size that will cover this space on your paper plus at least $1 / 4$ " ( 6 mm ) extra all around. With your paper printed side up, place this piece of fabric, right side down, directly underneath space Al on the blank side of your paper. Be sure that the fabric is covering this area completely with the extra for seam allowances extending beyond the lines on all sides.

Tip: Holding the paper and fabric patch up to a light source can be helpful in accurately placing the fabric over the space to be covered. If you like, add a small dot of fabric glue to the underside of this fabric to temporarily hold it in place on the paper.
3. Now cut a piece from Print 2 large enough to cover space A2, plus $1 / 4$ " $(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ extra all around. Place it on top of your fabric in space A1, along the edge that borders space A 2, so the right sides of your fabric are together. Pin through the fabrics and paper within the patch to hold them in place. (After you're comfortable with the process, you may not wish to pin at this step.)
4. Carefully flip the paper over with the two pieces of fabric still in place, and stitch along the line between spaces A1 and A2. Remove the pin.
5. Flip the unit over to the fabric side and press open your background piece at the seam.
6. Flip over again with paper side up and fold the paper back at the perforated line between space 1 and space 2. Using a clear ruler and rotary cutter, trim the excess fabric to $1 / 4 "(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ beyond the fold. This will be your seam allowance.
7. Continue adding pieces in this same manner, adding them to the fabric side of the piece along the line that you're working on, with right sides of the fabrics together. Then flipping, stitching along the lines, pressing open, and trimming seams to $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ (6 mm ) as you go.

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## The Craftsy Block of the Month

## Friendship Circle Block Pattern

8. Once you complete stitching all five of the pieces to the paper, trim around your entire piece along the outside dotted line, using a ruler and rotary cutter.
9. Carefully tear away the paper along the seams.
10. Create eight triangle pieces in this same way.
11. Using the block illustration as a guide, lay out your eight triangles to a circular star pattern, and then stitch the four triangle pairs together using scant $1 / 4$ " seams, in half square triangle fashion, to create four squares.
12. Press these seams open to reduce bulk, and then stitch together your four squares using scant $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ seams- first in rows of two, pressing seams in opposite directions, and then stitching your rows together, nesting and pinning at the intersection.
13. Press block, and trim to $12 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}(32 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) as needed.

## The Crafisy Block of the Month

## Circle of Geese Block Pattern

## Block No. 20 - Qetoler



## Materials

- Large scraps from 12 prints and background fabric
- $1 / 4$ yard (. 25 m ) or Fat Quarter of background fabric
- Four printed copies of the Circle of Geese paper piecing pattern. Both clockwise and counterclockwise spins are supplied; we're making the clockwise versions. You may print them on either regular printer paper or foundation paper available at most fabric and quilt shops.
- Fabric glue stick (optional)


## Culting

- Cut out all four paper piecing patterns on the outside dotted line. Piece and sew as shown in the video.
- You will cut as you go. Scrap prints will form the "geese" triangles in spaces 1,4 and 7. Background fabric will be used in the remaining spaces.


## Construction

1. Start by setting your stitch length to its smallest setting, and stitch along all the lines of your paper piecing patterns (without thread) to perforate them.
2. Select a scrap of print fabric for your first goose piece, and cut it to a size that will cover space \#1 on your paper, plus $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$ ) extra all around. With your paper right side down, place this piece of fabric, right side up, right on top of space \#1 on your paper. Be sure that the fabric is covering

The Craftsy Block of the Month

## Circle of Geese Block Pattern

this spot completely, with room for seam allowances extending past the lines on all sides. If you would like, add a small dot of fabric glue to the underside of this fabric, to temporarily hold it in place on the paper.
3. Now cut a piece from your background fabric, large enough to cover space \#2, plus $1 / 4$ " ( 6 mm ) extra all around. Place it on top of your fabric in space \#1, along the edge that faces space \#2, so the right sides of your fabric are together.Press all seam allowances in the same direction. Starch and press the wheel.
4. Carefully flip the paper over, with the two pieces of fabric still in place, and stitch along the first line. It's a good idea to add a pin before stitching, until you become more comfortable with paper piecing.
5. Flip over to the fabric side, and press open your background piece at the seam.
6. Flip over again with paper side up, and fold back at the perforated line between space \#2 and space \#3. Using a clear ruler and rotary cutter, trim back your excess fabric to $1 / 4$ " ( 6 mm ) past the fold (this will be your seam allowance).
7. Continue adding pieces in this same manner- adding them to the fabric side of the piece along the line that you're working on, with right sides of the fabrics together. Then flipping, stitching along the lines, pressing open, and trimming seams to $1 / 4$ " as you go.
8. Once you complete stitching all nine of the pieces to the paper, trim around your entire piece along the outside dotted line, using a ruler and rotary cutter.
9. Carefully tear away the paper along the seams.
10. Create four blocks in this same way, thinking through which print fabrics you'd like to go where, as you visualize your blocks how the blocks will come together to create a full circle.
11. Using the block illustration as a guide, lay out your four blocks to create a circle, and stitch them together using scant $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ ( 6 mm ) seams- first in rows of two, pressing seams in opposite directions, and then stitching your rows together, nesting and pinning at the intersection.
12. Press block, and trim to $12 \frac{1}{2}$ " $(32 \mathrm{~cm})$ as needed.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month with Amy Gileson

Friendship Circle
Section A Make four copies.
Al - Print 1
A2 - Print 2
A3 - Background
A4 - Print 3
A5 - Print 1


Note: Make sure your print settings are set to 100\% scaling, not "Fit to Page."
Check your printer manual for more information.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month


$A$ Circle of Geese CLOCKWISE SPIN


For more paper piecing fun, please visit piecebynumber.com and bcheri.etsy.com.
print size check

## (Diece by Number

## A Circle of Geese

COUNTER-CLOCKWISE SPIN


## 12" Circle of Geese Block



## Circle of Geese Assemby Instructions:

1. Paper piece 4 sections
2. Arrange sections as shown, and sew together


## The Craftsy Block of the Month

 with Amy gibson 2
## Block Preparations \& Quilt Top Assembly

## November - December

## Construction

1. With rotary cutter, square blocks to 121/2" (32 cm).
2. Lay out squares and mark their order with a water-soluble marker or sticky notes.
3. Sew sashing strips between blocks, then press seams toward sashing.
4. Sew the 6 remaining strips together, using either a straight or diagonal join, for horizontal sashing.
5. Use fabric strip to measure sashing; trim to size. Center. Pin sashing to a strip of blocks and sew.
6. Press flat.
7. To add border, cut six 212 " (wide strips WOF for border. The strips can be wider or narrower, depending on design. Join, then press seams open.
8. In the middle of the quilt top, use the fabric to measure across, smoothing as you go. Trim. Repeat.
9. Mark the center point with a pin, then pin across. Sew borders on.

## Materials

- $3 / 4$ yard $(.75 \mathrm{~m}) \times$ WOF background fabric for sashing
- $121 / 2$ " square ruler
- $41 / 2$ yards ( 1 m ) fabric of choice for backing


## Cutting

- Cut 11 11⁄2" $(4 \mathrm{~cm})$ strips for sashing.
- You will cut fabrics for patches as you go. Notice the location of each fabric on the foundation-piecing pattern.

10. Repeat steps 8-9 for top and bottom borders.
11. Press.
12. Find center point, snip and rip into 2 2-yard pieces.
13. Snip slightly inside selvage, rip.
14. Sew pieces together with $1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ seam allowance, along the 2 -yard side, to form one piece large enough for the quilt back.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month

## Backing Assembly \& Basting

## Novemleer - December

## Construction

1. Trim backing and batting with shears to $3^{\prime \prime}$ to $4^{\prime \prime}(7.5 \mathrm{~cm} \times 10 \mathrm{~cm}$ )wider than the quilt top on all four sides.
2. Tape backing, right side down, to flat, hard surface.
3. Lay batting over the backing. Do not press out wrinkles. The batting will relax.
4. Smooth quilt top over first 2 layers.
5. Safety pin the 3 layers together, placing pins about a fist's width apart from border to border.
6. Think about, then plan the quilting design(s) you'll use.

## Materials

- $41 / 2$ yards ( 4 m ) backing
- 55 " $\times 68 \frac{1}{2}$ " ( $140 \mathrm{~cm} \times 174 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) batting; prepackaged, in most brands, that is a twin size. Off a 96 " $(244 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) roll, you'll need 2 yards (2 m)

Note: Pay attention to the manufacturer's recommendations when selecting batting.

- Shears
- Flat, uncarpeted, hard surface such as a large table or a hardwood, linoleum or tile floor
- Masking or packing tape
- Curved safety pins


## The Craftsy Block of the Month

## November - December

## Quilting Designs

Experiment with stitch in the ditch, echo quilting and charm tacks.

If you're feeling more adventurous, take a look at how Leah Day finishes our Block of the Month quilt in her new Craftsy class, Free Motion Quilting a Sampler. Her work is amazing!

For more ideas, check out other machine quilting classes on Craftsy:

- Machine Quilting: Free-Motion \& More with Wendy Butler Berns
- Beyond Basic Machine Quilting with Ann Petersen
- Quilting Big Projects on a Small Machine with Ann Petersen
- Machine Quilting Negative Space with Angela Walters
- The Machine Embroidered Quilt with Eileen Roche
- Design It, Quilt It: Free-Form Techniques with Cindy Needham


## Materials

- Walking foot
- Size 90 needle
- Thread (recommended: 50 weight cotton thread)
- Additional table or ironing board to support quilt
- Comfortable chair
- Quilting gloves (optional)
- Additional lighting


## The Craftsy Block of the Month

 with Atmy Gileson
## November - December

## Trimming

1. Square the upper left hand corner.
2. Trim excess backing, batting and border.
3. Continue to trim entire quilt, rotating when necessary.

## Materials

- $12 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}$ square ruler
- $6^{\prime \prime} \times 24^{\prime \prime}$ ruler
- Rotary cutter with fresh blade

Construction of a Straight-Grain Binding

1. Join strips end to end.
2. Press entire strip in half lengthwise.
3. With back of the quilt facing you, raw edges aligned, leave an 8" to 10" (20.5 cm to 25.5 cm ) tail and begin stitching midway along one edge.
4. Use a $1 / 4$ " (6 mm) seam allowance.
5. As you approach a corner, stop $1 / 4^{"}$ ( 6 mm ) from the edge of the quilt.
6. Presser foot up but needle down, rotate quilt. Don't cut threads.
7. Fold binding up at a 45-degree angle. Hold with your finger, position and stitch from the edge forward. Repeat at each corner.
8. Stop 8" to 10 " ( 20.5 cm to 25.5 cm ) from where you began stitching. Backstitch.

Materials

- Seven $21 / 22^{\prime \prime}(6.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ wide strips, cut from yardage
- Hand sewing needle
- Thread

9. To join the ends, open up the ends and find a midpoint, pinching the two together.
10. Lightly pin both bottom border layers at the critical point, where you've pinched them together.
11. Pull strips out flat, away from the quilt edge, being careful to keep critical points matched up.
12. Pin securely, then stitch straight from one intersection to the other.

## The Craftsy Block of the Month with Amy Gileson

## Squaring Up \& Binding

13. Remove from the machine and pull tight to ensure that the seam lines up and that the border fits.
14. Trim to $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}(6 \mathrm{~mm})$.
15. Pull tight. Stitch opening, backstitching at the beginning and end.
16. Turn border to the front of the quilt, then either blind stitch or machine stitch all the way around.
17. Miter corners, tacking down the inside bottom of the miter.

