

Ocean Wave Quilters Block of the Month – Instructions for the Teacher

Purpose:

- To learn new block patterns
- To practice piecing skills
- To potentially win all of the blockettes to make a quilt

1. Choose a pattern. There are sites on-line that have lots of patterns. Quilterscache.com is a good one. The Education Committee has a list of blocks that have recently been demonstrated, so you won't duplicate. (NOTE: If you choose to make your own instructions, rather than taking from a known source, you **MUST** be very careful to make sure your instructions work!!)
 - a. The pattern should be relatively simple for all quilting levels. It can include a technique like paper piecing or applique as long as it is not overly complicated. Don't choose a pattern that includes multiple techniques. The goal is to have **maximum participation** while still learning a new block.
 - b. The finished block should be large enough that it doesn't require cutting a lot of tiny pieces. (Many of our quilters won't participate if the block contains, for example, 1½" squares.)
 - c. Make a sample of the block from scrap fabric just so you make sure the instructions make sense and the block turns out the way you expect.
 - d. **Your instructions need to include:**
 - i. ***What size pieces of each color fabric are required to make this block? (That is, how much fabric does the quilter need of each color to be able to do the block?)***
 - ii. ***What size does the quilter need to cut each piece that is needed for the block? NOTE: If the pieces need to be cut in a particular way to make sure there is enough fabric, please make sure you give the quilter the cutting diagram or directions!***
 - iii. ***What size should the block measure when the quilter has properly made it? (Even more helpful is, what size is an interim part of the block, so the quilter knows he/she is on the right track.)***
 - iv. ***Should the quilter press the seams to the dark fabric, or should he/she press them open? (For blocks with many seams, pressing open can lead to a smoother block.)***
 - e. **GIVE YOUR DIRECTIONS TO ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE CLUB AND ASK THEM TO MAKE THE BLOCK – DO THIS WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.** This way, if there are any issues with the directions, you'll know in time to be able to correct them.
2. Select one focus fabric that will be part of everyone's block. Purchase enough fabric to make a few extra blocks – in case someone makes an error – extra fabric will go to the raffle winner so she can make extra blocks. Complete a reimbursement form and submit it to our Treasurer. (Note: if you choose to donate the fabric, complete a reimbursement form anyway and note that it is a "donation". We want to know how much our activities would cost.)
3. Cut the focus fabric into one piece that will allow each quilter to cut all of the needed pieces – make it a bit larger than needed, just in case.
4. Decide what the other fabric or fabrics in the block should be – for example, bright colors, or blue batiks, or black-and-white prints.

5. Put together 20-25 “kits” that contain the focus fabric and the instructions. Make sure the instructions include a photo or diagram of the finished block ***in the colors that you have chosen***. (Sharon L.) Put your name on the instructions so people will know who to contact with questions. Try not to use plastic bags to contain the kits. Wax bags or paper envelopes are preferred.
6. Demonstrate the blockette at the general meeting. If you are nervous about doing this, you can have a co-presenter help! Also, tell the brief history or story of the block, if you can find that information. It helps to create interest in the block.
7. At the next meeting, each person who completes a blockette will be entered into a raffle to win all of the blockettes. (A person can enter the raffle as many times as the number of blockettes he/she has made.) Before the names are drawn for the raffle, the decision about whether to have 1 or 2 names drawn will be made. A quilter does not need to be present to win. A quilter can win in consecutive months.

7/2018

8/2022 - revised

Template for Block of the Month Instructions

- Name of the block
- Source for the instructions (i.e. website, book, etc.)
- Picture of the block (preferably in the colors you are requesting)
- What size pieces of each color fabric are required to make this block? (That is, how much fabric does the quilter need of each color to be able to do the block?)
- What size does the quilter need to cut each piece that is needed for the block?
NOTE: If the pieces need to be cut in a particular way to make sure there is enough fabric, please make sure you give the quilter the cutting diagram or directions!
- Should the quilter press the seams to the dark fabric, or should he/she press them open? (For blocks with many seams, pressing open can lead to a smoother block.)
- If the pieces of the block need to be sewn in a particular order, make sure you indicate that. When possible, show pictures of each step.
- What size should the block measure when the quilter has properly made it? (Even more helpful is, what size is an interim part of the block, so the quilter knows he/she is on the right track.) Try to avoid using “finished size” unless you clarify what you mean – it can be confusing.
- Do not trim the finished block. Let the person winning the blocks do this.
- If you have a picture of the entire quilt that this block makes, that can be interesting and helpful to quilters to know if they want to make a whole quilt.
- Make sure your name, email address and phone number are included in case the quilter has problems or questions.