

February Block of the Month

Often in February we celebrate two of our Presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. This year our committee thought it would be fun to focus on one of our Founding Mothers, Martha Washington, by featuring a block called the Martha Washington Star. At first glance some may think this too fussy to do, but work with us here. ☺ I have tried to simplify the directions and even my first time around it took about ½ an hour to assemble. (Took me three times that long to figure out how to tell you about it!) I was really pleased with the result, which I will show you in the beginning. I will follow up with the step by step instructions. Just remember that pleasing results that come when we are careful to cut and sew precisely and on the grain when possible. We have not specified a color way but I did think it would be fun to go with the thought Soft Southern Belle colors. Maybe they will chase away some of that mid-winter drear!



My colors didn't come through very well but are soft teals.

You could use three colors like I did or you could limit it to two colors if you prefer.

Cut 4: 2 1/2" squares Background Color

Cut 1- 2 7/8" square Background Color. Cut once on the diagonal.

Cut 1: 3 1/4" square of Background Color cut on both diagonals.

Cut 4: 4 1/2" x 2 1/2" rectangles of Background Color.

Cut 8: 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" squares Medium Contrast color.

Draw with a pencil a diagonal line on the background of each square. Place the squares one at a time on the rectangle and sew from the lower corner to the upper middle of each rectangle. Trim the outer corner off. Press away from the Rectangle. Repeat this process on the opposite end of the rectangle. Do this four times.



For the Pinwheel:

Layout the ½ square triangles large and small in the pattern as shown. Sew the dark to the light four times and press the seam towards the dark fabric. Place them back in the layout as before. When you have done this four times, sew the two seamed triangles to the larger un-seamed triangle. Sew them in pairs and press the seams of one pair up and the seams of the other pair down. Now place the two pairs right sides together with the seams nesting and sew them together.



Final Layout:



Sew one plain square to each of the two sides of two of the Flying Geese Blocks. Sew two of the Flying Geese Blocks to the opposite sides of the center Pinwheel Block. You should now have three units that will be seamed to make the finished block which should measure 8 1/2" square.