

Family Block of the Month: Baskets

Block 11

March 10" finished block

Cutting:

Mini Block:

Cut (1) 2 1/2" dark blue square.

Cut (4) 1 1/2" yellow squares.

Cut (4) 2 1/4" yellow squares.

Cut (4) 2 1/4" red squares.

Basket and Base:

Cut (1) 4 7/8" light blue square.

Cut (2) 2 1/2" green squares.

Background:

Cut (1) 2 1/2" square.

Cut (2) 2 1/2" x 6 1/2" rectangles.

Cut (1) 4 1/2" square.

Sewing:

Mini Block

Draw a diagonal line on the back of each 2 1/4" yellow square, then draw a line 1/4" to each side. These are the sewing lines. Pair yellow squares with red 2 1/4" square. With right sides together, sew along the two outer line, then cut along the center line. Press open (because it is so small) to form (8) half square triangle units. Trim to 1 1/2" square. Sew two HST units together to form a flying geese unit. Repeat for a total of four flying geese units. Press seams open.

Sew a 1 1/2" yellow square on each side of two of the flying geese units.

Sew the two remaining flying geese units to either side of the 2 1/2" dark blue square.

Complete the mini block by sewing the flying geese & squares units to the top and bottom.

Base

Sew the two 2 1/2" green squares to the end of each of the 2 1/2" x 6 1/2" background rectangles. Press to the background - this will help later!

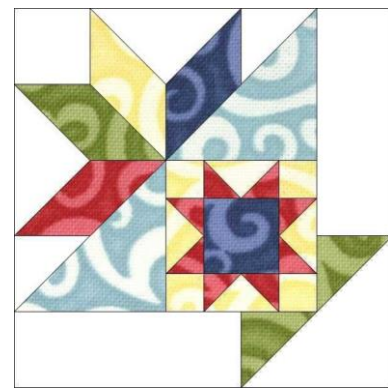
Basket

Cut the 4 7/8" light blue triangle in half diagonally. Sew the halves to the top and left side of the mini block.

Sew the two base rectangle/square segments to either side of the basket. Press to the background after the first. The green squares should overlap 1/4".

Draw a diagonal line on the back of the 4 1/2" square. Align the diagonal with the corners of the green squares that form the base of the basket. This is where pressing to the background helps - you need to line up with the edge of the square in the seam allowance. Sew on the diagonal line (be careful to match the seam intersection point on the other side!) and trim to a 1/4" seam. Press to the background if it's dark enough to hide the colored fabrics, otherwise press to the colors.

Continued on page 2...



Option 1 (Y seams):

Cut (1) red, green, yellow and dark blue rhomboid using the templates attached.

The red and yellow use one template, the green and blue use the other.

Cut (1) 5 1/4" background square.

Cut (1) 2 7/8" background square.

Option 2 (no Y seams):

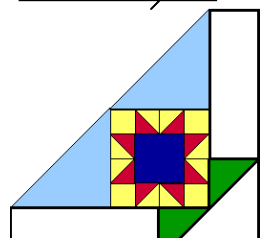
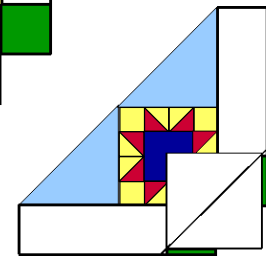
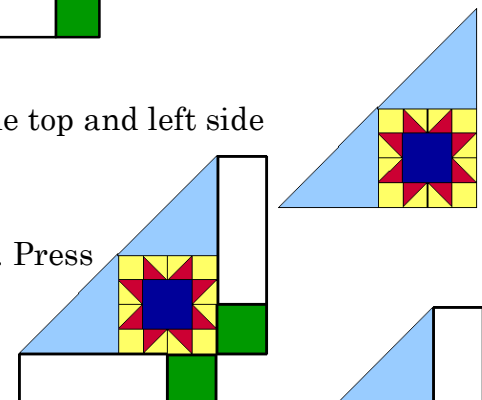
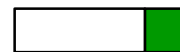
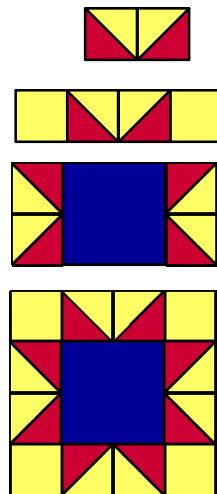
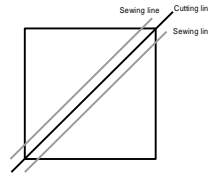
Cut (2) 3 1/2" yellow squares.

Cut (2) 3 1/2" green squares.

Cut (1) 3 1/2" red squares.

Cut (1) 3 1/2" dark blue squares.

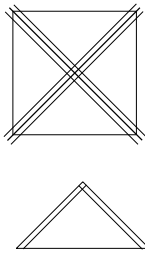
Cut (4) 3 1/2" background squares.



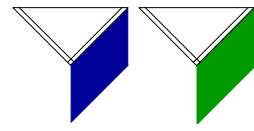
Basket Top - Option 1 (Y seams- new technique)

Y seams are a little more challenging, but not difficult if you go slowly.

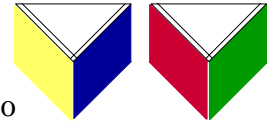
Draw a diagonal line both ways on the back of the 5 1/4" background square. Draw lines 1/4" to either side of both diagonals. Cut on the two center diagonal lines to create (4) triangles. Be careful handling these - the two shorter edges are both on the bias, and will stretch easily. (That is why the diagonal lines were drawn before cutting.) You will only use two of these.



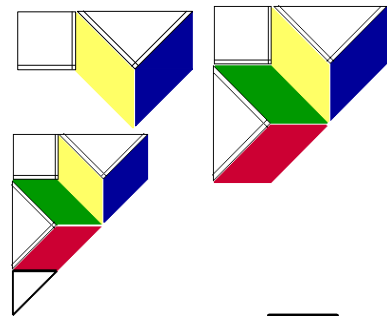
Sew the long edge of the blue rhomboid to the right side of one of the triangles, watching the placement. Sew on the drawn line and stop where the drawn lines intersect. Take a backstitch to make it secure. Repeat with the green rhomboid and the other triangle.



Place the yellow rhomboid right sides together with the background triangle, folding the blue back out of the way. Sew until you reach the intersection of the drawn lines. Take a backstitch to hold it securely. Fold the background triangle in half, right sides together, so the yellow and blue rhomboids lines up. Starting one thread away from the background triangle, sew the blue and yellow rhomboids together. Repeat with the red and green unit.



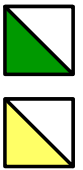
Draw a line 1/4" from the edge on two sides of the 2 1/2" background square. Sew the square to the short edge of the yellow rhomboid, stopping at the intersection of the lines. Attach the green rhomboid using the same method.



Cut the 2 7/8" background square in half diagonally and sew to either side of the unit. Be careful with the long edges, as they will stretch easily.

Basket Top - Option 2 (no Y seams - easier)

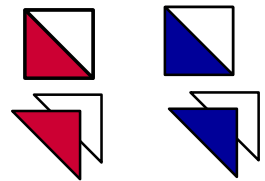
Draw a diagonal line on the back of each 3 1/2" background square, then draw a line 1/4" to each side. These are the sewing lines. Pair two background squares with one green and one yellow 3 1/2" square. With right sides together, sew along the two outer line, then cut along the center line. Press to the dark to form (4) half square triangle units. Trim one of each HST to 2 1/2" square. (You will use only one of each.)



Draw diagonal lines on the back of the remaining yellow 3 1/2" square and pair with the remaining green 3 1/2" square. Sew on the outer lines and cut on the center line. Press to the dark to form (2) half square triangle units. Trim one to 2 1/2" square. (You will use only one of these.)

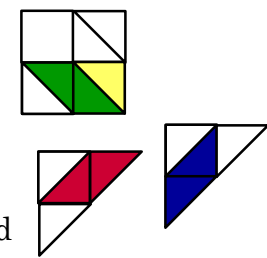


Pair the two remaining 3 1/2" background squares with one red and one dark blue 3 1/2" square. Sew on only ONE outer line and cut on the center line. This will create two half square triangle units and four unsewn triangles. Press the half square triangle units to the dark. Trim to 2 1/2" square.



Trim the triangles so the two short edges are 2 3/4" (it may help to line up the 45 degree line on your ruler with the long edge). Be careful when handling these - the long edge is on the bias, and this will stretch easily.

Sew together the 2 1/2" background square, the green/background HST unit, the yellow/background HST unit, and the green/yellow HST unit to form a four patch.



Sew the background, red and blue triangles with the red/background and blue/background HST units to form two triangles. Watch the color placement. Line up the right angles - the points will extend beyond the HST edge.

Assemble these three units to form the top of the basket.

BOTH OPTIONS:

Sew the basket top to the basket bottom, being careful to line up the center intersecting point. Pin securely before sewing.

