

Block of the Month: August 2017

* Hourglass *

Here is an easy and basic block with a cool technique that creates two blocks at a time. We all know the Hourglass Block, right? It's also called quarter-triangle-square, and could be made with bias edges, but here is a better technique.

Materials Needed

- (1) 9 1/4" square in black print fabric
- (1) 9 1/4" square in gray or white/black print fabric

Instructions

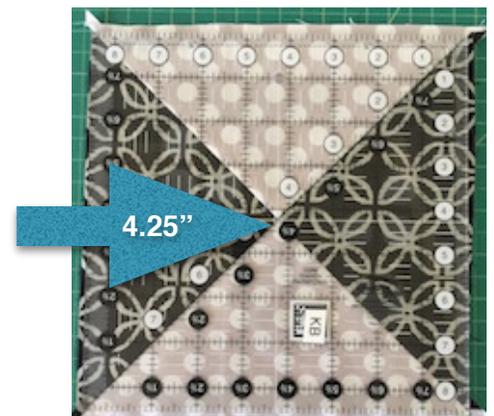
1. Draw a diagonal center line on the light fabric square.
2. With right sides together, place the light colored square on top of the black fabric. Sew 1/4" away from the drawn line on both sides.
3. Cut on diagonal line. Open units and press to dark side. You have two half square triangles.
4. Draw a diagonal line perpendicular to the sewn line on one unit.
5. With right sides together, layer the two units with opposite fabrics touching, nesting the seams. Sew 1/4" away from the drawn line on both sides. (Pic 2)
Tip: Place a pin near the nested seamline to keep squares from shifting while sewing.
6. Cut on diagonal line. Open units and press.
7. You now have two Hourglass blocks. Trim blocks to an exact 8.5" square by lining up 45 degree line of ruler on the seam to find the midpoint of the unfinished block (4.25" in this case). Trim all four sides. (Pic 3)
8. Repeat on second Hourglass.

Your blocks should be 8-1/2" square (or 8" finished).

To make other size Hourglass blocks, add 1 1/4" to each starting square.

For example:

- 5" finished block - Use (2) 6 1/4" squares
- 4" finished block - Use (2) 5 1/4" squares
- 3" finished block - Use (2) 4 1/4" squares etc...



Remember, we appreciate DIFFERENT blocks. So if you make multiple blocks, please use different fabrics. This BOM is due at the guild meeting on August 7, 2017. More info on the BOM on our [web site](http://www.mpgg.org/activities/block_of_the_month/) at www.mpgg.org/activities/block_of_the_month/