Block of the Month – 2013/2014

The block of the month has a bit of a different slant this year. Instead of making blocks each month that you bring to the guild meeting, you will be making a quilt that you get to keep.

The finished size of the quilt is 66 by 78 without borders. It is composed of 2 inch (finished) squares. The entire quilt is NOT complicated, but will take a bit of sewing to get it complete.

Each month, you will receive a diagram outlining the placement of the fabrics for ONE NINTH of the quilt which you will receive from September to May. Then at show and tell in June, you will have a completed quilt top.

There are only THREE units in the quilt top – a square, a half square triangle and a quarter square triangle. ALL units measure 2 ½” (UNFINISHED). Use your favourite method to make the half square triangles, but remember the UNFINISHED size is 2 ½” (or 2” finished). There are so many methods to making half square triangles, but if you are going to use jelly rolls (2 ½”) strips, remember that you can use rulers such as the Easy Angle ruler, Fons and Porter Half and Quarter Ruler (or Thangles) that will allow you to make half square triangles out of strips that are as wide as the required UNFINISHED size of the half square triangle. In other words, you can make 2 ½” UNFINISHED half square triangles from strips that are 2 ½”. If you need more information on this method – please let me know. This technique does make the cutting a whole lot easier on this quilt rather than having to cut squares that are larger and trim them down.

You received a diagram with a bunch of squares that gradate from light to dark. This diagram shows you the background for the ENTIRE quilt. It is strictly for information should you wish to graduate the colours/values in the background (I used NINE values in the diagram). There are several options for this quilt. If you want to get creative and use fabrics that gradate from light to dark, this diagram will help you figure out how to lay out the values as you move through the nine sections. There is NO need to have your lights and darks in the same position as the diagram. It is strictly a GUIDELINE. You will drive yourself crazy if you try to follow the diagram exactly.

If you want to simplify the quilt – then choose ONE colour for the background. Get many fabrics in that colour and use them WITHOUT taking value into consideration. The more fabrics you use, the richer the background.

Each month you will receive an enlarged section (one ninth) of the quilt that will show the placement of the stars. If you feel that you want to add or subtract some of the components – feel free to make adjustments as you wish. Again – this diagram is a guideline – if you want more or fewer star units or flying geese or other components, then feel free to add and subtract as you wish. The more you do – the more unique your quilt will be.

I would aim for high contrast in the fabric you use for the stars. This will help them to shine off the background. However, you can make them subtle or bright as you wish.

The other thing we have decided is that instead of just collecting the pattern – we would like to see people actually make the quilt. Therefore bring your completed section to the meeting each month so we can see that you are making progress and we will give you the next installment. If you don’t keep up monthly, it will be hard to play catch up. Getting part of it done each month will help you make the commitment to completing the top.

If you can’t get the entire block done – bring in what you have – we are forgiving!!!!! If you have questions, issues or concerns – bring those too and we can chat about them. WE will be very forgiving for the first month or so as people settle into the process.

If you have to miss one or more months – simply bring in the block when you do attend the meeting and we can give you the missing sections.

For ease of assembly – it is best to sew **row one** of the first section together. Then press to the right (or left), then sew the **second row** together and press in the opposite direction. DO NOT make the pinwheels or the stars as units. It will mess up the pressing of the blocks.

I will be posting a tutorial with how I put mine together so you can see the process which will hopefully make it easy for you to follow along.

Crazyquilteronabike.blogspot.com (and check the Block of the Month tutorial at the top)

Any questions can be directed to:

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