

APRIL BLOCK OF THE MONTH

EASTER BASKET

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This is a variation on a block by Sandi Walton. I have modified it to include a floral centrepiece. As there are so many half square triangles, it is a good idea to keep the assembly diagram in front of you as you go, to ensure that they are pointing in the right direction. (We are all very experienced at making HST's by now!)



Cutting:
Background:
One 2 1/2" square
Five 3 1/2" squares
Two 2 1/2 x 6 1/2" rectangles
One 5 1/2" square
One 4" square

Basket:

Blue: Two 3 1/2" squares & one 5 1/2" square

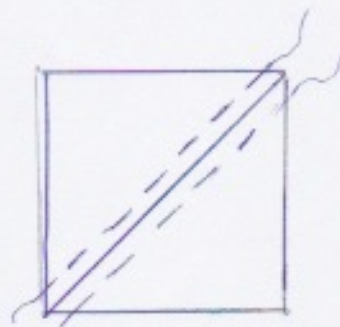
Green: One 3 1/2" square; One 4" square; Two 2 1/2 x 4 1/2" rectangles

Red: One 3 1/2" square & Two 2 1/2" squares

Floral: Two 3 1/2" squares

Sewing:

1. Draw a diagonal line on the back of each 3 1/2" background square. Place background squares, right sides together on two blue and one green and one floral 3/12" square. Sew 1/4" seam on both sides of the diagonal line. Cut along the centre line, then press the seams of the resulting squares open. Trim to a 2 1/2" square. Repeat this process with a floral 3 1/2" square and a red 3 1/2" square right sides together.



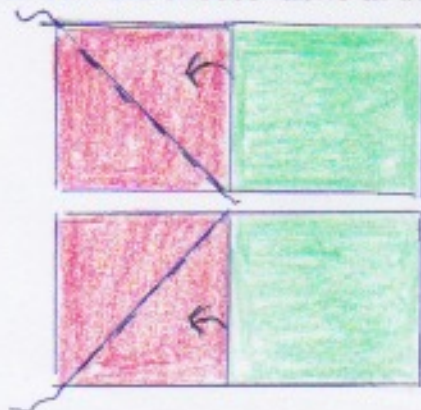
(You will only need to use one of these last two HST's)

2. Draw a diagonal line on the background 4" square. Pair with the green 4" square, sew and press for two HST units. Trim to 3 1/2" squares. Pair one of these units with a 3 1/2" floral square. Draw a diagonal line on the floral unit then place it diagonally across the green/background square as shown in the diagram. Sew each side of the diagonal, cut and press open to make the new HST's. Trim to 2 1/2" squares. Make sure the green/background intersection is at the centre using the diagonal line on the ruler and positioning the intersection at the 1 1/4" line.



3. Draw a diagonal line on the 5 1/2" background square. Pair with the blue 5 1/2" square, sew and press to make two large HST units. You will only use one of these in the final square.

4. Draw one diagonal line on the red 2 1/2" squares. Pair with the green rectangles as shown in the diagram, making sure the lines angle in opposite directions. Stitch along the line, press then trim the excess fabric at the back.



Assembly:

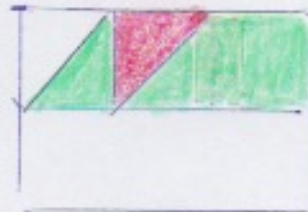
1. Sew together the blue and white HST units to form two sets for the "handles" being careful with the placement. Sew the 2 1/2" background square to the blue side of one of the sets.



2. Lay the floral/green/white units, floral/white and floral/red units to make a four patch, then sew together.

3. Sew the basket handles to the top and left watching the angle placement.

4. Sew the green HST units to the red/green rectangle unit, green against red, then sew the background rectangles to the green sides.



5. Finally assemble all units to form the block.

