

## FVQG Block of the Month – February 2023

### PICK UP STICKS



This is a fun and easy block. 9 ½ " unfinished and 9 " finished

#### Fabric required:

- One White / off White 9 ½ " square for background
- Strips of colourful scraps (at least 10 ½ " long and at least ¾ " (minimum) up to 2" (maximum) in width.

Cut strips with a ruler for a straight cut, but they don't have to be an even width for the whole length. Having some of the strips being wider at one end will make a more interesting/wonky finished block.

Start by cutting the background square from bottom to top at a slight angle, either slightly to the left or right of centre at the bottom and angled towards the opposite side towards the top. Use a ruler and make a straight cut.



Add the 1<sup>st</sup> strip to the left side of background, using a ¼ " seam. Next add the right background piece to this. If your strips are small it will be easier to press seams towards the background. If they are wider, press towards the strip. Make sure to press after each strip is added.



Spin the block so the 1<sup>st</sup> strip is now horizontal and you'll make your 2<sup>nd</sup> cut vertically, as shown. Make sure that strips are longer than you need and let excess hang off each end of the block, as you'll trim down as the last step. Add your 2<sup>nd</sup> strip to left side with  $\frac{1}{4}$  " seam.



\*special note -

When you add the right side of the block to the 2<sup>nd</sup> strip, do your best to line up so that the 1<sup>st</sup> strip will look fairly straight. I pin a  $\frac{1}{4}$  " away (as shown below) and then pull back to see if it is a fairly straight match before I actually sew the seam.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> cut: turn the block again and make a vertical cut OR make a vertical cut now and spin for the last strip (as I've done).



Make your 4<sup>th</sup> cut and add a strip as before. I stopped at 4 strips, but you could add more.



My finished block before trimming. Take a ruler and square up your block to 9 1/2"



Just a note / warning – these blocks are fun and can be really addictive!!!

