

BLOCK OF THE MONTH

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(I'm new to this! Being mainly an appliqué person, I haven't made many blocks in my quilting life, and so this will be a learning experience for me. I welcome your feedback, ideas for blocks you'd like to make, or comments on whether they are too easy or too difficult. So here goes with October....)

October block of the Month: **Autumn Leaves**



You will need one dark fabric in red, orange, rich brown or green and one off-white for the background.

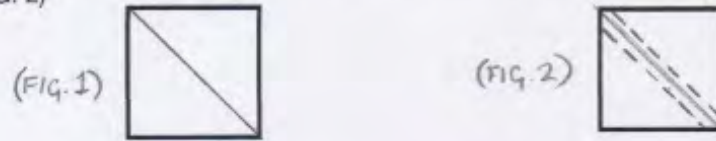
Cut from the light fabric: eight 2 1/2 inch squares,
four 2 7/8 inch squares
one 3 inch square

Cut from the dark fabric: eight 2 1/2 inch squares
four 2 7/8 inch squares
one 4 x 1 inch strip

All seams will be a scant 1/4 inch.

First make triangle squares:

Use the 2 7/8 inch squares. With right sides facing each other, place one light square on top of one dark square. You will have 4 squares. On the light fabric draw a diagonal line from corner to corner. (FIG.1) Stitch 1/4 inch out from both sides of the line (FIG. 2)

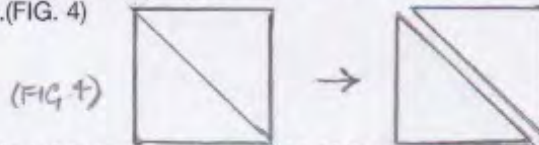


Cut apart on the marked line, open out the 2 pieces and press towards the dark fabric. (FIG. 3)

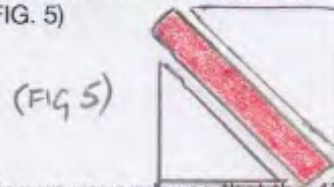


Next make the stem square:

Take the light 3 inch square, mark a diagonal from corner to corner and cut along that line, making 2 triangles.(FIG. 4)



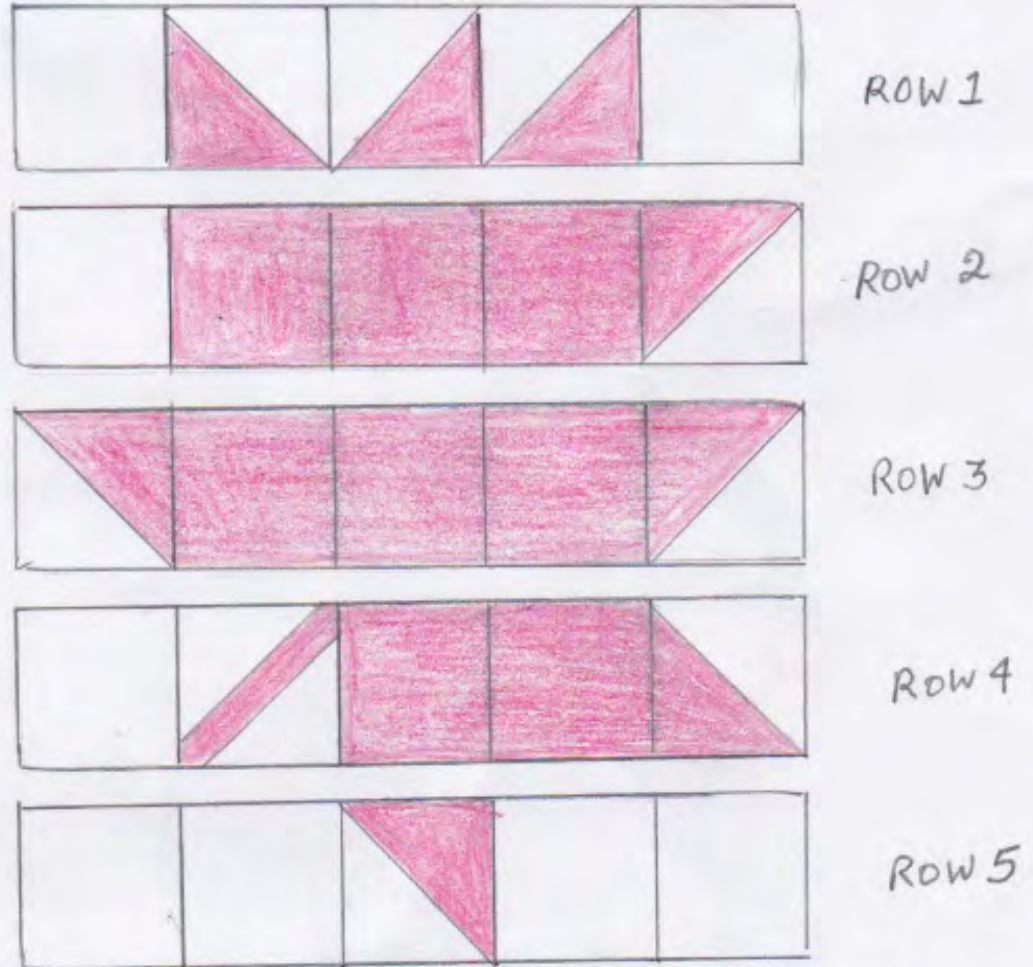
Sew the 1 inch strip of dark fabric to the long sides of the two triangles, lining up the triangles as closely as possible to make a square.(FIG. 5)



Press the seams towards the dark fabric. Then, lining up your ruler so that the 45 degree mark is along the centre of the dark strip, trim your square to 2 1/2 inches.(FIG. 6)



Now you have twenty five 2 1/2 inch squares. Assemble these into 5 rows, according to the following diagram.



Sew each row, press, then join the rows into a square. (Note, it is easier to accurately join the points in each row if you press the seams in the first row to the right, those in the second row to the left and so on, alternating for subsequent rows)

You will finish with a 10 1/2 inch square block.

Helpful Hint: when making the half square triangles, increase the starting size from 2 7/8 in. sqs. to 3 in. This gives you an HST you can then trim to a perfect 2 1/2 in. HST.