

MAY 2021 BLOCK OF THE MONTH

valerie.towler@shaw.ca

A few weeks ago Anna-marie Johnson sent me a picture of some quilt blocks she'd found and thought she'd love to make them as a block of the month. After searching, I found them in a free quilt pattern by Kate Spain on the Moda Fabrics website. The pattern is called "In from the cold" and features a variety of tea and coffee cups, most of which are decorated with quilted motifs.

To make this simpler I suggest, instead of decorating with quilted motifs, we use decorative fabrics. Assembly is fairly easy, building the various blocks as shown in the diagram and then sewing all together.

(The instructions were a challenge to compile, but my e-mail address is above if you need it!)

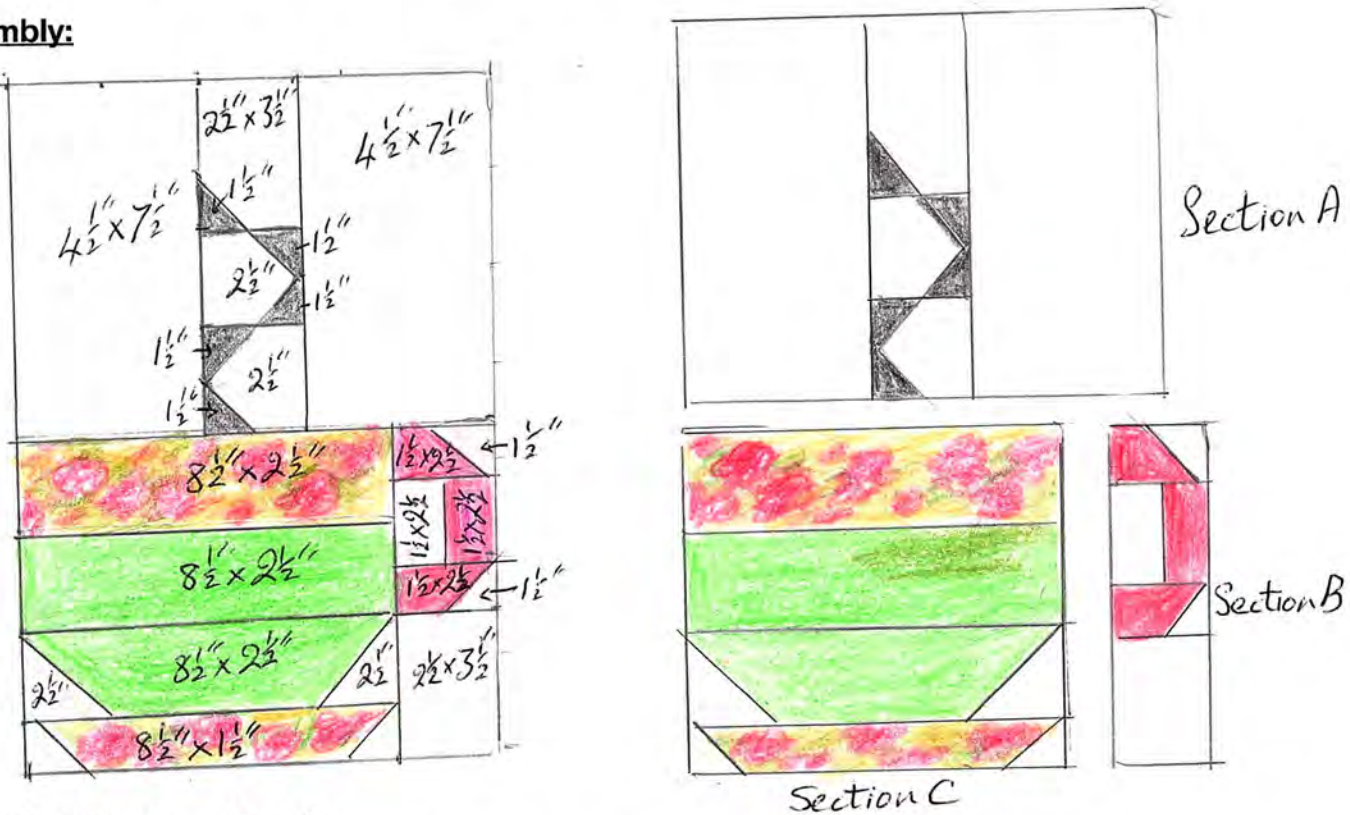


TEACUP

Cutting: Light background (BG): two 4 1/2 x 7 1/2" rectangles
Two 2 1/2 x 3 1/2" rectangles
Four 2 1/2" squares
Four 1 1/2" squares
One 1 1/2 x 2 1/2" rectangle

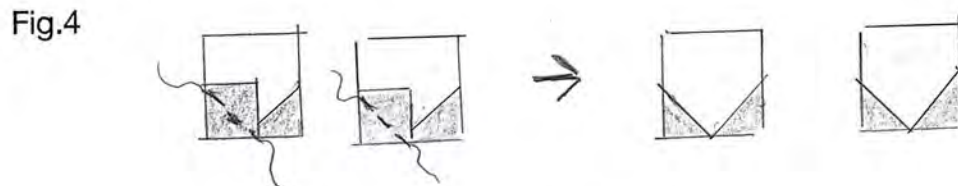
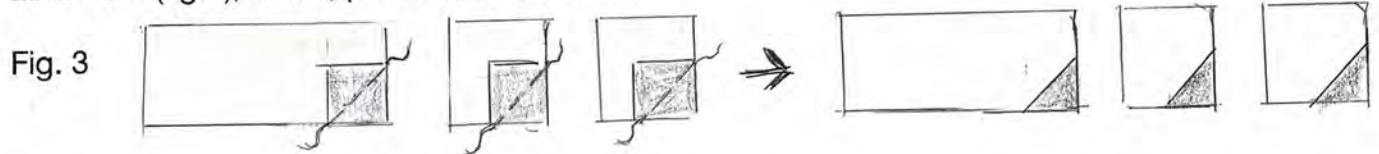
- Grey fabric: Five 1 1/2" squares
- Cup handle: Three 1 1/2 x 2 1/2" rectangles
- Floral/decorative fabric: One 8 1/2 x 2 1/2" rectangle
One 8 1/2 x 1 1/2" rectangle
- Contrast cup fabric Two 8 1/2 x 2 1/2" rectangles

Assembly:

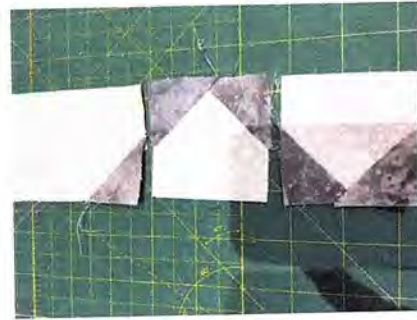


Make the steam section A.

Draw a diagonal line across each of the grey 1 1/2" squares. Place one of the 1 1/2" squares in a corner of one of the 2 1/2 x 3 1/2" BG rectangles and two of the 2 1/2" BG squares as shown (fig. 3). Stitch along the line, press open and trim off the excess fabric. Place the other two grey squares on the opposite corner of the 2 1/2" squares as shown (fig.4), stitch, press back and trim.



Sew together the three pieces as shown (fig. 5)



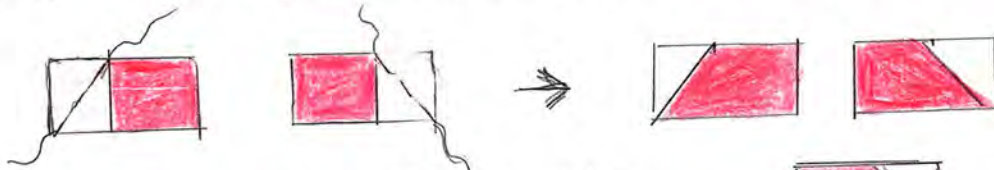
Then sew the two 4 1/2" x 7 1/2" rectangles on either side to make the section A (fig.6)



Make the cup handle section B

Draw one diagonal line across each of two of the BG 1 1/2" squares, place them on two of the cup handle rectangle as shown making sure they are in opposing directions (fig.7)

Fig.7



Stitch, press open and trim. Then, with the remaining cup handle rectangle and the BG 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" assemble as shown (fig. 8).



fig 8

Attach the remaining BG 2 1/2" x 3 1/2" rectangle to make up section B.

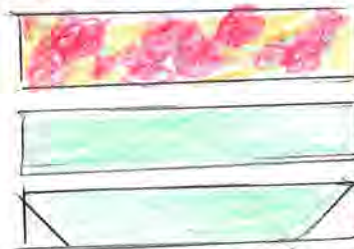
Cup section C

Draw a diagonal across each of the remaining 2 1/2" BG squares. Place these 2 1/2' squares at each end of one of the 2 1/2" x 8 1/2" plain fabric rectangles with the diagonals in opposite directions, stitch, press open and trim. (Fig.9)



Do the same with the 1 1/2" squares at each end of the 8 1/2 x 1 1/2" floral/decorative rectangle to make the saucer.

Join the cup sections together as shown, adding the saucer at the bottom.



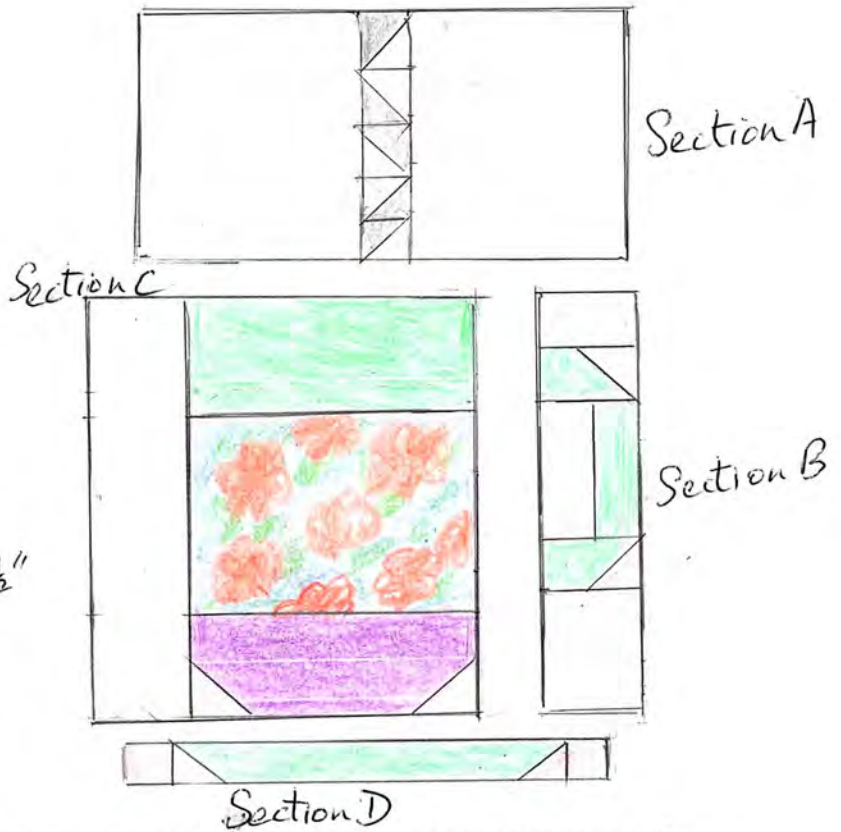
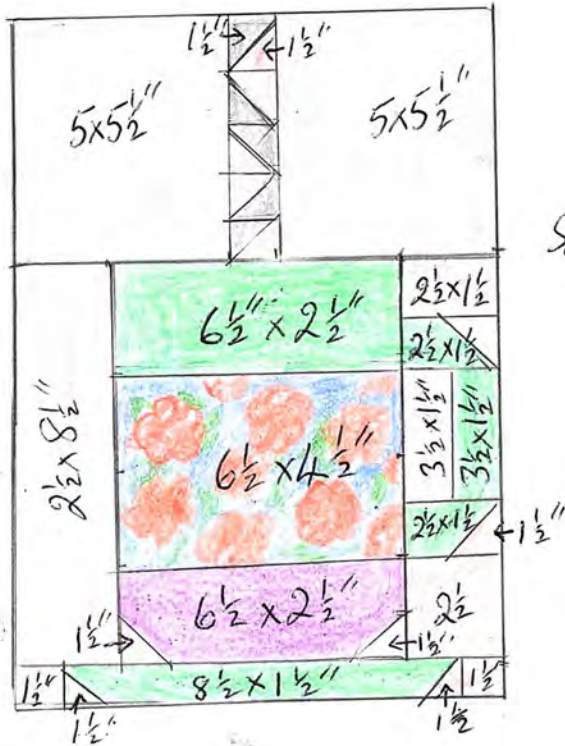
Assemble the three blocks as in the main diagram. You will have a 14 1/2" x 10 1/2" square.

COFFEE MUG

Cutting:	Background fabric (BG).	Two 5 x 5 1/2" rectangles
		Three 2" squares
		One 2 1/2 x 8 1/2" rectangle
		One 1 1/2 x 2 1/2" rectangle
		Eight 1 1/2" squares
		One 2 1/2" square
		One 1 1/2 x 3 1/2" rectangle
	Grey fabric:	Three 2" squares
	Handle, top of cup, and saucer green fabric, X	One 6 1/2 x 2 1/2" rectangle.
		Two 2 1/2 x 1 1/2" rectangles
	One 3 1/2 x 1 1/2" rectangle	
	One 8 1/2 x 1 1/2" rectangle	
Middle section of mug, Floral fabric, Y :	One. 6 1/2 x 4 1/2" rectangle	
Lower section of mug, lilac fabric, Z .	One 6 1/2 x 2 1/2" rectangle	

Note: I have described the colours in my example block, but please use whichever fabric and colours you prefer.

Assembly:



Steam section A. This is similar to the teacup, but the steam is made with five half square triangles. Place one of the 2" BG squares on each of the 2" grey squares, right sides facing. Draw a line across one diagonal of each BG square, then stitch 1/4" on each side of the diagonal. Cut through the diagonal, then press the resulting squares open. (Fig 3) Trim the squares to 1 1/2" square. You will have six squares, of which you will use five.

Fig. 3

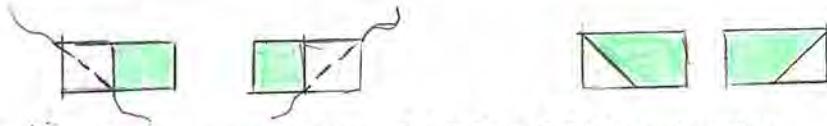


Sew five of the squares together in a row, then attach the two 5 x 5 1/2" rectangles each side as shown at right.



Handle section B.

Take two of the 1 1/2" BG squares, draw a diagonal across each and place one on each of the fabric **X (green)** 1 1/2 x 2 1/2" rectangles with the diagonals in opposite directions. Stitch along the diagonals, press open and trim. (Fig 4)



Sew the BG and the **X (green)** 1/12" x 3 1/2" rectangles together down the vertical seam. Press open and trim. Then assemble the mug handle. (Fig 5)



Stitch the 2 1/2" BG square on the bottom, and the 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" BG rectangle on the top.

Mug body section C.

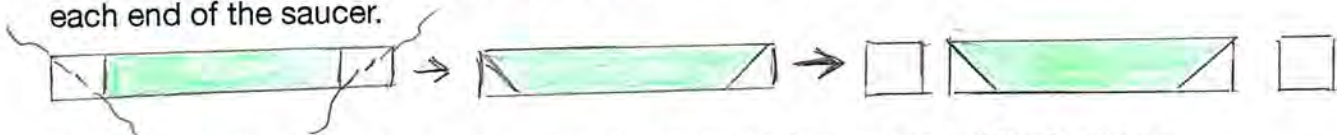
Take two of the 1 1/2" BG squares draw a diagonal across each, then place at each end of the mug bottom - fabric **Z (lilac)** 6 1/2 x 2 1/2" rectangle - the diagonals in opposite directions as shown. (Fig.6). Stitch along the diagonals, press open and trim.



You can then sew the three large 6 1/2" rectangles, X,Y and Z together according to the diagram at the beginning.

Saucer section D.

Draw diagonals across two more of the 1 1/2" BG squares, place at each end of the 8 1/2" x 1 1/2" rectangle of fabric **X (green)**, the diagonals in opposite directions as shown. (Fig. 7) Stitch, press open and trim. Sew the remaining 1/2" BG squares at each end of the saucer.



You now have all the pieces you need to assemble the mug as in Fig. 2 above. You will have a 14 1/2" x 10 1/2" square.