

Family Block of the Month: Baskets

Block 4

10" finished block

Cutting:

Background:

Cut (2) 2 1/2" x 6 1/2" rectangles.

Cut (1) 4 1/2" square.

Cut (1) 8 1/2" square.

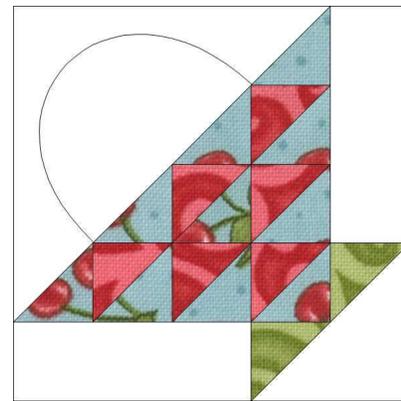
Basket:

Cut (3) 3" square (blue).

Cut (3) 3" square (red).

Cut (4) 2 1/2" squares (blue).

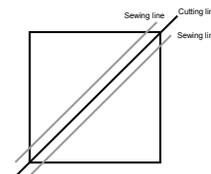
Cut (2) 2 1/2" squares (green).



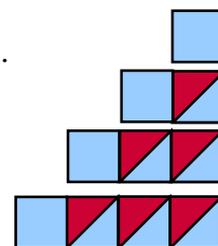
Sewing:

Body

Draw a diagonal line on the back of each 3" square of one color, then draw a line 1/4" to each side. These are the sewing lines. Pair each square with a 3" square of the other color. With right sides together, sew along the two outer line, then cut along the center line. Press to the dark to form (6) half square triangle units. Trim to 2 1/2" square.

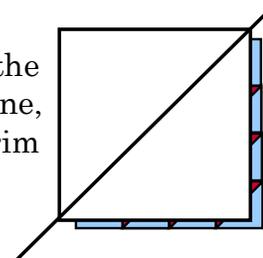


Sew three half square triangle units together to form a row, making sure the colors are placed the same. Sew two more half square triangle units together to form a second row. Sew a (blue) 2 1/2" square to the (red) side of each of your half square triangle rows (the row of three and row of two), as well as to the one remaining half square triangle unit.



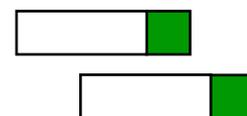
Sew your half square triangle rows together, with the (blue) square at the left in each row. Be careful to line up your seam intersections.

Draw a diagonal line on the back of the 8 1/2" background square. You need just ONE line! Place the background square right sides together with the basket body. Line up the corners. Pin along the basket squares to hold them in place. Sew along the diagonal line, then flip back the background and make sure everything looks right. If it's all good, trim the excess background fabric and basket squares to 1/4" from the seam and press.



Base

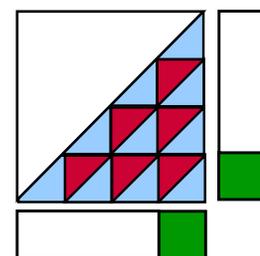
Sew the 2 1/2" (green) squares to the end of each of the 2 1/2" x 6 1/2" background rectangles. Press to the background - this will help in the final step!



Basket Assembly

Sew the two base rectangle/square segments to either side of the basket.

Draw a diagonal line on the back of the 4 1/2" square. Align the diagonal with the corners of the squares that form the base of the basket. This is where pressing to the background helps - you need to line up with the edge of the square in the seam allowance. Sew on the diagonal line (be careful to match the seam intersection point on the other side!) and trim to a 1/4" seam. Press to the background if it's dark enough to hide the colored fabrics, otherwise press to the colors.



Optional Handles, etc.

Adding handles, fruit, flowers, embellishments, etc. is up to you! Consider appliqueing a handle - there are applique variations to play with. Rickrack would be interesting, too. You could also add flowers or fruit. Look into applique or broderie perse (cutting out flowers or fruit that was printed on fabric, then sewing it to your block). Be creative!

