

Family Block of the Month: Baskets

Block 8

10" finished block

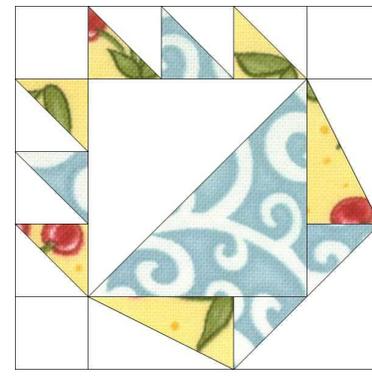
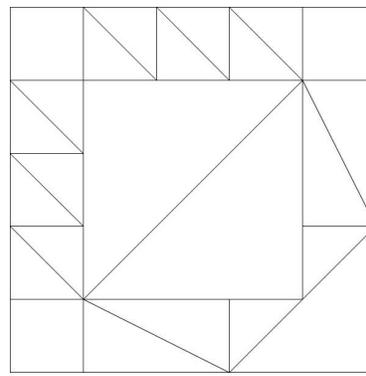
Cutting:

Background:

- (1) 7 1/2" square
- (1) 4 1/2" squares
- (3) 3 1/2" squares
- (3) 2 1/2" squares
- (2) 3" x 6" rectangles

Basket:

- (1) 7 1/2" blue square
- (1) 3 1/2" blue square
- (2) 2 1/2" blue squares
- (2) 3 1/2" yellow squares
- (2) 3" x 6" yellow rectangles

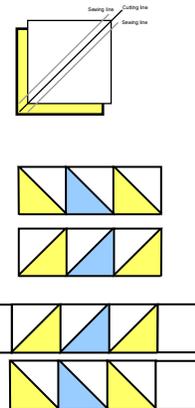


Sewing:

Basket Handle

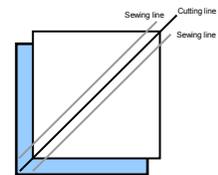
Draw a diagonal line on the back of each 3 1/2" background square, then draw a line 1/4" to each side. These are the sewing lines. Pair the background squares with two yellow and one blue 3 1/2" squares. With right sides together, sew along the two outer line, then cut along the center line. Press to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

Sew HST units together into (2) sets of three to form the basket handles. Watch the placement - you will sew (1) set so the darker triangle is on the left, and (1) sets so the darker triangle is on the right. Sew one 2 1/2" background square to each end of one basket handle set. Sew the remaining 2 1/2" background square to the background side of the other handle set.



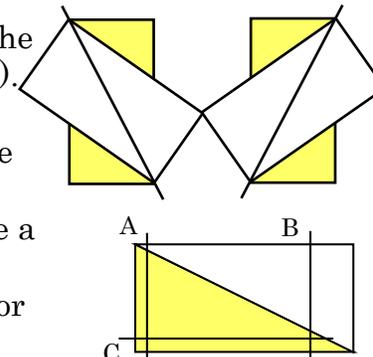
Basket Center:

Draw a diagonal line on the back of the 7 1/2" background square, then draw a line 1/4" to each side. Pair the background square with the basket body square. Sew along the two outer line, then cut along the center line. Press to the dark to form (2) half square triangle units (you only need one - save the other for future use). Trim to 6 1/2" square.



Basket Sides:

Draw a diagonal line on the back of the 3" x 6" background rectangles. Pair with the yellow rectangles, right sides together, matching opposite corners (see illustration). **IMPORTANT** - one pair should have the line angling left to right and the other right to left. Pin to keep it secure. Sew ON the diagonal line and press. You'll have excess fabric on the back - don't trim it yet! First trim one short side 1/4" from the point (A). Next, measure 4 1/2" from there and cut (B). Trim the long side to create a 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" rectangle (C). Notice how the points are cut off - this is important! Finally, trim the excess fabric from the back. These are "half rectangle triangles" or HRTs.



Sew a 2 1/2" blue square onto the yellow end of each 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" HRT unit.



Basket Assembly:

Sew the HRT units to the large center half square triangle, following the block diagram for placement. The basket base squares will hang over the edge - that's okay. Sew the basket handle units to the top and side.

Background Corner:

The last piece of the block is the background corner. Draw a diagonal line on the back of the 4 1/2" background corner square. Place the background square on the bottom right corner of the basket block so the diagonal line cuts across the corner. Sew on the diagonal line. Fold back the background square to make sure it bisects the basket base pieces and forms the triangles. If everything looks good, trim the excess fabric 1/4" below the seam line.

