

November Block of the Month Kaleidoscope Fan



A very easy kaleidoscope block with no curved seams.

Materials for 1 Block: (All pieces are pre-cut in the kit.)

Background fabric – 11 ½” square

Fan Blades – 6 blades @ 8” in length using a 15 degree wedge tool.

Trim – 1 piece 5/8” wide by 17” long plus 1 piece 5/8” wide by 5” long.

Tools Used:

15 degree wedge tool available at quilt shops.

¼” bias tape tool available at quilt shops and fabric stores.

Washable, acid free, non-toxic glue in stick or liquid form.

(Any household glue with the above properties is good. For stick glue I like the UHU brand. I also use Elmer’s liquid school glue and apply it with a toothpick or small brush. Quilt shops have fabric basting glue which has a fine tip applicator which provides much more control than the other products.

Fabric Cutting:

The fan blades can be cut with a ruler and template but if you are making several blocks the 15 degree wedge tool is much more efficient.

To achieve a kaleidoscope effect, each of the 6 fan blades must be cut from the exact same spot of the fabric design. Cutting one block is a very inefficient use of fabric. To cut several blocks, six layers of fabric are stacked so that the design lines up perfectly. You then cut strips from the fabric stack the height you want depending on the design repeat. After this step, the cutting of the fan blades is very easy and efficient.

Here is a link to a You Tube video showing how to stack fabric.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPHKHXVs2oI&feature=related>

Kaleidoscopes made easy by Westalee Design

Sewing the Block:

This block uses ¼” seams for sewing the fan blades together.

Step 1:



Line up two fan blades, right sides together with all edges aligned and sew down the right hand side starting at the wide end.

Sew two more pairs in the same manner.

Sew one set of pairs together and then add the last pair so you have 6 fan blades forming an arc.

Press all the seams towards the right.

Tidy up the fan by trimming away any little bits of seam that are sticking out.



Assembling the Block:

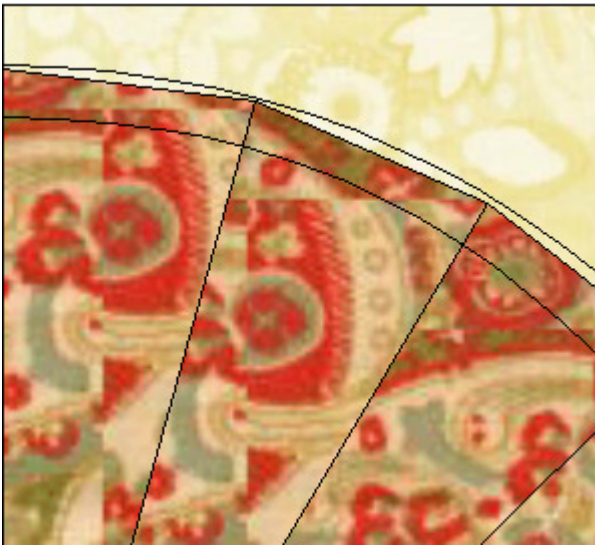


Lay the fan unit on the background square. Move it around until the two straight edges are aligned with the edges of the background square. When you are pleased with the placement, turn back the edges and put small dabs of glue in the seam allowances along the top and the bottom. Press to dry the glue. The fan unit is now temporarily secure.

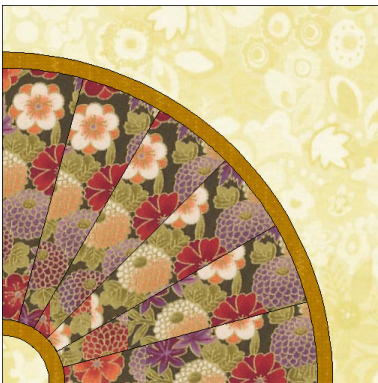
Glue along these edges.

Adding the Trim:

The trim serves two purposes. It is intended to be decorative but when it is sewn in place, it holds the entire block together.



This is the placement for the trim. The outer edge is placed just past the edge of the fan so that it covers all the raw edges. The inner edge sits just shy of a quarter inch on top the fan unit. The bottom curve of the fan is covered up the same way.



Measure a length of $\frac{1}{4}$ " bias trim so that it is slightly longer than the curve of the fan. Place glue on the back of the strip along the entire length. If you are planning to sew the trim in place by hand, try not to get glue along the outer edges.

Starting at one edge with a little bit of trim overhanging, curve the trim strip around the top of the fan as per the placement diagram above. Leave a little bit of trim overhanging the other edge. If you have trouble getting a nice curve, a large dinner plate inverted on the fan may help guide you.

The trim strips can be lifted and replaced without damaging the fabric. You may have to reapply some glue.

When you are pleased with the placement and all the raw edges are covered, press the block to dry and stabilize the glue.

Repeat with the bottom curve.

Finishing the Block:

Sew both edges of the trim in place to secure the block. There are many options available to you to perform this step.

- Sew a small zig zag stitch with monofilament thread along both edges of the trim.
- Sew a regular machine stitch very close to the edges using a fine matching thread such as rayon.
- Use a decorative stitch and matching thread. Make sure that the decorative stitch does not distort the fabric and place stabilizer under your block while sewing.
- Hand appliqué all the edges.

When you are finished sewing, cut away the excess trim.

The background under the fan can be left in place or can be cut away. Please leave it in place for now and the winner of the blocks can decide if they want to remove it or not.

Give the block a final pressing and you are done. Looks nice, doesn't it.