

October 2011 Block of the Month Arrowhead Block



Block size – 9 inch finished, 9 ½ inch unfinished

Colour Scheme – Autumn colours,

Fabric Requirements:

Dark – 8 ½” inch square of earth coloured fabric in brown, rust, burgundy, plum, grey/green etc.

Light – 8 ½” square in golds, tans, leaf colours, fall flowers such as asters, mums etc.

(You can get 4 – 8 ½” squares from one fat quarter of fabric.)

Cutting Tip:

I found that my top fabric crept out of alignment when I sewed the long seams down the edge of the square resulting in uneven patches for the centre four patch segments. To fix this situation I lay my squares right sides together so they were perfectly aligned and then I pressed them being careful not to disturb the alignment. The pressing helped the fabric grab onto each other and reduced the amount the top piece moved while sewing.

Laying my chosen fabrics right sides together, pressing well and then cutting was even more precise.

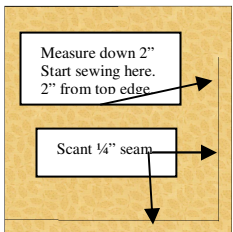
Pressing the Block Notes:

- This block will have bias seams along the outer edge. To eliminate distortion, press with an up and down motion. Do not use a side to side ironing motion.
- For this block, my preference is to press all seams open. However, many quilters do not like to do that. I have provided pressing instructions for pressing seams to one side which will allow the seams to butt up together when the blocks are sewn together light triangle to dark triangle. Choose the pressing method that suits you.

Sewing the Block: (Note: The diagrams are not to scale.)

All seams are a scant ¼” . Use a 2mm stitch length.

Tip: *While sewing this block you should always be sewing light to dark or dark to light. If you discover you are sewing dark/dark or light/light you have probably picked up an incorrect patch.*

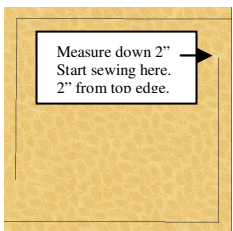


With right sides together, align all edges of the two 8 ½” squares. (See Cutting Tip)

Starting two inches from the top right hand edge, sew a scant ¼” seam down the right side to ¼” from the bottom.

Lift the pressure foot and pivot the fabric squares. Realign bottom edge so that you have a scant ¼” seam and sew straight across the square to the edge. You will have an L-shaped seam.

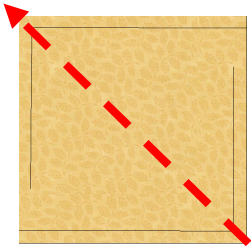
Tip: *A 2 inch Post It Note aligned along the top right edge is an efficient marker. If you do not have a sticky note then cut a 2” square of paper. You just need to hold it in place until you can lower your needle into position to start your seam.*



Turn fabric squares 180°. The L-shaped seam will be across the top and down the left side.

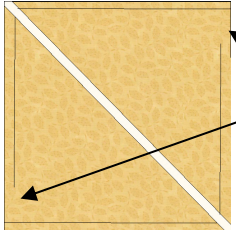
Measure 2” down from the top right edge of the fabric and sew a scant ¼” seam to ¼” of the bottom. Pivot, realign edge and sew a scant ¼” seam across the bottom to the edge.

You will have 2 L-shaped seams going around the outside of the fabric squares with openings on opposite corners.



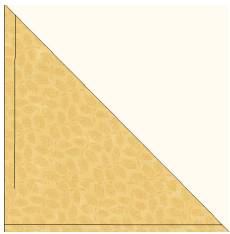
Lay the sewn fabric squares on a cutting mat.

Line up an acrylic ruler diagonally across the squares from corner to corner. Double check to ensure that the ruler is across the sewn corners and not across the corners with the openings. Cut diagonally across the fabric squares.



You will now have two sections that look like this.

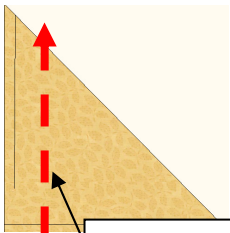
Openings.



Lift up the right hand triangle segment, turn it 180° and place it on the left hand triangle aligning all edges. Double check to see that the two openings are placed over each other.

Tip: I also check to see that the seams are lined up directly on top of each other.

If the two triangles are not exactly equal in size, it is more important for the two edges that form the 90° angle to be aligned than it is for the diagonal edge to be aligned.

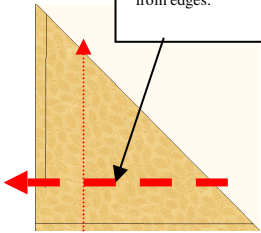


Place your acrylic ruler down the left side of the triangle exactly 2 inches from the left edge. (The 1 3/4" line should be running on top of your sewn seam.)

Cut through all thicknesses 2 inches from the left edge.

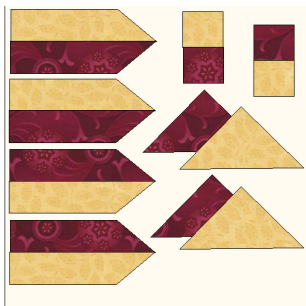
Do not pick up the fabric or move it in any way.

Cut through all thicknesses 2" from edges.



Place your ruler along the bottom edge of the triangle exactly 2 inches from the bottom edge. (The 1 3/4" line should be running on top of your sewn seam.)

Cut through all thicknesses 2 inches from the left edge.



When you separate all the pieces you will have

4 – 2 patch rectangles with pointed ends

2 – 2 patch rectangles

2 – light triangles

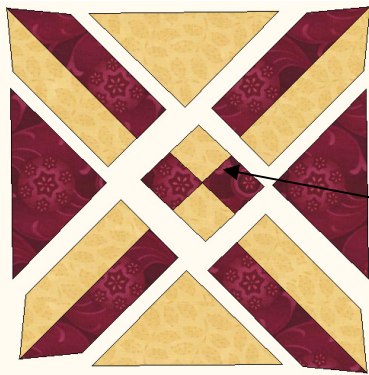
2 – dark triangles

Press the seams on the 2 patch pieces towards the darkest fabric.

Sew the 2 – 2 patch rectangles together to make one 4 patch segment.



Press the seam open.

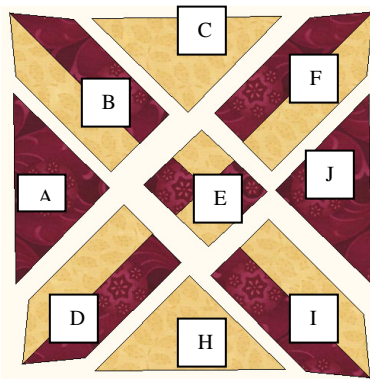


Lay out your pieces as per the diagram.

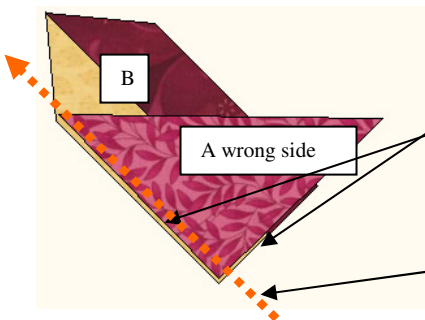
Note that as you travel around the block you will have light, dark, light, dark, etc.

The seam that was press open should be here.

You can now sew all the pieces together to complete the block. The four pointed corner segments will be longer than the triangle pieces. To line up the patches, start at the 90° angle and align the straight edges. Also start sewing your seams from the 90° angle.



Each segment has been lettered to aid in the following chain piecing sequence.



Example:

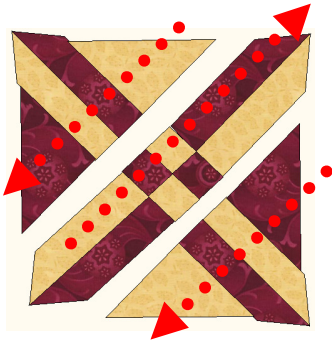
Flip triangle A over segment B.

Align these edges.

Sew in this direction.

Chain Piecing Sequence:

The segments can be sewn together like a nine patch block. If you are making more than one, chain piecing is very efficient. Sew A to B. Sew D to E. Sew H to I. Now sew A/B to C; D/E to F and then H/I to J. Press the seams as per the following diagram.



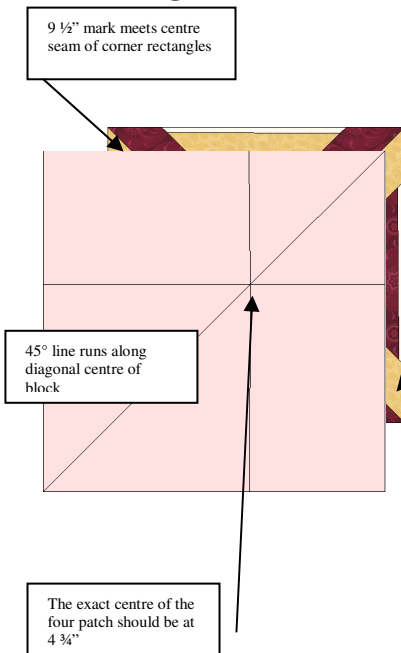
Press one triangle segment towards the dark triangle.
 Press the second triangle segment towards the light triangle.
 Press the middle segment in one direction.

Sew the two remaining seams together.
 Press towards the centre.



Your block will now look like this.
 Notice the uneven edges with the corner segments being longer than the triangle patches.

Trimming the Block With a Square Ruler:



Align your ruler with the 45° along the centre seam of the block. The 4 3/4" line should be at the exact centre of the 4 patch unit. The zero mark should be along the diagonal seam of the top left hand pointed rectangle. The 9 1/2" marks should be at the diagonal seams of the top left and the bottom right pointed rectangles. Double check your ruler alignment and trim along the right side and the top side of the block.

Rotate your block 180°. Line up the 45° diagonal line with the centre diagonal of the block. The left edge that you just trimmed should be at 9 1/2" and the bottom edge that was also trimmed should be at 9 1/2".

Trim along the right edge and the top edge.
 The block should not measure 9 1/2" square.

The steps for trimming with a long ruler are almost the same except you can only trim one side at a time. Line up your ruler with the 4 3/4" mark running through the centre of the 4 patch segment. Make sure you have 9 1/2" between every seam of the corner pointed rectangles. Trim one side, rotate 90° trim the next side etc. until all sides are trimmed. You will be cutting away approximately 1/4" or less of the triangles and 1/2" or more from the corner segments.