

Block Party for May

Have you started to make your summer vacation plans yet? Perhaps this Colorado Block will inspire you. The block will be made in the state colors of blue and gold.

Materials Needed

Blue: Four $3\frac{7}{8}$ " squares and eight $3\frac{1}{2}$ " squares.

Gold: Two $3\frac{7}{8}$ " squares.

Cream background: Two $3\frac{7}{8}$ " squares and four $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles.

Instructions

First make the center four blocks that form the pinwheel. Place, right sides together, two sets of blue and gold $3\frac{7}{8}$ " squares. Draw a diagonal line on the back of one side and sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " on either side of the line. Cut on the line and you will now have four sets of half square triangles to sew together to make the pinwheel. See the box for special finishing instructions. By doing this section first, the seams will be pressed in the correct directions for joining. Use the same half square triangle technique with two sets of the blue and cream $3\frac{7}{8}$ " squares to make the four corner blocks.

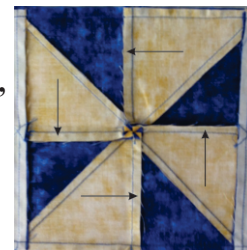
The four sides are comprised of "flying geese" blocks. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of each of the 8 blue $3\frac{1}{2}$ " squares. Lay a square, right side to right side on one end of each of the four $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ " strips. Sew on the line. Fold and press first, then fold back and trim away the extra corners. Now repeat with the four remaining blue squares on the other ends. The points will overlap. Then stitch together as in the illustration. Your block will be $12\frac{1}{2}$ ".

To participate, make the block described, bring it to the next meeting, post your block(s) on the design board, and place your name (one for each block you bring) into the pot. A winning name from those who contributed will be drawn; the winner takes home all the blocks.

Nancy Babcock, Donna Prime & Peg Prior



How to make a bulk free "circular" center seam.



After first sewing together two sets of the blocks, press the seams in opposite directions. We'll call these seams A. Now sew these two sets together - seam B. Now in the very center pick out 3-4 stitches on each side from the original seams A. That will allow you to press the four seams in four directions as illustrated with arrows. The center will fan out in a spiral.