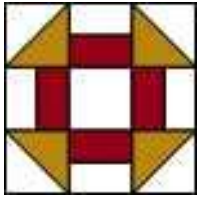


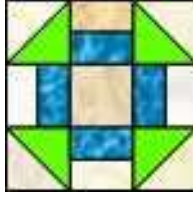
Month 2 (February): Churn Dash block - 12" and Maple Leaf blocks - 6"

Churn Dash block - 12"

Fabric Keys:



Light = B
Gold = C
Red = D



Light = B
Green = C
Blue = D

History:

- A very old 9-Patch quilt block pattern, originating between 1800 and 1849
- Its name is a result of the resemblance of the triangle and rectangle perimeter of the block to a butter churn and the center square to the stick (or "dash") of the butter churn.
- Alternate names: Double Monkey Wrench, Greek Square, Dragon's Head, Hole in the Barn Door, and Monkey Wrench to name a few.
- Some of the names are also names of other blocks, such as the Monkey Wrench, or variations of the block.

Techniques: Fast method for four half square triangles (HSTs) strip piecing

Cutting Instructions: The instructions start with patches that are slightly over-sized and then trimmed to size after stitching.

Half Square Triangles (HSTs):

Light neutral colors [B, patch 1]: Cut one 5" x 10" rectangle

Gold/green colors [C, patch 2]: Cut one 5" x 10" rectangle

Strip Piecing: (Layer the two fabrics right sides together (RST) before cutting.)

Light neutral colors [B, patch 3]: Cut one strip 2 1/2" x 19"

Red/blue colors [D, patch 4]: Cut one strip 2 1/2" x 19"

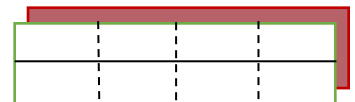
- Scrappy: For scrappy version, cut four 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" rectangles each of B and D color fabrics

Center Square: Light neutral color [B]: Cut one 4 1/2" square

Construction:

Strip Piecing:

- Stitch the two strips (B and D) RST on the longer strip sides with a 1/4" seam.
- Press toward the darker fabric.
- Subcut into four 4 1/2" segments. If making the scrappy version, stitch the four layered rectangles together along the longer edges and press toward the dark fabrics. The units will be 4 1/2" squares.



Half Square Triangles (HSTs): This technique makes four HSTs at the same time out of two fabrics. (For four scrappy HSTs use the same technique as the Ribbon Star block from last month.)

- Draw a vertical midline, 5" from the side of the B fabric rectangle, dividing the rectangle into two 5" squares.
- Mark two diagonal lines from the top corners to the bottom of the center drawn line.

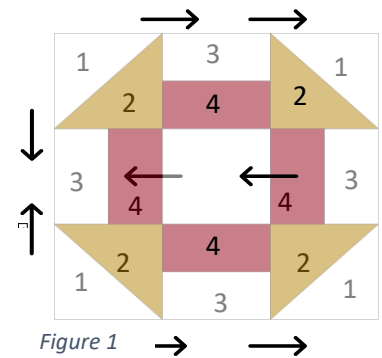
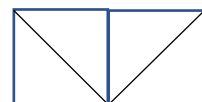


Figure 1

- Draw lines $\frac{1}{4}$ " on either side of these lines.

Sew units:

- Layer a marked B rectangle on top of a C rectangle RST
- Starting at an upper corner, stitch on the outer marked line, pivoting at the center bottom, and then sewing up the other diagonal line to the other upper corner (dotted lines in diagram).
- Stitch another seam on the inside marked lines (dotted lines in diagram).
- Cut into two 5" squares on center line.
- Cut between the two stitched diagonal lines, yielding four HST units. Press seams toward darker fabrics.
- Trim all HST units to $4\frac{1}{2}$ ".



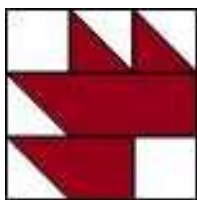
Assemble Block:

- Nesting seams together, pin units together: place a pin straight through both seams, thread a pin on either side of this pin (or use a hairpin) and remove the first pin. Sew the HST units and the $4\frac{1}{2}$ " strip pieced units together into rows according to Figure #1.
- Use the arrows in Figure #1 for pressing directions.
- Sew the three rows together. The block will measure $12\frac{1}{2}$ ", including seam allowances.

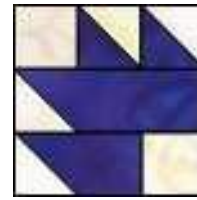
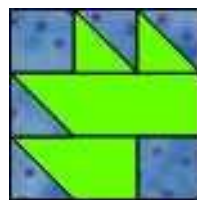
Maple Leaf blocks - 6"

28 Maple Leaf blocks - 6" (14 each of two different colored blocks in each colorways)

Fabric Keys:



Black = A
Light = B
Gold = C
Red = D



Med. blue = A
Light = B
Green = C
Dark Blue = D

History:

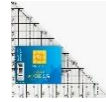
The Maple Leaf block is an old design derived from nature; it likely originated in the late 1800s. Usually made in two strongly contrasting colors, the block is typically constructed of 1 light and 3 dark squares and 4 half-square triangles and a stem that is a strip of the dark fabric constructed diagonally within a light square. I chose a variation, which has fewer triangles and no stem.

Techniques: Half square triangles (HSTs) from strips; flip and sew

Optional Tools: Essential Triangle Tool



or EZ Easy Angle ruler or



another HST ruler

- These tools create HSTs from strips easier than using the 45° line on a regular quilting ruler. The Essential Triangle Tool has the added advantage of creating quarter square triangles (QSTs), whereas the EZ Companion ruler or another ruler is needed for QSTs. No formulas are needed to calculate the size strip(s) to use - just cut the strip width the same size as the unfinished HST or QST square. HST rulers have a blunt tip at the top so they also save time and fabric as one set of the ¼" tips (dog ears) is already cut off before sewing and in some methods (e.g. flip and sew), there is no extra fabric corners to cut off (although these are sometimes be used for smaller bonus triangles).

Cutting Instructions: Strips and patches are cut to size and there is no need to trim sewn units. An accurate ¼" seam is essential. Since twenty-eight blocks are needed (fourteen each of two different colors), cutting instructions are for all fourteen blocks of one colorway. All strips can be from the same two fabrics, or for a scrappier version, use several different and/or shorter strips of different fabric

Cut Strips:

- Black/medium blue colors [A]: Cut five 2 ½" strips
 - From two strips, subcut twenty-eight 2 ½" squares for corner squares and twenty-eight 2 ½" squares for flip and sew units.
- Gold/green colors: Cut six 2 ½" strips
 - From two strips, subcut into fourteen 7" rectangles and fourteen 5" rectangles

Repeat for the white/red and light/dark blue blocks [B/D].

Half Square Triangles (HSTs):

- Layer a black/medium blue [A] and a gold/green [C] strip right sides together (RST).
- Square up one end of the strips.
- Place the clean-cut edge you just trimmed to the left if you are a right-handed and to the right if you're left-handed.
- Align top of a HST ruler with top edge of strips and the ruler's 2 ½" measurement line with bottom edge of the strips. Cut along right edge of ruler (left edge for left-handers). The top edge (blunt edge) of your HST ruler should align with the top edges of the fabric strips. Cut the fabric strips along the 45° angle side of the HST ruler (Figure 3).

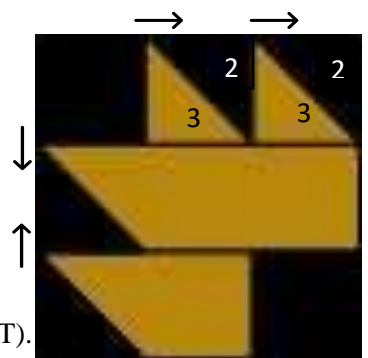


Figure 2

- Rotate the ruler clockwise 180 degrees (so blunt tip points south). Align the blunt tip with the bottom of the fabric strips and the 45° angle side with the previously cut 45° edge. Cut the fabric strips along the straight side of the HST ruler (Figure 4).
- Repeat the last two steps until you've cut the 28 triangles needed for the #2/3 HSTs (Figure 5).
- If you don't have an HST ruler, place the 45° line on a regular ruler along the bottom of the strip with the edge of the ruler angled to the right and the top left corner of the fabric aligned with the ¼" line on the ruler, which will give a blunt top edge of the triangle; cut along the straight ruler edge. Turn the ruler 180 degrees to cut the next triangle.
- With the blunt end of the half square triangle going through the needle first, stitch each HST with a scant ¼" seam.
- Press toward dark fabric.
- The units should measure 2 ½".

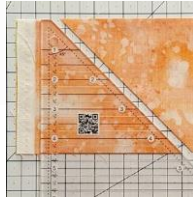


Figure 3

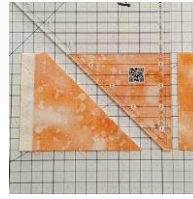


Figure 3

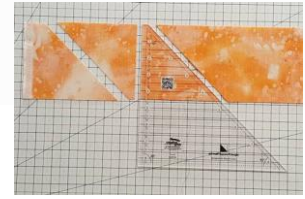


Figure 5

Flip and Sew Units:

- Mark the back of black/medium blue [A] 2 ½" squares with a diagonal line from corner to corner.
- Place a square on top of the 7" rectangle.
- Sew on the marked line with a scant ¼" seam.
- Trim seam ¼" from the seam line (Figure 6).
- Open seam and press toward the black/medium blue [A] triangle (Figure 7). The unit should measure 6 ½".
- Repeat this for the fourteen 2 ½" x 6 ½" and fourteen 2 ½" x 4 ½" rectangles.



Figure 6



Figure 7

Assemble Blocks:

- Sew the HST units, and the 6 ½" and 4 ½" flip and sew units together into rows according to Figure #2.
- Use the arrows in Figure #2 for pressing directions.
- Sew the three rows together. The block will measure 6 ½", including seam allowances.
- Make a total of fourteen black/medium blue or blue/green blocks [A, C].
- Make another fourteen blocks in the white/red or light/dark blue blocks [B, D].