

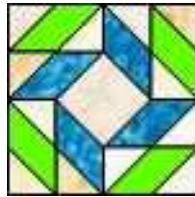
# Month 5 (May): Mosaic - 12" and Weathervane - 12"

## Mosaic - 12"

### Fabric Keys:



Color A = Black  
Color C = Gold  
Color D = Red



Color A = Light  
Color C = Green  
Color D = Blue

**History:** The design is attributed to, among others, Nancy Cabot. Nancy was the Needlework Editor for the Chicago Tribune and wrote a syndicated daily quilting column in the 1930s. Nancy was an early career woman and was also a forerunner of the modern quilt designer/influencer. Her columns were written in a casual, conversational format called "kitchen table style." Over the years, she designed at least 200 quilt blocks, and no doubt inspired thousands of quilters.

**Techniques:** Block analysis; Connecting Corners (also called folded corners)

**Block Analysis:** There are often different ways of constructing a quilt unit and/or block. For example, the several different methods of creating a half square triangle (HST) described in some of the previous blocks. Before making a block, look at the block and instructions and see if there are alternate ways to construct the block.

Look at the Mosaic block for this month (Figure 1 - I'm using the second color version to see the units easier). At first glance, it looks very difficult to make because of the center block. By dividing the center block into quarters, it greatly simplifies the constructions (Figures 2 and 3). The rectangular units can also be constructed differently. Each rectangle can be divided into two HST units (Figure 2) or constructed as a rectangle (Figure 3). The rectangle can also be made using different methods: construct the unit with a rectangle piece with a triangle on each end or with connecting corners on each end. These instructions will use the connecting squares method.

### Cutting Instructions:

Black/light colors [A]: Cut sixteen  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " squares

Gold/green colors [C]: Cut a strip  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " wide x 26" long

- Subcut into four  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles

Red/blue colors [D]: Cut a strip  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " wide x 26" long

- Subcut into four  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles

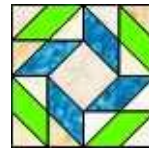


Figure 1

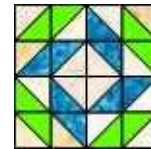


Figure 2

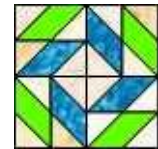


Figure 3

**Note:** To make the units scrappier, use four different fabrics each for C and D rectangles instead of the  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " strips and use a different fabric for each A  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " square.

### Construction:

**Connecting Corners:** Connecting corners is a technique that attaches triangles to the corner(s) of a square or rectangle. Triangles can be attached to one, two, three, or all four corners and can be varied in size and/or color. It is also referred to as the folded corners technique. This technique is commonly used to make flying geese blocks, snowball blocks, and chevrons.

- Mark the back of an A  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " square diagonally from corner to corner.
- Place the square on the corner of a C  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle, orienting the marked line according to Figure 4.
- Stitch on the line.
- Trim the excess from the outer triangle, leaving a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.
- Press the triangle toward the outside corner (Figure 5).



Figure 4

Figure 5

- Repeat on the opposite end of the C rectangle, (Figure 6); note, the marked line is parallel to the marked line at the opposite corner, not rotated.
- The unit measures 3 ½" x 6 ½" unfinished.
- Make three more units for a total of four A/C rectangular units.
- Repeat with the remaining A squares and D rectangles, making a total Of four A/D rectangular units.



Figure 6

Assemble Block:

- Stitch an A/C rectangle unit and an A/D rectangle unit together (Figure 7).
- Press seam open.
- Repeat three times, making a total of four sections.
- Stitch the four sections together into rows, rotating each section, according to Figure 8.
- Press seam open.
- Nesting seams together, pin rows together; sew the three rows together.
- Again, press seam open.
- The block will measure 12 ½", including seam allowances.



Figure 7



Figure 8

# Weathervane - 12"

## Fabric Keys:



Color A = Black  
 Color B = White  
 Color C = Gold  
 Color D = Red



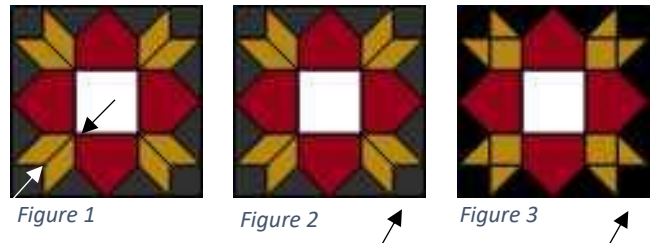
Color A = Blue  
 Color B = Light  
 Color C = Dark Green  
 Color D = Medium Green

**History:** This is a nine-patch design that is technically a "star" pattern but has fewer star points than most blocks that are categorized as a star. It is reminiscent of the blades on a weathervane (or windmill) - thus its name. The design first appeared in print in 1929 in the Kansas City Star. The history of this block dates to the great-grandmother of Ruby Short McKim, a creative and clever businesswoman with a supportive husband, who together built a business around her artistic ability and needlework. This block dates back to the time when her great-grandmother used a weathervane to calculate a change in the weather, instead of listening to a scientific forecast on the radio.

**Techniques:** Redrafting a block for easier construction; connecting corners

## Redrafting a Block:

Sometimes you'll come across a block which is difficult to sew – having odd angles or Y-seams, etc. However, it is often possible to redesign the block to simplify construction. As an example, the corner gold patches in Figure #1 would be difficult to make – both the inner and outer angles would require a Y-seam. One way to avoid a Y-seam is to decide if cutting an adjoining patch in half would eliminate it. In Figure #2 cutting the small corner squares in half would get rid of the outer Y-seams. To avoid both Y-seams, reconfigure the corners by turning them into four-patches with two HSTs and two squares as in Figure #3. This is the method used in the instructions below.



## Cutting Instructions:

Black/blue colors [A]:

Cut twelve 2 ½" squares (four for the corner squares and eight for the connecting corners for side sections)

Cut four 3" squares (HSTs in corner sections)

White/light colors [B] Cut one 4 ½" square (center square)

Gold/light colors [C]: Cut four 2 ½" squares (inner corner squares)

Cut four 3" squares (HSTs in corner sections)

Red/green colors [D]: Cut four 4 ½" squares (side sections)

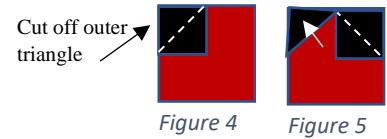
Note: To make the units scrappier, use multiple fabrics for all colors.

## Construction:

### Connecting Corners:

- Mark the back of an A 2 ½" square diagonally from corner to corner.
- Place the square on the corner of a D 4 ½" square, orienting the marked line according to Figure 4.
- Stitch on the line.

- Trim the excess from the outer triangle, leaving a ¼” seam allowance.
- Press the triangle away from the outside corner (Figure 5).
- Repeat to an adjacent corner of the D square, rotating the marked line 90 degrees (Figure 5).
- Make three more units for a total of four A/D units.



### Half Square Triangles (HSTs):

- The cutting instructions given above are for making the eight corner HSTs different/scrappy, using the technique described in the Ribbon Star block instructions from month 1 (January).
- To make all eight HSTs the same, use the technique discussed in month 3 (March) for the Yankee Puzzle block.
- Draw two lines on back of C squares, 1/4, 1/4” either side of corner; stitch on lines, either side of corner; stitch on lines, and cut between the stitched lines.
- Press toward the A fabric. Trim to 2 ½”.

### Assemble Block:

#### *Corners:*

- Sew an A/C HST unit and a 2 ½” A square together to make the top part of a corner square (Figure 6).
- Press toward fabric A.
- Sew an A/C HST unit and a 2 ½” C square together to make the other row of a corner square (Figure 7).
- Press toward fabric C.
- Sew the two rows together to make one corner square of the block (Figure 8).
- Twist the seam in the center where the four units come together, removing a couple of stitches at the intersection, spiraling the seams.
- Make three more corners for a total of four corners.



#### *Block:*

- Stitch the four corners, side blocks, and center square together into rows according to Figure 9.
- Use the arrows for pressing directions.
- Nesting seams together, pin rows together; sew the three rows together. The block will measure 12 ½”, including seam allowances.

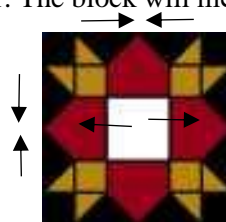


Figure 9