

QCNNY Block of the Month

April/May 2011

SPRING BASKET

(Source: Keepsake Quilting Block Buster)



Finished block size: 12" x 12"

Welcome spring with a pretty floral arrangement. Choose white (or another very light) fabric for the background, medium for the flowers, and dark for the basket. Combine bold exotics and/or demure pastels in small to medium prints, batiks, tone on tones, hand-dyes, etc. to create a beautiful block.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN, read instructions carefully.

Starch and press the fabrics before cutting.

All seams are a **scant** $\frac{1}{4}$ ", i.e., they are stitched a thread's width less than a typical $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

This block uses the **sandwich method** of half-square triangle – HST – unit construction: two contrasting squares of fabric are sewn together diagonally down the center (with scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams) along two parallel stitching guides, and then cut apart between these stitched lines. This creates two identical HST units. Press toward the darker fabric.

Cut from

Light: (1) $3\frac{1}{2}$ " square; (3) $3\text{-}\frac{7}{8}$ " squares; (1) $6\text{-}\frac{7}{8}$ " square; (2) $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles

Medium: (4) $3\text{-}\frac{7}{8}$ " squares

Dark: (1) $3\text{-}\frac{7}{8}$ " square; (1) $6\text{-}\frac{7}{8}$ " square

Draw a corner-to-corner diagonal cutting line on the wrong side of 1 medium and all light $3\text{-}\frac{7}{8}$ " squares and the light $6\text{-}\frac{7}{8}$ " square. Lightly draw stitching guides $\frac{1}{4}$ " from both sides of this line.

1. Using the sandwich method described above, pair 3 white $3\text{-}\frac{7}{8}$ " squares with 3 unmarked medium squares to make a total of 6 HST units. (You will have one extra HST unit.)
2. Pair the marked medium square with the dark square of the same size to make 2 HST units.
3. Pair the large light and dark squares to make 2 HST units. (You will have one extra HST unit.)
4. Using the photographs as guides, arrange 5 light/medium HST units, 2 medium/dark HST units, 1 light/dark HST unit, 1 light square, and 2 light rectangles into quadrants. Sew the components of three quadrants: the upper left, the upper right, and the lower left. Then, stitch these four quadrants as a 4-patch to complete the block. Press. It should measure $12\frac{1}{2}$ " x $12\frac{1}{2}$ ".