

Block of the month

April

Windmills



This block introduces half square triangles (HSTs)

There are 2 ways to do this: you can cut $6\frac{7}{8}$ inch squares, but this is a tricky measurement and it's difficult to ensure accuracy. I prefer to cut 7 inch squares and 'square up' at the end to achieve the required $6\frac{1}{2}$ inch squares.



Choose 2 fabric, eg. light/dark, or patterned/plain

Cut 2 x 7in squares from each



On the backs of 2 squares draw a diagonal line, corner to corner



Place the patterned and plain squares right sides together and stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ either side of the line.

(The lines and stitching are quite feint in the photo, sorry)

Cut along the drawn line and when you open them out you will have 2 squares.

Press all the seams towards the darker fabric.



Using a square ruler and keeping the 45 degree line on the diagonal seam, trim 2 edges, turn and repeat for the other 2 edges. Making sure the resulting square is $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Alternatively you can use a Square Cut ruler and square up opposite sides.





Stitch pairs of squares together, joining a patterned fabric to a plain.



The next step is to join your pairs of squares together to form the windmill.

TIP: To help achieve sharp points, just put a few stitches over the join and check to see that you're happy with the points before sewing the whole seam. I find that no matter how carefully I line them up and stitch together they have a great tendency to move ever so slightly and then I have to rip out the whole seam. This saves lots of time in the long run and I'm much happier with the results.



Stitch the final seam, open and press.
Your windmill block is complete!