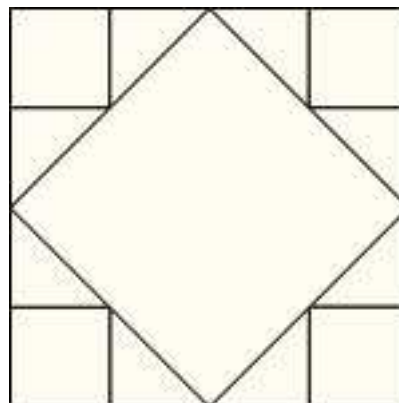


## SQG BOM OCTOBER

This month we celebrate Rockford's vibrant art community (of which we are a part!) We will be making The Art Block. Actually, we will be making two of them! So this month, two 12-1/2" blocks. The design is set so that the inner square, set on point, is your blank canvas. You insert your own art. That could be gorgeous fabric, a stunning block, embroidered piece, a special block orphan, the options are endless. Use your imagination!



### Art Work

Think outside the box. Create something new, use a chunk of that amazing fabric you haven't been able to cut into, how about that beautiful orphan block you picked up?

- Your art piece will be a 9" square
- The art will be set on point
- You will need two pieces of art for each of your 12 1/2" blocks
- Your blocks do not have to coordinate although they will live near each other in the quilt top
- You will need two coordinating fabrics to frame your art

### Frame Your Art

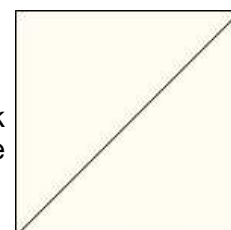
When choosing your coordinating fabric to frame your art, think about contrast and focus.

You want the eye to be drawn to the art.

### Cut your block pieces:

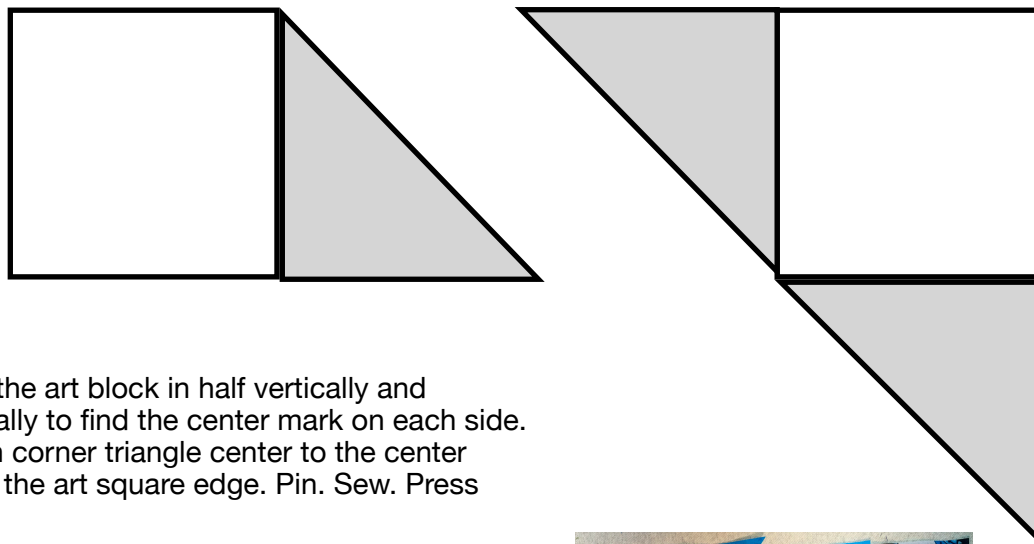
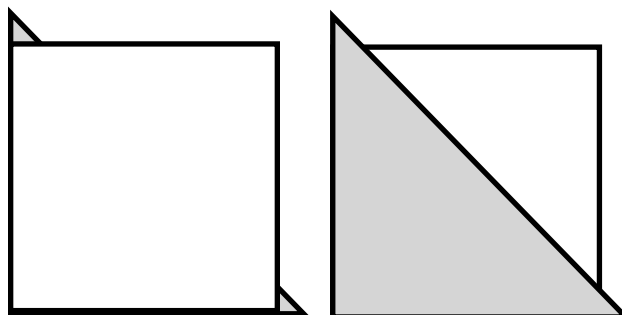
- The Art Block is 9" Square (finishing at 8 1/2")
- Corner Squares: 3 1/2", cut four
- Triangles, Cut four 3 7/8" squares, cut them on the diagonal for a total of 8 triangles

Triangles for art block frame



Piecing the block:

1. Lay out the pieces of the block
2. Sew the 4 corner units first
  1. Flip triangle onto the corner of the square, noting which side of square you will stitch (pin)
  2. Triangle tips will stick out
  3. Stitch and press towards triangle
  4. Add second triangle in the same manner



3. Fold the art block in half vertically and horizontally to find the center mark on each side.
4. Match corner triangle center to the center mark on the art square edge. Pin. Sew. Press out.

I usually attach the two opposite sides of the triangles, Press, and then repeat with the following two pieced triangles. Press away from the art square



## A word about your art square:

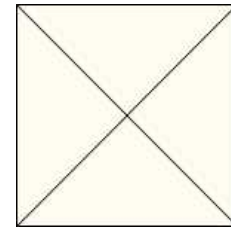
Some helpful hints about using fabric:

I cut out a square hole from poster board so that I could slide it around the fabric to find the exact section I wanted. One thing to remember is that while you are cutting a 9" square, it will finish at 8.5" square.

You may have to cut out your square on the bias (I did), meaning stretchy edges. I used a good dose of starch to minimize excessive stretching.

Consider orphan blocks. If they look good on point and just happen to be 9" square, how perfect is that? What if you found the perfect block, but it's not quite 9". Just add a border or two until you reach a 9" square. I found an appliqué block that was 6.5" square. It just so happens that you can frame a 6.5" square with triangles and it finishes at 9" Square!!!

To frame a 6.5" square with triangles, Cut one 7.25" square. Cut that square diagonal in both directions



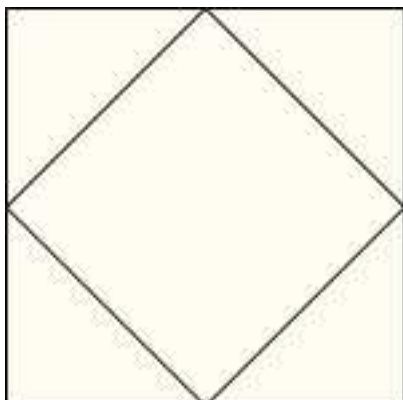
Fold the art block in half both ways and crease or mark the center.  
Fold triangles in half and crease to mark the center  
Matching centers, attach the triangles to frame the block. It should end up as a 9" square (use scant 1/4")



Note that with this 6 1/2" appliqué block, when I added the triangles to make my 9" square, it made my appliqué block to no longer on point. That is something to consider.



This art block was not quite 9". On this one I added two borders to attain the 9" mark, then did the pieced borders.



What if you are not feeling the pieced triangle units. To do this, you still have your 9" art square.

You will cut two 6 7/8" squares, and cut them on the diagonal, giving your the four triangles to border your art square.

Refer to same piecing directions as the pieced triangle units.