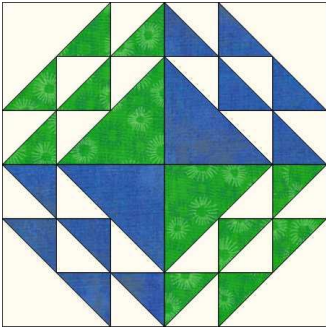


Rockford, ILLINOIS. This month we will celebrate the beautiful state we live in with three Illinois Blocks:

- 1) One 12½" block, simply called Illinois Block
- 2) One 12½" block called corn and beans. Not only is Rockford surrounded by Forest Preserves, there is also a lot of farmland. I think it's rather nice to be so close to farms and forests!
- 3) One 18½" block called the Illinois Star



CORN AND BEANS BLOCK:

This is a 12 ½" square block and consists entirely of ½ square triangles. It uses 3 fabrics, one background, and two feature fabrics.

Cutting:

Background - Cut two 4⅞" squares, then cut them on the diagonal for a total of 4 larger triangles.

Cut ten 2⅞" squares, then cut them on the diagonal for a total of 20 smaller triangles

For each of the feature fabrics cut the following:

Cut one 4⅞" square, then cut on the diagonal for a total of 2 larger triangles (from each fabric)

Cut five 2⅞" squares, then cut on the diagonal for a total of 10 smaller triangles.



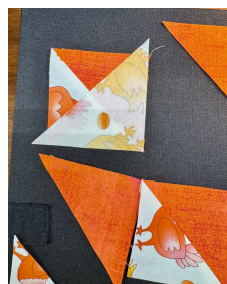
Lay out the pieces of your quilt block. This block divides easily into four smaller blocks, so we will piece each ¼ one at a time. It is so easy to turn those half square triangles the wrong way, you must take your time, pin the side you are sewing press and put those two back in place to see what is next. I used my seam ripper a lot because I tried to go fast. Anita Seamripper to the rescue...multiple times. So, I slowed down.

You will sew ¼ section at a time. I actually move all the pieces for each section onto a little board and take it to the sewing machine.



Through much trial and error, I have developed an order of sequence for piecing this block that keeps you from attaching the triangles the wrong way.

Sew the three marked triangle pairs into blocks, press seams open and place back into its location.



Treat the next step like it's three rows. For the first row, you will add the half-square triangle. Flip it over, line up the straight edges, there will be little tips sticking out at each end, but make sure the edges line up with the block. Put a pin to help you remember which edge you sew. Starting with your needle down, butt the pointy end right up under the needle and sew a ¼" seam. Press the seam open.



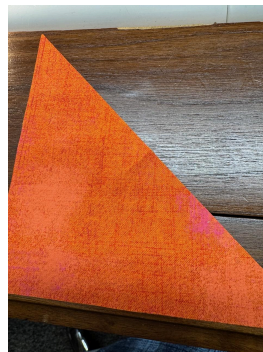
Go onto the middle row. Attach the two outside triangles in the same way. Flip, pin, stitch, press open.



Then do the final row, just one triangle..



To attach the outer triangles, find the center point of the long edge of the outer triangles (I marked by ironing a crease). Line up that mark with the point of the center triangle, lining up the edges. Stitch the seam. Press seam towards the large triangles.



Square to 6½". Repeat with the other three subunits..

Lay out the four subunits. Sew top pair, then the second pair. Press seams in opposite directions, press the final seam open. Square to 12½".

