



APRIL 2009 BLOCK OF THE MONTH

Four Cross Star

Turn in at May 2009 meeting

Techniques: Scrappy use of fabric. Easy half-square triangles (HST's).

Block size: 6-1/2 inch unfinished

Colors: Think EARTH TONES: greens, oranges, browns, yellows, deep reds. You need four different earth-tone fabrics and a cream or taupe background fabric.

Cutting:

- Color 1: one 2-1/2 inch squares (for center square)
- Color 2: four 2-1/2 inch squares (for large cross)
- Color 3: four 1-1/2 inch squares (for corner 4-patches)
- Color 4: four 1-7/8 inch squares (for the HST's). [See Alternate HST cutting below]
- Color 5 (background): four 1-1/2 inch squares; AND four 1-7/8 inch squares. [See Alternate HST cutting below]

Piecing:

- Make 8 HST patches
 - On back of each of the four 1-7/8 inch background squares, draw a diagonal line
 - Put one *Color 4* 1-7/8 inch square right-sides together with one of the background squares, with the drawn line on top
 - Sew a scant quarter inch on either side of the drawn line. "Scant" means 1 or 1 threads less than a true quarter-inch
 - Cut on the drawn diagonal line. Press to the dark (non-background fabric)
 - Repeat three times. You will end up with eight HST patches
- Make four corner patches
 - Sew 1 background 1-1/2 inch square to an HST. Follow picture for orientation of HST. Make 2 with HST to the LEFT of the background square. Make 2 with HST to RIGHT of background square. Press to the square (away from the HST)
 - Sew 1 *Color 3* 1-1/2 square to an HST. Follow picture for orientation of HST. Make 2 with HST to the LEFT of the *Color 3* square. Make 2 with HST to RIGHT of *Color 3* square. Press to the square (away from the HST)
 - Sew 1 background/HST row to 1 HST/*Color 3* row to make a 4-patch. Press away from the background square side. Make 4 of these units
- Sew together in rows
 - Rows 1 and 3: corner unit, *Color 2* square, corner unit
 - Rows 2: *Color 2* square, *Color 1* square, *Color 2* square
 - Press Rows 1 and 3 IN toward the large square
 - Press Row 2 OUT, away from the center square
 - Sew rows together. Press away from the center row

Alternate HST cutting, including Trimming:

- Some quilters find it easier to cut the patches at 2 inches, follow the instructions above and then trim to size
- To trim to size, make sure the diagonal seam of the HST patch is aligned on a diagonal line on your ruler. Trim the completed HST to 1-1/2 inches
- With very small HSTs, like these 1-1/2 inch finished HSTs, I prefer the accuracy of making them slightly too large and then trimming them down to size