



SEPTEMBER 2006 BLOCK OF THE MONTH

Chenille Block

Turn in at October meeting

Technique: Making “faux” chenille.

Block size: Approximately 6-inches. The winner will cut the blocks down to final size (5-1/2)

Colors: Pastels and prints that are predominantly pastels (medium pastels are fine).

Cutting:

FOUR (4) squares of fabric, at least 6-inches square CUT ON THE CROSSGRAIN /LENGTHWISE GRAIN. This is critical, as you will be sewing and cutting the “channels” on the bias. For ease of handling, you may want the bottom layer to be slightly larger so you have something to hold on to when cutting the chenille.

PREPARATION AND SEWING

Bottom layer: “wrong side” up (back of block will be right side of fabric)

Other 3 layers: right side up. The fabric that should have the most impact on the final look of the block should be on top. Larger prints give a shadowy print look to the block. Small prints create a sort of confetti look. The four layers can all be one colorway or a mixture of different colors that work together.

1. Layer the four squares (bottom layer right side DOWN). Baste with large basting stitches around the outside of the block to hold the layers together. You will be removing the basting later.
2. Start at one corner. Using a normal seaming stitch, sew diagonally on the bias across the block to the opposite corner. Turn the block, move the needle approximately ¼-inch away from the sewn line of stitches. Sew a parallel diagonal line across the block. Turn the block and move the needle to ¼ inch on the **other side** of the center line. Sew a parallel diagonal line across the block.
3. Repeat, each time moving to the opposite side of the center from the stitches you just completed. This will help keep the block square.
4. Sew until you have parallel channels sewn diagonally across the entire block, from corner to corner.

CHENILLING

1. Using scissors or a ¼ inch chenille cutter, cut the top three layers of fabric ONLY (not the bottom layer), through every channel, approximately in the center of the channel. The cutting doesn't have to be exact, as the chenilling process will take care of any variations.
2. Soak the block in water and rub the cut sides vigorously against each other to “chenille”. Either dry flat, or toss in the dryer with a towel or washcloth (be sure to empty the lint trap afterwards!).
3. If you are uncomfortable cutting the channels, we will have a chenille cutter at the BOM table at the October meeting. And the winner of the blocks will receive a chenille brush for fluffing the chenille.