April Block of the Month: Check It Out

Jeanne LaMoore and Wynn Martin

This month’s block is quick and promises colorful results. It begins with two fat quarters in the same monochromatic color, one light and one dark. For example, dark blue and light blue, or dark green and light green. Just pick a favorite color but not too light, not too bold and not too dark. As you select your fabrics, think about choosing tone on tone, rather than multi-color prints. Aim for subtle blending rather than sharp contrast.

The block is a simple 7x7 grid in a checkerboard pattern. As shown in the illustration, each block will have dark fabric at each corner. To break up the pattern, you will randomly add one snow white square to the block. This random square should be on the inside of the block, not on the outer edge.

Cutting instructions:
- Cut 4 strips of dark fabric at 2 ¼” x 18”
- Cut 4 strips of light fabric at 2 ¼” x 18”
- Cut one square of snow white at 2 ¼” x 2 ¼”

Assembly:
- Sew the dark strips to the light strips in alternating sequence using a scant ¼” seam.
- Press all seams toward the darker fabric. After pressing, cut 7 strip sections of 2 ¼” each.
- At this point, remove one dark square from the end of 3 strips. Then remove one light square from the end of the remaining four strips.
- Arrange the strips in checkerboard fashion.

At this point, decide where you want to place the 2 ¼” square. Unstitch the strip and substitute the white square in the desired position.

- Stitch all seven strips into the checkerboard grid. Make sure the outer corners show dark fabric.
- Your block will measure 12 ¾” square (12 ¼” when sewn to adjacent blocks.)

BOM Basics:
- Each person may enter up to three blocks each month.
- Please include your name on your block(s)! Many of us just use a mailing label.
- If you have nice scraps left over, consider including them with your block for the winner’s use (a border or other finishing touches).
- If you cannot bring the blocks to the quilt meeting, you may mail them to the MQ office.
- Please allow adequate time for the blocks to arrive before the meeting.

Block of the Month, Minnesota Quilters, Inc., 1203 Fifth St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414
To help us celebrate more winners, we will draw two names if we have over 20 blocks (3 if we have 30+, 4 if we have 40+).
If the winner(s) are not present, the blocks will either be mailed or left at the MQ office for the winner to pick up. We will call to notify winners.
The drawing for the February “From the Heart” blocks will be in March at Eagan High School.

Minneapolis Quilters Future Show Dates & Locations - Save the Dates!
2015 Duluth - June 11-13
2016 St Cloud - June 9-11
2017 Duluth - June 8-10
2018 St Cloud - June 14-16
2019 Rochester - June 13-15*
2020 St Cloud - June 11-13
2021 Rochester - June 10-12*
* Tentative

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