January Block of the Month
Seasons of Trees
12½” block (unfinished) shows trees in each of our four seasons.

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Fabrics
A  Background (sky): light blue, beige, or white; textured, tone on tone, or solid
B  Winter tree—white or grey
C  Spring—pale green, pink, lavender, pale yellow, white with pale pastel flowers
D  Summer—bright or dark green, leaf print, apple print
E  Fall—golden yellow, orange, red, rust
F  Tree trunks: shades of brown or brown/grey

Cutting Instructions
1.  Background A: (8) 2 ½” squares for sky behind trees
   (8) 1 ½” squares for sky behind tree trunks
2.  Fabrics B, C, D, and E: (1) 4 ½” x 6 ½” rectangle of each color
   (1) 2 ½” x 4 ½” rectangle of each color
4.  Tree Trunk fabric F: (4) 2 ½” squares

Assembly Instructions
1) Draw a line diagonally on the back of each background square for the trees and trunks. Before sewing on the background squares (see below), double check the diagram for proper placement on tree rectangles and trunk squares.

2) RST place a 2 ½” square on the upper right corner of Winter’s B large rectangle. Sew on diagonal line - upper left to lower right. RST place a 2½” square on the left side of the small Winter B rectangle. Sew on diagonal line - upper left to lower right.

3) RST place a 2 ½” square on the upper left corner of Spring’s C large rectangle. Sew on diagonal line - upper right to lower left. RST place a 2½” square on the right side of the small Spring C rectangle. Sew on diagonal line - upper right to lower left.

4) RST place a 2 ½” square on the lower left corner of Summer’s large D rectangle. Sew on diagonal line - upper left to lower right. RST place a 2½” square on the right side of the small Summer D rectangle. Sew on diagonal line - upper left to lower right.

5) RST place a 2 ½” square on the lower right corner of Fall’s E large rectangle. Sew on diagonal line - upper right to lower left. RST place a 2½” square on the left side of the small Fall E rectangle. Sew on diagonal line - upper right to lower left.

6) On each piece you’ve added background to, trim ¼” from your stitching line, leaving a piece of background to press up to fill the corner. Press the remaining triangle outward to fill in the empty corner. See that the background sky shows behind the tree. Repeat for all of the tree foliage rectangles.

7) Trunk block: RST place one 1 ½” square of A (background) to one corner of F (trunk). Stitch on the diagonal line drawn on A. Sew a second 1½” square of A to the opposite corner of F. Trim corners. Press remaining corners out to fill in the corners. Repeat for all four trunk pieces. Each unit will measure 2 ½” x 2 ½”.

8) Sew 4 trunk units together forming a center cross with the trunks. This will measure 4 ½” x 4 ½”. Press flat.

9) Assemble the units. For Row 1 - sew the large unit of Winter B to the large unit of Spring C. Make row 3 - repeat for Fall E and Summer D large units. Press seam flat.
Block of the Month continued

10) Nesting the seam allowances and forming a triangle of background along the left side, sew the smaller Winter B and Fall E units together. Similarly, forming a triangle of background along the right side, sew the smaller Spring C and Summer D units together. Check the diagram for the correct placement of background sections.

11) For Row 2 - sew A/B/E to the left side of the trunk section; then add C/D/A to the right side of the tree section. Press.

12) Sew row 1 to row 2. Add row 3 to the bottom. Press block. Finished block should measure 12 ½” square if you’ve been careful to sew ¼” seams.

BOM Guidelines: Follow the directions above to make up to three blocks for our monthly drawing. Please include your name, address, and phone number on your block(s). You may attach your mailing label on the back of each block and add your phone number. You may include leftover scraps with your block (pinned to the back or in an attached baggie) for the winner to use in a border or other finishing touches. If you cannot bring the blocks to the meeting, mail them to the MQ office allowing enough time for them to arrive before Saturday’s meeting. Mail to Block of the Month, Minnesota Quilters, Inc. 253 State Street, St. Paul, MN 55107. We’ll draw for the blocks at the Saturday meeting. Winners will be notified by phone if not present. Winning blocks may be picked up at the MQ office or at the next meeting.