



February Block of the Month

The Contrary Wife
(in honor of Valentine's Day)

This month we are going to learn an easy half square triangle technique and do a color study. You will need three fabrics:

- Red
- Pink
- White-white (preferably tone-on-tone)

You may make your block using the fabric in any combination that is pleasing to you. The directions will be given in the combination that is illustrated only for the purposes of simplicity. Photos of other combinations will be on our website.

CUTTING:

Before you cut ... decide which fabric will be your focus fabric and which will be your half square triangle fabric. In the illustration we have used Pink as the focus and red and white for the half-square triangles

- 5 - 3.5" squares of focus fabric (pink in illustration)
- 2 - 3-7/8" squares light fabric
- 2 - 3-7/8" squares dark fabric



Figure 1

Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of both light 3-7/8" squares as shown in Figure 1.

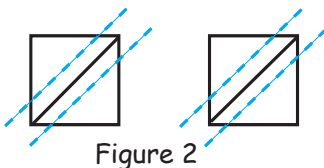


Figure 2

SEWING:

With right sides together, sew one light 3-7/8" square to one dark 3-7/8" square. Sew one quarter-inch from the marked diagonal line on the back of the light square. Now sew one quarter inch from the other side (see the blue lines in Figure 2).



Figure 3

Now cut (on the solid drawn line) the squares on the diagonal. Press toward the dark fabric. As shown in Figure 3. Now repeat with remaining light and dark 3-7/8" squares

Now sew rows together as shown in Figure 4. Sew two rows of Pink HST Pink and one row HST Pink HST. When sewing these rows pay particular attention to the direction of the dark triangles as they will change the character of your block. See our website (<http://www.stonehousequilters.org>) for inspiration. Press seams toward the pink fabric.

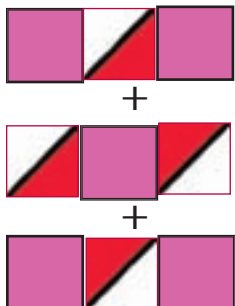


Figure 4

Now sew the rows together in the order suggested in Figure 4. When pressing, press seams toward pink fabric so that seams will nest. Top to middle then bottom to middle and top.

HINT:

Be VERY sure that you are using a scant 1/4" seam. This is MOST important and that your seam is consistent throughout your block. Check this after each seam. Then measure your block when you are finished. Your block should measure 9.5" (unfinished).