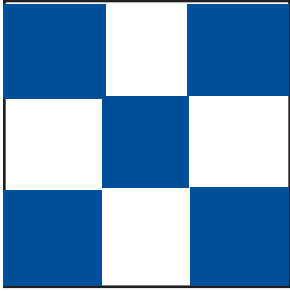


January Block of the Month

The Humble Nine Patch



This month we are going to learn rotary cutting, strip piecing and some ironing techniques.

CUTTING:

Focus Fabric (strip 3.5" x 18")

Cut this strip

2 - 3.5" x 7"

1 - 3.5" x 3.5"



Figure 1

White fabric (it could be tone on tone or a conversation print or a shirting, but the background should be WHITE-WHITE) into

1 - 3.5" x 7"

2 - 3.5" x 3.5"



Figure 2

Sew the 3.5" x 7" strips together so that they are Blue-White-Blue (Fig. 1) and the 3.5"x3.5" strips together so that they are White-Blue-White (Fig. 2).

Press all seams toward the DARK or Blue fabric ... this is VERY important!!

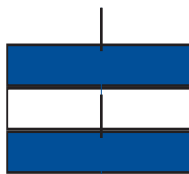


Figure 3

Now cut (on the dashed line in Fig. 3) the Blue-White-Blue strip set into 2 pieces which will each measure 9.5" x 3.5" (as in Fig. 4)

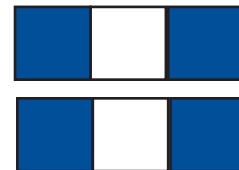


Figure 4

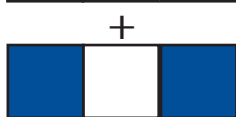
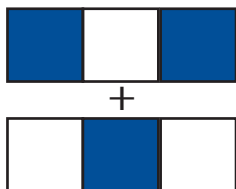


Figure 5

Now sew the strip sets together in the order suggested in Figure 5. Top to middle then bottom to middle and top. If you pressed the seams to the dark or blue fabric as directed above, you will be able to nest them in this step. They will lock at the intersections nicely with very little pinning or aggravation required.

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).