

BLOCK OF THE MONTH NOVEMBER 2007

This month I am encouraging you to make one more block than usual. In honor of Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving, some of the blocks will be donated to our Charity Quilts Committee to be used for the quilts for wounded veterans. This is a good opportunity to get involved in the charity quilts without making a large time commitment. Anyone who wants to make these, or any other, blocks for the Charity Quilts without being in the raffle is always encouraged to do that. I do suggest that since the soldiers quilts get a lot of hard use that you try to use fabric that will hold up to a lot of washing.

If you want to be in raffle, for each block you make you get one chance to win all the raffle blocks. This month, if you make two blocks or more, one block will be donated to the charity group. The others will go to the raffle. If you make a block for charity, you will get one extra chance to win. For example, if you make three blocks, one will go to charity, two will go to the raffle and you will get four chances to win.

This is a fairly simple block, but I've been known to mix up the way the star points go. So, compare the sample to your squares before you sew.

You will need two fabrics. One should be some sort of overall print-not too large and the other should be a more solid looking piece.

From the print, cut one 4-1/2" square and four 4-7/8" squares.
From the solid, cut four 4-7/8" squares.

If it's easier, you can cut 5" squares and trim the half square triangle squares to 4-1/2" before sewing the block together. This can be helpful if you aren't a precise cutter or have trouble with 1/4" seams.

Use your favorite method to make half square triangles using the 4-7/8" blocks. Or use mine-on the back of lighter colored fabric, draw a diagonal line from one corner to the other. Put the two different fabrics together - right sides together. Sew a seam. 1/4" away from each side of the drawn line. Cut along the line and press open. Repeat with the remaining squares. You should end up with eight 4-1/2" squares.

Following the diagram below, sew three of the squares together in a row. For the middle row, sew the plain 4-1/2" square in the middle. Sew the remaining three square together. Before you sew the three rows together, make sure you have all the star points going in the right direction. Press the seams so that they will be going in opposite directions where they intersect. This helps keep your points matching.

Good luck, have fun with it and make more than one block.

