

North Pittsburgh Stay-at-Home Row Quilt Part 3: Flower Blocks

Hello Everyone! Welcome to the third installment of this row quilt. I hope it's fun. (And not too frustrating. No one needs extra frustration just now!)

I have repeated the housekeeping notes from the first two installments below, in case you want a refresher or are starting new. (The repeated part is now in italics.) If you don't need them, go ahead and skip to page 2 to begin the blocks.

First, some housekeeping:

1. I have done my best to write correct and clear instructions, but if you find a mistake or have any questions, please let me know at skoequilt@aol.com.

2. Fabric requirements: This quilt is meant to be scrappy. Very scrappy. Every block in it can be different. For example: there are 6 flower blocks in there and every one of them can be made with different fabrics. This is a make-do quilt.

For that reason, there are no overall yardage requirements given except for the sashing (5/8 yard), border (1 yard) and binding (3/8 yard). And if you want to scrap them up too, that's OK!

3. I have included two sets of instructions. You can choose what you want to go with.

*The **first** set is how I would make the blocks. If you have another way that you are comfortable with, by all means use that. Personally, I struggle with accuracy with any block that has a diagonal seam in it, which, face it, is just about every block in this quilt. No matter how careful I try to be, I end up distorting that diagonal seam and my block is never ever square. My solution to this situation is to make all my units a little bit bigger than they need to be and trim them down to size after I've sewn that diagonal seam. So that is the way I have written the first (main) set of instructions. I hope you find them helpful.*

*The **second** set is the Alternate Instructions. Generally, they are a little wonkier, maybe a little more free-form, than the first, more traditional, instructions. If you think you may be interested in the second set, read the whole thing before you begin as they will often have different cutting directions and fabric requirements.*

4. The overall quilt size is 46 inches by 63 inches, including the 5-inch border. All the blocks are 3-inch, 6-inch or 9-inch. If you want the finished quilt to be a different size, you can add or subtract blocks or leave out or repeat rows or make the sashing and borders different sizes.

Row 3: Flowers



This row has six 6-inch (finished) blocks.

Important!!!! These blocks are made with the stitch and flip method of making snow-ball-like units. This has been covered in detail in the 2nd installment. I will not repeat these instructions in detail in this or future sections. Instead I will use an abbreviated set of instructions here. If you have been working along, this may be familiar enough to you that you can work fine with these. If you can't, please refer to installment 2 to get the details.

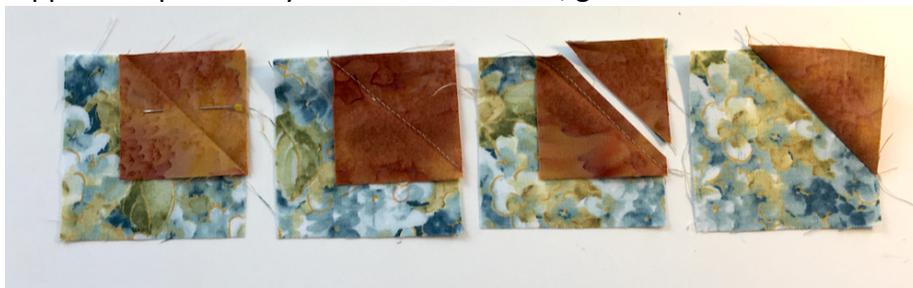
Also Important!!!! The flower blocks are a little different than the previous blocks in that they may look better with a little space between them. In the diagram on page 1, they look like they have 2 narrow spacer rectangles between the blocks BUT THAT IS NOT WHAT YOU SHOULD DO. After playing around with the blocks, (and after I had already sent out the picture...) I decided that one spacer rectangle of fabric between blocks worked out better, **if in fact you need the spacers at all**. Because everyone's ¼-inch seam is a little different, when you get these blocks finished, you may find that you need no spacers or different width spacers from the ones I wrote into the instructions. You may have to ad lib a little, but don't worry about now; just make the blocks and then later we'll work out spacing. So, let's get started....



1. For each block, you will need:

- Four 3-inch squares for the 'petals' of the flower (mine are the blue print.)
- Four 1 ¾-inch squares for the flower 'center' (mine are orange.)
- Two 2 ½ -inch by 3-inch rectangles for the leaves (mine are green.)
- Eight 2-inch squares for the background/sky (mine are pink.)
- And last but not least, the spacer fabric. **Do not cut them now**, just have some fabric floating around that will work with the block that you can cut later in case you need them. Mine are the same as the background /sky fabric, but it doesn't have to be.

2. And here come the abbreviated instructions! I have combined all the steps for this unit into one stepped-out photo. If you need more detail, go back to the 2nd installment instructions.



From left to right:

- Mark / press a diagonal line on your center fabric square and position it on the top right corner of your petal square.

- Stitch on or near the line.
- After checking that the fabric will flip up into the right position, trim off the excess layers.
- Press outward. Repeat 3 more times.



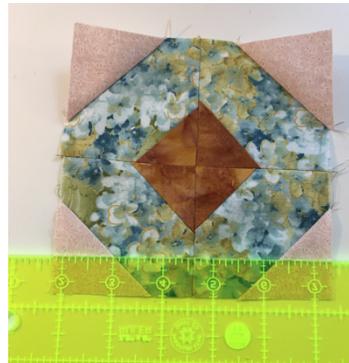
3. Now we add the sky/background to the opposite corner. Turn the unit 180 degrees so that the 'center' is in the bottom left corner and repeat the process using

the 'sky/background' square on the top right corner of the 'petal.'
And voila! There is your center-flower-sky/background unit. Repeat 3 more times.



4. Sew the 4 center-flower-sky/background units together as shown to make a flower. Keep in mind that there may be spacer strips added to the sides of this block, so even though the block is technically heading for a finished 6-inches, right now it is more like 5 ½-inches-ish. No mistake.

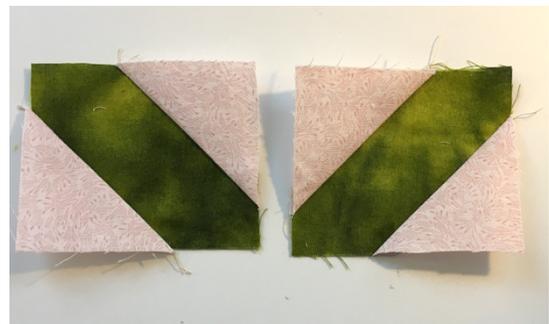
5. Now you're going to give the flower a little shape AND give you room for the leaves. Cut ¼-inch off the bottom of the flower. (Any side can be the bottom!)



6. Now for the leaves. You are going to make them with the same stitch-and-flip technique we've used all along, EXCEPT FOR....

Two important things:

- **The green leaf fabric is rectangular. It has to be oriented correctly for this to work out.** Orient it so it is wider than it is tall. (The 3-inch sides are at the top and bottom and the 2 ½-inch sides are on the left and right sides.)
- **When you make the two leaf units, they must be mirror images.** So, on the left -hand unit the sky/background is on the bottom left and top right corners. On the right-hand unit, the sky/background is on the top left and bottom right corners. They should look like they are growing up and out from the same spot in the middle.



7. Now sew the flower to the leaves. Trim the unit to 6 ½-inches high.
We're just doing the height at first.



8. THEN trim the sides, getting rid of all the scruffy edges. You're probably going to be in the 5 ½-inches vicinity. Don't stress over the actual width. We're going to fix that with....

9. The spacer strips! Yeah!!!!

The spacer strips do 2 things: they give visual definition to each flower, and they bring your flower block row up to 36 ½-inches to fit into the quilt.

If you love math, you can work out the size the spacer strips should be very accurately. Personally, I don't love math that much. So, I'm going to add a strip between each block that should just about fit. Cut 5 spacer strips 6 ½ inches by 1-inch wide. (You only need 5 because if you line your 6 flower blocks up, there are 5 spaces that are completely in between the blocks.... we'll get to the spaces before the first block and after the last block in a minute.

Arrange your blocks so you like them (basically if you've used more than 1 fabric for the flowers.)



Stitch a spacer strip between each flower block. Press the row well. Please note that I ran out of pink fabric and so I'm using a different fabric for the strip. Also note that neither of those leaves will have a point when I sew the strip in. No stress!!

Now measure your stitched-and-pressed row. If it is less than 36 ½-inches long, add a spacer strip to one or both of the ends of the row. You can either make those strips the exact, mathematically correct widths.... or you can sew on a probably-wider-than-I-need strip at each end and trim it down later when you're putting the rows together (my choice!)