

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!)

Alternate Directions:



Only one level of wonkiness this week...but 2 blocks. You can mix the flowers and grass or chose to do just flowers or just grass.

Remember that as you go wonky, you will need more fabric.



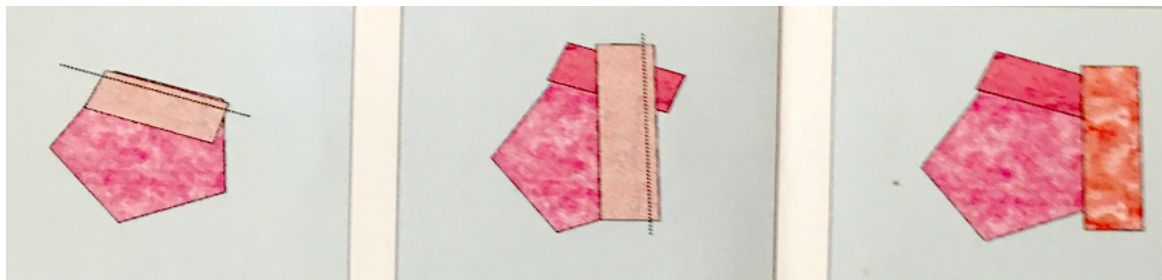
1. You will need:

- One 2 ½-inch square for center. (Peach) **Important:** Although the traditional flower above is made by sewing 4 sections together, this one is made all in one piece. So, you don't need 4 center pieces.
- Four or five (if you want) strips of petal fabric, approximately 2 ½-inches by 5-inches. (Red.)
- Four or five strips of sky/background fabric, approximately 2 ½-inches by 6-inches. (Tan print)
- Two pieces of fabric (green) approximately 3-inches by 7-inches.

Important too: This photo is not to exact scale. The actual length of the strips that you want is 'plenty'. After you've made one block, you'll get a feel for it.

Also important: these measurements will run on the large side. After making one block, if you find you are trimming an awful lot of fabric off after each step, modify how much you cut. If you find you don't have enough, just slap on another strip to get it up to the size you need. Very few rules here!

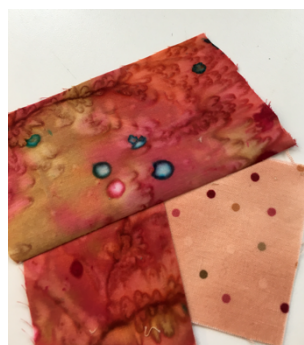
The Flower block is made like all the others, with stitch and flip technique, carried out like a log cabin block. Add one strip on by stitching, flipping and continuing around the center clockwise, adding new strips. (There's nothing magical about the clockwise thing; add them in any order you want.) Also, the drawings have a center with 5 sides. You can have any shape center you want...just add more strips around.



I've used the drawings above because my photos are not very clear. The strips in my photos are wider and cover everything so you can't see any detail.



2. This photo shows one strip added and pressed out. You can trim out the excess fabric under the strip if you want,



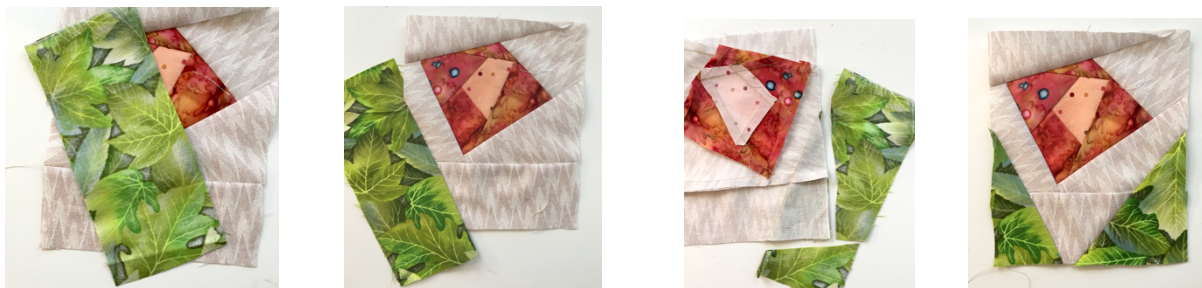
3. Here is a 2nd strip added, stitched and turned out. The second strip overlaps the end of the first. Keep going until you have the whole center surrounded with flower fabric.. You can trim off 'extra' now, or wait till you have the background strips on.

4. Add the background strips the same way, until you have the flower completely surrounded by background fabric.
5. Trim the whole thing down to 6 ½-inches square.... If you come up short, sew on another strip to get you up to 6 ½ inches.



Now for the leaves. These are just more stitches and flips. Figure out which side of your flower you want to be the bottom. Your leaves will go on the bottom left and right corners of the block.

6. Place a leaf rectangle diagonally on one bottom corner. Check that it will flip over and cover the corner after it is sewn. Reposition if need be. Stitch and press it out.
7. Turn the block over and trim off the extra leaf fabric to the size of the block. You can also trim out the layer under the leaf if you want to. Repeat for the other leaf. Voila! Wonky flower!



Time for the grass!



8. You will need some green rectangles about 5 inches long and about 2 inches wide, and some background rectangles about 7-inches long and about 3- inches wide.



9. Start with a background rectangle. You will be working from the center out to the sides of the block. Once again---stitch and flip.

Lay the grass rectangle over the background, face down, at an angle. The grass fabric does not have to go to the top of the background.... the grass is going to end in a sharp point **inside** the block. Stitch and flip. Trim out the under layers if you want.



10. Now you can add another piece of grass to the other side of the background, or you can add another piece of background to the other side of the grass you just added. (That's what is shown in the photo.)

You add each element at an angle, like you just did with the grass. The angles don't need to be the same. Keep in mind that you want the background fabric to extend to the top of the block, but the grass should end inside the block.... although, honestly, it wouldn't matter if it didn't!



Just keep going, adding alternating grass and backgrounds, until you have a bunch of pointy things that you like. The block is going to distort a little as you work.... think teepee...Either make the block big enough that you can trim it down square. Or add an extra strip at one or both of the sides to bring it back out to square-ish. Then trim it down to 6 ½-inches square.

I made 2 grass blocks and 4 flowers, but make whatever pleases you!