



## Block of the Quarter

Welcome to the newly reinstated Block of the Quarter program! Each quarter there will be a new pattern. Make a block or two, and you go into a draw to win a bundle of blocks, drawn by lucky dip at each quarter's general meeting. You then have a great head start on a new project or projects, using all the blocks you won!

Blocks to be completed by August 15th General Meeting. To participate in this quarter's BOQ, please:

- \* Make one or more Strawberry blocks
- \* Ensure that your block measures the correct finished size
- \* Label each block by stitching by hand with tacking stitches, a small piece of paper to the bottom right hand corner, with your name, postal address, email address and social media handle where applicable
- \* Either post your block to the QuiltNSW office **to arrive by** August 14 (envelope labelled "BOQ Entry") OR drop the block/s to the office, OR bring your blocks to the August general meeting.

### August Block Instructions:

**Block size: 10 1/2" x 14 1/2" (10" x 14" finished)**

#### Cutting:

Please colour your strawberry in realistic strawberry colours. Shades of red through pink for the strawberry body, greens for the leaves and a low volume background fabric. You can choose to use a very scrappy selection of fabrics, or just two (alternating red and pink for example) for the body of your strawberry.

From **strawberry fabric** cut:

- seventeen 2 1/2" squares
- three 3" squares

From **strawberry leaf fabric** cut:

- two 3" squares – fabric A
- two 3" squares – fabric B

- one 4 ½" by 2 ½" rectangle for centre stem

From **background** fabric cut the following;

- four 2 ½" squares
- five 3" squares

### Construction:

#### To make the HST units:

Make the half square triangle (HST) units required for the leaves and the angled sides of the strawberry first.

Draw a line with a sharp pencil onto the back of the 3" square background fabrics, diagonally from one corner to the opposite corner.

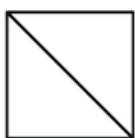


Diagram 1

Place a background square right sides together with a strawberry fabric 3" square, and pin. Stitch a line ¼" outside of the line you drew, on both sides of the line.

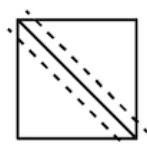


Diagram 2

Cut the square in half along the line you drew. The shaded fabric in the diagrams represents the background fabric.

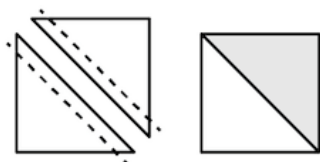


Diagram 3

Press the square open with the seam towards the strawberry fabric. Cut the "ears" off the triangles and trim your square to measure 2 ½".

Alternately, you can cut all your 3" squares in half on the diagonal and stitch them together in pairs. You will need to make 6 HST squares with strawberry fabric, and 4 HST squares

with the leaf fabric, two from Fabric A and two from Fabric B. You will also make two sets of HST using the remaining A and B leaf fabric squares.

Lay your block pieces out, using the photo of the block as a guide to help you orient the triangles.

**To make the Leaf sections:**

Stitch a background square to a leaf fabric A HST square, taking note of the orientation of the triangles. You will make two units the mirror of each other, one for each side of the block. Press your seams to one side.

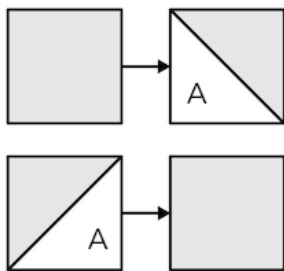


Diagram 4

Stitch a leaf/background B HST to an A/B leaf HST, again taking note of the orientation of the triangles. Make another pair in the mirror orientation as for the previous step.

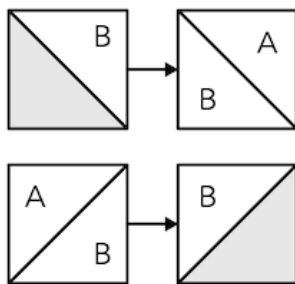


Diagram 5

Stitch the pairs of triangle rows together across the centre seam.

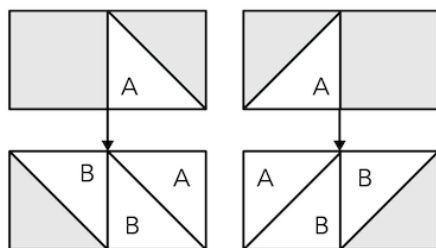


Diagram 6

Stitch the two leaf units to either side of the centre stem and press. Your row should measure 4 1/2" x 10 1/2".

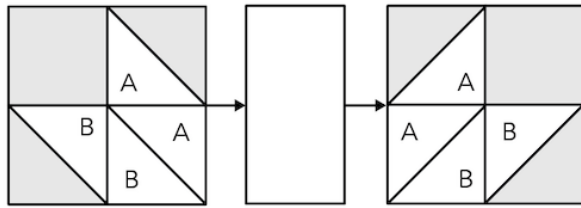


Diagram 7

**To make the Strawberry:**

Stitch the rows of squares and HST squares together into strips, taking note of the orientation of the triangles and using an accurate 1/4" seam. Each of your rows should measure 10 1/2" long.

Row 1: HST, three squares, HST

Row 2: Five squares

Row 3: Five squares

Row 4: HST, three squares, HST

Row 5: Background square, HST, one square, HST, background square

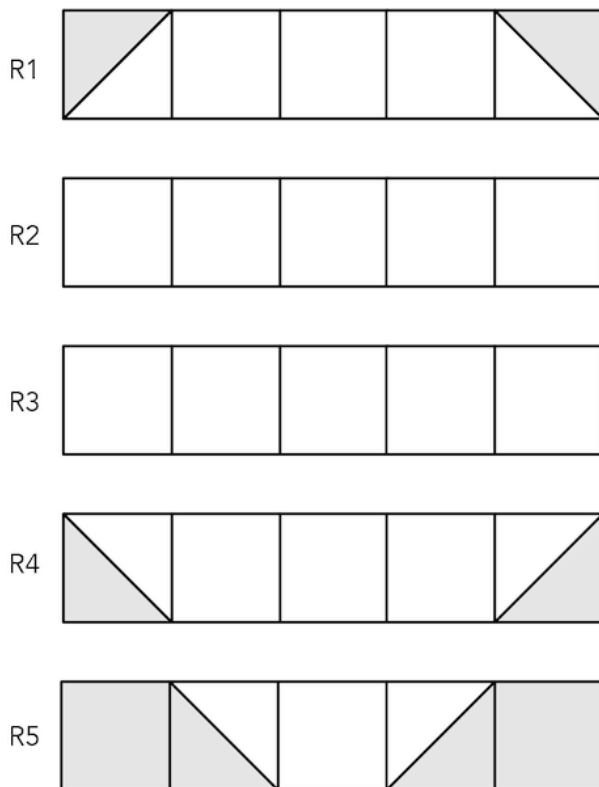


Diagram 8

Press the seams on each row in an alternating direction for ease of piecing, eg. Row 2 press right, Row 2 press left etc.

Stitch all the rows together in order, nesting and matching the seams as you go. Check that your strawberry body measures 10 1/2" square.

Stitch your leaf unit to the strawberry unit and press. Your finished strawberry should measure 10 1/2" x 14 1/2".

### **Some Tips:**

- Cut your squares carefully - if you check before you piece your block will have a greater change of accuracy
- Check your 1/4" seam before you begin if you are not certain its accurate
- Interlock your seam allowances for a smooth, flat and square block

Don't forget to attach your name, address and social media handle to each block, and good luck in the draw!



The strawberry block was originally designed by Bec of @skyberries, with variations inspired by Ange of @gnomeangel. It is reproduced here with their permission and our thanks.