Block of the Quarter – August 2026

Pineapple Block

Please read instructions in full so that you gain an insight into how to complete your block.

At first glance the Pineapple Block appears complicated and mesmerising, with its spirally layered structure it looks complex, but when broken down it is really a central motif, square within a square, surrounded with simple strips to form a repetitive block.

Your block can be formal or informal colours such as mine illustrated:

A simple internet search will provide you with multiple colour options using many or a few colours.

The choice is completely yours, so why not have some fun while learning to make this block.

The numbered block plan illustration refers to the round numbers not colour placement. I found this a great help as you can easily lose your place when adding your next colour.

To help you visualize your progress, think of the block as growing in rings. These rings ensure symmetry and make measuring easier. This structure is admired because it strengthens precision skills, something many quilters struggle with early on.

¼ inch seam is used throughout.

Let's get started.

To create a single 14½ inch Pineapple Block, unfinished size, you will need:

Centre square cut 2½ inches square

Round (there are five full rounds excluding the two square in a square in the centre) strips are all cut 1½ inches wide

Four triangle corners

Each block uses approximately 18 to 20 inches of fabric total and can be cut from scraps, fat quarters or whatever fabrics you have selected in your preferred colourway.

Apart from your normal sewing notions, spray starch is the most important extra you will need especially as you will be finger or roller pressing.

In my sample block, I have used the same fabric to make a single diagonal pattern to illustrate the colour placement.

The rest of my round colours are repeated in pairs made up of one light and one dark fabric.

Construction:

Cut your 2.5-inch square, can be fussy cut or plain. See **Diagram 1**.

Sew the first two strips to opposite sides, see **Diagram 2**, finger or roller press to avoid stretching by ironing, then add the remaining two sides, see **Diagram 3**, so you have a square within a square structure.

Now the fun begins.

Trim the block to maintain accuracy by removing all four corners using the 45-degree line on your ruler, leaving ¼ inch seam allowance outside of each corner of the centre square. See **Diagram 4**.

Add round two strips and repeat ¼ inch seam allowance trimming.

You only need to leave this seam allowance on the first and second rounds so that the centre square and round two corner points are not consumed when seaming your next rounds of colours. See **Diagram 5**.

By this stage you should have an unequal eight-sided block, ready for round three.

See **Diagram 6**.

Using the illustration with round numbers marked, start organising your colour placement as preferred by either doing a sketch or printing out the illustration

Add round three of coloured strips, cutting them at least ½ inch longer than the edges of the block you will be sewing them on to.

Repeat the sew-press-trim sequence.

Working of opposite sides of the block, continue alternating rounds, using your planned colours.

If you have starched your strips and finger pressed or roller pressed accurately, you can use the previous strip edge as a guide for attaching the next strip with ¼ inch seam.

However, if this block is new to your repertoire, a quick measure and trim may be necessary occasionally just to keep edges accurate.

You may notice a little bowing of the edges, just trim it off.

You can cross reference your ruler markings along with your cutting mat measurements to help maintain accurate dimensions.

Repeat rounds, adding 5 complete rounds, until your block measures 14.5 inches, vertical and horizontally through the centre.

Finish the block by attaching triangles on four opposite corners.

These triangles are made by cutting two, six-inch squares of fabric, once in half diagonally, see **Diagram 7**, and attaching them using the long bias edge, centring them before you sew.

Trim away excess using the square corner of your ruler.

Why you should make this pattern:

- It looks impressive, even when made by beginners
- It teaches crucial quilting fundamentals
- It works beautifully in scrappy, modern, or traditional styles
- It can be adapted to any colour scheme
- It creates bold, dramatic quilts using simple repetition

Note: All photos are JPEG files which are reduced in size and can be printed on A4 paper