
Pineapple Quilt Block with Heather Jones

Chapter 1 - Pineapple Quilt Block

Overview

(light music) - Hi, I'm Heather Jones, I'm a modern quilter and a designer ^and I'm gonna show you how to make ^a traditional pineapple quilt block. ^I'll show you how to precisely cut and measure fabric and piece it together to create this stunning block.

Materials

- To make a 12 and a half inch block, you'll need the following materials: a quarter yard of two fabrics, I'm using a red and a cream, you'll also need a six inch by 24 inch ruler to cut our fabric, you'll need a six inch by 12 and a half inch ruler, and a 12 and a half inch square gridded ruler for the construction, fabric scissors, rotary cutter and mat, snips for thread cutting, pins, a sewing machine threaded with a neutral thread, and an iron and ironing board.

Cutting and assembling the block

- This block looks really complicated, because there are lots of pieces in its construction, but once you learn the technique, you'll get into a regular rhythm, and it really comes together quite easily. It starts with a square in the center, and then it's built with strips around that square, that are then trimmed down. And we'll go ahead and start getting our fabric cut. So with the first fabric, we need to cut a five inch wide strip, times the width of the fabric. So, this is yardage off of a bolt. It's folded in half, and we'll just measure five inches. I'm cutting through two layers of fabric, so just hold the ruler in place, and cut carefully. From this five inch wide strip of fabric, I'm going to cut two five inch squares. Make sure to trim off your salvage. I'm just gonna measure five inches over. And because I'm cutting through two layers with this one cut, I will get both of my five inch squares. I also need a three inch square for the center of the block. So I'm gonna cut that out of this fabric as well. Now I need to trim it down to three inches in the other direction. You also need two one and a half inch strips of your fabric one, the red fabric. And three one and a half inch strips of your second fabric, which is my cream fabric. And I've already got those cut. So to start our block, we're gonna take one of our strips of the cream fabric, and we need to cut a strip that is as long as our square. Always trim off the salvage. And then we're gonna cut a strip that is just as long as the top and bottom of our block. And you can use a rotary cutter for this. And then we're ready to sew it onto the square. Pin the first strip to the top of the square, right sides together. Because I'm using solids, it's not, there's not a clear right and wrong side of the fabric, but if you're using a printed fabric, you'll notice which is the right side. And sew with a quarter-inch seam allowance. You'll see I've got a piece of tape to mark where the quarter-inch seam is. (sewing machine whirring) (sewing machine beeps) And sewing the seam, remove it from the machine, snip the threads, unpin, and finger press open. And then sew the other strip to the opposite side of the square. Pin in place, right sides together, and sew up another quarter-inch seam. (sewing machine whirring) (sewing machine beeps) Remove it from the machine, snip the excess thread, unpin, finger press, and now we're ready to press with the iron. We're pressing to the side, and we're pushing our seam away from the center square. Press that way on both sides of the square. And we're ready to add the next strips. I'm going to trim away a little bit of this excess fabric right here, just to even up the edge, using my rotary cutter and a straight edge. And on the other side, as well. And now, I need to cut two more strips to sew on

either side of the square. And we're ready to sew these onto each side. Place one strip down, right sides together, pin in place, and sew with a quarter-inch seam allowance. (sewing machine whirring) (sewing machine beeps) Once that is sewn, remove it from the machine, snip the threads, and unpin, and finger press again with the seam to the side, away from the square. And repeat with the other side. Take your next strip, place it right sides together, and pin in place, and then sew a quarter-inch seam allowance. And feel free to sew this seam slowly, because you wanna get a precise quarter-inch seam allowance. (sewing machine whirring) (sewing machine beeps) Remove it from the machine, snip the threads, unpin, finger press, and it's ready to press with the iron. Now it's time to cut away part of this strip. Using the six and a half, by 12 and a half inch ruler, find the 45 degree angle mark on the ruler. All quilting rulers have this measurement marked out, so it should be easy to find on your ruler. Place that 45 degree angle mark right on the line that intersects the square on the first strip. But you wanna move it a quarter-inch away, so that's this dotted line on my ruler, that's a quarter-inch mark. And here is the 45 degree mark, and we're gonna cut right along the edge of the ruler here. And we're gonna do the same thing on the opposite side. So find the 45 degree angle mark, and put that on the seam, and then leave a quarter-inch to the side of it, and cut off the excess. Now I'm gonna take one of my red strips of fabric, and cut a piece of it to sew on the side that we just cut off. Remove the salvage. And just eyeball measure so that it's long enough to sew to that edge on both sides. And we're ready to move to the machine. So place this strip right sides together on top of the block, pin in place, and sew with a quarter-inch seam allowance. (sewing machine whirring) (sewing machine beeps) Remove it from the machine, and snip the threads. Unpin, and finger press open, and then repeat with the opposite side. Place your strip down, right sides together, pin in place, and then sew a quarter-inch seam allowance. (sewing machine whirring) (sewing machine beeps) (sewing machine beeps) Remove it from the machine, snip the threads, unpin, and finger press open. And now we're ready to go press it with our iron. Next, we're gonna sew two more strips on the opposite side. Place the ruler so that the 45 degree mark is right on the seam between the square, and the strip. And then a quarter-inch away from the edge of the square. Hold it in place, and cut with the rotary cutter. And then repeat on the opposite side, as well. Place the 45 degree line measurement on the seam, with a quarter-inch out from the center of the-- or from the point of the square. And cut. Take our red strip again, and cut a strip for the top, and bottom. And we're ready to sew it together. Place the strip down, right sides together, pin in place, and sew with a quarter-inch seam. (sewing machine whirring) (sewing machine beeps) Remove it from the machine, snip the threads, unpin, and press with your finger, press it open. And then repeat on the opposite side. Lay your strip down, right sides together, pin in place, and sew with a quarter-inch seam. (sewing machine whirring) (sewing machine beeps) Remove from the machine, snip our threads, unpin, finger press, always pushing our seams to the side away from the square, and we're ready to press with the iron. We're ready to cut away a little bit of the red strips, again with the 45 degree angle mark. But from here on out, we're gonna cut directly at the subsequent strip, and not a quarter-inch out. So place the 45 degree mark on the seam of the strip we just sewed, lined up to the edge, and then cut. And do that on all four sides. Line up the 45 degree mark, and cut. And just repeating the same process, lining up the 45 degree mark, and cut. And one last time, lining up the 45 degree mark, with the edge, and cutting off the excess. You can see on these two spots, I got a little bit off of my quarter-inch seam allowance. It should still work out okay, but really just try to keep your quarter-inch seam allowance throughout the whole process. If you get off of the quarter-inch seam allowance too early on, it will mess up the rest of your block. So if it's too bad, feel free to rip out your stitches, and start over. Cut a strip that is as

long as the side that we want to sew it to. We'll do two sides at a time again. Sew them together. Place the strip, right sides together over the block, pin in place, and sew with a quarter-inch seam allowance. (sewing machine whirring) (sewing machine beeps) Remove from the machine, snip off the excess threads, unpin, and finger press. And then repeat on the opposite side. Place your other strip down, right sides together, pin in place, and sew with a quarter-inch seam. (sewing machine whirring) (sewing machine beeps) Remove it from the machine, snip the threads, unpin, finger press, and then go press it with the iron. After you press, cut two more strips for the opposite two sides. And sew these with a quarter-inch seam allowance. Place the strip down, right sides together, pin in place, and sew with a quarter-inch seam. (sewing machine whirring) (sewing machine beeps) (sewing machine beeps) Remove from the machine, snip your threads, finger press, and then do the same thing with our last strip, on our last side. Place it down, right sides together, pin it in place, and sew a quarter-inch seam. (sewing machine whirring) (sewing machine beeps) Remove it from the machine, snip the threads, remove the pin, and finger press, and then press with the hot iron. Continue this process of sewing the strips on in alternating colors, as we've done, six more times, for a total of nine rounds, and I'll show you how to finish the block off.

Finishing the block

- I've got my nine tiers sewn onto my block, so I'm ready to finish off the square. You sew the last tier around, trim it off just like we've done before by placing the 45 degree angle mark on the seam and then cut off the excess on all four sides. So rotate the block, place the ruler down with the measurement on the seam, trim off the excess. Just repeat again. Place the 45 degree mark down on the seam allowance, trim off the excess. One last time. Place the 45 degree mark down on the seam, and then trim off the excess. Then we take the two five inch squares that we previously cut. We're gonna cut them in half diagonally to make two triangles. We're gonna repeat that with the last square. And we're gonna sew these triangles on all four sides of our block to finish it. Put it right sides together with the point of the triangle facing towards the square in the center of the block. You'll see it's a little bit longer than the length, and that's okay, so we'll trim it up at the end. Pin it in place and sew with a quarter inch seam. (machine clatters) Remove from the machine, snip the excess threads, unpin, finger press, and then continue with the next side, and another triangle. (machine clatters) Give it a press and then square it up with our 12 and a half inch square ruler. And look how beautiful our block is. We've done dark on light. You could also do light on dark to play with different colors and make multiples for a larger quilt project. I made a quilt with a similar technique although it was quilted and pieced improvisationally. It may look precise from a distance, but if you look close up you'll see that the piecing is in fact irregular and not so precise as the technique I just showed you. With this finished quilt, you can get a sense of just how striking these blocks can be when put together.