



Birthday Block of the Month Club #7



Designed by Bonnie Hunter

"Why Birthday Girl? Because it's my birthday month as I submit this. Hello 61! I love playing with an array of scraps in various styles and genres, just placing them by color to add some cohesion to the chaos. In my own world, all of the neutrals, purples, reds, oranges would be as scrappy as possible, but the unity within each color family shows the many faces of our lives that come together, making things more interesting than if we had used one fabric for each color alone. We are not the same person every single day. There are many sides to who we are. My scraps tell the story of my life — each piece a spot on the timeline over the past 40 years I've called myself a quilter.

—Bonnie Hunter

Meet Bonnie Hunter

Bonnie K Hunter is passionate about quilt quilting, focusing mainly on scrap quilts with the simple feeling of “making do.” Dedicated to continuing the traditions of quilting, Bonnie enjoys meeting with quilters, challenging quilters to break the rules, thinking outside the box, and finding what brings them joy. Bonnie retired from the quilt teaching & lecture circuit in 2020 after the opening of her dream come true – Quiltville Inn, a big old 1884 victorian house turned retreat center in Southwestern Virginia. Catch up with Bonnie’s doings through her extensive website and almost daily blog.

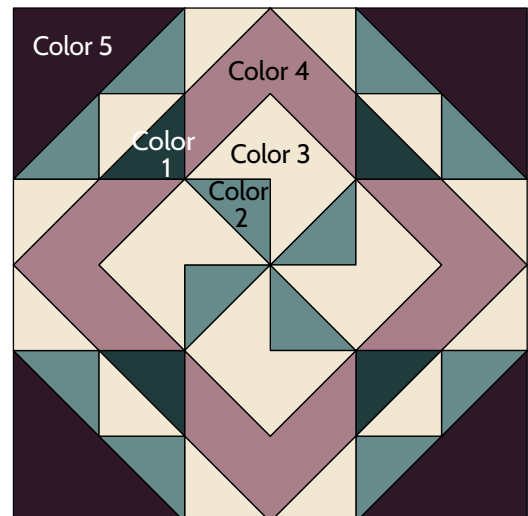
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Cutting Instructions

Fabric	Fabric Requirements	Quilt Colors Art Gallery Fabrics PURE Solids
Color 1	2 - 3 3/8" squares	Evergreen
Color 2	2 - 3 3/8" squares 4 - 2 7/8" squares	Swimming Pool
Color 3	4 - 3 3/8" squares 16 - 2 1/2" squares	Creme de la Creme
Color 4	8 - 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" rectangles	Sweet Fig
Color 5	2 - 4 7/8" squares	Cabernet

Notes:

- This block measures 12 1/2" square unfinished and 12" finished.
- Cutting instructions assume that width of fabric (WOF) is 42". All seams are 1/4" unless otherwise noted.
- This month's block is made using three block units — a Pinwheel, four Chevron Units, and four Corner Units. The instructions guide you through making each of those units in that order.
- Each of the units listed above will measure 4 1/2" unfinished and 4" finished.
- The measurements for this block are very precise. We recommend labeling each fabric with the color number and measurement to more easily keep track of your cut fabric.



Make the Pinwheel Unit

1. The Pinwheel Unit uses two Color 2 squares measuring $3\frac{3}{8}$ " and two Color 3 squares measuring $3\frac{3}{8}$ ". Using a chalk marker or disappearing ink pen, draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of the Color 3 squares.

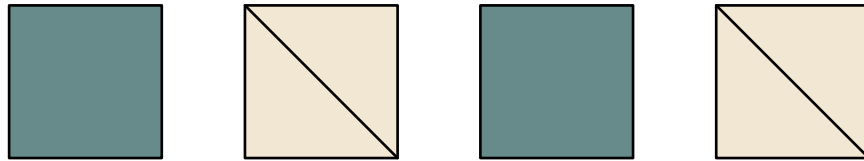


Diagram 1

2. Pair one Color 2 and one Color 3 squares together. With right sides together, sew a seam $\frac{1}{4}$ " on each side of the guideline created in the previous step.

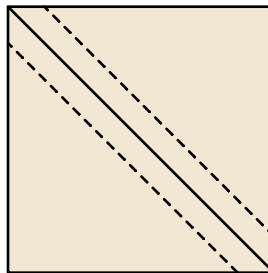


Diagram 2

3. Cut on the guideline between the seams. Press seams to the dark side and trim to a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " square if necessary. Repeat with the other two $3\frac{3}{8}$ " squares so you have four half square triangles.

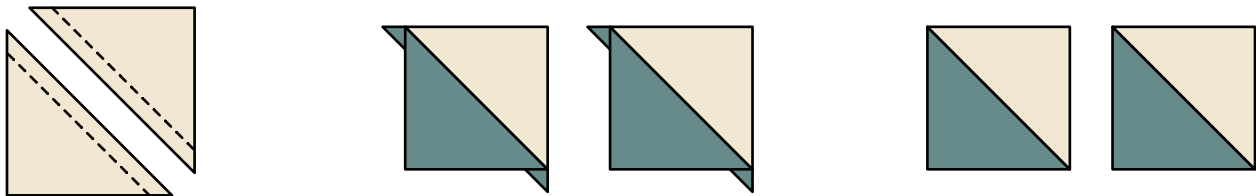


Diagram 3

4. Arrange the half square triangles in a pinwheel as shown below in diagram 4.

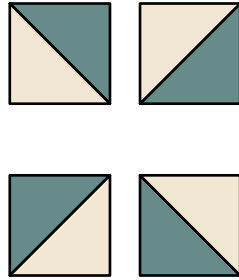


Diagram 4

5. Sew the top two half square triangles together, pressing towards the Color 2 fabric. Sew the bottom two half square triangles together, also pressing towards the Color 2 fabric. The seams will be going in opposite directions.

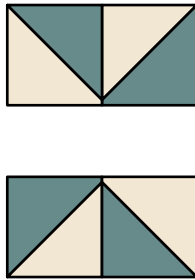


Diagram 5

6. Sew the top and bottom row together, nesting the center seam for accuracy. Press open to reduce bulk.

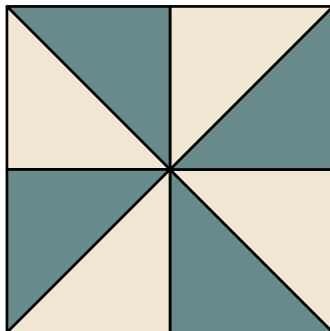


Diagram 6

Make the Chevron Units

7. Each of the four Chevron Units in the Birthday Girl block uses 2 - 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" rectangles in Color 4 and 4 - 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" squares in Color 3. Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner on the wrong sides of each Color 3 square.

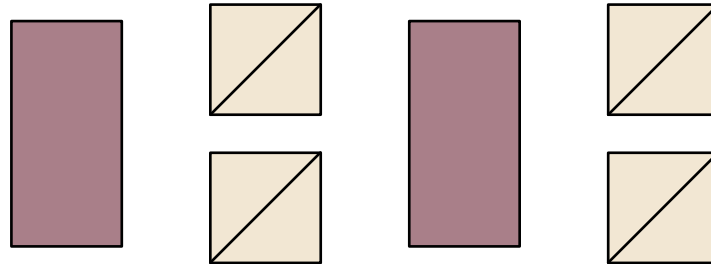


Diagram 7

8. Place one Color 3 square on top of the Color 4 rectangle with right sides together and the top of the diagonal line in the upper right as shown below. **DO NOT SEW ON THE GUIDELINE.** The drawn line is the fold line where the fabric needs to fold up and over the thread to reach the outside edge of the base unit. If you sew on the line, the fabric will be too short to reach be even with the rectangle when sewn. Instead, place the needle just to the right of the line, into what will be the seam allowance. Sew a seam.

Press before trimming to ensure that the corner of the Color 3 triangle reaches all the way to the edges of the base rectangle. Once pressed, flip that triangle back and trim the excess, leaving 1/4" seam allowance.

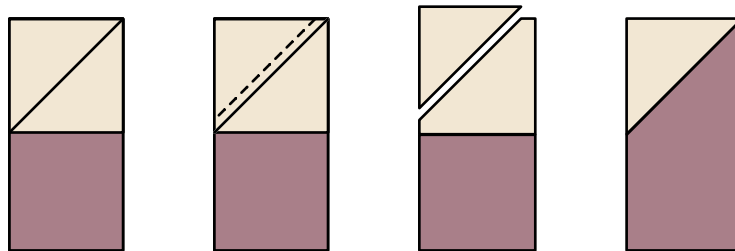


Diagram 8

9. Place a Color 3 square on the bottom of the Color 4 rectangle with right sides together and the top of the diagonal line in the upper right as shown below. Repeat Step 8 to create the lower triangle and finish half of one Chevron unit as shown below.

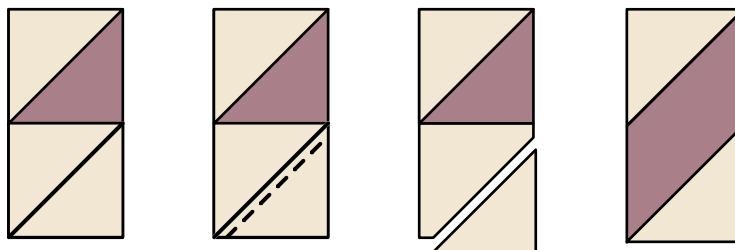


Diagram 9

10. Next, make the second half of the Chevron Unit, which will be a mirror image of the half created in Steps 7-9. Place one Color 3 square on top of the Color 4 rectangle with right sides together and the top of the diagonal line in the upper left as shown below. Repeat Step 8.

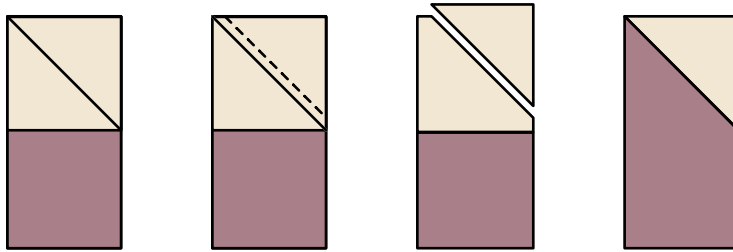


Diagram 10

11. Place a Color 3 square on the bottom of the Color 4 rectangle with right sides together and the top of the diagonal line in the upper left as shown below. Repeat Step 8 to create the lower triangle and finish the second half of one Chevron unit as shown below.

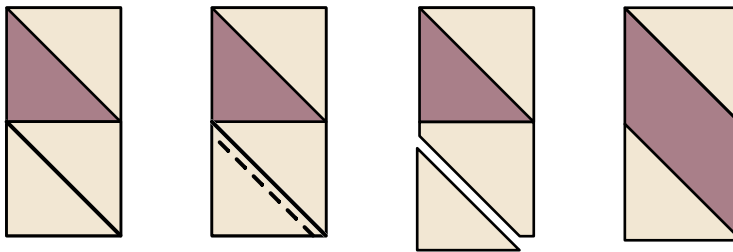


Diagram 11

12. Sew the two Chevron halves together along the long side as shown below, so the unit creates a central point. Press open to reduce bulk. Repeat until you have four identical Chevron Units.

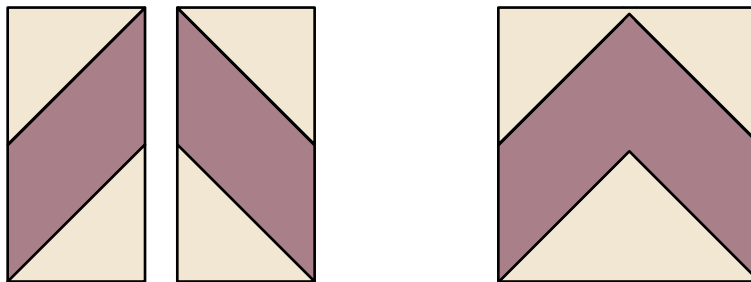


Diagram 12

Make the Corner Units

13. The Corner Units use two Color 1 squares measuring $3 \frac{3}{8}$ " , four Color 2 squares measuring $2 \frac{7}{8}$ " , two Color 3 squares measuring $3 \frac{3}{8}$ " , and two Color 5 squares measuring $4 \frac{7}{8}$ " . Using a chalk marker or disappearing ink pen, draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of the Color 3 squares.

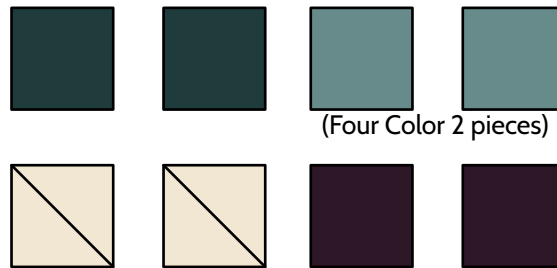


Diagram 13

14. Using two Color 1 squares and two Color 3 squares, all measuring $3 \frac{3}{8}$ " , follow Steps 2-3 to create four half square triangles. Press towards the dark fabric and trim down to $2 \frac{1}{2}$ " as necessary.

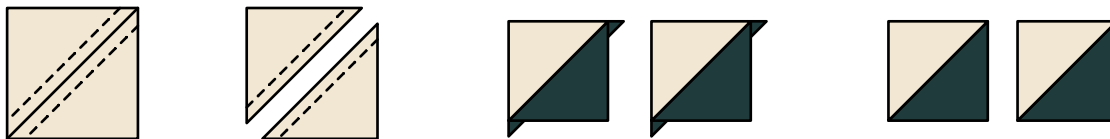


Diagram 14

15. Cut the two Color 5 squares (measuring $4 \frac{7}{8}$ " each) diagonally from corner to corner to create four corner triangles. Cut the four Color 2 squares (measuring $2 \frac{7}{8}$ " each) diagonally from corner to corner to create eight wing triangles.

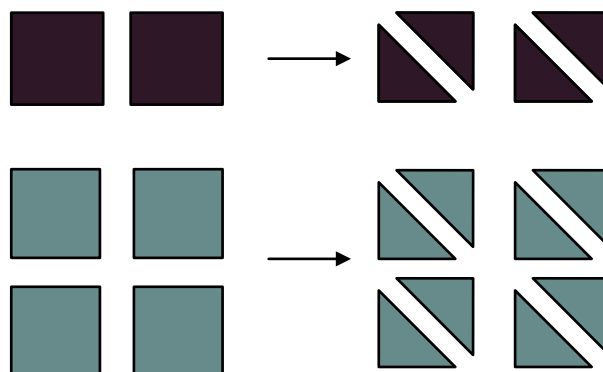


Diagram 15

16. Sew a Color 2 wing triangle to a Color 3 side of one half square triangle, aligning the half square triangle and Color 2 wing triangle along the right side. The Color 2 wing triangle will be longer than the half square triangle — that overhang will create the seam allowance. The Color 2 Press towards the dark fabric and trim dog ears. Add the second Color 2 wing triangle to the other Color 3 side of the half square triangles. Press towards the dark fabric and trim dog ears. Repeat until there are four identical pieced triangles.

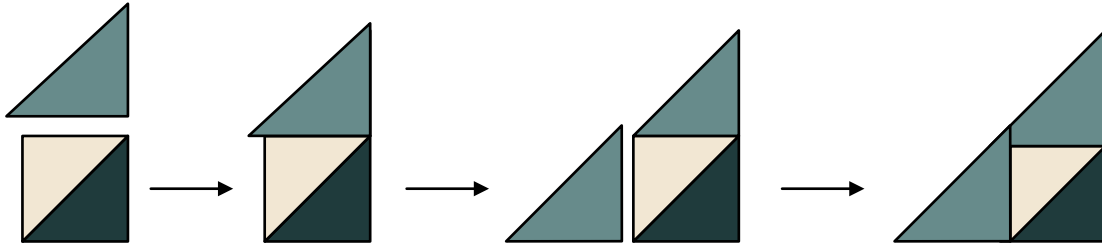


Diagram 16

17. Match a pieced triangle unit to a Color 5 triangle with right sides together and sew. Press the seam towards Color 5. Trim dog ears and trim down to 4 1/2" as needed. Repeat until there are four identical Corner Units.

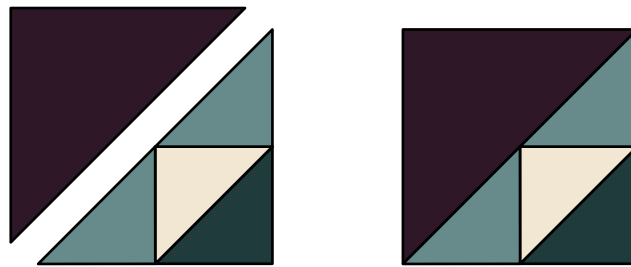


Diagram 17

Assemble the Block

18. Arrange all nine units — the Pinwheel, the four Chevrons, and the four Corner Units — as shown below.

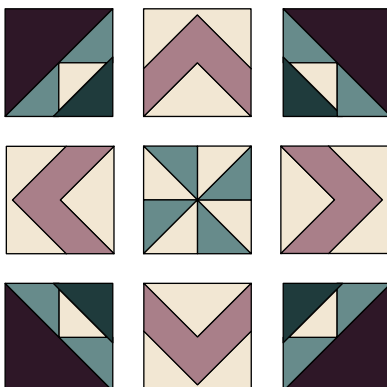


Diagram 18

19. Sew together, making three rows. Press the seams in the top row to the right, the middle row to the left, and the bottom row to the right so they will nest in the next step.

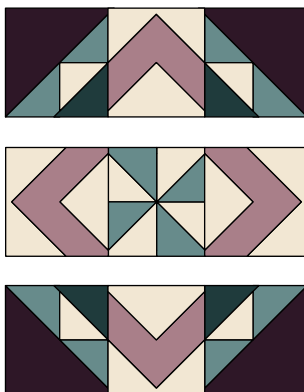


Diagram 19

20. Sew the three rows together, nesting the seams between each block. Press open to reduce bulk.

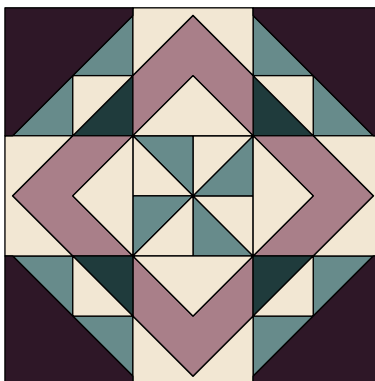


Diagram 20

Share your Quilt Alliance Birthday Block of the Month on social media! Be sure to tag [@quiltalliance](#) and [@quiltville_bonnie](#) and use the hashtag [#QuiltAllianceBOM](#). We can't wait to see and share your block!