

Sampler Quilt

Workshop notes - Block 8

Pinwheels

This is a variation of the 9 patch but the Pinwheel is such a useful little square and makes us pay attention of the centre point of diagonal seams having to match.

This pinwheel comes together from making 4 small half-square triangle units and we are going to use the sew first and trim back method of making these.

You need to make 4 units for each pinwheel

We want 2" finished unit (the little square needs to finish up 4" remember) so we need to add 1" to this size for cutting i.e. 3"

You need to choose two contrasting fabrics – so background and another (mine are pink)

You will need to cut 10 squares of each colour and to speed things up – because that's what the rotary cutter does best – cut a 3" strip of each fabric; lay them right sides together and then cut across in 3" segments.

Leave them together and just draw the diagonal line on the back of the palest fabric – take it to your sewing machine and sew the mean ¼" seam allowance each side of it.

Cut up between the sewing lines (i.e. along the drawn line)

Press seams to the darker fabric

Trim back to 2 ½"

Once you have all these made, put 4 down to make the pinwheel; sew together in pairs (seams pressed in opposite directions)

and then sew across the middle –

PAY ATTENTION to that middle seam

I do find it easier if the seams on this one occasion are pressed open – you do get a colour change to help you with where you need to sew.

You should plan to make 5 of these and it does come with practice.(you could get away with 4 and have a different plain fabric as your centre square.)

Don't panic if you feel this isn't your best work – these are quilting and embellishing opportunities

OR as a last resort you could make a different block to go in here – one of the other alternatives.

Sewing by Hand

Cut and sew the squares as above, using a small running stitch as your sewing stitch; press seams closed and trim back to 2 ½" making sure that you don't trim through any stitching.

In the centre of the pinwheel you can still open this seam (gently) so that you know where you should be sewing but I suggest you actually sew the seam closed so that it is stronger.

Sew the rows together as for the other blocks.