

# BRUNSWICK QUILTERS

BLOCK OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY 2024

## *“AT THE SQUARE”*

Today's block was featured in a book I found in my sewing room: "365 Fun-to-Stitch Quilt Blocks". It is a delightful book of patterns with absolutely NO directions on making the blocks, only templates. I had to create the pattern, so here goes! Make sure you read all the instructions because I have played a little trick on you!

This is a great scrap buster project. Please use **solids** (or tone-on-tone selections that read solid).

- Cut 16 Navy (background) strips measuring 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"
- Cut 4 Navy (background) blocks measuring 4-3/4" x 4-3/4"
  
- Cut 2 Red strips measuring 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"
- Cut 1 Red block measuring 4-3/4" x 4-3/4"
  
- Cut 2 Light/Medium Blue strips measuring 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"
- Cut 1 Light/Medium Blue block measuring 4-3/4" x 4-3/4"
  
- Cut 2 Yellow strips measuring 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"
- Cut 1 Yellow block measuring 4-3/4" x 4-3/4"
  
- Cut 2 Bright green strips measuring 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"
- Cut 1 Bright green block measuring 4-3/4" x 4-3/4"
  
- Cut 2 White blocks measuring 3-1/2 x 3-1/2"

Start by assembling the red/blue/yellow/green strips into blocks using the navy strips. Check to see you are using a good 1/4" seam. Make two blocks of each color combination (wait, you only see one of each color in the block?? Why am I making two of each? Keep reading!). Press seams to the dark navy. Blocks will be 3-1/2" x 3-1/2" after assembly.



## Page 2: "At the Square"

Now onto the corner blocks known as hourglass blocks or quarter square triangles (QST's). Take one navy 4-3/4" x 4-3/4" block and pair with each of the red/blue/yellow/green 4-3/4" x 4-3/4" blocks, right sides together. Draw a line on one block on the diagonal from corner to corner. Stitch a 1/4" seam on *each* side of the line on all four blocks. Cut between the stitching right down the drawn line to create two half square triangles of each color. Press to the dark to accommodate nesting of seams.



After pressing, put the two half square triangles right sides together. This time, however, you will turn the top block 1/2 turn with the navy fabric orientation opposite the bottom square (i.e., navy will lay on red and red will lay on navy). Again, draw a line on one block on the diagonal from corner to corner. Stitch a 1/4" seam on each side of the line on all four blocks. Cut between the stitching right down the drawn line to create two hourglass blocks of each color. Press seams flat. Carefully trim blocks down to measure 3-1/2" x 3-1/2".

Confused? Here is a link to a great video from Leah Day explaining this process: [How to Piece Hourglass Quilt Blocks - Two at a Time! \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



### Page 3: "At the Square"

Now it is time to assemble your block. The white 3-1/2" square goes in the center of the block. You are AT THE SQUARE! Please follow the color placement shown on the following picture. Take extra care to make sure your hourglass units are oriented in the correct direction. They want to look like a "bowtie" when in the proper position (if you turn them ¼ turn, it changes the whole pattern). Press seams on top and bottom row toward the center block and press seams on center row away from the white block to accommodate nesting. After a good press, your block should measure 9-1/2" x 9-1/2".



By now, have you noticed the trick?? You have another set of hourglass units left over. But I had you make two sets of the strip units in the first instruction. So, you now have enough units to turn in TWO blocks! You get two chances to win! Good luck and thanks for participating.