

EQG BLOCK LOTTERY #7
“Pieced House Block”
Turn in at September 20, 2005 Meeting

The seventh block exchange will be a “Pieced House Block”, adapted from Carrie Nelson’s “Home for the Harvest” quilt, American Patchwork & Quilting, October 2003. This block has 4 components, one which utilizes templates for completion. The piecing of the other 3 sections is fairly standard. Sticking to our previous standards, this block will also be 9”finished or 9 1/2” unfinished.

Materials:

Scraps for the house and scraps for the sky

Cutting:

Section 1: the chimneys

2 (1 1/2” x 1 1/2”) squares for the chimney peaks
1 (1 1/2” x 3 1/2”) rectangle of sky material for the space between the chimneys.
2 (1 1/2” x 2 5/8”) rectangles of sky material for the sides of the chimneys. **NOTE:** this section may slightly extend past the roof line of section 2 – the roof. Just trim them once the two sections are sewn together.

Section 2: the roof

Use the paper pattern provided to cut out templates for piece **B** – the main roof, piece **C** – the front peak, piece **A** and **Ar** (which is **A** reversed) for the sky. (See the end of the instructions for how to make templates).

Section 3: the door

1 (2 1/2” x 4 3/4”) rectangle for the actual door
2 (1 5/8” x 4 3/4”) rectangles for the door frame sides
1 (1 1/2” x 4 3/4”) rectangle for the door frame top

Section 4: the windows

2 (1 1/2” x 3”) for the actual windows
1 (1 1/2” x 3”) for the wall between the two windows
2 (2” x 3 1/2”) for the wall above and below the windows
2 (1 1/2” x 5 3/4”) for the wall sides

Assembly:

1. HELPFUL HINT: Complete one section at a time. Sew sections 3 door and 4 windows together before sewing then to section 2 roof.
2. Refer to the house block diagram for placement of pieces.
3. Sew together the pieces in each section as per the diagram. Press seam allowances toward the darker fabrics. The sections have been designed slightly generous; trim the block once completed to the proper 9 1/2” unfinished size.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR USING TEMPLATES:

Four pieces of this block will use templates for proper cutting. Templates can be cut from a variety of things, from paper to cardboard to actual template plastic which comes in sheets about 1/16" thick. Template plastic can be purchased at most fabric and quilt stores. If you plan to make lots of blocks, you will need sturdier templates. If you plan to make 1-5 blocks, you should be able to get by with cardboard templates before distortion occurs to the template. (Distortion occurs from tracing around the fragile cardboard edges multiple times, eventually creating variations in the tracing.) If you make only one block, you could use paper if you treat it VERY gently.

Step 1: Making templates:

This can be done several ways, depending on your template medium.

Method 1: cardboard templates – using fabric glue or other similar glue stick, glue the paper with the template patterns down to the cardboard, with the template pattern facing up to you. (Basically, the wrong side of the pattern to the cardboard). Don't use so much glue that it bubbles up or clumps in places. Smooth out any air bubbles (the side of a credit card can be useful for smoothing it out) and let the glue dry thoroughly.

Once the glue is dry, carefully cut around each template pattern. (The templates included with this block already have seam allowances marked but be aware that a lot of patterns don't include the seam allowances if you opt for making templates in the future with this method). You can use your rotary cutter with an old blade or an exacto knife and ruler to cut the cardboard accurately. Accuracy in cutting out the templates is KEY.

Method 2: template plastic – Tape the pattern, right side up, to a solid surface. Lay the plastic over the printed pattern – you can tape the plastic in place also. Carefully trace the pattern onto the plastic with a fine tipped permanent marker and a ruler. This will provide for accurate, straight lines and no smudges. Remember to include the seam allowances when cutting out the templates. Mark each template with its corresponding letter designation.

Method 3: paper templates – carefully cut around the pattern provided using a rotary cutter and ruler.

Step 2: Tracing templates:

Use a pencil, white dressmakers pencil, chalk or fabric markers that makes a THIN and ACCURATE line. As the line will be in the seam allowance with this block, you could use a fine tipped permanent marker. (Ball point pen may bleed if washed).

Place the template face down on the WRONG side of the fabric and trace around it carefully. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut precisely on the drawn lines.

Piece "Ar" indicates that it is the reverse of the "A" piece. After you have traced the "A" piece (with the template FACE DOWN on the wrong side of the fabric), flip the template over and trace it for "Ar" (with the template FACE UP on the wrong side of the fabric).

NOTE: Distortion in template size can occur when scanning and printing. You may want to make a test block to check for accuracy of your templates.

If you have any problems or questions, you can call Judy Elliott (she's in the roster) or check with another quilting buddy who may be able to help. Good Luck and have fun!