

Fall Fields of Four Mystery Quilt

2020 Monday Night Mystery

Step One:

Leaf Blocks: Quantity (8) blocks

Miscellaneous Supplies that are helpful... not required, but helpful. (If you do not have these tools, optional tips are offered in the instructions!

- 4.5" square up ruler
- Clover Loop pressing bars



Cut from Fabric; Or, Pull from Your Scrap Stash:

Light Background Fabric:

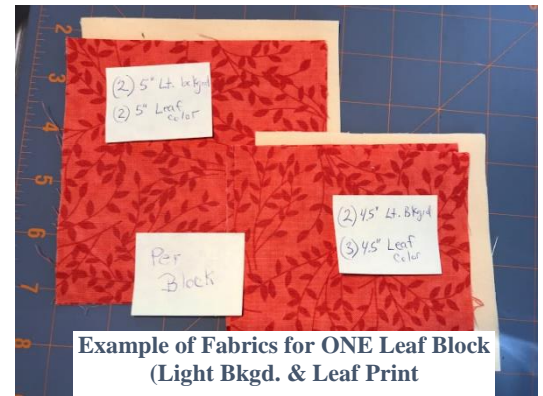
- Cut (16) 5" squares
- Cut (16) 4.5" squares

Leaf Fabric: Fat Quarters in (8) **different Leaf prints**

- Cut (2) 5" squares from EACH LEAF print
- Cut (3) 4.5" squares from EACH LEAF print

Brown Leaf Stems (for applique):

- Cut (3) 1.5" strips (lengthwise) from Fat Quarter. This will be enough 1.5" x 6.5" stems for all 8 Leaf blocks.



A. **Brown Leaf Stem Instructions:** Fold each long strip of Brown Stem fabric **RIGHT SIDES OUT** (or Wrong Sides Together) and stitch a very scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " Seam Allowance down the raw edge of each of the strips.

- Trim each seam allowance to a scant $\frac{1}{8}$ ". (See photo at right)
- (Next: See photos below) Place a Clover $\frac{1}{4}$ " pressing bar up inside the stem, push the seam to the center of the pressing bar, and press the seam in place. Continue working your way up the stem till the entire strip's seam is centered in the back. (Alternate Tip: You can also just press the seam to the center back of the stem **without** a pressing bar by manipulating the fabric on your ironing board. It does take a lot more **'fiddling'** with the stem to ensure the seams get pressed to the back, but it **CAN** be done! You could even use a narrow wooden dowel to help open the stem; you could then easily press the seam on the wooden dowel)



- Remove the pressing bar (or wooden dowel); steam-press the stem so the seam is hidden on the back of the stem. (See photo at far right.)



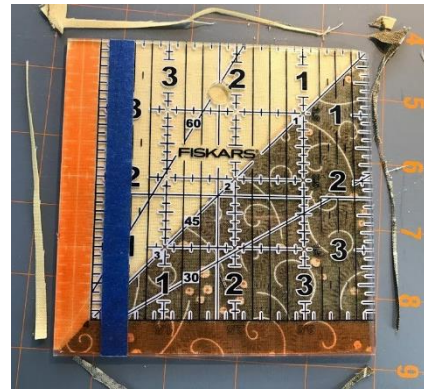
- d. Place the Stem diagonally across a 4.5” Light square (w/seam hidden in back of stem). Edge stitch down each side of the stem. (I like to do these in an assembly line fashion!) Applique (8) Brown stems onto (8) Light 4.5” squares. (Each Leaf block will have one Brown stem sewn to a Light square!)



- e. Square up the excess stem that extends off each of the 4.5” Light squares. (Eliminate bulk in seam allowances whenever possible!)

B. Create Half Square Triangles for the Maple Leaf Blocks:

- a. Place a Light 5” square RST with a 5” Leaf print square. Draw a diagonal line from one corner to opposite corner. Sew a scant ¼” seam allowance on EACH side of the drawn line. (See photo at right)
- b. Cut on the drawn line to create two HST squares.
- c. Open each HST and press to the dark side.
- d. SQUARE UP each of the HST’s to 4.5” using a “4.5” square up ruler,” OR simply use a ruler to square up both sides to form a perfect 4.5” HST square. (See step by step photos below...)
- e. Do Steps “a – d” **twice** for each Leaf Block to create a total of (4) HST Squares of the **same** Leaf print & Light Background. Each Leaf Block needs (4) of these **HST Squares**.



C. Piecing the Leaf Block Instructions: *USE ACCURATE 1/4" SEAM ALLOWANCES*

- a. Lay out the (9) different 4.5" squares for each Leaf Block (see photo below left).
- b. Note: Be sure to orient the HST Squares in the *Correct* position within each of the 3 rows so the leaves form the correct shape.
- c. **Row One:** Lt Bkgd w/Stem square; Leaf print square; HST
- d. **Row Two:** Leaf print square; Leaf print square; HST
- e. **Row Three:** HST, HST, Light Bkgd square



- f. Sew the 3 rows together, nesting seams and using accurate 1/4" seam allowances.
- g. When possible, press seams toward the Dark.
- h. Once each of the (8) Leaf Blocks has been pieced, press them nicely with Mary Ellen's Best Press.
- i. Square up EACH of the (8) blocks to 12.5". **There should be 1/4" seam allowance available all the way around each block so that NO POINTS of the Leaves will cut off when the blocks are sewn together!** See the Green ovals on photo below which show the 1/4" seam allowance needed.)



Next Monday Night, we will get instructions for the (8) Hourglass Blocks!