Block of the Month for September 2011—Art Class Block, a simple log cabin block
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To enter to win the Blocks of the Month, each person may enter up to three blocks each month (note: for September only, you may enter three pairs of blocks—see photographs below). The winner of the blocks will be drawn at the Saturday meeting each month. Blocks will be accepted at both Thursday and Saturday meetings. If you cannot be at a meeting, please send your blocks to MQ at 3000 University Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 so that they arrive by or before the first Friday of the month.

September’s block is a simple log-cabin block. The order in which the colors are arranged is what makes this block so graphically dramatic. If you choose to participate in this drawing, please make a pair of blocks—one with the color on the outside, one with white on the outside. The pair will count as a single entry. All BOM patterns in the 2010-2011 series are designed to sew up as 12” blocks (12½” unfinished).

For the Art Class Block choose a white-on-white background and a bright primary color.

For the white bordered block:
Cut from the white-on-white:
A 1 2½” x 2½” square
B 1 3½” x 6½” rectangle
C 2 3½” x 9½” rectangles
D 1 3½” x 12½” rectangle
Cut from the bright primary color you've chosen:
E 1 2½” x 2½” square
F 2 2½” x 4½” rectangles
G 1 2½” x 6½” rectangles

For the bright bordered block follow the cutting instructions above using the opposite colors (instead of white, cut colored pieces; and instead of using brights for the second set of measurements, cut white pieces.

Directions:
Sew A (a white 2½" square) to E (a color 2½" square). Press seam to one side. Begin to build the log cabin, adding F (color 2½” x 4½” rectangle) to one side of the pieced squares. Press seam to one side. Add the second F (2½” x 4½” color rectangle) at right angles to the pieced section. Press seam to one side. Add G (2½” x 6½” color strip) to the third side. Press. Now you've got a white square in the center surrounded by a bright colored frame. Continue to add increasingly larger 3½” wide rectangles around the square that you're building (first B, then C, and another C, and, finally D). Be sure to press the seam to one side after each strip is added. You'll end up with a white center, surrounded by a bright primary-color frame that is surrounded by a white frame on the outside.

Repeat for the bright primary block, but start surrounding your central bright square with increasingly longer white 2½” rectangles. Continue as above, ending with the bright primary 3½” x 12½” rectangle on the last side. This block will have a bright center with a white frame and a bright frame on the outside.

Since you're cutting each strip to fit the side where it belongs, you should end up with your square exactly 12½” x 12½”. Check the size and trim to 12½” square if necessary. If you enter two or more pairs of blocks into the September Block of the Month drawing, try to choose different colors for each set.