February 2012 MQ Block of the Month

The Write Heart

This block is easy and quick to make using two fabrics, one red and one white.
(Note: We’ll post directions for a scrappy block with a heart made from 1 ½” squares of many different reds on MQ’s website with the Block of the Month directions.)

Cutting directions:

These measurements are slightly on the large side to make it easier for you to trim the blocks to true size. If you want to be more conservative with your fabric, cut the squares at 5 3/8” and 2 3/8” for the half-square triangles.

From the white (or white-on-white) fabric cut
1 5 ½” x 5 ½” square
1 5 ½” x 1 ½” rectangle (for signature)
2 2 ½” x 2 ½” squares (for half square triangles)

From the red fabric (or fabric that reads red) cut
1 5 ½” x 5 ½” square
2 5 ½” x 1 ½” rectangles
2 2 ½” x 3 ½” rectangles
2 2" x 2” squares
2 2 ½” x 2 ½” squares (for half square triangles)

Preparation Directions:

Place the 5 ½” white and red squares right sides together and draw a line diagonally on the white square. Sew ¼” on both sides of the line, cut apart, and press open (one seam toward the white, one toward the red).

Trim to 5” using diagonal line as your guide. NOTE: Trimming is very important, and will result in your final finished heart block being the right size.

These half-square triangle blocks are used to make the bottom half of your heart. Sew together, nestle the seams.

Using the 2 ½” white and red squares, follow directions above for making half-square triangle blocks. Trim to 2”. You’ll end up with 4 small blocks.

Assemble the heart block:

1. Sew together the white 5 ½” x 1 ½” rectangle between two red ones. Add the 2 ½” x 3 ½” rectangles, one on each end. This is the signature section of the heart.
2. Sew together the top row - one red/white half-square triangle sewn with one red 2” square; two half-square triangle squares to make the center top of the heart (the whites form a V); and the other red 2” square with the final red/white half-square triangle.
   Now combine these three pieces to make the top row.
3. Attach the signature section to the heart bottom. Add the top row that defines the top of the heart. Press. Trim to 9 ½” square centering along the seams at the center of the heart.
4. Sign and date your block in the white signature field!