Block of the Month
September 2012
Schoolhouse Block (based on a traditional block)

It might be easiest if you lettered a series of paper plates to keep the pieces straight. These can be re-used for Mystery Quilts or other projects that require sorting!

Fabrics:
Blue for sky: 1 piece 2” x 2” (A)
1 piece 3” x 3” (B)
1 piece 1 ½” x 2 ½” (C)
2 pieces 1 ½” x 3 ½” (D)
2 pieces 2 ½” x 3 ½” (E)
Green for the grass: 1 piece 1 ½” x 7 ½” (F)
2 pieces 1 ½” x 2 ½” (G)
Brown for the roof: 1 piece 3” x 3” (H)
1 piece 2 ½” x 5 ½” (I)
Red for the school: 1 piece 1 ½” x 1 ½” (J)
1 piece 2” x 2” (K)
2 pieces 1” x 1 ½” (M)
1 piece 1 ½” x 7 ½” (N)
2 pieces 1 ½” x 3 ½” (O)
2 pieces 1” x 2 ½” (P)
2 pieces 1 ½” x 3” (Q)
Focus fabric (showing children, teacher, toys, animals, etc.) for windows and door of the school OR a plain dark color:
2 pieces 1 ½” x 2 ½” (windows = R)
1 piece 2 ½” x 3 ½” (door = S)
Optional: 1 ½” x 2 ½” gold or bronze for the bell in the tower (T) – replacing C
(You didn’t miss L . . . we don’t have one in this block.)

Directions:
1) For the roof make 2 blue/brown half-square triangles [pieces B & H]. Put them right sides together (rst). Draw a line diagonally on the blue square. Stitch ¼” from each side of the line. Cut apart on the line to make 2 squares. Press open. Trim each to 2 ½” x 2 ½”. Set aside.
2) For the bell-tower, make blue/red half-square triangles for belfry using pieces A & K. See directions above. Trim each to 1 ½” x 1 ½”. Set these aside.
3) For the background on the sides of the block, sew together pieces G & D on their short sides. (See diagram.) Set these aside.
4) Bell tower: Row 1: sew piece j between the two blue/red half-square triangles. Set aside. Row 2: Sew piece C between the two M pieces. Sew Row 2 to Row 1 to make the tower. Now add the sky: sew piece E to each side of the bell-tower center. Measure and trim, if necessary to 2 ½” x 9 ½”. Set this aside.
5) Roof: Sew 1 blue/brown 2 ½” half-square triangle piece to each side of piece I. Sew bell tower to top of roof section. Measure and trim, if necessary to 4 ½” x 9 ½”. Set aside.
6) Construct school building by assembling pieces in the following order: Red piece O to focus fabric piece R to red piece P. Press. Sew red piece Q to the bottom. Repeat, reversed, for the other window.
7) Combine windows and doors:
Look at the photo or diagram of the block. Sew left-hand window section you’ve just made to the left of the door piece S, then add right hand window section to the other side. Trim this to 3 ½” x 7 ½”.
8) Add landscaping: Sew green piece F to bottom and red piece N to the top above the windows.
9) To the schoolhouse section, sew to each side one of the blue/green pieces [d-g] that you’d set aside. This completes the bottom half of the block. Measure and trim to 5 ½” x 9 ½” if necessary.
10) Finish the block by sewing the schoolhouse section to the roof and bell tower section. Your finished block should measure 9 ½” square. Optional: cut out a bell-shape from yellow-gold fabric [piece t] and applique it into the sky-area of the bell tower.
I know! This block sounds impossibly difficult, but if you follow step-by-step it isn’t difficult and it doesn’t take long to construct.

Hints: Keep looking at the picture of the block.
  - Press seams carefully.
  - Measure at each step to make sure you’re keeping the dimensions correct.
  - Trim where necessary.

If you make two or more blocks at once, you can chain stitch the sections, and that will cut down on the time significantly.

We hope you’ll challenge yourself to make at least one block to put in the drawing -- and be sure to make one for yourself. You won’t be sorry! Imagine: what’s a town without a school? For a Town Quilt, directions can be adapted to make a steeple for a church, plain roof for shops, and chimneys for houses. The possibilities are endless. Let’s see what you come up with for your school.

BOM basics:
- Each person may enter up to three blocks each month.
- Please include your name on your block(s)! Many of us just use a mailing label.
- If you have nice scraps left over, consider including them with your block (pinned on or in a baggie) so that the winner can use them for a border or other finishing touches.
- For 2012-13, all BOM pattern directions will sew up as 9” blocks (9 ½” unfinished).
- Consider making a block or two in your favorite colors each month to keep for making a sampler quilt.
- If you cannot bring the blocks to the quilt meeting, you may mail them to the MQ office. Please allow adequate time for them to arrive before the Saturday drawing.

Block of the Month
Minnesota Quilters, Inc.
1203 Fifth St. SE
Minneapolis, MN  55414

- To help us celebrate more winners, we will draw two names if we have over 24 blocks (3 if we have 36+, 4 if we have 48+).
- Drawings are held at the Saturday meeting. If the winner(s) are not present, the blocks will either be mailed or left at the MQ office for the winner to pick up. We will call to notify winners.
- Questions? Contact Kathie Simon-Frank (Kathie@umn.edu) or Jeanne LaMoore (jlamoore@gmail.com).