Snowball in the Igloo
January 2014 Block of the Month

This block may challenge you. But it should give you some skills in making miniature quilts. It’s made of small pieces joined into a lovely 9 ½” block. Do your best! The secrets to success? First, be sure you sew scant ¼” seams!! That means a thread or two less than ¼”. And, second, trim all your elements before adding them to anything else.

Fabric: White or white-on-white for the snowballs and some ice blocks on the edge.
- 1 dark blue for the outside snowball background
- 1 medium blue for the border around the center snowball
- 4 very light blues for the ice blocks on the edge--small scraps of these are fine!

You’ll be making three segments. Two of these segments you’ll make 4 times.

CORNERS (see Figure 1 and photograph):
Make 4 outside dark blue and white corners.
From the white, cut 4 2 ½” x 2 ½” squares
From the dark blue, cut 16 1 ½” x 1 ½” squares
DIRECTIONS: Mark a diagonal line on each of the dark blue squares. You’ll sew on this line. Sew on the diagonal line to attach a dark blue square to one corner of the white square. Press dark blue away from the white square. Trim away the dark and white fabric behind the dark corner. Repeat for each corner. Hint: Work on all four corners in succession by chain-stitching. That way, you’ll end up with all four corners done at the same time. Trim each element to 2 ½” x 2 ½”. Set these elements aside.

ICE-BLOCK ELEMENTS (see Figure 2 and photograph):
Make 4 “ice block elements” for the edges.
From the white, cut a 1 ½” strip the width of the fabric.
From the strip, cut 4 1 ½” x 1 ½” squares and 4 1 ½” x 2 ½” rectangles.
From Light Blue 1, cut 4 1 ½” x 1 ½” squares
From Light Blue 2, cut 4 1 ½” x 2 ½” rectangles
From Light Blue 3, cut 4 1 ½” x 2 ½” rectangles
From Light Blue 4, cut 4 1 ½” x 2 ½” rectangles
DIRECTIONS: Sew a strip consisting of 1 white square, and rectangles Light blue#2 and Light blue#3. Make 4. Press and trim to 1 ½” x 5 ½”. Sew a second strip consisting of one Light blue#1 square, one white rectangle and one Light Blue#4. Press and trim each to 1 ½” x 5 ½”. Make 4. You can make each strip the same or choose the colors randomly. The look will vary according to what method you choose. See drawing. Choose 1 of each strip set. Sew them together to make the stacked ice blocks. Trim to 2 ½” x 5 ½”. Make 4. Set these elements aside.

CENTER SNOWBALL (see Figure 3 and photograph):
From the white, cut a 1 ½” strip or use what you have left over from above. From the strip
Cut 1 1 ½” x 3 ½” rectangle
Cut 2 1 ½” x 1 ½” squares.
Cut 2 2” x 2” squares. Draw one diagonal line on each of these squares.
From the medium blue, cut 4 2” x 2” squares. Draw a diagonal line on two of these squares. From the dark blue, cut 2 2” x 2” squares.

DIRECTIONS: Make 4 half-square triangles. Put the dark blue squares on top of 2 of the medium blue squares, right sides together. Sew ¼” from each side of the line you’ve drawn on the medium blue square. Cut apart. Press open. Trim each half-square triangle to 1 ½” x 1 ½”.

Make 4 half-square triangles with the 2 white 2” x 2” squares and the remaining 2 medium blue squares. Follow directions above for the half-square triangles. Press open. Trim to 1 ½” squares. Assemble the snowball as in diagram, completing the center part first. See diagram. Press. Trim to 5 ½” x 5 ½” square.

Add one CORNER to each end of one of the ICE BLOCK elements. Make another one the same. Press. If necessary, trim to 9 ½” x 2 ½”.

Add one ICE BLOCK element to each side of the CENTER SNOWBALL. Press. If necessary, trim to 5 ½” x 9 ½”.

This will leave you with three strips. Sew these together with the corners on the outside, the ice block elements on each side, and the snowball in the center. Press block. Trim to 9 ½” x 9 ½”.

If you need help or encouragement, e-mail me at kathie@umn.edu!!

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Figure 1

![Figure 1](image1)

Figure 2

![Figure 2](image2)

Figure 3

![Figure 3](image3)