Block of the Month – January 2015 – Buttoned Up

Wynn Martin and Jeanne LaMoore, botm@mnquilt.org

Theme: Quick & Easy – scrappy contrast

Fabric: We decided to make this really quick and easy by encouraging use of scraps! Find two shirts that contrast and button one shirt to the other. For this block, you may use shirts of any weight that works for quilting (flannel, poly/cotton blends, silk, 100% cotton, etc.) For the star parts, pick any two colors that contrast with one another. Although the sample has just one purple and one gold, you may choose any scraps that will work with your shirt pieces. Have the lighter fabric(s) form the points <C> and the darker fabric(s) form the outer edges <A, B>.

Cutting:
A – (4) 3 ½” x 3 ½” squares of the darker fabric(s)
B – (4) 3 ½” x 6 ½” rectangles of darker fabric(s)
<OR you can make flying geese with less waste if you know other methods>
C – (8) 3 ½” x 3 ½” squares of the lighter fabric(s)
<OR you can use a different method to make your flying geese>
SHIRTS - Cut a square that is at least 8” x 8”.

Assembly:
1. After buttoning the two contrasting shirts to one another, cut out a square that is 8” x 8”. Stitch the two shirts together, being careful of the buttons. Sew ¼” from the edge of the placket. Cut your shirt square to 6 ½” x 6 ½” with the edge of the placket at the center line. *If you wish to take on a challenge, do not sew the shirts shut, but add a “peekaboo” element of fabric behind the shirts so when you unbutton them an image is on view.
2. Make your flying geese blocks by placing the C pieces right sides together (RST) with the B pieces. You can chain piece these, one square at a time. Cut off the excess fabric ¼” past your stitch line, removing the outer triangles. Press the first side open before adding the square on the other side. You can save the triangle scraps for other projects or incorporate them into a funky border! If you have never made flying geese before, there are great tutorials on YouTube. Quilters Cache shows three main methods at http://www.quilterscache.com/H/Howtomakegeese.html
3. Sew each row together (A+goose block+/goose + shirts + goose / A + goose + A), using pins to get them lined up properly.
4. Sew the rows together!

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) for the winner (a border or other finishing touches).
- 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 drawings.
- We will have a drawing at each meeting (Thursday and Saturday). 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.