Halloween Sticks
Block of the Month - October 2016
8 ½” unfinished
This block gives you some options for creative placement!

Fabric and Cutting requirements
Black – one 8 ½” x 8 ½” square
Bright Hallowe’en color scraps – two to five strips 1” x 8 ½” (different fabrics)
<Think Hallowe’en, pumpkin, autumn harvest, Hallowe’en cats, skeletons, pumpkins, masks, Candy Corn, etc. These can be multicolored orange with black, bright orange, lime green, purple, rusty browns, etc.>

Sewing Directions:
1. Using a ruler and your rotary cutter, make a single cut parallel to one side across the black square. This cut should be at least 1 1/2” away from the side, but otherwise can be anywhere. Place one bright strip along the cut and sew it with a 1/4” seam. Then add the second piece to make an inset stripe on the black background. See photos of sample blocks.
2. Press seam allowances in toward center of cut. You'll see that the strip you put in adds no width to the square. Your square should still measure 8 1/2” square.
3. Now make a second cut. Your second cut may be parallel to the first cut, or it can be perpendicular to it. Again, see photos. Sew this strip in the same way you did the first one. If you're adding a perpendicular strip, be careful to match the strip you've cut across. Press seam allowances in toward center of cut.
4. Repeat this process as often as you wish, either adding strips parallel to your first or alternating directions, up to five times per block.
5. If you feel really adventurous, try inserting a strip on an angle! To do this, you need to start with a strip longer than 8 1/2", depending where on the square you want to position it.

Picture: Four different blocks placed together.
Look at the options!

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BOM GUIDELINES: Each person may enter up to three blocks each month. Please include your name on your block(s). Make it simple: stick your mailing label on the back of each block. If you have any scraps left over, consider including them with your block (pinned to the block or in an attached baggie) for the winner to use in a border or for other finishing touches. If you cannot bring the blocks to the October 6th and 8th meetings, you may mail them to the MQ office. Please allow adequate time for them to arrive before the drawings. Address: Block of the Month, Minnesota Quilters, Inc, 253 State Street, St. Paul MN 55107. We’ll have a drawing at both the Thursday night and Saturday meeting if we have enough blocks. If we get only a few on Thursday night, we’ll do one drawing on Saturday. You need not be present to win. We’ll call to notify winners. Blocks can be mailed to the winner or picked up at the MQ office or at the next meeting.