Churn Dasher
January 2017 Block of the Month

Churn Dasher is a very old traditional block. We chose it for January because it made us think of a giant snowflake seen through a window. Why we’d have a thought like that on a 69 degree day in mid-November is a mystery!

If you’re replicating our 2016 raffle quilt “Contemporary Amish Sampler”, this block appears twice: one each in periwinkle and lavender, made by Mara Olson and Julie Post. We’ve chosen icy-blue and white for our block this month. You may think the blocks are challenging since the pieces are narrow and the blocks are not large. Try them anyway! Block by block you’ll perfect your piecing skills. Think how good you’ll feel!

**FABRIC:** Choose white or white-on-white for the background (A) and icy blue (B). The directions below are straightforward and simple. This can be made with squares and half-square triangles, if you’d rather. See those directions on-line.

**CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS:**

- **White (A):** 4 2” x 2” squares  2 2” x 11” strips  1 2” x 5” strip
  2 1” x 8” strips  2 1” x 9” strips
  2 1” x 10½” strips  2 1” x 11½” strips

- **Ice-Blue (B):** 8 2” x 2” squares  2 2” x 5” strips  1 2” x 11” strip
  2 1¼” x 9” strips  2 1¼” x 10½” strips

**ASSEMBLY:**

- Make two strips sets. Sew together the 11” strips (A+B+A). Sew together the 5” strips (B+A+B). Press seams toward the blue.
- Cut each into sections: the 5” strip into 2 pieces 2” x 5”; the 11” strip into 5 pieces 2” x 5”. Set aside.
- Make snowflake points: on each blue 2” square, draw one diagonal line. Take one ABA section. Place a blue 2” square RST on the left side of ABA piece (diagonal line will point up and to the left). Sew on the diagonal line. Place another blue 2” square RST on the right side of the ABA piece (with diagonal line pointing up and to the right). Sew on the diagonal line. Turn the upper loose corner down to the lower corner, press, and trim the bottom layers ¼” from your stitching line. NOTE: Be careful to cut only the back layers! Repeat three more times. You’ll have four sections that look like flying geese with a flat front. Press seams toward the blue.
- Make a nine-patch from the remaining sections cut from your strip sets. Make sure there’s a blue square in each corner of your nine-patch. Press seams toward the blue.
- Sew one snowflake + point piece to each side of the nine-patch making sure that the points are oriented toward the outside of the block.
- Sew one A (white) square to each end of the remaining two B A B A/B point sections.
- Sew one section to the top and one to the bottom of the center section.
- Add border 1 (white), using the 2 shortest 1” white strips to top and bottom of block; then add the next 1” white strips to the sides. Follow this with the two 1¼” blue borders (shorter to the top and bottom, longer ones added to the sides). And, finally, add the remaining 1” white strips to the top and bottom, then the sides of the block. Press well. Voila! Congratulate yourself on successfully finishing this lovely block!

*BOM GUIDELINES:* Each person may enter up to 3 blocks each month. Please include your name and phone number on your block(s) (stick your mailing label on the back). If you have any scraps left over, please include them with your block for the winner to use in a border or for other finishing touches. If you cannot bring the blocks to the January 5th and 7th 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 55107-1612. We’ll have a drawing at both the Thursday night and Saturday meetings 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. Winning blocks can be mailed to the winner or picked up at the next meeting or the MQ office during the month.