Country Charm Variation - Block of the Month
February 2018 (botm@mnquilt.org) 10 ½” square (unfinished)

**Fabrics:** White or white-on-white for the background  
Dark shade of a color  
Light shade of the same color

**Cutting (see alternate plan below!):**

**White background:**
- 3 1 1/2" x 8" piece A
- 2 1" x 8" piece D
- 2 1" x 9" piece E

**Dark shade of your color:**
- 6 1 1/4" x 4 1/4" piece B
- 2 1 1/4" x 9" piece F
- 2 1 1/4" x 10 1/2" piece G

**Light shade of your color:**
- 6 1 1/4" x 4 1/4" piece C

**Instructions:**
1. Sew short ends of two colored pieces together in pairs: one B (dark strip) to one C (light strip) to make pieces (bars) 1 1/4" x 8". Gently press seams to the dark side. Make 6 bars.
2. Sew these bars together in groups of three alternating dark on top with light on top. Nestle the seams together. Set 1 = B+C/C+B/B+C. Reverse color order in set 2 = C+B/B+C/C+B. The dark bar will be on the top left in one set and the light bar will be on the top left in the second set. (See diagram.)
3. Alternating A with each of the 2 bar-sets you've just made, construct a piece A + BC/CB/BC + A + CB/BC/CB + A. Measure and trim square to 8" x 8".
4. Border 1. Add a 1"x8" D to the top and bottom of the 8" square. Press seams toward the center of the square. Then add E (1" x 9" pieces) to the sides of the square. Trim to 9" x 9".
5. Border 2. Add 1 1/4" x 9 " F to the top and bottom of the 9" square. Then add remaining 1 1/4" x 10 1/2" G to the sides of the block. Press open. Square to 10 1/2" x 10 1/2".

**Note:** The key to success in making this block is to make sure you're sewing a scant 1/4" seam and that you're pressing your seams after each addition. This will make all the difference and should result in making a square and accurately-sized block.

**Alternate cutting and sewing directions:** One could strip-piece the dark and light pieces. That would make the cutting easier. To strip piece the B/C pieces, cut 1 dark piece (B) 4 1/4" x 5" and 1 light piece (C) 4 1/4" x 5". Sew together to make one piece 5" x 8". Press toward the dark fabric. Cut 6 pieces BC 1 1/4 x 8".

**BOM Guidelines:** Each person may enter up to three blocks each month. Please include your name, address, and phone number on your block(s). (You can stick your mailing label on each block’s back and add your phone number.) Consider including leftover scraps with your block (pinned to the back 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 meetings, mail them to the MQ office. Please allow adequate time for them to arrive. Address: Block of the Month, Minnesota Quilters, Inc. 253 State Street, St. Paul, MN 55107. If we have enough blocks, we’ll have a drawing at both the Thursday and Saturday meetings. If we get only a few blocks on Thursday, we’ll do one drawing on Saturday. You need not be present to win. We’ll call to notify winners. Winning blocks may be mailed, picked up during the month at the MQ office, or claimed at the next meeting.