Linda Huntzicker and Darci Read join me in presenting Block of the Month creations for you. We hope to offer you lots of good ideas for super quilts. Hang in there with me as I continue sporadically to offer blocks for the proposed Calendar Quilt that started with September’s “First Essays.” This month we’re making another flat block—Cornucopia—for the Block of the Month November drawing.

For December please participate in the Block Exchange. Make one, two, or three 12 ½” blocks in holiday colors (red, green, gold, blue white, etc.) with a white or cream background. This exchange replaces the December Block of the Month drawing.

This month’s block requires a template (provided on following page), or the Peaky and Spike tool from Marti Michell, or the Tri-Recs tool from Darlene Zimmerman. The Cornucopia block is an easy nine-patch. It has a number of steps, but nothing you haven’t done many times in the past. Assemble it a step at a time, checking the orientation of units each step of the way. The diagram here should help with that process.

Fabrics:
Consider starching your fabric before cutting for ease in handling bias when assembling.
Background: Neutral or off-white (muslin, or cream or ecru tone-on-tone)
Feature fabric of fruits or autumn vegetables or a combination (corn, squash, grapes, apples, etc.)
Dark brown or basket-print for cornucopia base and sides
Medium brown that coordinates or contrasts with cornucopia fabric for alternate cornucopia sides

Cutting Directions:
Background:
A: (4) 4 ½” x 4 ½” squares
B: (3) 2 ½” x 2 ½” squares, cut once diagonally
C and Cr: (1) Template “Peaky” or tool and (1) Template “Peaky” or tool reversed (4 ½” tall)
Fruit/Veggie:
D: (3) fussy cut 2” x 2” squares cut on point and featuring a fruit or veggie in each
Cornucopia dark brown or basket fabric:
E: (2) 3” x 3” squares, cut once diagonally (You’ll use 3 triangles; 1 will be left over)
G: (3) 2 ¼” x 2 ¼” squares
I: (1) 3” x 3” square to make 2 half-square triangle blocks with K
L: (1) 2 ½” x 4 ½” rectangle
M: (1) Template “Spike” or tool at 4 ½” mark
Medium-brown or contrasting fabric:
F: (2) 3” x 3” squares, cut once diagonally (You’ll use 3 triangles; 1 will be left over)
H: (4) 2 ½” x 2 ½” squares; use 1 with L to make a half Flying Geese unit
K: (1) 3” x 3” square to make 2 half-square triangle blocks

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Assembly Directions: Make the following units. Label and set aside for final assembly.

A. Baskets: Make 3.
1) Attach a B triangle to each on-point D on the top angled side (see diagram). Press Bs toward D.
2) Sew E to the left side of that unit, and F to the right side, making a 2 ½" x 4 ½" rectangle. It looks like a Flying Geese unit. Press E and F toward D. Trim unit to 2 ½" x 4 ½", if necessary.
3) Sew a G to the left side of an H. Make 3 of these units. Press. Attach GH to the bottom of each EBDBF. This unit should measure 4 ½" x 4 ½" square. Trim if necessary.
4) Sew an A to the left and right sides of one of the units you just completed. Press seams toward A. This is Row 1. Label and set aside. Set aside the remaining two Basket units.

B. Cornucopia base:
1) Using M, C and Cr, assemble into 4 ½" x 4 ½" unit.
2) Sew an A to the left and right sides of the unit you just completed. Press seams toward A. This is Row 3. Label and set aside.

C. Center of block:
1) Make 2 HST units using I and K. RST, put together I and K, draw a diagonal on the WS of K, sew 1/4" on each side of the drawn line, cut apart on the line. Press open.
2) Sew together the 2 HST units, being aware of the orientation of the units (see diagram). When you finally assemble the block, you will want I to be next to G in the Basket units and K next to H. Set aside.
3) RST, place the remaining H on the right side of rectangle L. Draw a diagonal line on H from top left to bottom right. Sew on that line. Press H up; trim off excess of H and L on back. You just made half a Flying Geese unit. Measure and trim to 2 ½" x 4 ½" if necessary.
4) Sew KIKI to the top of LH. You’ll now have a 4 ½" x 4 ½" square. Trim, if necessary.
5) Earlier you set aside 2 Basket units. Take one now and sew it to the left side of the center of the block you just finished. Sew GH to LKI. Be sure L connects with G, and K with H. The fussy-cut D will be on the outside (far left) of this new unit. It’s positioned to the left of the center block.
6) Take the third Basket unit and sew it to the right side of the center unit, making sure that H connects with H and G connects with I. The fussy-cut D will be on the outside (far right) of the unit, again, and GH will be connected to the right side of the center unit. This is Row 2. Press seams toward center block.

D. Final assembly: Matching seams and corners, sew Row 1 on top of Row 2. Add Row 3 to the bottom. Press block and trim to 12 ½" (unfinished).

Good work! You persisted and, easy-as-that, you have an interesting block for the upcoming autumn holidays.

BOM GUIDELINES: Follow the directions above to make up to three blocks for our monthly drawing. Please include your name, address, and phone number on your block(s). For ease of entering, attach 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 other finishing touches. If you cannot bring the blocks to the meeting, mail them to the MQ office. Please allow adequate time for them to arrive in advance of Saturday’s morning meeting.
Mail to: Block of the Month, Minnesota Quilters, Inc. 253 State Street, St. Paul, MN 55107. We’ll have a drawing for the blocks at the Saturday meeting. Winners will be notified by phone if not present. Winning blocks may be mailed, picked up during the month at the MQ office, or claimed at the next meeting.