Block of the Month - October  
Halloween Double Pinwheel, 12 ¼” block  

This month we’re making a flat block for the drawing. We’ll present October’s calendar block later in the year. See directions below for entering the Block of the Month drawing. This month, learn to make a block using a partial seam. Make up to 3 blocks to enter in the September drawing.

Fabrics:
Consider starching your fabric before cutting for ease in handling bias when assembling. Halloween fabric from which you can cut a 4 ¾” x 4 ¾” square on point (like a black cat, skeleton, pumpkin, witch, or other Halloween image. See photo of finished block for a sample idea.
Orange tone-on-tone for windmill blades
Contrast acid green, bright gold, or purple for secondary blades
Black for background

Cutting Directions for one block:
Halloween fabric: Fussy cut A: (1) 4 ¾” x 4 ¾” square with your chosen image on point
Orange: B: Cut (2) 5” x 5” squares and cut in half once diagonally. The diagonal should measure 7”.
Green/Purple/or Gold: C: Cut (4) 3 ½” x 3 ½” squares. Draw a line diagonally on the back of each square.
D: Cut (2) 3” x 3” squares and cut in half diagonally. The diagonal should measure 4 1/8”.
Black background: E: Cut (4) 3 ½” x 6 ½” rectangles
F: Cut (2) 3” x 3” squares and cut in half diagonally. The diagonal should measure 4 1/4”.

Directions:
It is important that you consistently sew a scant ¼” seam in order for this block to measure correctly. Also, be aware of the bias edges in many places. It easiest to sew units together with the bias edge toward your feed dogs, as they will take up the slack.
1. Right sides together, place one C on the right side of E with the diagonal line running from the top middle of E to the bottom right corner. Sew on the diagonal line. Trim excess triangle off and press C up to make a black rectangle with a colored corner on the right side. Repeat for each C square and E rectangle.
2. Sew D to F making a half square triangle (see diagram). Repeat to make 4 DF units. Press toward the darker fabric.
3. Sew a DF unit to the right-hand side of a CE unit. Nestle seams together snugly. Repeat to make 4 CE/DF units. Press toward DF.
4. Sew one CE/DF unit to the long edge of each B triangle, matching centers. After each unit is added, press toward B.
5. RST, line up the left side of B with the upper left side of A. Using a partial seam, sew the CE/DF/B unit to the side of A starting at the midpoint of B and sewing to the left hand corner of A/B. The CE/DF end of the unit will extend beyond A at the bottom. Working clockwise, add another CE/DF/B unit to A. Match up the intersection of CD/B with the first AB at the top corner of A. Pay attention to that same intersection each time you add a new unit to A. Add third CE/DF/B unit to the next side of A. Press seams away from A after each unit is added.
6. Finally, add the fourth CE/DF/B unit to A by completing the partial seam that you made in Step 1.
7. Square up the block to 12 ½” x 12 ½”.

It is helpful to refer to the diagram and photograph of the finished block for placement of units in this block. Congratulate yourself on completing this block as it is somewhat challenging. It’s actually quite simple once you understand the principle of the partial seam. Knowing how to do partial seams opens many possibilities for making a variety of blocks.

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.