February Block of the Month
Winds of March
12½” block, unfinished

This block represents the wind in March that brings the spring. Learn how to create an improv curve block in shades of greens and blues.

Fabric and Cutting:
You will need scraps of greens and blues that measure at least 13 inches long. I used seven different fabrics with widths varying from 3/4” to 3”. The great thing about this improv block is that there are no hard and fast rules, only that it should finish at 12½” square. As you make the block, keep adding strips until you get to the required size.

Directions for making the soft curves:
1. Place two pieces of fabric, both right side up on your cutting mat and overlap them at the edge you are going to sew. Make sure to overlap enough for the width of your curve.

2. Using your rotary cutter, cut a gentle curve. Be certain to cut through both layers.

3. Remove the narrow pieces on the top and underneath and discard. When you pull your pieces apart, they should look like puzzle pieces. The curves will fit into each other.

4. Right sides together, sew the curve. Hold the top piece of fabric and adjust it as it goes through the sewing machine. Keep your seam at ¼” and keep adjusting to make sure the edges of fabric are together. This will be a little funky in places, but don’t worry. When you press it, the seam will smooth out.

5. See how funny the piece looks when it’s sewn but not ironed? Don’t worry—it will look great in a minute. Press seam to one side.

6. Repeat by adding strips until you have a patch about 13” by 13 inches. Finally, square up your block so it’s 12½” square.

Congratulations! You just made an improvisational curved-seam block.

BOM Guidelines: Make one, two, or three blocks, following the color and pattern directions above. These will be entered into our monthly drawing. The winner gets the blocks that were donated by all participants. Please attach your name, address, and phone number to the back of your blocks. You may include 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 meeting, mail them to the MQ office allowing adequate time to arrive by Friday the week of the meetings. Mail to Block of the Month, Minnesota Quilters, Inc. 253 State Street, St. Paul, MN 55107.

The drawing is held during the Saturday monthly meeting except in December and June. If the winner is not present, the winner will be notified by phone or e-mail and can pick up the blocks at the MQ office during the month or at the next meeting.