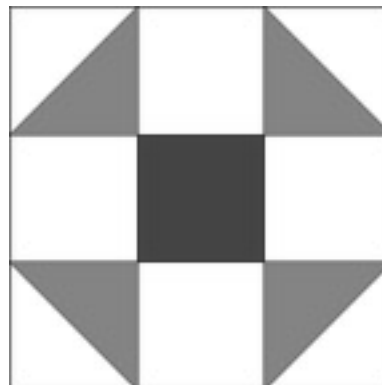


Block 4: Shoofly (provided March 2016; share April 2016)

The Shoofly block is a simple block made from half-square triangle or HST units. There are numerous blocks that utilizes HSTs. There are also numerous ways to piece these units. The instructions given here utilizes a technique that avoids bias edges. The units will be made slightly oversized so that they can be trimmed down to the perfect size. As shown, this block uses 3 fabrics: Lightest, Medium, Dark.



Fabric needed: Cut the listed pieces for each fabric. Be sure each piece is cut accurately.

	3" blocks	6" blocks	9" blocks	12" blocks	15" blocks
Lightest	4 at 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" 2 at 2" x 2"	4 at 2-1/2" x 2-1/2" 2 at 3" x 3"	4 at 3-1/2" x 3-1/2" 2 at 4" x 4"	4 at 4-1/2" x 4-1/2" 2 at 5" x 5"	4 at 5-1/2" x 5-1/2" 2 at 6" x 6"
Medium	2 at 2" x 2"	2 at 3" x 3"	2 at 4" x 4"	2 at 5" x 5"	2 at 6" x 6"
Dark	1 at 1-1/2" x 1-1/2"	1 at 2-1/2" x 2-1/2"	1 at 3-1/2" x 3-1/2"	1 at 4-1/2" x 4-1/2"	1 at 5-1/2" x 5-1/2"

Piecing Instructions for 9" blocks (3", 6", 12", 15")

Note: Watch carefully as you stitch so that your seams are straight and not wobbly.

1. On the back of the 2 (two) Lightest 4" (2", 3", 5", 6") squares, draw a line diagonally from one corner to another. Use a regular pencil, special marking pencil (wash-away or brush-away), chalk, Frixon® marker (irons off) or other fabric-safe utensil. Another option is to press each square in half leaving a crease marking the diagonal.
2. Carefully position a marked Lightest square on a Medium square, right sides together, matching the edges. The marked line should meet in a corner. Stitch a scant 1/4" seam on either side of the marked line. A scant 1/4" seam means to stitch just a thread or two closer to the line than 1/4". Be careful to sew straight and watch that the end doesn't twist.
3. Repeat Step 2 with the other marked Lightest square and Medium square.
4. Cut the units apart along the marked line. Press the seams toward the Medium fabric. At this point the units should measure something larger than 3-1/2" (1-1/2", 2-1/2", 4-1/2", 5-1/2") square and have dogears.

5. Use a ruler with a 45 degree line to trim the unit to size. Align the 45 line along the seam. Check that the unit extends beyond the edges of the ruler and the 3-1/2" (1-1/2", 2-1/2", 4-1/2", 5-1/2") markings. Trim 2 sides of the unit.
6. Now rotate the unit 180 degrees. Again align the 45 line along the seam. This time, check that the trimmed sides line up with the 3-1/2" (1-1/2", 2-1/2", 4-1/2", 5-1/2") markings. Trim the remaining 2 sides of the unit.
7. Repeat Steps 5 & 6 for the remaining units. Each of the four HST units should measure 3-1/2" x 3-1/2" (1-1/2" x 1-1/2", 2-1/2" x 2-1/2", 4-1/2" x 4-1/2", 5-1/2" x 5-1/2").
8. Arrange the HSTs and the remaining pieces as shown for the block. The top and bottom rows of the block will have 2 HST and a Lightest square. The middle row will have 2 Lightest and 1 Dark square.
9. Watching the orientation of the units, sew a HST on either side of the Lightest square to create a top row. Press the seams toward the Lightest square. The row should measure 9-1/2" x 3-1/2" (3-1/2" x 1-1/2", 6-1/2" x 2-1/2", 12-1/2" x 4-1/2", 15-1/2" x 5-1/2").
10. Repeat Step 9 to create a bottom row. Press the seams toward the Lightest square. The row should measure 9-1/2" x 3-1/2" (3-1/2" x 1-1/2", 6-1/2" x 2-1/2", 12-1/2" x 4-1/2", 15-1/2" x 5-1/2").
11. To create the middle row, sew a Lightest square on either side of the Dark square. Press the seams toward the Lightest squares. The row should measure 9-1/2" x 3-1/2" (3-1/2" x 1-1/2", 6-1/2" x 2-1/2", 12-1/2" x 4-1/2", 15-1/2" x 5-1/2").
12. Arrange the rows as shown for the block. Stitch the rows together in pairs using a 1/4" seam. Match up the seams and secure with a pin. These seams should nest together snugly. Stitch using a 1/4" seam, removing the pin before stitching over it.
13. Press and furl the seams. Each of the four seam intersections on the back should have a tiny four-patch. The unit should now measure 9-1/2" x 9-1/2" (3-1/2" x 3-1/2", 6-1/2" x 6-1/2", 12-1/2" x 12-1/2", 15-1/2" x 15-1/2").
14. Your Shoofly block should be complete and measure 9-1/2" x 9-1/2" (3-1/2" x 3-1/2", 6-1/2" x 6-1/2", 12-1/2" x 12-1/2", 15-1/2" x 15-1/2") if you have sewn and trimmed your HSTs correctly and sewn accurate 1/4" seams.