



Pineapple Quilt Block

by Colleen Tauke

Supply List and Cutting Instructions

Materials List

Fabrics - The yardages listed here is for **one** practice block, created with two colors approximate yardage needed for larger projects as listed at the end of this document.

Center Squares (1) 2-1/2" squares

White/Background fabric - 1/6 yd. total

Color A - 1/4 yd. total

Color B - 1/4 yd. total

Creative Grids Pineapple Trim Tool

Sewing machine

Neutral color thread

Rotary cutter

Ruler 6" x 24" or 8-1/2" x 24-1/2"

Cutting mat - 18" x 24" or larger

Rotating mat (optional)

Scissors

Seam ripper

Pins

Iron

Pressing surface



Cutting Guide

1. The following is cutting for (1) two color block - combine quantities for Color A and Color B is creating a single color or scrappy style blocks
2. **Center Square** - Cut (1) 2-1/2" square
3. **White/Background** (1/6 yd. total) - Cut (2) 2" strips and then create four groupings in these lengths, the quantities are those needed to complete one block
 1. (4) 2-3/4" rectangles - Round 1
 2. (4) 3-3/4" rectangles - Round 3
 3. (4) 4-3/4" rectangles - Round 5
 4. (4) 5-1/2" rectangles - Round 7
4. **Color A** (1/4 yd. total) - Cut (2) 2" strips and then create five groupings in these lengths, the quantities are those needed to complete one block. From remaining strip cut pieces for #5.
 1. (2) 3-1/2" rectangles - Round 2
 2. (2) 4-1/2" rectangles - Round 4
 3. (2) 5-1/2" rectangles - Round 6
 4. (2) 6-1/2" rectangles - Round 8
 5. (2) **2-1/2" x 5"** rectangles - Note the change in width - "Rabbit Ears"
5. **Color B** (1/4 yd. total) - Cut (2) 2" strips and then create five groupings in these length, the quantities are those need to complete one block. From remaining strip cut pieces for #5.
 1. (2) 3-1/2" rectangles - Round 2
 2. (2) 4-1/2" rectangles - Round 4
 3. (2) 5-1/2" rectangles - Round 6
 4. (2) 6-1/2" rectangles - Round 8
 5. (2) **2-1/2" x 5"** rectangles - Note the change in width - "Rabbit Ears"

Description

The Pineapple Block is our focus in this course. A classic design that has been noted historically for close to 150 years the Pineapple Block is found in the Log Cabin family. Traditionally pieced over a fabric foundation and created using narrow strips of cotton. We will examine the various methods implemented over the years ending with a tool that can make the block "doable" for all quilters even beginners.

- I. History of the block and its anatomy
 - A. Various methods used
 1. Fabric foundation
 - a. Adds a layer of fabric to the quilt - fabric remains under the blocks
 - b. Additional cost of fabric foundation
 2. Paper foundation
 - a. Cost of purchase or printing of paper foundations
 - b. Excessive time needed to remove paper foundations
 3. Templates for construction without foundations
 - a. Excessive time needed to exact cut each strip of fabric
 - b. Piecing needs to be very precise to ensure a square, flat finished block
 4. Trim Tool
 - a. Quicker cutting - cutting only rectangles
 - b. Less distortion during piecing
 - c. Uses a bit more fabric because of the trimming process
 - d. Precision blocks
 - B. My choice - the Trim Tool
 1. My first choice was paper foundation
 2. 10" finished blocks
 - a. Standard printer paper would mean joining pages for a block
 - b. Copy costs at a copy center using larger pages
 - c. Removing the paper - not my favorite activity
 3. Delayed making this project for about 4 years - then found the perfect tool
- II. Color selection and value
 - A. Test blocks and research to determine the placement of lights and darks
 1. Light centers and corners vs. dark centers and corners
 2. Scrappy lights/darks or all one fabric?
 3. Select a color way - red/white, scrappy colors/black, blues/purples/whites
 4. Combination of blocks
 - B. Setting options
 1. Adding sashing
 2. On-Point setting
 3. Partial blocks as outer borders
 4. Use of solids
- III. Preparation and cutting
 - A. Pre-wash all fabrics to check for color fastness
 - B. Cutting guides are included in the instructions that accompany the Pineapple Trim Tool
 - C. I have refined the strips into specific lengths, making the construction quicker - refer to the Cutting Guide listed earlier in this document
- IV. Learn the anatomy of the tool
 - A. There are two sizes of tools - we will be using the one for making 6", 8" and 10" finished blocks

- B. A second size tool is available for making 4", 5" and 6" which uses narrower strips and makes a more intricate finished block.
- C. Note the markings for Round 1 - All odd numbered rounds and then all even numbered rounds - broken lines assist with keeping the block square
- D. Select the (1) Center square and (4) white 2-3/4" rectangles - Join two rectangles to opposite sides of the center square square - press. Repeat this for the remaining sides. Press.
- E. Use the trim tool Angle Line to trim all four sides.

V. Adding Round 2 and Round 3

- A. Select the Round 2 rectangles from Color A and Color B
- B. Note their placement and join them to the center you have created. Trim using the square alignment - trimming the right edge and top edge. Rotate the block and trim the last two edges.
- C. Select the Round 3 Background rectangles - place them on opposite sides of the center square, stitch and press. Join the remaining two rectangles in like manner. Trim using the Angle line - trimming one edge at a time.

VI. Continue the piecing process

- A. Join Rounds 4 - 8. Round 8 will also require a second trimming using the Angle Line
- B. Make sure to count rounds correctly to select the right corresponding trim line.
- C. Add "Rabbit Ears" to complete the block - trim each corner for an accurate 10" finished block (10-1/2" with seam allowances)
- D. A quick review of setting options
- E. Yardage estimates for a variety of quilt sizes can be referenced in the chart below.

Pineapple quilt yardage approximations for 10" finished blocks

| | 9 blocks 3 x 3 | 25 blocks 5 x 5 | 49 blocks 7 x 7 |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Block centers | 1/8 yd. | 1/8 yd. | 1/3 yd. |
| Background | 1 yd. | 2-3/8 yd. | 4-1/3 yd. |
| Color A | 7/8 yd. | 2-1/8 yd. | 3-3/4 yd. |
| Color B | 7/8 yd. | 2-1/8 yd. | 3-3/4 yd. |

Course Description

The Pineapple Block is our focus in this course. Known as the symbol of warm welcomes, celebration and hospitality this classic design was identified historically about 150 years ago. The Pineapple Block is found in the Log Cabin family and traditionally pieced over a fabric foundation using narrow strips of cotton. We will examine the various methods implemented over the years ending with a tool that can make the block “do-able” for all quilters, even beginners.

Session One

The majority of quilters have a “dream list” - and many times you will find the Pineapple quilt on that list. Let’s tackle the various ways to create this block.

1. History of the pineapple quilt block - you will learn how this block is derived from the Log Cabin family of blocks. The center-out style of construction, rather than unit construction is examined. This patchwork block was first recorded in the mid to late 1800’s (1870’s).
2. You will learn the various techniques quilter’s have used to create this patchwork block. We will examine the pros and cons of the various techniques
3. You will be introduced to a trim tool that enables even a novice quilter the opportunity to create accurate and efficient patchwork pieces.

Session Two

It’s all in the color! But what color and what is the placement? Then, when you decide on a color or color combination - is it “scrappy” or cut from specific fabric selections?

1. You will learn about color options - what scrappy means vs. a specific color selection. Creating a few test blocks can be beneficial. Examine the possibilities and remember to keep in mind the scale of the print and the density of the color.
2. You will learn how selecting a “background” fabric will impact the overall design of your completed quilt. Whites/lights - blacks/darks - scrappy lights - scrappy darks
3. We will examine various setting options that can change the look and feel of the finished project. These will be revisited at the end of our course.

Session Three

In this session we will cover the basic preparations needed to create the pineapple block and the cutting list for each group of fabrics.

1. Prewash all fabrics to reduce the possibility of shrinkage and color bleeding. This is more critical if you are using fabrics from a wide variety of sources or unknown sources.
2. You will be cutting your first fabric selection in squares for the block centers. This is the only exact cutting done for these blocks. The remaining fabrics are cut into 2” strips and a few are cut at 2-1/2” strips.
3. Follow the cutting instructions to cut the appropriate size rectangles used in the construction of the pineapple block. I have assisted you by determining the various lengths to reduce the amount of waste when trimming the blocks. Organizing the rectangles on trays or using ziplocks to keep them separated by size for quick reference and selection during the piecing process.

Session Four

In this session we will examine the anatomy of the Pineapple Trim Tool, note the markings for precision alignment and begin the piecing process.

1. You will learn the various markings and notations on the trim tool. You will become familiar with the "even row" vs. "odd row" positioning of the tool.
2. You will begin the piecing process by selecting (1) 2-1/2" center square fabric and (4) 2-3/4" rectangles of background fabric. Accurate center squares and a consistent 1/4 seam are the most critical at this point. You will join the rectangles to the center square - stitching opposite rectangles, pressing, then adding last two rectangles and pressing.
3. You will use the trim tool for this first round in a unique position - follow the white square for a perfect trimming of all four sides.

Session Five

In this session your patchwork will advance quickly. Keep in mind which "round" you have just completed - count if necessary. Keep in mind "never include the middle square in your count".

1. You will join the first round of Color A and Color B rectangles to the center unit we completed in session four. Select (2) 3-1/2" rectangles of each color way. Position Color A along opposite sides of the center unit. Join using 1/4" seam. Press. Position Color B along the remaining sides. Stitch. Press.
2. Locate the Round 2 markings on the tool. Position the black square over the seam lines for the center square. Trim the right and top edge of the block. Reposition the block and trim the last two remaining edges.
3. Select (4) 3-3/4" rectangles of background fabric. Join the strips in the same manner, opposite sides first. Stitch. Press. Join the last strips to remaining opposite sides. Press. Working with the diagonal edge trim line for odd numbered rounds, position the tool over the block. Also note the "centering line" that will align with the corners of each round. Trim one side of the block at a time until all four are trimmed.

Session Six

Repetition is a quilter's dream. The rhythm of repeating skills, builds confidence and makes the piecing process flow more quickly. You will begin to gain that rhythm finding the correct trimming guidelines more easily as your pineapple block grows.

1. You will add Round 4 to your block - (2) rectangles of each Color A and Color B. Press seams. Locate the Round 4 black square and position it over the center of your block. Trim the right edge and the top edge. Note: In this trimming you will be crossing the Round 3 fabric as well as the Round 4 rectangles. Rotate your block and trim the last two sides.

2. You will now experience the repetition of stitching and trimming. Add Round 5 background rectangles, press and trim using the angle line. Double check the alignment before each trimming. Proceed to Round 6 using Color A and Color B rectangles, stitch, press and trim. Proceed to Round 7 - this is the last set of background rectangles. Stitch, Press and trim. Lastly, add Round 8 of Color A and Color B. Trim the block using the Round 8 center square for alignment.

3. You will trim the Round 8 rectangles a second time using the white Angle Trim Line. Trim all four rectangles. The last step is to join (2) Rabbit Ear rectangles. Trim to square the outer edge of the block. Your Pineapple block is complete.

4. We will review the arrangement of blocks and various options covered earlier in this course. We have focused on creating the block, now you can continue making blocks and then decide on an arrangement.

5. Yardage approximations for a variety of sizes can be found in the download materials. Note this is for a TWO COLOR arrangement. Simply combine the Color A and Color B amounts for a one color or scrappy option.

6. Color, design and pattern draw the quilter's eye. What speaks to your heart? What colors appeal to your sense of wonder? Our imaginations create unlimited possibilities -the "what-ifs" that lead to our next quilt and endless creations.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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