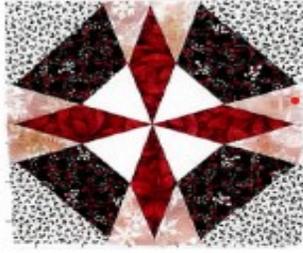


BLOCK OF THE MONTH – December 2022



CONCORD

The December Block of the Month has been around in one form or another for a long time. Best Blocks by "Quilters Newsletter" tells us that the Concord block was featured in "Hearth and Home" as part of the States series in 1977. Best Blocks cautions, "This Maltese Star variation demands careful piecing. While there are no set-in corners, many seams require joining two bias edges."

We are going to fix that caution with beginner level, easy paper piecing. It will be simple and fast with dramatic results. Even for those who think paper piecing is slow, I promise you, this one can be made quickly.

If you are new to paper piecing, google Paper Piecing Made Simple to find great instructions on YouTube. Help will also be available during the Block of the Month Monday night ZOOM, Monday, December 12 at 6:30.

The 12" x 12" finished block will measure 12-1/2" x 12-1/2". The block uses just five (5) fabrics for a dramatic finish. On the pattern page you will find the "Block Piecing" illustration with measurements. Turn off the FIT TO PAGE on your copier. Please make sure that your copies are accurate.

Make four copies of the patterns. I like to use a see-through foundation paper like tracing paper. If you will be tearing out your foundation, be sure to reduced your stitch length to make the foundation easier to remove. New to me, my example was foundation pieced on a leave in or take out product called Foundation Stuff. It is see through, can be washed or dry cleaned, and it also easily rips out.

You will find the patterns for both the 12" and 6" finished blocks on the pages following the directions. Let's get started.

You will need:

The foundation of your choice

One (1) darkest fabric, cut strip 27" x 3-3/4", sub cut to 6-3/4" x 3-3/4"

Two (2) different lightest fabrics; fabric 3A cut strip 15" x 3-3/4", sub cut to 3-3/4" x 3-3/4", fabric 2A cut 6" x 6" square, sub cut in half, diagonally, to make HSTs.

One (1) strong medium fabric, cut strip 28" x 3", sub cut 7" x 3".

One (1) light or medium/ light, to coordinate with your strong medium fabric, cut strip 30" x 3-3/4", sub cut to 3-3/4" x 3-3/4".

The block is symmetrical, so no worries about getting things backward.

I used rectangles and cut to shape once in place. This can save time and headaches. It also makes it easier to use directional fabrics. To hold the first piece in place, I like to use a dab of glue. If you prefer templates, the pattern provided gives you the shapes you will need.

When joining two sections, I suggest poking a pin through the point of each layer to verify the line up.

Follow the numbers; join 1A to 2A, right sides together, sew on the line, open out, finger press and trim allowing 1/4" seam allowance around the edge of each piece. Make sure the foundation is out of the way when you trim. Now add 3A to 1A at the opposite end. Open, press and trim. Follow the same procedure for the B unit.

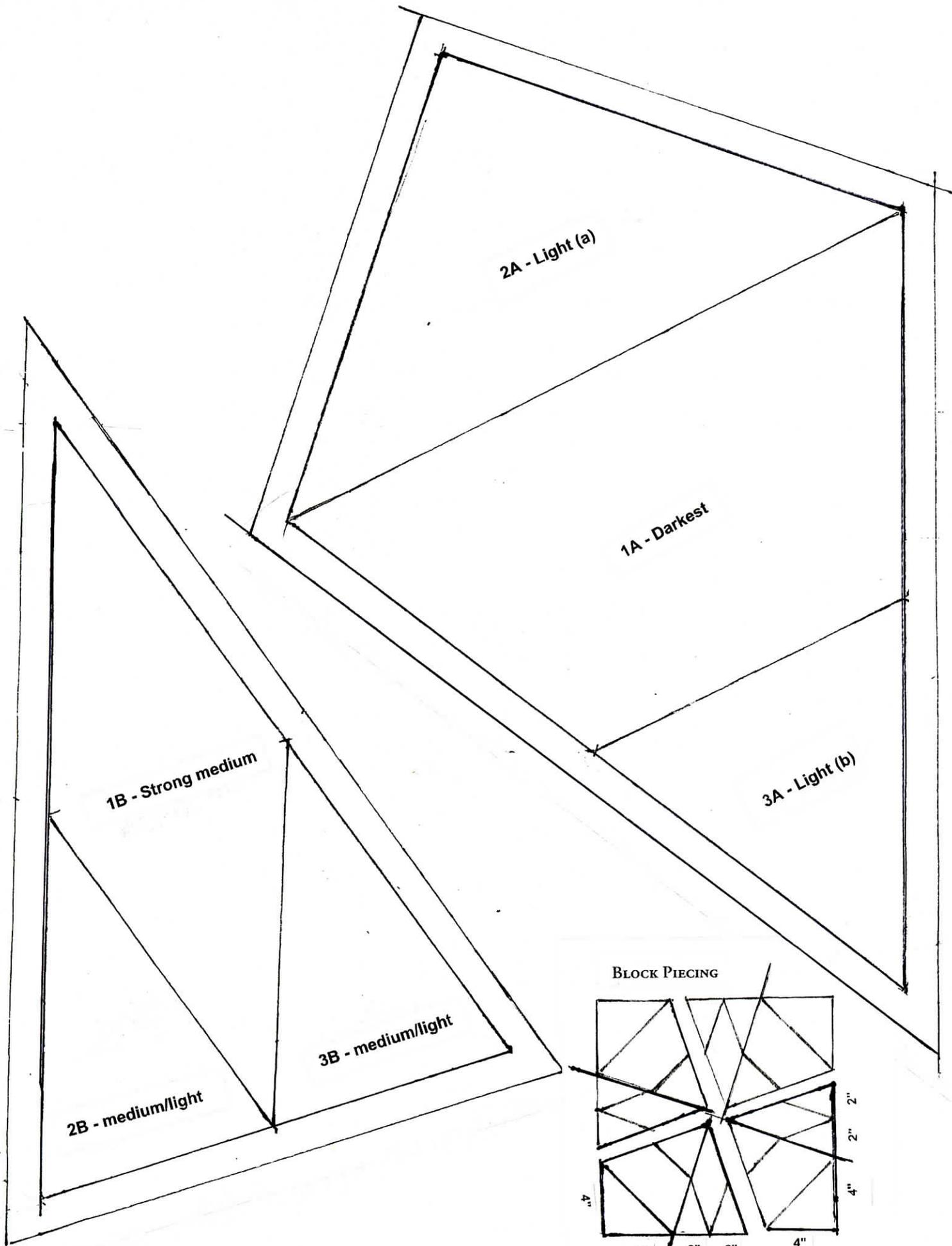
Right sides together and intersections verified with pins, join each A section to a B section as shown in the small illustration. To avoid Y seams, each of the B sections should be joined to the A sections, all on the right or all on the left. Finger-press all intersections the same direction.

Right sides together, join two of the completed A/B sections, follow the same pattern for pressing or open the seam flat. One completed side to set aside. Join the other two A/B sections and press the same way.

With two halves complete, line up the points and center using pins. Sew together, press the final seam open and you are done.

I told you it was fast, easy and dramatic. 6" x 6" pattern also included on the last page

Marjorie Longo, frumml@gmail.com, (831)624-8649



BLOCK PIECING

