

BLOCK OF THE MONTH - February, 2023



MARINER'S COMPASS

The Mariner's Compass was first seen in a quilt in England in 1726. It is believed to have been "adapted from the compass rose, which depicted only north, south, east and west and can be found on nautical charts as early as 1375. The Mariner's Compass is one of the oldest named quilt patterns in America". Pickens Visitors Center

Imagine the 12th or 13th century. Imagine sending your loved one, or loved ones, out to sea on a rickety boat with no compass, only the stars and a compass rose roughly drawn on a piece of cloth for guidance. Imagine knowing that when they leave, the odds are not good that they will return.

Now imagine the women in a small fishing village getting together, waiting, and talking about the importance of that compass rose to see their loved ones safely home. I imagine that the compass rose image became so important that it was probably used in making many warming and loving blankets; reminders of loved ones out at sea or lost at sea. I imagine many Compass Rose quilts kept sailors and fishermen warm while out to sea. I suspect that the Compass rose or Mariner's Compass was made for many years before it was recognized in 1726. This month's block was found in Best Blocks by "Quilter's Newsletter", with little information, so the above is what I was able to cobble together from various historical articles and my imagination.

While feared for its perceived difficulty, our Mariner's Compass is very simple to accomplish. Simple paper piecing will keep all the points pointed, and in the right place and there are no Y seams. This block can be made especially interesting by offsetting it so it appears to literally explode into a traditional/modern piece.

This is a fun one and one of my favorites. I hope you will join the fun.

Let's get started

Any foundation or foundation paper will work for this foundation, paper pieced (FPP) block. A see through foundation will make this block a snap. My favorite is

Foundation Stuff, available online at www.georgesiciliano.com. At 50 sheets for \$19.00, it is the best "stuff" ever. Work from the front of your foundation or the back, doesn't matter, just be consistent.

You will need six different fabrics for your block. The traditional Mariner's Compass is done in blues. I chose contrasting colors for added drama and depth.

A small legend of your fabric choices and their number identification is a must for this block. Each of the four block sections is identical, so a simple legend will do.

You will need:

Four copies of the pattern on your foundation or foundation paper. Make sure "fit to page" is turned off on your copier. Pattern can be found on the last page.

Six (6) different fabrics.

- (1) #1 - dark/medium - cut four (4) rectangles @ $2\text{-}\frac{1}{4}\text{'}$ x $4\text{-}\frac{1}{2}\text{'}$
- (2) #1A - dark/dark - cut four (4) rectangles @ $2\text{-}\frac{1}{4}\text{'}$ x $4\text{-}\frac{1}{2}\text{'}$
- (3) #2 and 2A - lightest/light - cut eight (8) @ $2\text{-}\frac{1}{2}\text{'}$ x $4\text{-}\frac{1}{2}\text{'}$
- (4) #3 - medium - cut four @ $2\text{-}\frac{1}{2}\text{'}$ x $4\text{-}\frac{1}{2}\text{'}$
- (5) #3A - medium/light or light/medium - cut four @ $2\text{-}\frac{1}{2}\text{'}$ x $4\text{-}\frac{1}{2}\text{'}$
- (6) Block background - cut two (2) squares $6\text{-}\frac{7}{8}\text{'}$ x $6\text{-}\frac{7}{8}\text{'}$, subcut diagonally from corner to corner to get four HSTs.



Starting with #1 and #1A, tack glue the first two pieces in place. Remember you will always work with right sides together, so the glue will touch the wrong side of the fabric. Add pieces 2 and 2A to 1 and 1A (right sides together), sew on the line that joins them and trim. Be careful, fold back the pattern so you don't accidentally trim the pattern away. Continue the process in order of the numbers.

With each section complete, trim to $\frac{1}{4}\text{'}$ seam allowance around each completed section. Join each #3 to a #3A. Now remove the foundation paper from the 3 and 3A seam and iron seam open. You now have $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Compass completed. You can now add the final HST background to each of your completed sections or wait until you have your completed Mariner's Compass to add the HST background.

Now join two quarters by joining a # 1 and #3 to a #1A and #1A, sew along the outside seam allowance to join them and you have made half of the Compass. Remove paper from that seam and iron open as above.

**Now join the two halves following the same procedure.
Tah, dah, you have just made the simplest Mariner's Compass ever.**

**Questions? Give me a call, email, or ZOOM.
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**Visit Block of the Month on ZOOM at 6:30 every Monday evening following the
regular Guild Meeting. Next ZOOM, February 13th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85141597785?pwd=dTVvSlgvMjB5V280d3VoajNwaGFYdz09>

