

NNMQG February 2016 Block of the Month - Wonky Log Cabin



This month's block is for those who love free-wheeling, scrappy, wonky blocks. It's like a log cabin, but there's no measuring or pre-cutting. Pull out your scrap bin and jump in!

Before you begin:

If you have a 6 1/2" square ruler, draw a 1" square in the center of it, with the sides of the square you draw parallel to the sides of your ruler. There should be 3 1/4" from each side of the drawn square to the edge of the ruler. If you don't have a 6 1/2" square ruler, any larger ruler can be used, it will just be more cumbersome. If you don't want to mark up your ruler, put Scotch tape on it, then draw on the

Step 1: Decide which color family you will use then choose fabrics for your block. This block is a real scrap buster, you will need at least 13 different fabrics for each block. DO NOT use the same fabric twice, even if you make more than one block (the idea here is whomever wins the blocks will have a great start on a scrappy quilt, so the more fabrics used, the better). Choose fabrics that are predominantly your one color without a lot of other colors mixed in other than neutrals like black or white. The goal is that once a block is put together it "reads" as a block of that one color. This block is all about color, so batiks, calicos, modern fabrics all will work. Pieces should be approximately 1" wide. You will also need one solid or batik (no pattern) of your color to use as the center block. Cut this piece into a 1 1/2" square.

Step 2: Find a fabric from your stash that is roughly a rectangle or strip shape and has one side at least 1 1/2" long. Trim that edge if necessary to get a nice, straight edge, and put this second piece and your solid 1 1/2" square, right sides together. Sew along the one edge with a 1/4" seam. Press the seam away from the center square. Trim the excess ends of the piece you added on so you end up with a rectangle.

Step 3: With your block face down, turn your block so the piece you just added is nearest to you. Lay a third fabric strip face up under your block lined up with the right hand edge. Sew along this edge, iron the seam away from the center and trim the ends.

Step 4: Continue adding strips, repeating the sew, iron, trim steps. Turn your block one quarter turn counter-clockwise before adding each new strip (viewed from the front the strips will create a kind of clockwise spiral, this will give the blocks a unified look). You will of course need longer strips as you go, so you may want to use your shorter pieces first. Always press away from the center block. Anytime you need to, trim a side to get a clean, straight edge, or, if you feel like it, trim a side just to get more of a wonky angle, Go ahead! Keep going until you block looks like it is at least 6 1/2" square.

Step 5: Once your block looks large enough, place your 6 1/2" square ruler over it, centering it so the square you drew is over the center square of your block. If your block is not larger than your ruler on all four sides, add strips where needed. Place your ruler over the block again, centering over the square, and trim it to be 6 1/2" square. Try to have all your strips running along the outside edge be at least 1/4" wide, so when these blocks are sewn together no one ends up with a seam inside a seam.

Questions? Feel free to email me at smclarkson@gmail.com.

Bring any finished blocks to the February 22nd meeting to participate in the drawing.