



Modern Block of the Month

The August Block

w/ Pam Fenoff

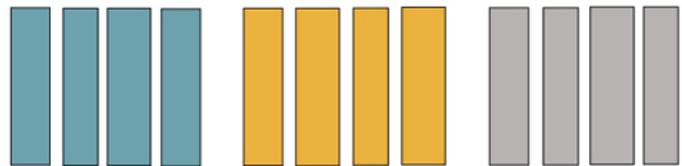
For August's block we're going to tackle some improvisational piecing. This means that rather than following a strict pattern, you'll "wing it" and piece without following strict cutting sizes.

If you've never done any improv piecing before, it can seem daunting because it seems like the choices are limitless. However, doing this within the context of just one block, with a technique to follow, makes it completely manageable for your first try. Dive in and give it a shot. You can't make mistakes with this type of piecing and every single block you make will be unique. Enjoy the process!



Fabric Requirements / Cut List

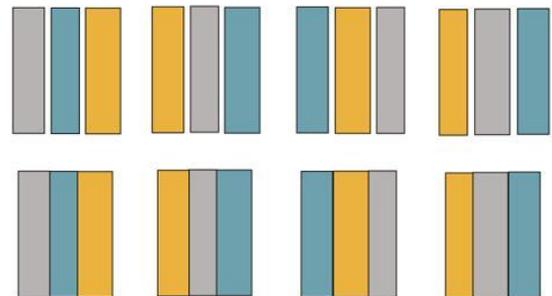
- Fabric A (bone): 4" x 12.5" rectangle
- Fabric B (gray): 9" x 10" rectangle
- Fabric C (orange): 9" x 10" rectangle
- Fabric D (blue): 9" x 10" rectangle



Working with fabrics B, C, and D, cut out four rectangles of each color; all between 2" and 3" wide by 9" long. Do this at random and make sure you have variety of widths.

NOTE: If you're making a whole quilt of this block, you'll want to cut the strips of fabric B, C, and D much longer than 9". If you're making lots of blocks, cut them the entire WOF (width of fabric) and just cut more as you need to. A rough estimate of how much fabric you'll need is about 1/4 yard of each for every four blocks.

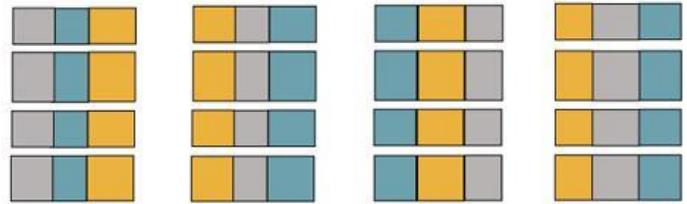
Cut fabric A into two 2" x 12.5" strips.



Assembling the block: (use a 1/4" seam allowance)

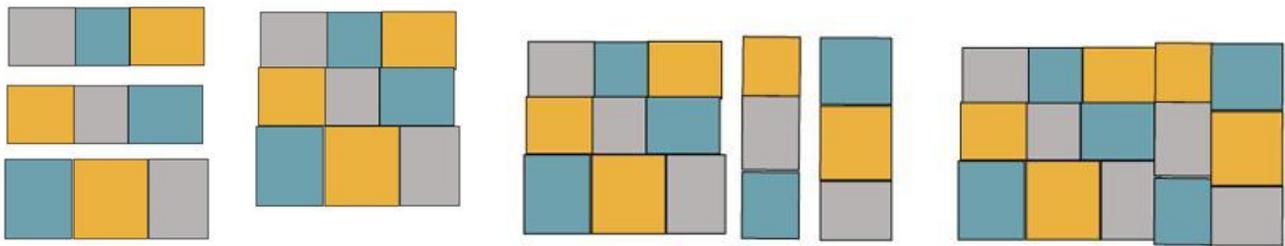
Mix up the strips and assemble into four panels of three colors. Make sure you use different strip widths in each panel and vary the color order.

Cut the panels into four strips of piecing.



Tip: I do this step without a ruler and that adds to the imperfect “wonky” look. If you prefer straight lines, use a ruler. The more you do improv piecing the more you’ll get a sense of what you like and eventually develop your own look / style.

Start assembling the different strips into a panel. The end goal is to have a 9.5” x 12.5” panel. Start by sewing three together. Then sew two more on to the side.



Keep growing your panel in this manner, checking its size on your cutting mat. You should end with a block slightly larger than 9.5” x 12.5”. Then trim to 9.5” x 12.5”



Sew the 2” x 12.5” strips of fabric A to either side of the panel to complete the block.

