

No-HST Squash Blossom Block

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I love the traditional Squash Blossom block. It's so striking and looks amazing when you repeat the block pattern. What I don't love however is all the HSTs (half square triangles). Particularly when made the traditional way. All that trimming - blergh!

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I've made the block the HST way... but... when I decided I'd had enough of HSTs, I worked out an option to piece this block without any HSTs, or weird angle cuts. And here it is to share with you! By creating flying geese units (and half flying geese units), you can put this block together very quickly.

I've written out a bit of a tutorial on how to make the Squash Blossom block the easy way. It makes for an 18" finished block. At this size, you just need 9 blocks for a decent size lap quilt - hooray for a quick sew! You can also choose to download it as a PDF and save for when you're ready to sew up your next Squash Blossom block.

No HST Squash Blossom Block

Measures 18" finished (18.5" unfinished).

Fabric requirements per block

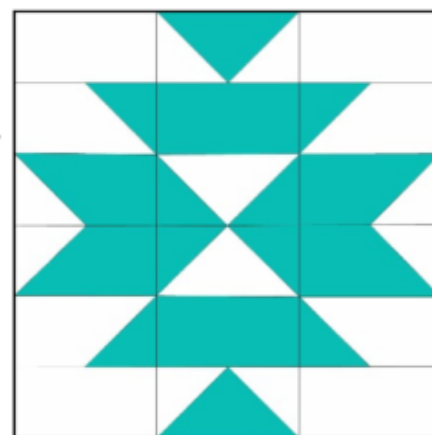
6.5" x WoF and 3.5" x WoF strips in both the background and the feature fabrics (totalling 4 strips of fabric in 2 colours).

Cutting

From the background fabric, cut:
10 rectangles measuring 3.5" x 6.5"
8 squares measuring 3.5" x 3.5"



From the feature fabric, cut:
8 rectangles measuring 3.5" x 6.5"
8 squares measuring 3.5"



Piecing

The block is pieced with flying geese units, and half flying geese units. The rows mirror each other so, rows 1+6, 2+5 and 3+4 are the same. You do need to watch the rotation of your blocks when making the half flying geese units. Use the diagrams for guidance.

Each of your squares will be used in a flying geese unit. Using a hera marker, or a fabric marker, and ruler, draw a line across the backs of each square diagonally from corner to corner.

Flying Geese Unit

Take one 3.5" x 6.5" rectangle. Line up a 3.5" square on one side of the rectangle. Sew along the diagonal marked line.



Trim the excess corner off, and press the corner back into place.



Repeat with the second 3.5" square on the other side of the rectangle. Note that the second square will overlap the seam at the top a little.



Half Flying Geese Unit

Pay attention to the diagram as to which way you need the corner block to go. Follow the same steps as for a flying geese unit, but you only need to use one square to make your block. Diagrams below show how to make the unit for your half flying geese unit to go in either direction as required.



Rows 1+6

Make two flying geese units using feature rectangles and background squares.
Join two background rectangles to either side of the flying geese units.
Press seams away from the centre block.



Row 1



Row 6

Rows 2+5

Make four half flying geese units using background rectangles with feature squares. You will need to make two units with the piecing on the right hand side of the block, and two units with the piecing on the left hand side of the block.

Following the diagram, lay out your three blocks for each row, with the plain feature rectangle in the centre. Join together.

Press seams towards the centre block.



Row 2



Row 5

Rows 3+4

Make four half flying geese units using feature rectangles with background squares. You will need to make two units with the piecing on the right hand side of the block, and two units with the piecing on the left hand side of the block.

Make two flying geese units with a background rectangle and feature squares.

Join the blocks together in rows as shown in the diagram.

Press seams away from the centre block.



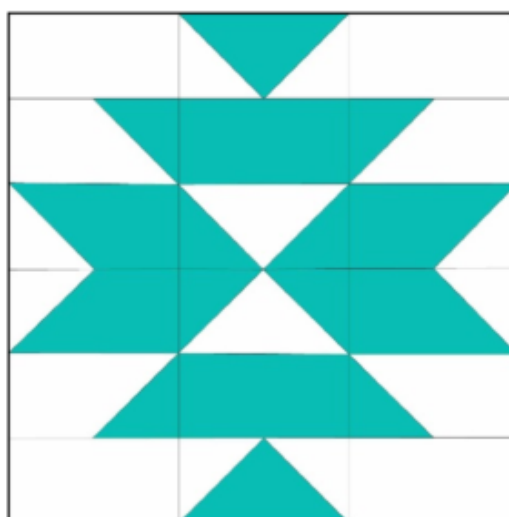
Row 3



Row 4

Join the rows together carefully. Use pins to match up your seams, and nest them together where possible to make for tidier seams.

Press the block well and it's done!



I love how this block looks in solids, but it's also a fun one to experiment with prints. Also change the background colours for a completely different look. You can see how I used two different background colours in the block below to create an almost stripe look to the finished quilt.



Now you're ready to go out and make a whollllle bunch of these blocks and put them together into a gorgeous quilt. One of the fun parts of this block is planning your design. Just changing the colours around can give an entirely different look to your quilt. So go play, have fun, and make a fantastic quilt without having to trim a single HST! Happy sewing!

