

Canal Street Tile Block of the Month

Welcome to Canal Street Tiles Block of the Month; I hope you'll find the blocks somewhat challenging but not frustrating. I love the coolness when I touch tile and I love how it warms the room on a sunny day. Tile is sleek, timeless and contemporary. I want to translate this feeling to fiber by interpreting the tile blocks with fabric.

Years ago, while visiting San Antonio, TX, I saw this beautiful public art display of tiles. The memorable installation was the columns at the Trolley Station on Canal Street. This structure was made up of columns and each side to the column contained a stunning tile block reminiscent of patchwork. That art was conceived and executed by Artist, Ann Adams and it turns that she's also a quilter. This structure provided the spring board for Canal Street Tile blocks.

Of course, I have more blocks sketched than actually executed; therefore, I plan to be just one or two blocks ahead of you. I have no idea at this moment how much fabric the project will take but if you've ever taken one of my workshops you already know I believe in using lots of fabric. What I do know is that I will be using one black solid and one white solid throughout the project. All else is open game. If you get stuck on any of part of the pattern just send me an email.

I'm a firm believer in a reward system, if you complete all 12 blocks, get it into a quilt top AND get it quilted, you will be rewarded with a free gift. So, ponder the possibilities as we colour your world with fabric tiles. Happy Stitching!

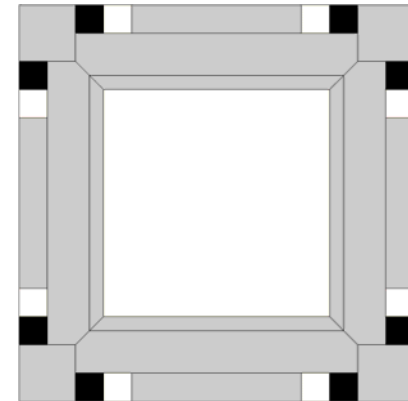
In Colourful Stitches, Gyleen

Supply List:

- 10-15 Fat Quarters; I plan to use hand-dyed fabric but tone on tone, small prints and batiks should also give a "cool" tile effect.
- ½ yard of black
- ½ yard of white
- EZ Angle tool
- EZ Companion Angle tool

Tile Block Border:

Each of the 12 blocks has the same border design. The instructions to construct that border will not be repeated each month; they follow below. The border is the most challenging part of the Canal Street Tile Block project. I suspect if you just go with the flow and believe my instructions will work, all will be fine. However, for those of you with your own thinking, the best that I can offer is to go with the flow and believe my instructions will work. ;-)



*Note: I'm using the black and white fabric in the position shown in sketch. All other pieces will be different fabric

selections per month (block). In the sketch, the center represents what will be changed each month, hence the name, Block of the Month.

Cutting Instruction:

- Border 1: (4) 1" x 10 ½" strip
- Border 2: (4) 2" x 10 ½" strip
- Border 3: (2) 1 ½" x 8" strips black; (2) 1 ½" x 8" strips white; (1) 6 ½" x 8" strip
- (4) 2 ½" squares for corner block

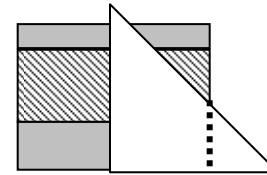
Let the sewing begin: All seams are ¼" unless otherwise noted.

1. Sew one strip of border 1 to one strip of border 2, lengthwise. Press toward border 2. Repeat for all 4 strips.
2. Sew border 3 strips together, lengthwise, in the following order: black strip, white strip, 6 ½" x 8" strip, white strip and black strip. Press seams to one side.
3. Cross cut border 3 assembly into (4) 1 ½" strips. You will have some extra, so don't panic. The finished length should be 10 ½".



4. Sew border 3 assembly to step 1 assembly. Press seam toward border 2. Make (4).

5. Fold each border side in half lengthwise, using the EZ Angle tool, align the end edge of the border with the 2" mark on the ruler. In the sketch, the border is folded in half, the dotted line represents the 2" mark on the EZ Angle tool and the big triangle is the tool. Check to make sure that border 3 is at the bottom so what you are trimming is border 1 and some of border 2. The words EZ Angle should be facing you. Trim the corner. Repeat for the other 3 strips.

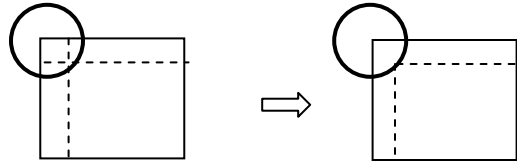


This is as far as you go until you have made the first tile block. If you like, you can go completely on the edge and make this part in advance. That's what I plan to do. I'm sure no matter what fabrics you use for the block it will look just perfect with any border fabric.

Sewing the border to the center of the block and to the corner stones:

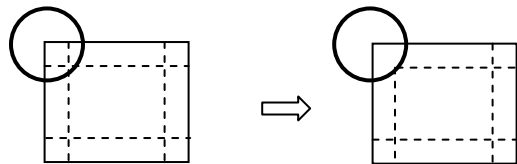
1. Position the border corner block to each end of the border assembly. Make sure you align the bottom of the corner block to the bottom of the border 2. Pin beginning and end. Sew the seam and press seam toward the border. Repeat for all (4) corner blocks.

2. **Unsew** all stitches that fall within the seam allowance of the corner blocks. This is easiest to do from the wrong side of the corner block.



3. Center the block with one border strip. The block should be against border 1 and only tiny little ears should be showing. Pin beginning, middle and end. Sew and press seams toward border. Repeat with the other 3 strips.

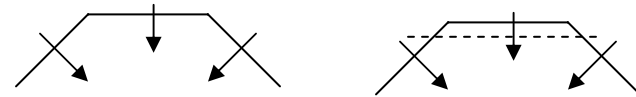
4. **Unsew** all stitches that fall within the seam allowance. Do this by looking at the wrong side of the block. The seams are probably crossed. Don't try to sew this perfectly, it is fair easier and more accurate to just **unsew**. I use very bold thread so that I can **see** what I'm trying to **unsew**. This is an excellent place to use up all that unwanted thread that I know you have. See the sketch, the dashed lines represent stitches. The stitches in the circle are **unsewn**.



5. Now for the fun part, sewing the diagonal seams. Make sure you have **unsewn** all stitches in the seam allowance.

6. Working with one diagonal at a time, fold the tile block square in half on the diagonal (wrong sides together).

Line up the block's edges and pin to hold. Fold the corner block in half on the diagonal, wrong sides together. Line up the corner block's edges and pin to hold. Both the tile block and the corner block will be tucked underneath the border. At this point the diagonal seams of the border should line up very easy if all the seam allowances are **unsewn**. Use (3) straight pins (shown as arrows): one to hold the tile block together; one for the border's diagonal seam; and one to hold the corner square together. Sew the diagonal seam of the border. The dash line is the stitching line. **Unsew** any stitches that go into the seam allowance. You can see this very easy by looking at the wrong sides of the tile and corner blocks when you unpin everything. Repeat for the remaining (3) diagonals. Press seam.



NOTE: It is more accurate and faster to sew into the seam allowance followed by unsewing than to try to figure out where to stop and start.

As always, I hope you found the instructions clear and accurate. If you get stuck and can't figure out how to sew the border to the blocks send me an email.

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