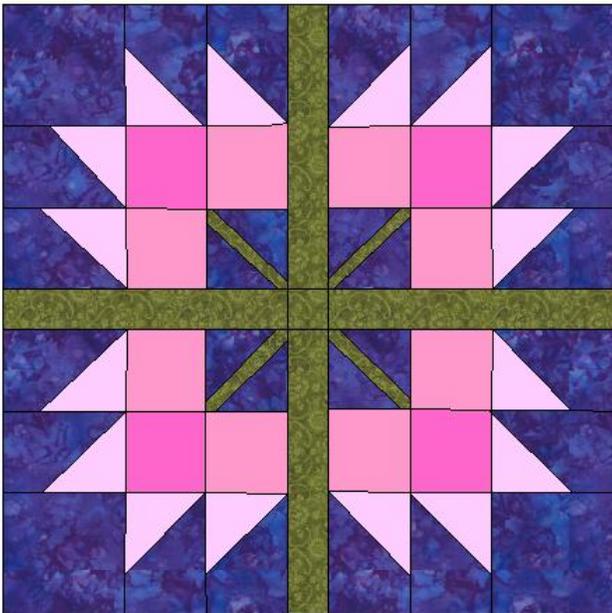


Peony

15 inch finished (15 ½ inches edge to edge)



Maple Leaf or Autumn Leaf block in the 1930s.

Peonies are herbaceous perennial plants 0.5 - 1.5 metres tall, but some resemble trees up to 1.5 - 3 metres tall. They have compound, deeply lobed leaves, and large, often fragrant flowers, ranging from red to white or yellow, in late spring and early summer.

The peony is named after Paeon (also spelled Paeon), a student of Asclepius, the Greek god of medicine and healing. Asclepius became jealous of his pupil; Zeus saved Paeon from the wrath of Asclepius by turning him into the peony flower.

We are going to do our Peonies in three shades of pink! The block is from *The Standard Book of Quilt Making and Collecting* by Marguerite Ickis published by the General Publishing Company, Toronto 1949. It was also known as a

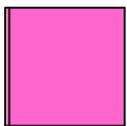
Background (Twilight Blue)



4 - 3 ½ inch squares
16 - 2 ½ by 3 ½ inch rectangles
4 - 2 ½ inch squares

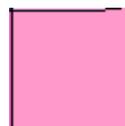


Peony - Dark Pink



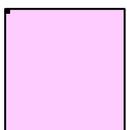
4 - 2 1/2 inch squares

Peony - Medium Pink



8 - 2 ½ inch squares

Peony - Light Pink



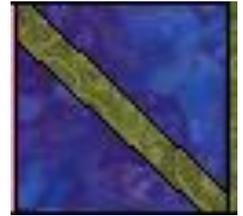
16 - 2 ½ inch squares

Leaf Green

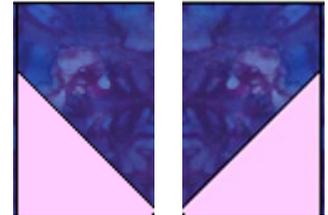


1 - 1 ½ inch square
2 - 1 ½ by 7 inch rectangles
1 - 1 ½ by 15 ½ inch rectangles
4 - 1 inch by 4 inch rectangles

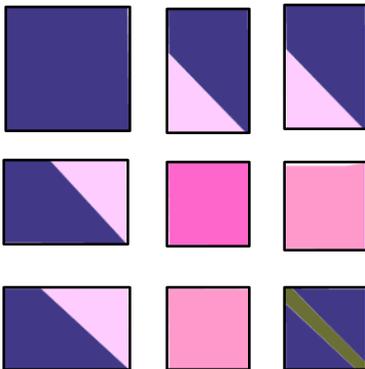
First, let's get those stems in. Cut each of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch squares of background along the diagonal. Sew a 1 inch strip of leaf green along one diagonal edge. Carefully press the seam towards the green. Now sew the rest of the square to the other side of the green strip so that it will form the square again. Again press towards the green. When you have done this, on the reverse side, it will look like you have reassembled the square, but on the right side, the stem will be sitting 'on top' of the background. Trim the ends of the green so that you have a $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch square. Do this for each of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch squares.



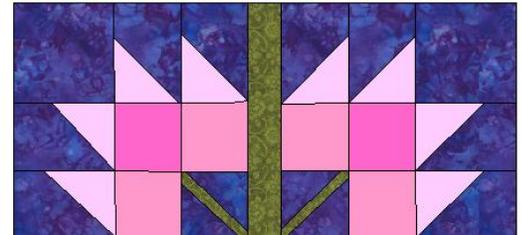
For the outside petals, put light pink connector corners on the $2\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$ rectangles of background. Watch that you have 8 going one way and 8 going the other! Since we are dealing with a light colour on a dark one - you may either cut away both the middle and back of the connector after it has been squared up - or leave all three layers. Each piece will measure $2\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$.



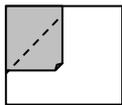
Now you can assemble each peony. It's just a simple nine-patch, with the darkest pink in the centre. Each peony should measure $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches square.



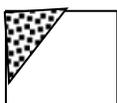
Sew two of the peonies together with the $7\frac{1}{2}$ inch strips as lattice. Do this with the remaining pair, then sew them together with the $15\frac{1}{2}$ inch lattice as shown in the diagram.



Connector Corners:



Draw a line kitty corner across the back of your small connector square. Place this on the appropriate corner of your larger piece, right sides together. Make sure that the line that you drew is in the correct position. Now, sew along that line.



Press the connector into the corner so that the right side of the connector is in the correct position on the base piece, then trim away the centre layer $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the seam. Square up your piece.