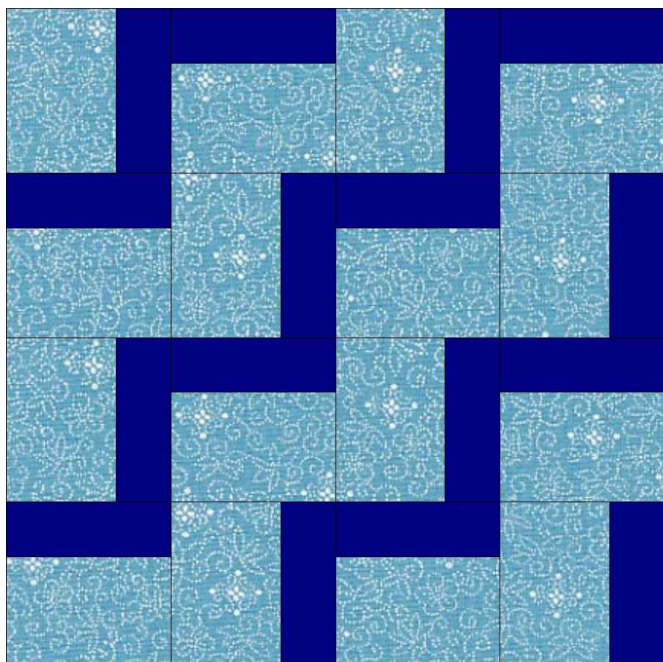


BMQG BLOCK OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2015 - STAIRCASE BLOCK



COLOURS:

Blues or Purples, do not mix; keep to either blue tones or purple tones within the same block.

-choose a solid, dark colour for the thinner strip

-choose a small patterned, lighter colour with good contrast from the solid colour for the thicker strips

CUTTING (there will be fabric left over):

-dark solid fabric: cut 2 width of fabric strips 1.5" wide

-lighter, patterned fabric: cut 2 width of fabric strips 2.5" wide

METHOD:

Sew a solid narrow strip and a patterned wide strip together along their length. Being careful not to bow the strip, press the seam allowance to the darker, narrow strip. Repeat with the second pair of strips.

Trim the selvages from the ends of the strips. Using the cutting mat and ruler lines to make sure your cuts are perpendicular, cut the strips into 16 squares measuring 3.5".

IMPORTANT: lay out the squares in the staircase pattern as in the image above. Note that all the narrow vertical strips are on the right side. All the narrow horizontal strips are on the top.

In one horizontal row sew two adjacent squares together into a rectangle. Repeat with the other two squares in the same row. Then sew the two rectangles into one row of 4 squares. Repeat for the other 3 horizontal rows.

Press the seam allowances of the bottom row to the left and alternate directions for the other 3 rows.

Sew the four horizontal rows together, being careful to match the seams.

Press the seam allowances open so piecing the blocks together later will go more smoothly.

Double-check the size of the block. It should measure 12.5" square. Trim to size if necessary.