



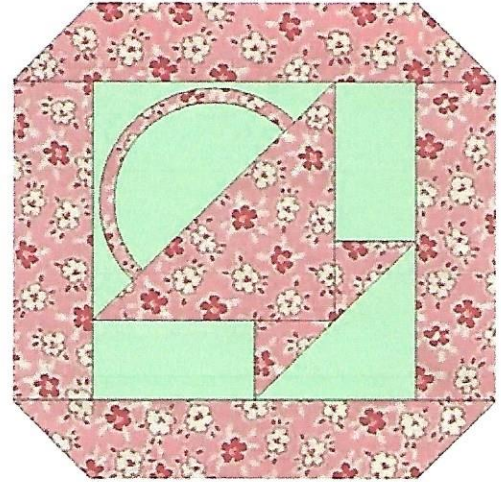
Pattern of the Month

April 2012

"Basket Pincushion" (4 5/8" finished)

by Sally Dickinson and Evelyn George

Sally Dickinson, who was in charge of the small quilt auction at the last show, had a wonderful idea for supplementing the funds raised by the auction. She suggested that for Pattern of the Month, we have a pincushion, and ask that interested members make an extra one for a Hopi quilter. We would like to have at least 40 pincushions to include with the supplies we will be sending them. So, Sally designed a Basket Pincushion (traditional piecing with an applied handle) and Evelyn designed a stylized Butterfly Pincushion (pieced) and a Flying Geese Pincushion (paper-pieced). Here's the Basket Pincushion, and please look for the other two in the Pattern of the Month section of the TQG website). These patterns will also be available at the Pattern of the Month table at the April meetings. Why not make one for yourself and one for a Hopi quilter? If you have another pattern you'd like to use, that's fine, too—a variety would be lovely! We will begin accepting pincushions (and other essential basic quilting supplies you might want to share) at the April meetings, because the first trip to deliver them will be about a week after the Guild meetings.



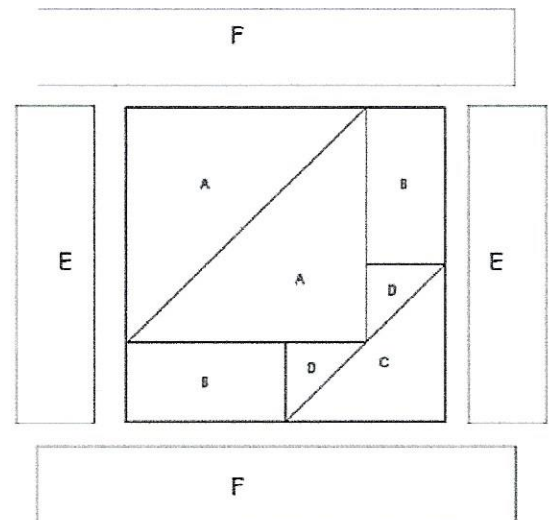
Cutting (for 2 pincushions with colors reversed from each other, layer two contrasting fabrics together and cut both at the same time, as follows.):

- One $3 \frac{1}{4}$ " square; cut in half diagonally (A)
- Two $1 \frac{1}{4}$ " x $2 \frac{1}{8}$ " rectangles (B)
- One $2 \frac{3}{8}$ " square, cut in half diagonally (C)
- One $1 \frac{5}{8}$ " square, cut in half diagonally (D)
- One bias strip $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 5" (handle, see below)

Borders and underside can be cut from a contrasting fabric, or one of the first two fabrics.

For each pincushion, also cut:

- Two border strips $1 \frac{1}{4}$ " x $3 \frac{5}{8}$ " (E)
- Two border strips $1 \frac{1}{4}$ " x $5 \frac{1}{8}$ " (F)
- One $5 \frac{1}{8}$ " square (underside of pincushion)



You'll also need polyester fiberfill or other suitable stuffing.

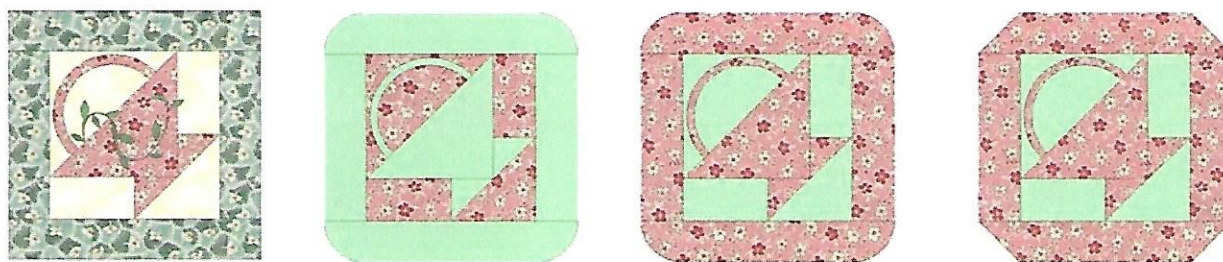
Use good, strong thread that doesn't break easily, and shorten machine stitch slightly. Don't skimp on the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, and make sure all stitching is secure, so it will withstand the stuffing process!

Lay out basket and background pieces, arranging them to shape the basket as shown. (If you have cut two different colored fabrics at the same time, you will be able to make two baskets, one of each color, with opposite backgrounds.)

Make handle first. Fold bias strip into thirds and press lightly. With a long stitch, baste down center of folded strip, keeping an even width. On the ironing board, shape strip into a handle and with tip of iron, coax and press it into a curve to fit onto the large background triangle (A). Pin handle to triangle at middle and ends, leaving about $\frac{1}{2}$ " of handle extending beyond lower edge of triangle. Remember to allow room for seams at upper edges of triangle. Go slow, and stitch handle in place (inner edge of curve first, then outer edge). Press gently. Stitch the triangle with handle on it to the basket triangle (A). Press seam toward basket. (Handle might also be made from rickrack, bias tape or other trim, or use your favorite method.)

Stitch basket "feet" triangles (D) onto side rectangles (B), taking care to keep them in the correct position so they make a flat bottom for the basket, and sew them to left and right sides of basket. Add the (C) triangle of background fabric to the bottom edge of basket, keeping it centered. (You will have a C triangle of each fabric left over, which you do not need for either basket.)

Add the shorter borders to two opposite sides. Press seams away from basket. Add the two longer borders and press. The corners can be left square, or they can be rounded or trimmed off slightly to make the pincushion easier to stuff. Mark around a spool to round off corners, or use a ruler to make a diagonal line across each corner.



Lay basket block on top of plain square of fabric, right sides together, lining up edges (they should be the same size; if not, make adjustments). Pin together, and stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from edges, leaving an opening about 2" on one side, for turning and stuffing. Trim off any excess fabric if corners have been remodeled; also trim off any loose threads. Turn cushion right side out, making sure corners and seams are coaxed out evenly. Press if needed. Stuff firmly, pushing stuffing tightly into corners first, with your finger or a stuffing stick (a chopstick works fine). Keep adding stuffing until it is evenly full and firm enough. Pin opening closed and stitch by hand. Embellish as desired!

Don't forget to check out the paper-pieced Flying Geese Pincushion, as well as the Butterfly Pincushion, in the new Pattern of the Month section of the website: tucsonquiltersguild.com