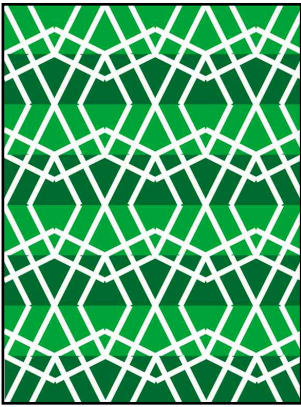


Block of the Month for August, 2010...Gazebo

Sharon Mountford



Overall pattern with dozens of blocks

Gazebo requires an equal number of “right” and “left” blocks, (mirror images) so you will be making two 6” blocks this month. In order for the Gazebo pattern to emerge, a large number of blocks is needed, so I hope lots of you will participate. Construction of a pair of these blocks is really fast (under 30 minutes).

Beginning with the center parallelograms, stitch a one-inch strip to each long edge. Have the straight strip on top to minimize stretching of the bias cuts. At the acute-angled corners, leave at least 1/2” extra lattice strip. The obtuse angles do not need any extra fabric. Press the seams open. Return to the cutting board and trim the ends of the lattice strips, extending the line of the original parallelogram. (Fig. 3)

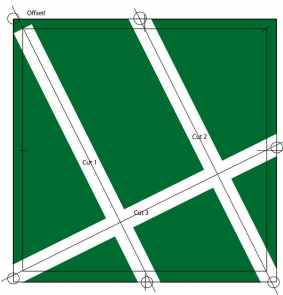


Diagram of one block

Select a small floral fabric and cut two 6-1/2” squares. You will also need a white fabric for the lattice strips. Cut six strips each 1”-wide and about 8” long.

With your two squares face-to-face, place them on a cutting mat centered over the section which is ruled in 1/2” increments. The corners will lie on the intersecting 45° angle lines. (Fig. 1)



Figure three

Note from the diagram that the cuts you make should pass through the corner and mid-points at the seam line, not the edge of the square. The ruled lines on the cutting mat are very helpful in gauging the 1/8” offset needed when making the cuts. (If you would be more comfortable, mark the seam lines and the center of each side. Then you have two exact points through which to make each cut.) Make cuts 1 and 2 through both layers of your fabric. (Fig. 2)

Attach the side triangles, making sure that the edges of the block are aligned and that you wind up with a 6-1/2” square. Press these seams open.

Back to the cutting mat to make the third cut. Line up each square with the crossed 45° lines and cut from a lower corner (offset again) to the mid point of the opposite side, perpendicular to the original cuts. One cut will run uphill to the right. The mirror-image block will run uphill to the left.

Sew a lattice strip to the side of the larger part of each block. Line up the smaller section so that the first inset strips form straight lines. Press all seams open. Trim the excess seam allowances from the corners of the blocks and you are finished.



Figure one



Figure two



Pair of finished blocks