

### 3-D Flower Block



In September, we're making three-dimensional flower blocks. Depending on where you are, you might think of these as the last blooms of winter or the first flowers of spring.

The details of this block will be designed by you, within the following guidelines:

- Blocks must contain at least one stem
- Stems will be 1/2 inch wide, start at the bottom edge of the block and contain a curve.
- Blocks must contain at least one 3-D bloom
- Blocks must contain at least one 3-D leaf

### Fabric Guidelines

Each block is made from three fabrics:

**Blue:** Solid or tone-on-tone (TOT) print. Think sunny skies when you choose your blue background. You will need a large square of blue—in my block, I started with an 11" square.

**Bloom:** Solid, TOT or multi-color print in colors from the WARM side of the color-wheel: red, pink, orange, gold, or yellow. If you have fabric scraps, you can probably use them here

**Green:** Solid, TOT or multi-color print fabric in a shade of green. You'll need to be able to cut a bias strip for the stem, but larger scraps should work here, too.

Here are some of the fabrics that I pulled from stash and considered for this block.

If you make multiple blocks, you can use the same blue and green for all your blocks, but keep your bloom fabrics unique.



## Block Directions

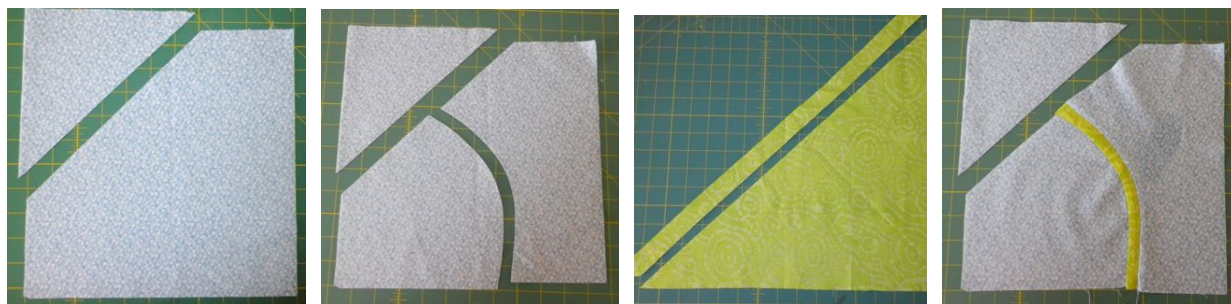
### CREATE THE PROPORTIONS OF YOUR BLOCK

Start with a square of blue background. I started with an 11" square. After you make a block or two, you'll know what works for you, but I recommend that you start with at least a 10 1/2 inch square.

Make a diagonal-ish slice through the block—your bloom will be in the top and your leaf (or leaves) and stem will fit in the bottom.



Cut a 1-inch wide bias stem from green for the stem. This may be sewn into a tube and appliquéd to the block or inserted (à la the Silly String block). I'll post more information about machine appliqué of stems and vines on the Block Lotto site soon. For my sample blocks, I inserted the stem, by first drawing the placement in the background fabric with my rotary cutter.



### ADD THE BLOOM

For the bloom, start with two pieces of fabric, right sides together that roughly fit the space available in the top section of your block. You may use two pieces of the same fabric or different ones—mine are a yellow TOT print and an orangey-gold.

Draw a flower-ish shape, with three lobes, sort of like a mitten with two thumbs. Note that there is flat space along the bottom edge between the start and end of your line.



Take the two bloom fabrics to the sewing machine and stitch along the line. Trim the bloom, leaving a 1/4-inch allowance. Clip into the seam allowance at any inside curves to make it easier to turn.

Turn your bloom right sides out and press. Check placement on the block.

Leaving the bloom inserted in the seam, sew the block back together. The bloom will be attached in the seam and otherwise free. We'll leave them like this to allow the winner(s) to decide if/how they would like to further attach them to the block.



#### ADD LEAVES

Start with two rectangular pieces of leaf fabric—you may use the same fabric for both sides of your leaf, or two contrasting greens. Lay it approximately where you envision a leaf on your block to check for size. Then draw a simple leaf shape with points at both ends. In my example the point nearest the stem is TOO close to the edge—be sure to leave enough space for a seam allowance.

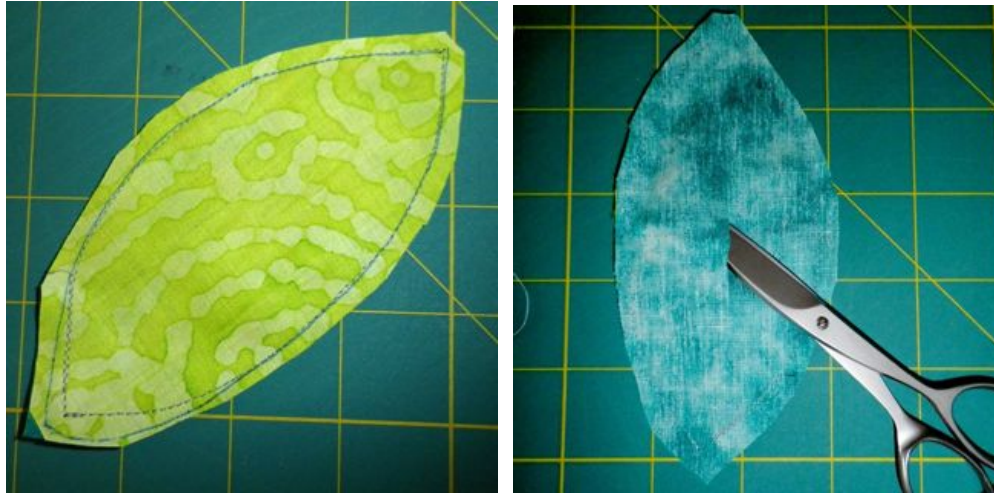
Take the leaf to the sewing machine and stitch all the way around your drawn line. Notice how I fixed my seam allowance problem by making my leaf about 1/4-inch shorter.

Trim approximately 1/4 inch around the outside of your seam.



To turn your leaf, cut a small slit, along the center, on the underside of your leaf. Your slit can be vertical or horizontal as long as it doesn't come close (within a 1/2 inch) of the seams.

Turn the leaf right sides out through the slit and press.



Lay the completed leaf (or leaves, if you decide your flower block needs another) in place. One point should connect with the stem. Pin in place.

Take the block to the machine and stitch the leaf to the block from point to point. Your thread color will show here and is a design decision to be made. Be sure that the ends of your stitching are secure by pulling them to the back and tying them, back-stitching at each end or shortening your stitch length to something close to zero.

Press the block and trim to a 9 1/2-inch square. You're done.



Consider changing up the proportions, creating blocks with more than one bloom and/or more than one stem or leaf. And remember to have fun creating your own fantasy 3-D flower blocks.