

ABOUT THE BLOCK LOTTO

The Block Lotto has been a monthly online activity for quilters since January 2002.

It began as an activity on a quilting message board and moved into blog land in 2007. In 2012, we moved to our own site and group blog at blocklotto.com

The Block Lotto is open to all quilters at any level of experience.

No commitment is required: make blocks and enter them when you want; otherwise sit on the sidelines, read along, and

Join us!



SHOW US YOUR QUILT

If you use the Improv Mug block pattern in a project, please share a photo of your work. You can:

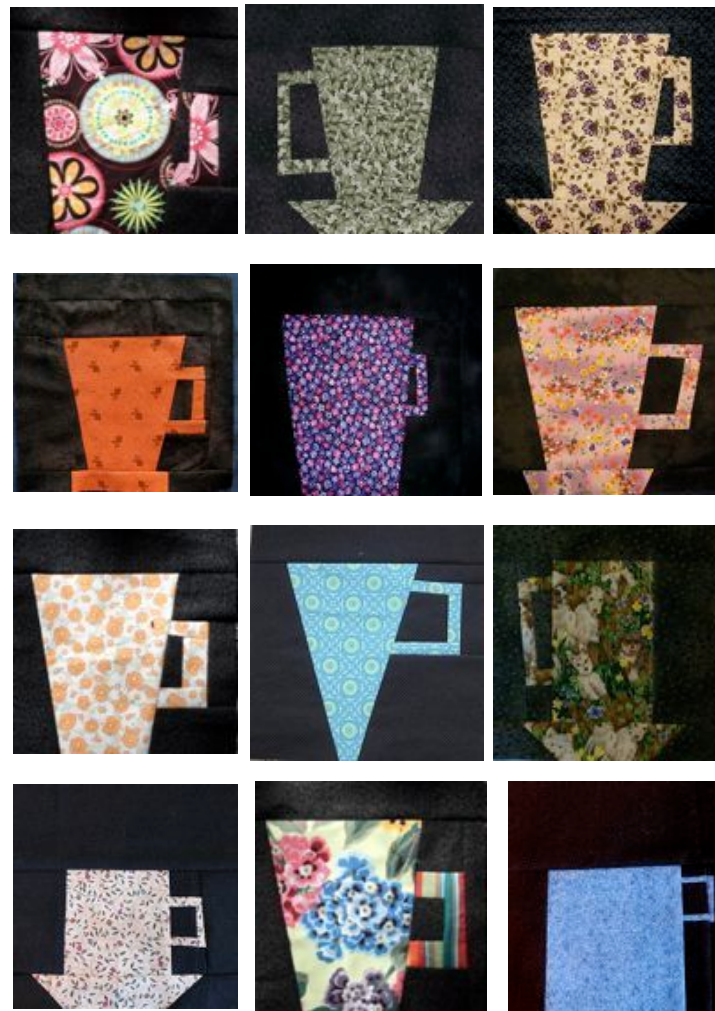
- Email photos and the story of your quilt to jeansophie@gmail.com
- Add your photo to the Flickr group pool [Lotto Block Quilts](#)
- Join the block lotto and add your quilt and its story to the Gallery

I can't wait to see what you make from this block.

FIND MORE BLOCK PATTERNS AT BLOCKLOTTO.COM

NOVEMBER 2012

BLOCK LOTTO



Improv Mug Quilt Block Pattern

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ABOUT THE BLOCK



IMPROV MUG

A year ago, Linda Newman made the cutest cup and saucer blocks for our blue/brown/cream samplers and I knew I wanted us to make some improvisational style cups and mugs for the lotto. Here's my first effort.

BLOCK GUIDELINES

RULES FOR YOUR CUPS AND MUGS

1. Blocks are 9.5 inch squares (to finish at 9" when sewn into a quilt)
2. Blocks must have a BLACK background—solid or a black on black (BOB) print. If you make multiple blocks, you may use the same BOB for all of them.
3. Quilter's choice of fabric(s) is used for the cup/mug and (optional) saucer and interior. Use a unique fabric for each block
4. The bottom of cup/mug or saucer (if it's sitting on one) should be at the bottom of the block. This will enable the winner(s) to put their cups and mugs on a "shelf" if desired. There should be black background surrounding the other three sides (left, top, right).
5. Your cup or mug must have a handle. It can be on the right or left side. Remember that the handle cannot extend to the edge of the block—there must be background around the outside of the handle.

BASIC MUG CONSTRUCTION

I recommend that you start with a square of background fabric that is 2 ½ to 3-inches taller and wider than your finished block size, or 11 ½ to 12 inches square.

I didn't in this first block and you'll be able to see what

DRAWING WITH YOUR ROTARY CUTTER TO CREATE MUG SHAPE

1. Slice the background where the TOP of the mug will be.
2. In the bottom section, make two cuts from top to bottom to "draw" the sides of your mug. Remember to leave enough room on one side to add the handle.
Variation: use curved seams to create a rounder shaped mug/cup.
3. Remove the mug-shape and use it as a template to cut the mug from your quilter's choice fabric.



CREATING THE HANDLE

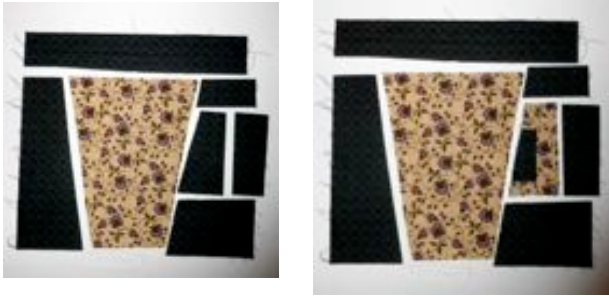
1. In the background fabric on the handle side of your mug/cup, make two cuts from the left edge to the right edge to define the top and bottom edges of the handle.
2. In the handle section you just created, make a cut from top to bottom to define the outside edge of the handle.

BASIC MUG CONSTRUCTION



CREATING THE HANDLE (CONTINUED)

- Use the flip-and-sew technique to add your quilter's choice fabric to the top, bottom and outside of the handle section, leaving some background in the center. Turn the piece over and trim away the background, leaving a ¼-



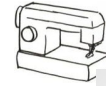
ASSEMBLE THE BLOCK

- First add the background to the outside of the handle. Then add the top and bottom background sections to handle section.
- Sew the handle section to the side of the cup. Then add the background to the other side.
- Add the background strip to the top.
- Square up and trim the block to a 9 ½ inch square. You're done.



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BASIC MUG AND SAUCER



ASSEMBLE THE BLOCK



If you start with a smaller square, as I DID, you can see the possible result of your decision. If your block ends up too short, don't despair . . .

ADDING AN (OPTIONAL) SAUCER

You may choose to include a saucer under your mug or cup . . . and if your basic block comes up too short as in my example, adding a saucer is one way to fix it.

- Create the saucer height by drawing with your rotary cutter across the block across the bottom—remember that the bottom 1/4-inch is the seam allowance. If you need to add height to your block, Even up the bottom edge of the mug and begin with a strip of your saucer fabric.
- “Draw” the left and right edges of your saucer by cutting the strip you just created from top to bottom.
- Use the center piece as a template to cut fabric for your saucer, or if you started with saucer fabric, add black background to the sides.
- Sew the background sides to your saucer and the saucer strip to the bottom of the block.

VARIATIONS

ADDING A SAUCER TO MAKE A BLOCK TALLER (PHOTOS)



PRESSING TIP

I confess that I did not strictly press toward the dark in my block, though unless it was going to create more bulk, I did.

In particular the seam where the handle is attached is pressed toward the mug.

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VARIATIONS

LOOK INSIDE YOUR MUG

Another option is to add a bit of the inside of your mug or cup.

Like real cups and mugs, the inside may be a different color. I haven't yet made a block, but here's how I'm going to make it:

1. When you make your original cut to define the top edge of the cup (step one in the basic directions), make a gentle curved hill-shaped cut.
2. At the top of your mug shape, make a mirror image curved cut to define the "inside"
3. Use the inside shape as a template for your contrasting fabric. I followed the basic shape but cut it larger to minimize how much I would have to trim after it was sewn to the mug/cup.
4. Sew the "inside" to the mug. Use the background piece

MORE VARIATIONS

Your mug/cup must have a handle, but the technique you use to create it is up to you. Two more ideas to consider:

1. *appliqué a bias strip to create a handle*
2. *insert strips (as in the silly string block) to create the*

VARIATIONS OF YOUR OWN

If you have a cup or mug block pattern you'd like to use or have an improvisational cup of your own, as long as it FOLLOWS THE RULES on Page 2, it is acceptable for the November block lotto.