

## Quilters Unlimited July 2016 Block of the Month: Yankee Puzzle

There are two different versions of this block. Pick your favorite and go for it. Color options can make a big difference in the look of the blocks.

### 1. Hourglass



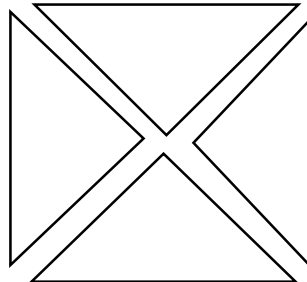
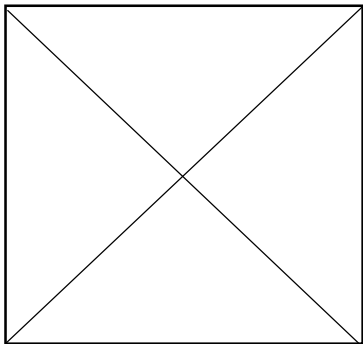
### 2. Half square triangles.



## HOURGLASS CONSTRUCTION

(for 15 inch finished size block)

For each color cut two  $8 \frac{3}{4}$  inch squares and cut them diagonally twice as shown below. Lay out the pieces to match the pattern and sew them into squares. Sew the 4 squares together to make the block.

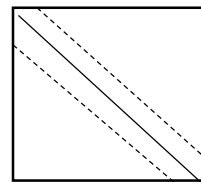


**NOTE THAT THESE ARE QUARTER SQUARE TRIANGLES TO ALLOW THE STRAIGHT OF GRAIN TO BE ON THE OUTSIDE EDGE. BE CAREFUL OF THE BIAS AS YOU SEW.**

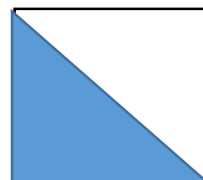
An easier method:

Lay the light square on top of the dark square and draw a line corner to corner.

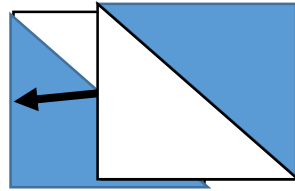
Sew  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from that line on both sides



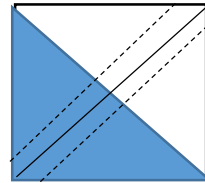
Cut down the center line, open and press.



Place one piece on top of the other right sides together nesting seams with colors opposite each other.



Draw a line corner to corner and sew  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch away as before. Cut down the center line, open and press. You now have two hourglass pieces.



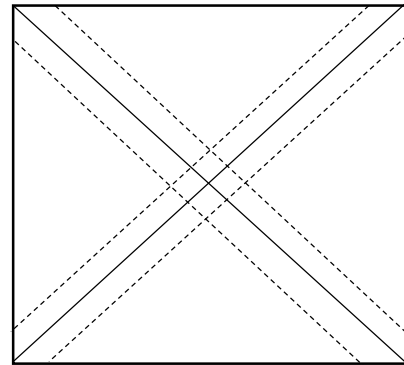
Repeat to get two more and sew together to make the block.

## HALF-SQUARE TRIANGLE CONSTRUCTION

Quick half-square triangles (yields 8 HST units):

Cut a  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inch square from each of two fabrics. Place them right sides together with the lighter one on top. Draw diagonal lines both ways on the lighter fabric.

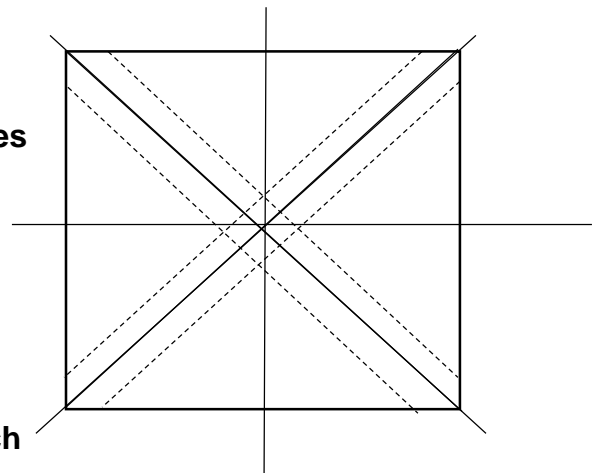
Sew  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch away from these lines on both sides.



Cut across, down and on the diagonals (The solid lines in the diagram).

You will have 8 half square triangle units.

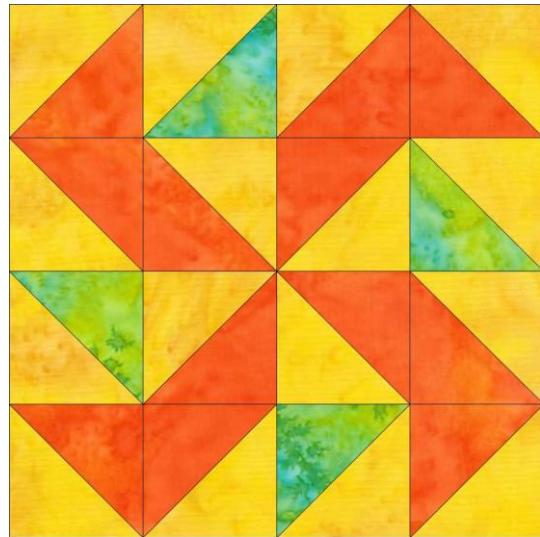
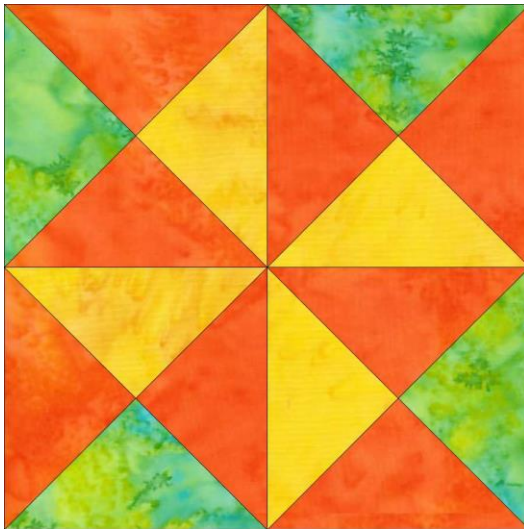
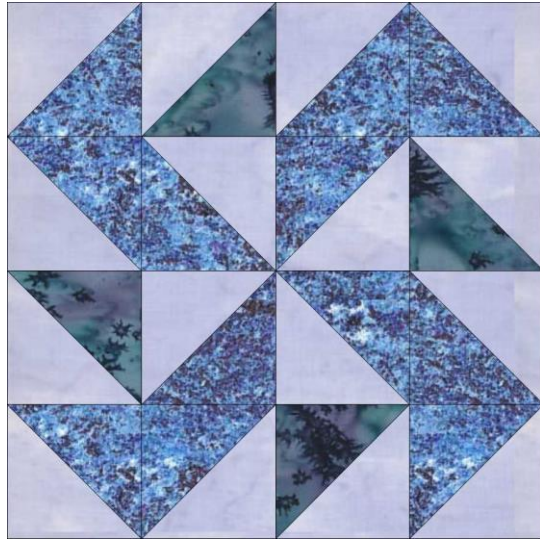
Repeat the process and you will have the 16 units needed to construct the block. Arrange them to match the picture and sew together.



To make individual HSTs, cut squares  $4\frac{5}{8}$  inches and cut on the diagonal. This is a great way to play with color combinations.

That was easy.

Now what if... I want to experiment with color? Several options are shown below.



For these options, count the triangles needed for each color and divide by 4. That is how many squares you need to cut. Remember these are quarter-square triangles so that the straight of grain is on the outside of each unit and two sides of the triangle are on the bias. With a little figuring, you can do these with the easy method. Just plan your colors right.

For these options, count the triangles needed and divide by 2. There will be 2 sides with the straight of grain. Make your usual HST units for each color pair.