



meets
modern
quilt along
at www.sewathomemummy.com



september: MAPLE LEAF

It's fall! Time to get busy creating now that the kids are back to school and everyone's back from summer vacations. This month we'll be sewing Maple Leaf blocks – again, another simple, HST containing block. I've included the instructions to the standard, Classic block, and the instructions to my 'Modern' interpretation of the block. Have fun with it!

Assume exact $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Yields one beautiful 12.5" block.

Block 1: 'Classic' Maple Leaf

Cutting:

From background color, cut

(2) 5" squares (HSTs)

(2) 4.5" squares (corner and stem segments)

From color(s) cut

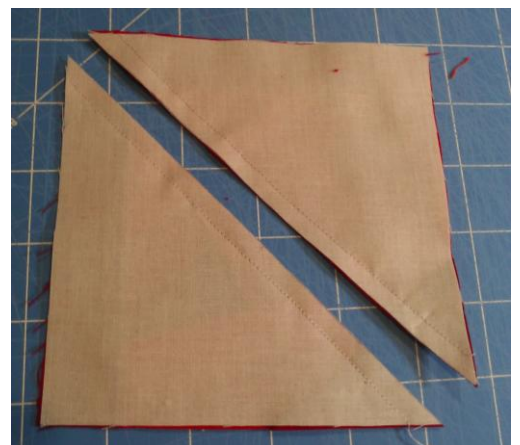
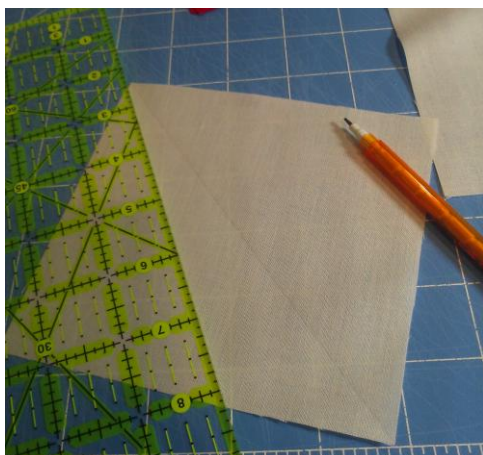
(3) 4.5" squares

(1) 1.5" x 7" rectangle (stem)

Instructions:

HSTs: We'll use the stack, sew, cut method.

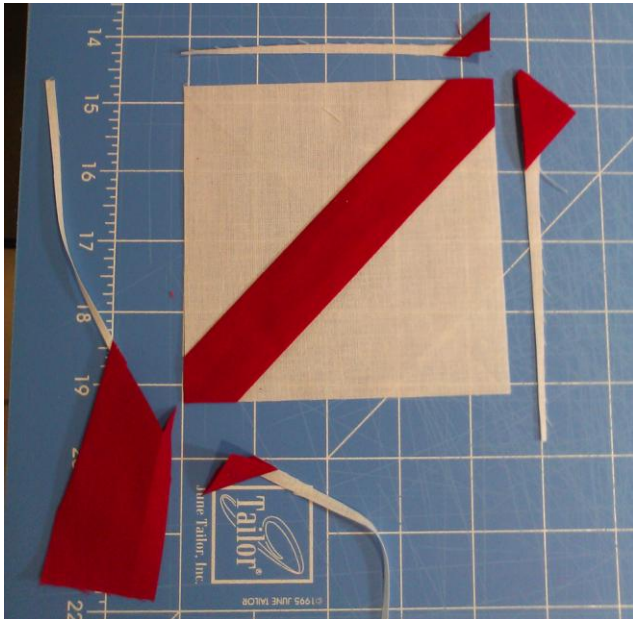
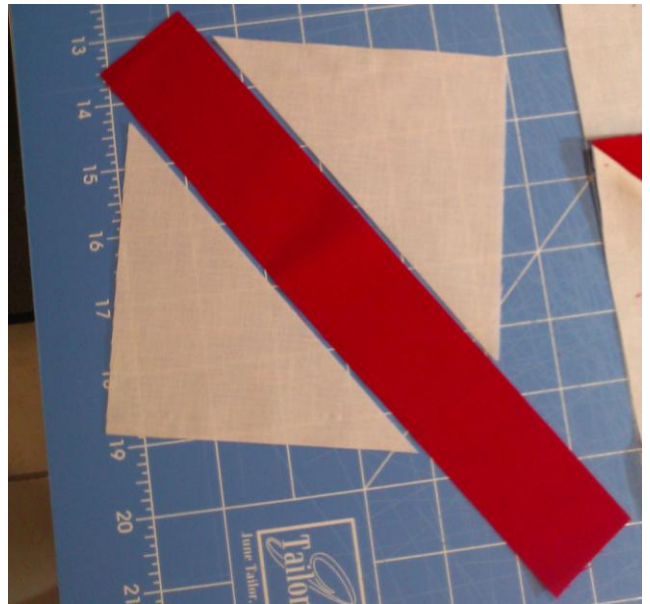
Draw a line down the diagonal of your two background 5" squares. Stack these squares on your colored 5" squares. Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " on either side of the drawn line. Cut on drawn line, and press open, creating 4 'leaf point' HSTs. Trim HSTs to 4.5" square.



The Stem:

Cut one of your background 4.5" squares in half on the diagonal; insert the 1.5" x 7" strip, as shown (picture right). Press seams toward the darker color.

Trim stem square to 4.5" square, aligning the 45deg angle on your ruler with the center of the stem strip to ensure a perfectly square segment.



Align your blocks, as shown below, first sewing them in rows, then joining the rows together, matching the intersecting seams.



Block 2: The “Modern” Maple Leaf Block

Cutting:

From background color, cut

(2) 5” squares (HSTs)

(2) 4.5” squares (corner and stem segments)

From improv pieced ‘blobs’ cut

(3) 4.5” squares

(2) 5” squares

From solid color

(1) 1.5” x 7” rectangle (stem)

Instructions:

Improv Piecing:

We did this for last month’s block, so if you attempted that variation last month, you’ll be doing the same thing again this month. If not, here is how to do it. I apologize in advance – red doesn’t tend to photograph well for me, so there’s a bit of flare on the images.

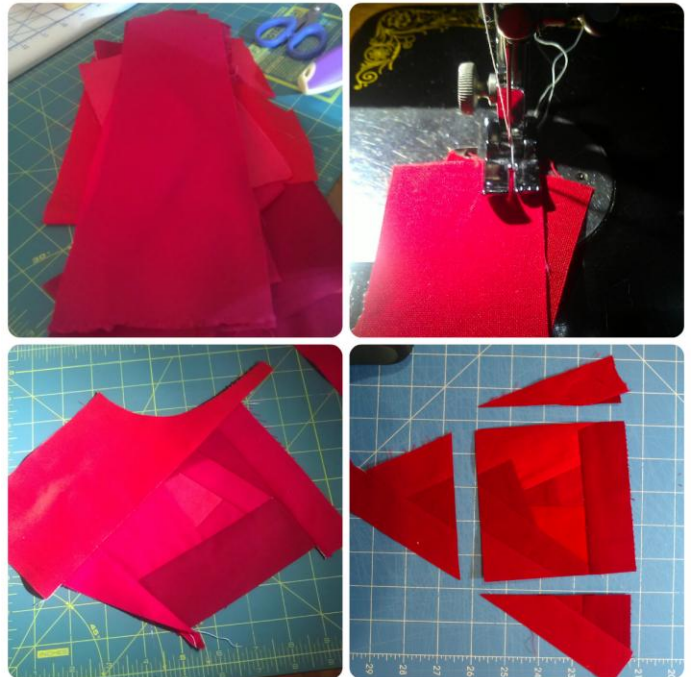
Starting with a piece of fabric at least 2” square, start adding strips and pieces to its sides, making sure to cover all seams so there won’t be any gaps. It’s like creating a log cabin block, but without the structure – i.e., you don’t have to keep rotating your block as you add strips to it – you can add 2 strips on the same side in a row, if you’d like. The ‘wonkier’ you apply the strips and pieces, the more striking the center will look – so place your strips across what you’ve built in an askew fashion.

Keep adding strips and pieces (and feel free to ‘piece’ a strip, too, it’ll give it more dimension) until you’ve got a big blob of fabric. But here’s where it gets beautiful – you’re going to need to trim the blob to a 4.5” square.

Make sure, as you’re adding your pieces to your blob, that you keep checking to see if you can cut a segment out, 4.5” square, from the blob.

As you’re adding your pieces, make sure to trim the excess off to the ¼” seam allowance so that you don’t have a lot of bulk in your square. I just use scissors for this – it doesn’t need to be exact, and I find scissors a lot quicker than a rotary cutter.

Continue creating these ‘blobs’ until you can trim out of them (2) 5” squares and (3) 4.5” squares.



The HSTs

We'll use the stack, sew, cut method.

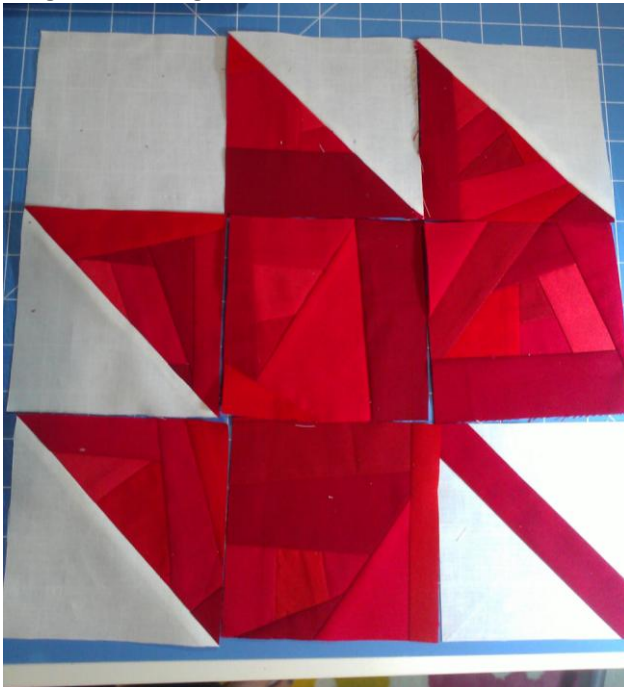
Draw a line down the diagonal of your two background 5" squares. Stack these squares on your colored, improved pieced 5" squares. Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " on either side of the drawn line. Cut on drawn line, and press open, creating 4 corner HSTs. Trim HSTs to 4.5" square. (See Block 1's instructions for photos if need be)

The Stem

See Block 1's instructions above for creating the 'stem' portion of the block.

Assembling the Block

Lay out the block in the order shown below; attach segments in rows first, and then join rows together, matching intersecting seams.



Don't forget to upload pictures of your block(s) to the [Sew at Home Mummy: Classic meets Modern QAL group](#), and then link-up your photo to the blog post at [Sew at Home Mummy](#)!