



meets

modern

quilt along

at www.sewathomemummy.com



may:

DRESDEN PLATE

April showers bring May flowers, right? This month we're creating a gorgeous block, the Dresden Plate. The name of this block reflects the romance of the Victorian Era with its love of elaborate decoration¹. Dresden, Germany, was the center of the 19th century romanticism movement in art, one which included the fine decoration of porcelain plates¹. The plates were embellished with elaborate floral, fruit and foliage designs. The quilt block became extremely popular in the 1920s, peaking in popularity in the 1930s; it's also been known as Grandmother's Sunburst, Friendship Ring, Aster, Dahlia, and Sunflower¹.

This block *looks* harder than it is. Really. The key is – take your time pressing the edges under, and pin, pin, pin when you're getting ready to appliqué it to the background. I have included two block orientations – one of which is my original modern take on the Dresden as a bit of inspiration if you are shying away from the more traditional look of the block. Have fun!

Assume exact ¼" seam allowance. Yields one beautiful 12.5" block. Template at bottom of instructions.

Cutting:

For Block Option A:

From background color, cut (1) 12.5" square

From color(s)/prints, cut (20) wedge pieces from Template A

For Block Option B:

From background color, cut (2) 6.5"x3.5" & (2) 12.5"x3.5"

From color(s)/prints, cut 14 wedges



Instructions (Block Option A):

1. Layout your 20 wedges in a circular orientation; for some of my 'purple' wedges, I attached (5) 1"-1 ½" strips together and cut my wedges from that strip set to make them stripey, but you can use all solid wedges if you like! In the picture right, I also cut out some wedges from my background color to make the other wedges look like they were floating. The possibilities are numerous with this block! Have fun with it.



2. Sew all of your wedges together in circular orientation (or not! have fun with it...) For my 'pink' block below, I left 1 wedge out to make it look like a horseshoe.



3. Turn under the outer and inner edges (all raw edges) of your plate by 1/4" all the way around – press and pin in place. See picture, pink Dresden, below. If you're worried about the turned edges shifting, you can machine baste them in place using the longest stitch length on your machine before appliquéing; then pull the baste stitches out after attaching it to the background..



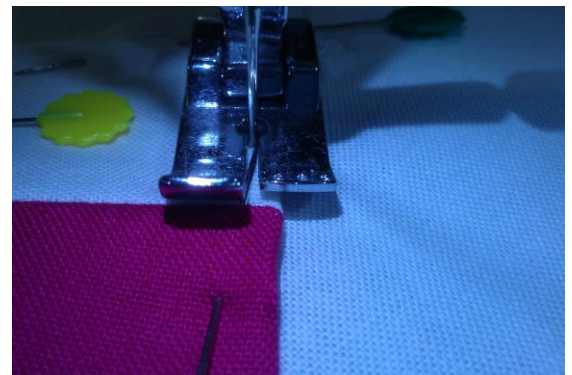
Turn under the inner and outer edges of the Dresden; my 'Pink' Dresden, pictured above, is missing one wedge on purpose – I wanted one of my Dresdens to be open ☺ see the pressed lines in the background piece?



for this Dresden, I machine basted the inner and outer edges before sewing them down to the background piece.

4. Fold your 12.5" background piece in 4 and press so that there is a nice cross marked in. Center your Dresden over the 12.5" background piece and pin in place. Use lots of pins in order to avoid shifting. (Pictures above).

5. Using a narrow 1/8" seam from the outer edge and a shorter straight stitch length (I use 1.8 setting on my machine) sew all the way around the Dresden Plate to appliqué it in place. You could also use a zig-zag, blanket stitch, or hand-stitch with a ladder stitch.



I use a narrow 1/8" seam to appliqué the Plate in place; you could use other stitch types, though.

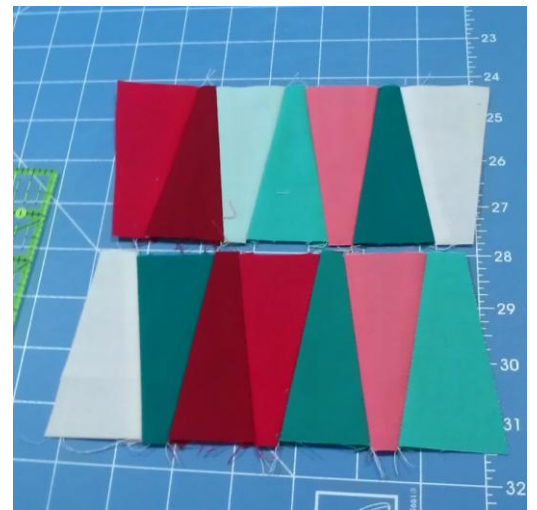
6. Stand back and take a look at your beautiful block 😊



Two spins on the Dresden: one with stripey wedges, the other missing one wedge in a horse-shoe shape.

Instructions (Block Option B):

1. Lay out 7 wedges, alternating orientation, in two rows. Matching raw edges, sew together in two rows as pictured right. Press seams open.



2. Matching intersecting seams, sew the two rows of wedges together. Press seam open. Trim both ends to square ends and so unit measures 6.5" square



3. To top and bottom of wedge unit, add 6.5" background strip. Press seams open.



4. To sides of wedge unit, add 12.5" background strips. Press seams open. Enjoy your funky Dresden inspired block!



Have fun this month. These are really quite quick blocks to make once the cutting has been done. I can't wait to see what kind of a modern spin you all put on the Dresden this month!

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!](#)

¹Extracted March 1, 2014. *The Dresden Plate Quilt Pattern and It's [sic] History.*
http://www.patternsfromhistory.com/colonial_revival/dresden-plate.htm

Template for May's "Classic meets Modern Quilt Along" block at Sew at Home Mummy

