

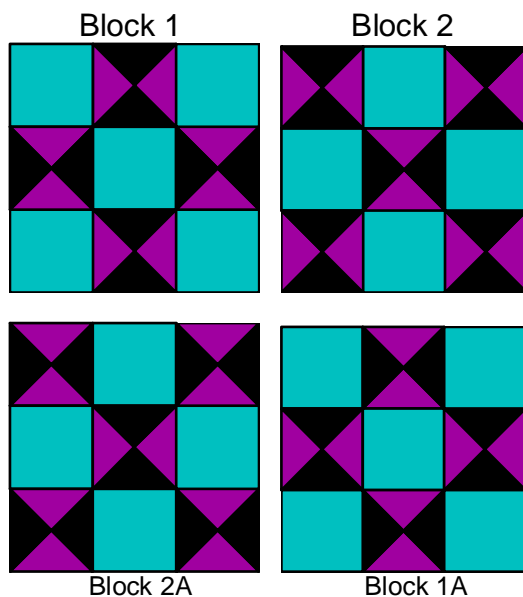
YHQQ – January 2010 Block of the Month

Amish square in a square. Finished block size 12” (unfinished 12 ½”)

There is a difference between Mennonite quilts and Amish quilts. One of those differences is that the Amish don't use prints and the Mennonites do.

While my husband and I were spending Canadian Thanksgiving weekend in Amish country in Pennsylvania, I decided to give you a break from tiny florals and calicos and pure white backgrounds and offer you an Amish quilt block done in solid colours. Well, four quilt blocks, actually. (See below.) You can make one, two, or four! Since we won't see each other again until January, I thought you might have time to make four... (grin). You'll need black, turquoise and purple (fairly dark purple).

There are two basic chequerboard nine-patch blocks, one with five turquoise blocks (Block 1 & 1A) and one with four (Block 2 & 2A). The difference is that on one variation (1), the black triangles need to surround the central turquoise block and on the other (1A), the purple triangles need to surround the central turquoise block. On block 2, the hourglasses top and bottom are black and in the middle, it's purple. On block 2A, it's the reverse. You'll see what I mean when you try to put them together to produce the “square in a square” secondary pattern. Only when you have all four variations together, will you see the rows of square in a square patterns emerge.



Hourglass blocks, or quarter-square triangles.

If you have done any of the previous Blocks of the Month, you should now know how to make half-square triangles. If not, please check the web-site for the previous Block of the Month instructions or pick up a paper copy at the meeting.

Now you will need to do the same thing, but this time, cut the squares at least 1 ¼” larger than the finished block. When you have your pairs of half-square triangles, lay two of them right sides together with purple triangles against black triangles, lining up the center seams. Draw a diagonal line perpendicular to the center seams and stitch a scant ¼” seam on either side. Cut apart and press open towards the black. Trim to 4 1/2 “ if necessary, taking care to keep the diagonal lines pointing at the corners of the block.

For one set of two blocks, cut 9 turquoise 4 ½” squares and 5 each of the black and purple 5 ¼” squares. You will have 1 extra orphan hourglass block.

For all four blocks, cut 18 turquoise 4 ½” squares. For the quarter-square “hourglass” blocks, Cut 9 black and 9 purple squares, 5 ¼” (or cut a little larger and trim).