

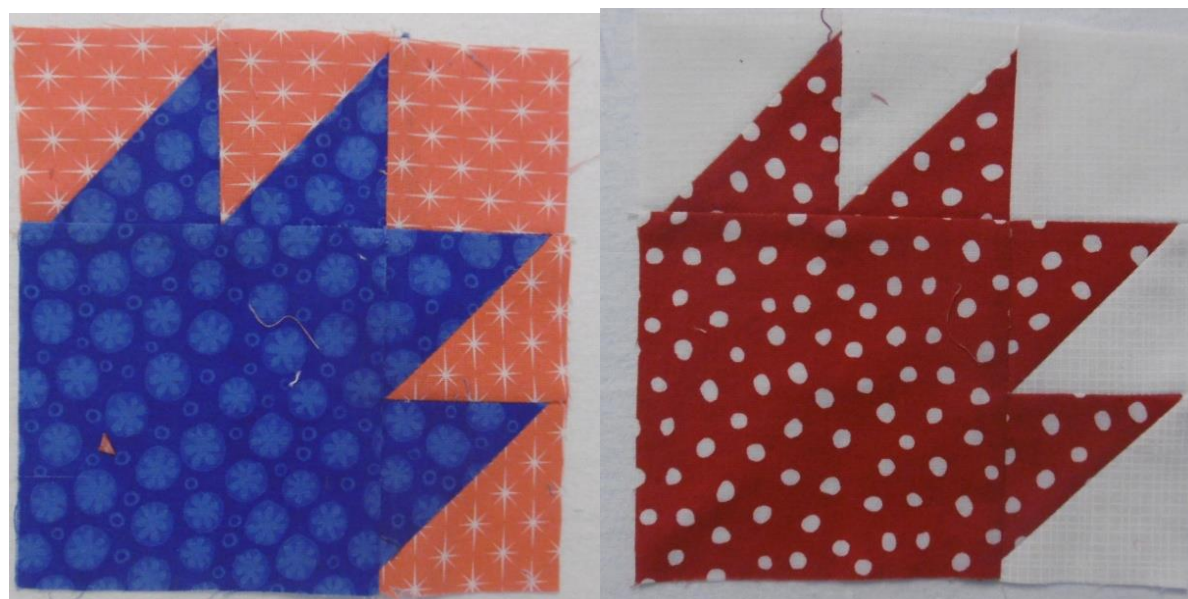
**Grand Quilt Guild
Block of the Month
2021-22**



Month	<i>November</i>
Block	<i>Bear's Paw</i>
Presented by	<i>Brenda Dagg</i>
Skills	<i>Half square triangles, or snowball method, colour placement.</i>

Notes and Pictures

This versatile block has been around for many decades. You can make a very simple basic bear paw, as below:

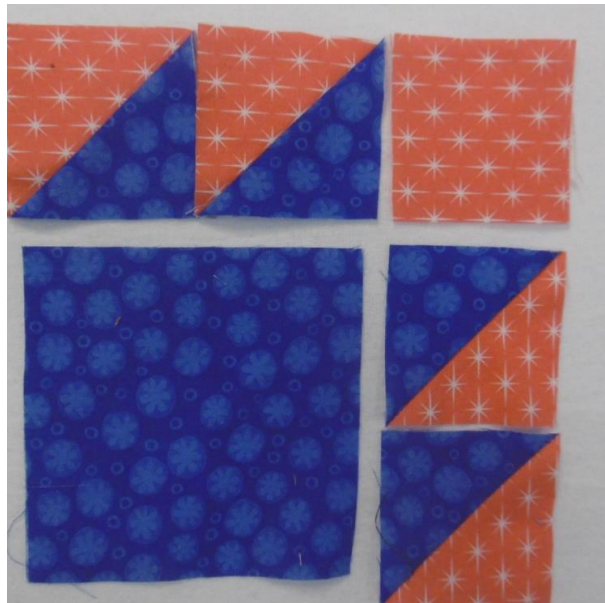


(You will note that the orange fabric is directional, making it perhaps not as successful. Check this out when you're choosing fabric.)

Or use the traditional setting with four bear paws and a central small block and sashing



The construction of the individual block involves using a square with four half square triangles and a smaller corner square.

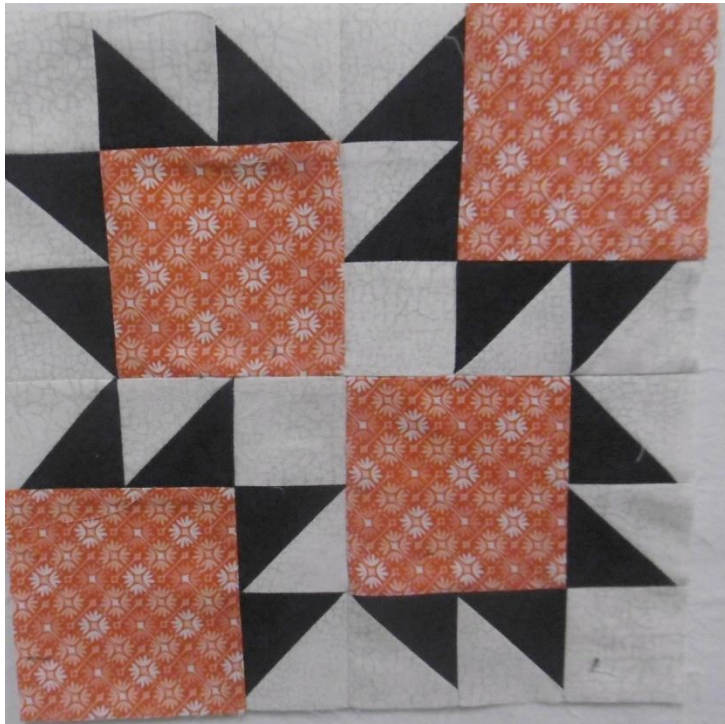


You can vary your block by playing around with the centre square, which could be a 4 patch, or a larger half square triangle, or a string pieced block, or use a scrappy approach to the “claws” of the bear’s foot.



You can see from the left block above that this is really a 9 patch, so you can design your own by choosing a block size divisible by 3, then make each section 1/3 of the total size. (Adding a half inch to each piece to allow for seams.)

You can also vary the orientation of the bear paws:



I think this would make an interesting quilt layout.

Another variation, if you're feeling brave, is a double bear paw



A video on how to do this one is listed in the Resources section below.

Give one of these versions a try, or try your own variation. Be sure to photograph your block(s) and send them to Judy Eckhardt for show and tell in December.

Have fun!

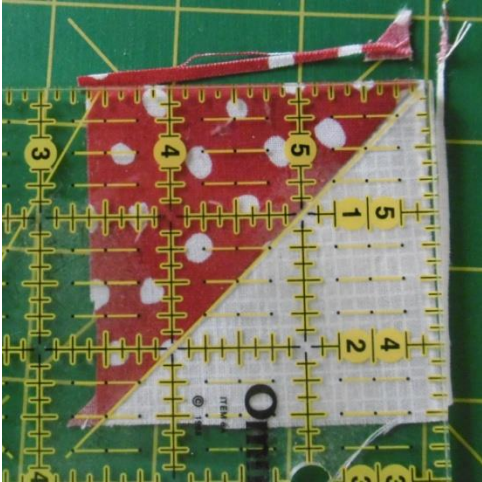
Tips, Tools or Techniques

How to make half square triangles (hst)

<https://www.coralandco.com/blog/half-square-triangles-4-at-a-time-chart>

Tip for making perfect hst's- Start with larger squares than needed, then trim to size once hst is made. Be sure to align the 45 degree line on your ruler with the seam on your hst when you are cutting.

Tips, Tools or Techniques (continued)



Dimensions for a 12 ½ inch block with four bear paws and sashing:

*Background fabric- 4 squares @ 2 3/16”
- 4 rectangles at 5 5/8 x 2 3/16*

Centre Square 1 @ 2 9/16

Large squares for each paw- 4 @ 3 15/16

Half square triangles for claws- 8 squares @ 2 5/8 of background fabric and 8 squares @ 2 5/8 of colour (Pair these squares, right sides together, mark the diagonal, and sew ¼ “ on either side of this line to make 2 hsts from each pair. Trim to 2 3/16.)

***The dimensions for this block are a little awkward, because you have to divide 12 ½ by 7 (3 +3 + 1 for sashing) and 12 does not divide evenly by 7. A 14” block would give you easier measurements.**

Resources

For a basic 12 ½ “ (12” finished) block:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59VRJ8KKVU0&ab_channel=TheSewingRoomChannel

How to make the Bear Paw block without using half square triangles:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnkYLy9x5pU&ab_channel=MissouriStarQuiltCompany

How to make a Bear Paw block with fast and easy half square triangles. Also shows different layout.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZ0vZGyIRHw&ab_channel=MidnightQuiltShow

This website shows how to make 8 half square triangles at once, and will help you make the full bear paw block with 4 bear paws.

<https://www.generations-quilt-patterns.com/bears-paw-quilt-block.html>

If you want to try the Double Bear Paw block, check out:

<https://www.handmademyrth.com/double-bear-paw-block.html>