

The Fifth Block: Texas Two-Step

This is another block that is very similar to the Bear Paw block. It has a few more seams and a few more match points. The biggest challenge with this block is dealing with the bulkiness where several seams match. Because of this, I did something I rarely do: I pressed some seams open rather than to one side. Some quilt teachers will say to always press seams open or always press seams to the side. My pressing rule is to use the technique that works best for the situation. When the situation doesn't dictate one technique over another, I choose my favorite technique which is pressing to one side.

My block using fabrics from Connecting Threads went retro-bold this month! I didn't have enough of the cream fabric fat eighth left and couldn't find the extra yard I purchased (my shed is undergoing some revisions), so I used yellow and orange for my lights. The result reminds me of those cheddar cheese and red colors from long ago. It's not a combination I'd have chosen freely, but I like it now that I see it done.

Cutting Requirements

Color & amount	7" block	14" block	21" block
Color A (very light)			
4	1.5" x 1.5"	2.5" x 2.5"	3.5" x 3.5"
8	1.5" x 2.5"	2.5" x 4.5"	3.5" x 6.5"
Color B (light)			
4	1.5" x 1.5"	2.5" x 2.5"	3.5" x 3.5"
4	1.5" x 3.5"	2.5" x 6.5"	3.5" x 9.5"
Color C (medium)			
8	2.5" x 2.5"	4.5" x 4.5"	6.5" x 6.5"
Color D (medium)			
none			
Color E (dark)			
16	1.5" x 1.5"	2.5" x 2.5"	3.5" x 3.5"
Color F (very dark)			
1	1.5" x 1.5"	2.5" x 2.5"	3.5" x 3.5"

Directions for Assembling the Block

(scroll down for links to pdf files)

Step 1: Flying Geese Unit

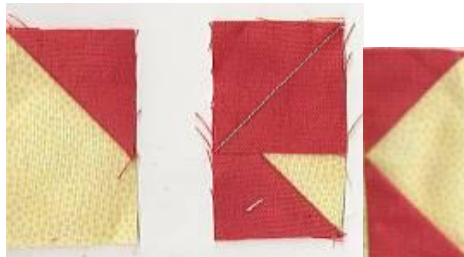
- A) Draw diagonal line on back side of all color E squares.
- B) Place color E square on one end of color A rectangle. Sew on diagonal line.
- C) Trim 1/4 inch from stitching.



Make 8.

- D) Press seam toward color E.

- E) Place another color E square on the opposite end of the color A rectangle. Sew on diagonal line.
- F) Trim 1/4 inch from stitching. Press seam open.



Make 8.

Step 2: Adding a HST to a Larger Square

- A) Draw a diagonal line on the back of the color B squares.
- B) Place a color B square on a corner of a color C square as shown. Sew on the diagonal line. Trim 1/4 inch from stitching.



Make 4.

- C) Press seam toward color C square.
- Note: if you forgot to press seams open in step 1f, you can press this seam open to help reduce bulk.

Step 3

Pin a Flying Geese unit to a color C unit as shown, making sure the bulky seam of one is opposite the bulky seam of the other. Sew together. Press seam toward color C. If your sewing machine balks at doing such a thick seam, try:

- a) flipping your unit so the Flying Geese is on the bottom, or
- b) start sewing at the center of the seam, sewing out to the edge, then repeat to the



Make 4.

other edge.

Step 4

Sew a color A square to a Flying Geese unit as shown. Press seam toward color A square.



Make 4.

Step 5

Pin a unit from the previous step to a color C unit as shown, once again making sure the bulkiest seams are opposite. Press seam toward color C or press open - experiment to find the best way for your fabrics.



Make 4.

You now have 4 "paw" units completed.

Step 6

Lay your 4 "paw" units on a flat surface in the positions they will go in the finished block. Sew a color B strip to the right side of the two "paw" units on the left side of the block. Press seams toward color B strips.



Make 2.

Step 7

Sew the "paw" units for the right side of the block to the color B strip of their respective left side counterparts. Press seams toward color B.



Make 2.

Step 8

Sew the color F square to a color B strip. Press seam toward color B.



Make 1.

Step 9

Sew remaining color B strip to color F square to make the center row. Press seam toward color B.



Make 1.

Step 10

Sew the center row to the top row. Press seam toward center row.



Step 11

Sew bottom row to center row. Press seam toward center row.

Press finished block and trim to square it if necessary.

