

BLOCK OF THE MONTH: A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN JUNE 2016

This is another easy block, and because it's so small and quick to make, you'll need four for each entry. It doesn't matter whether you use one or more solid white or white-on-white fabrics for the snowballs--no dirty snow (cream or beige), please--but all the corner fabrics should be different. In an ideal world, if you made a second or third set you would use sixteen new fabrics each time, but that might not be possible. Just don't use the same fabrics in the same combinations.

For each set, cut four 6" squares of the background fabric(s) and sixteen 2" squares for the corner blocks. Fold the small squares in half diagonally and press them well: this will give you your sewing line. Then open the squares out and place them in the corners of the background blocks as shown. Sew each square to the background fabric along the pressing.

To make life easier and to save thread, consider chain piecing the blocks rather than doing one block at a time. Sew all the upper right-hand corners, then all the lower rights, etc., until you run out of squares.

Once you have all the little squares sewn onto the big ones, press the inside points back to the corners (see below) and voila! You're done! Any imperfections in stitching will be hidden when the blocks are put together. You are starting out with 6" squares and you should end with 6" squares: they will finish at 5½" once the quilt is put together.

"But she left out the part about trimming," you say. You are wondering why I didn't mention removing the undersides of the corner triangles, and possibly the background fabric too, ¼" from the seam line. No, I didn't forget. **DO NOT TRIM THE CORNER BLOCKS!** Some experts advocate never trimming the corners; some say it's optional; some piecers will want to sew a second seam ½" from the original, trim between the two seams, and thus acquire a lot of teensy triangles for another project. I'm leaving the decision up to the winner.

