

# A Quilting Life Block of the Month 2018: December

Pattern by Sherri McConnell of [www.aquiltinglife.com](http://www.aquiltinglife.com) (for personal use only)

## Cutting:

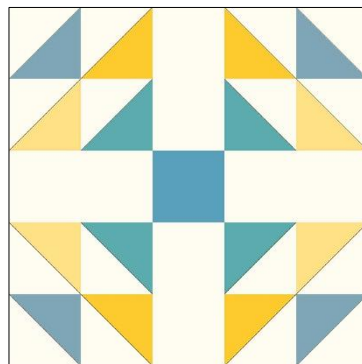
December:	6 1/4" Block (finished)	12 1/2" Block (finished)
Background	(8) 2 1/4" x 2 1/4" (4) 1 3/4" x 3"	(8) 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" (4) 3" x 5 1/2"
Medium (4-8 different prints)	(8) 2 1/4" x 2 1/4"	(8) 3 1/2" x 3 1/2"
Dark	(1) 1 3/4" x 1 3/4"	(1) 3" x 3"

Note: Directions are given for the 12 1/2" block with 6 1/4" block measurement information in parenthesis.

## Make the half-square triangle units:

**Note:** Pressing the half-square triangle seams open rather than to the darker fabric helps eliminate bulk in this block. Also, note that you will not be trimming all of the hst's you make in this step. Save the ones made with the larger pieces to make the quarter-square triangle units below.

1. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of eight background squares 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" (2 1/4" x 2 1/4"). Place background square right sides together with a 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" (2 1/4" x 2 1/4") medium square. Sew 1/4" away from either side of the line.
2. Cut on the drawn line to make two half square triangle units and press seams open. Trim the background/medium units to measure 3" x 3" (1 3/4" x 1 3/4"). Make 2 half-square triangles from each pair of fabrics. For more information on making half-square triangles, see the tutorial here: <http://www.aquiltinglife.com/2014/01/half-square-triangle-tutorial.html>



**Block Diagram**

## Assemble the Block:

1. Arrange the dark print center square 3" x 3" (1 3/4" x 1 3/4"), the background rectangles 3" x 5 1/2" (1 3/4" x 3"), and the half-square triangles 3" x 3" (1 3/4" x 1 3/4") as shown in the block diagram.
2. Sew the half-square triangles into four different units paying close attention to placement as shown in the diagram. Press each row in alternate directions so seams will nest when the rows are sewn together.
3. Sew the two top half-square triangle units to a background rectangle. Press towards the background rectangle. Repeat for the bottom half-square triangle unit.
4. Sew the center background rectangles to the center square.
5. Sew the top and bottom units from step 3 above to the center unit from step 4 above. I pressed the seams toward the center unit.