



GQCCC TechBOM

Grandmother's Flower Garden

Available at the September 15th, 2014 meeting Blocks due at November 17th meeting

This block utilizes the English Paper Piecing method.

"If quilts have taken the country by storm, then the hexagon Flower Garden, or Grandmother's Flower Garden, or the French Rose Garden---whatever your locality calls it---well, it's a whirlwind." *Romance of the Patchwork Quilt - 1935*

Barbara Brackman reports that the Grandmother's Flower Garden was the most popular pattern after 1925. She tells us, "...many women who never made another quilt finished a Grandmother's Flower Garden." 2

Instructions:

Make templates 1 1/2" - This measurement is along one side of the hexagon. I purchased 1 1/2" hexagon templates from a quilt shop. Look for these: [Link for premade paper templates](#)

Pin and baste fabric onto templates following general directions as follows: 1 yellow for center 6 deeper flower color 12 light to medium flower color

Assemble by whip stitching the yellow center to a deep color piece. Continue adding deep pieces around yellow center hexagon, sewing between deep hexagons as well. Add next row of light to medium color hexagons sewing straight edges together.

If you get stuck, you can call me, or check out any of the resources online. Search "Grandmother's Flower Garden pattern" for tons of hits!

Technique: & General Directions: (adapted from www.allpeoplequilt.com)

English paper piecing, a technique of stabilizing fabric with a paper template, is most effective for designs that don't have long straight sides but do have numerous set-in corners, such as the hexagon shapes in a Grandmother's Flower Garden quilt. Many precut paper templates are available through quilt shops and by mail order. If you wish to make your own templates, trace the pattern on sturdy paper multiple times and cut out carefully and accurately. Some directions call for freezer paper templates, ironed onto the backside of your fabric.

Pin a paper template, right side down, to backside of fabric. Cut out around the template with a 1/4" seam allowance. Your seam allowance does not have to be exact because the template will be an accurate guide. Fold the seam allowance over one edge. Beginning with a knot on the right side of the fabric, baste the seam allowance in place; stitch through the fabric and the paper template with 1/4"-long stitches. Finger-press the basted edge. Repeat until all fabric pieces have been basted to paper templates.

As you approach a corner, fold the seam allowance of the next edge over the template and continue stitching. Stitch all edges in the same manner. Don't knot the thread as you finish, but do leave a thread tail of about 1/2" or so, on the fabric's right side.

Place two fabric-covered templates with right sides together, aligning the edges to be joined. Pin the pieces together at the center. With a single strand of quilting thread, begin stitching about 1/8" from one corner using tiny whipstitches and catching a thread of both fabric folds. You'll feel the paper templates with your needle, but do not stitch through them.

Backstitch to the nearest corner. Once you reach the corner, reverse the direction of your stitching and sew across the edges to the opposite corner. Take a backstitch, and knot the thread with the knot in the fabric using a backstitch loop knot. Lightly press open the joined pieces and check the seam from the right side. Stitches should not show. If they do, take smaller whipstitches through less of the fabric folds as you sew.

To set in a piece, pin and sew the seam on one side. Reposition the stitched pieces so the next seam is aligned and continue sewing. When all edges of a piece have been stitched to adjoining pieces, remove the paper template, pulling the basting threads and templates out from the back. Press.

http://www.patternsfromhistory.com/colonial_revival/flower_garden.htm

http://www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/art/htmls/ks_tech_epp.html

Reference:

Judy Anne Breneman
Womenfolk: Quilting History
<http://www.womenfolk.com/>

