March 2015 Block of the Month
Churn Dash

History of the Block:

Another easy to construct block, this block also may have been one of the beginner blocks new quilters would learn. The name comes from the similarity in appearance to a butter churn (triangle and rectangle components) and the dash, or stick used to push and pull the churn up and down (large center square).

Construction of the Block:

Overall, this block is constructed like a Nine Patch block, using several different components. These components include one square component, four half square triangle components, and four rectangle components.

Cutting Instructions:

From background fabric

Two 5.5" squares
One 4.5 inch square
One 2.5 inch strip that is 19 inches long (Or four pieces 2.5 x 4.5 inches long if not strip piecing.)

Corner unit contrast fabric
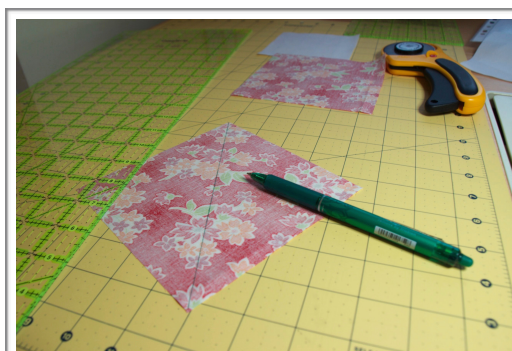
Two 5.5 inch squares

Rectangle Unit contrast Fabric

Cut one 2.5 inch strip that is 19 inches long (or four pieces 2.5 x 4.5 inches long if not strip piecing)

Constructing Corner Units (Half square triangles):

Take your background fabric and corner unit fabric and lay one on top of the other.
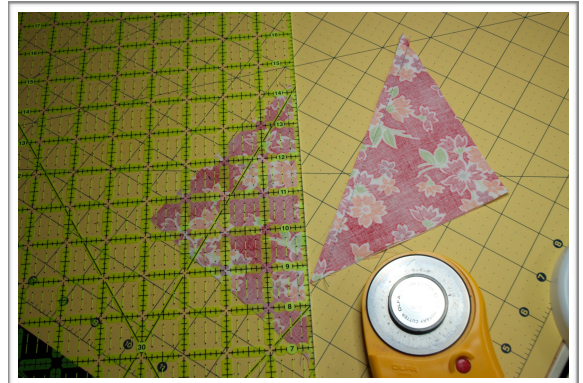
Draw a line from one corner to the other.

Sew 1/4" from the line on each side of the line.   Cut on the line
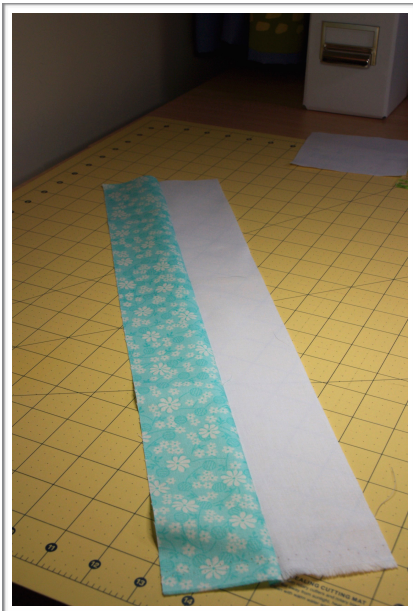

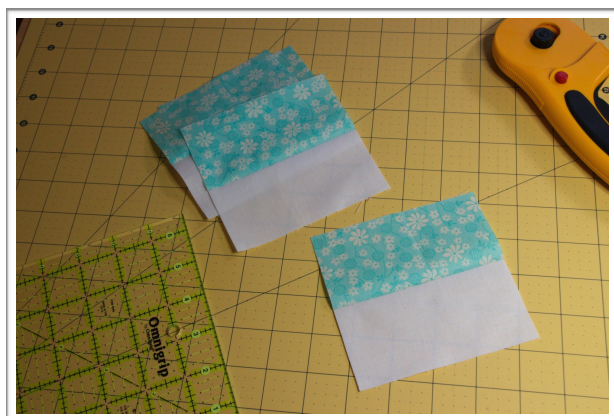Press your half square triangles open.

Trim to 4.5 inches.

You should have four total Half Square Triangle units. You could also use your favorite way to make half square triangle units, just be sure to have the finished measurements of the unit be 4.5 inches.

Constructing Rectangle Units:

Sew your background strip and rectangle strip together into a strip set. Press.

From your strip set, cut units 4.5 inches long.

If you're constructing using four background/four contrast fabrics assemble a total of four pairs of background/contrast units.

Block Assembly

Arrange your units into your 9-patch assembly layout.

Sew your rows together, and press row seams in alternate directions so you can nest the seams together.

Sew your rows together.

Any questions? Please contact corkips@gmail.com