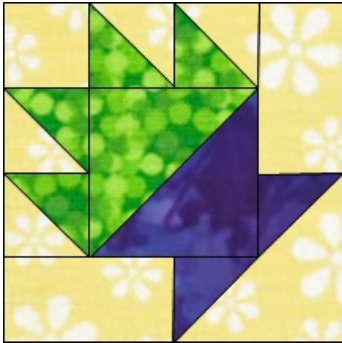


## April 2017 – 8-inch Cactus Pot Block



The Cactus Pot block is a traditional block, first published in a monthly column in the Oklahoma Farmer Stockman, on January 1, 1930.

We made a 6 inch version of this block (with different fabric guidelines for the May, 2009 Block Lotto. This time we will be making blocks with a yellow or gold background, bright cactus and light or dark pots.

This block offers the challenge of working with bias edges and different sized Half-square Triangle units.

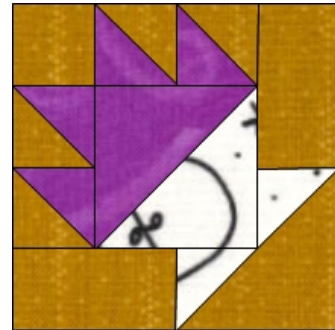
### FABRIC GUIDELINES

These blocks are made from three fabrics:

**Background** – Yellow or gold fabric that may be a solid, a tone-on-tone print, or a multicolor print that is predominately yellow or gold

**Cactus** – Your choice of fabric in one or more bright color(s).

**Pot**– Also your choice. The Pot fabric should either be the **LIGHTEST** or **DARKEST** fabric in your block. The drawing above shows a block with a dark purple pot; the one at the right has a light fabric pot.



In your blocks, “lighter” and “Darker” are relative to one another. When in doubt, apply a black and white filter with your camera/phone or photo app to be sure.

If you are making multiple blocks, you can repeat fabrics as long as each block unique. No twins!

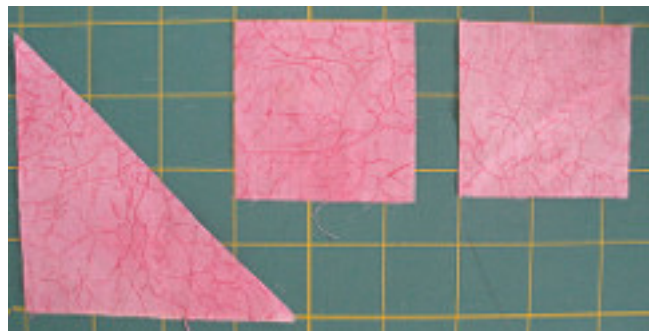
**IMPORTANT NOTE: THE IN-PROGRESS PHOTOS IN THESE DIRECTIONS DO NOT FOLLOW THE FABRIC GUIDELINES FOR THE BLOCK LOTTO THIS MONTH**

### CUTTING FABRIC

From your CACTUS fabric:

One large triangle\*, cut from a 4 7/8-inch square cut diagonally

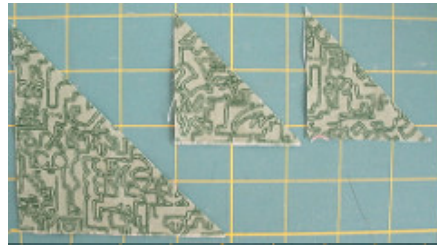
Two 2 7/8-inch squares\*



From your POT fabric:

One large triangle\*, cut from a 4 7/8-inch square cut diagonally

Two small triangles, cut from a 2 7/8-inch square, cut diagonally



From your BACKGROUND fabric:

One large triangle, cut from a 4 7/8-inch square cut diagonally

Two 2 7/8-inch squares\*

One 2 1/2-inch square

Two 2 1/2-inch by 4 1/2-inch rectangles



Note: The squares and triangles marked with asterisks\* will be used to make 4-inch and 2-inch (finished sizes) half square triangle units. If you like to round up and trim afterward, these pieces can be cut larger. Or, if you prefer to use different way of cutting and sewing the HST units, that's OK, too.

### SEWING THE BLOCK

1. Sew the Large triangles of Cactus and Pot to form a square. It should form a square measure 4.5 inches.



2. Use the 2 7/8-inch squares of Cactus and Background fabrics to make 4 half square triangle units using the 2-at-once method. They should each measure 2 1/2-inches.



3. Lay out these units plus the square of background fabric—this will help you make sure the cactus points are going in the right direction before sewing them together . . . at least on the first block or two.

Sew two strips, one with two triangle units and the other with two triangle units and the background square.



4. First attach the strip with the 2 HST units.



5. Then add the longer strip to the other side



6. Next sew the two small Pot triangles to the end of the Background rectangles.

You need to be very gentle when sewing and especially pressing these because of the bias edges at the "bottom" of this step.



7. After these are sewn to the sides and, again, gently pressed to avoid stretching, the remaining, large background triangle (which should not be cut larger, will fit EXACTLY, to complete the block.

You're done!



#### Measurement check:

Your block should measure  $8 \frac{1}{2}$  inches (for a finished size of 8 inches when sewn into a quilt by one of the winners).