The theme for 2014 Block of the Month program is "Good Foundations." As the year progresses, the paper pieced blocks will increase in complexity. We hope you enjoy learning and honing your skills with this precise method of making quilt blocks.

"Maple Leaf" was designed by Jennifer Ofenstein at http://sewhooked.com/ and is made with just two contrasting fall fabrics. Unfinished block is 6-1/2" square; finished is 6". The pattern is attached to this direction sheet. Using a 90 needle and a stitch length of 1.5, sew directly on the pattern lines. Do not remove the paper except when sewing sections together and pressing seams open.

If you have been following "Good Foundations," you should feel comfortable with the process of paper piecing. To help you figure out patterns on your own, two processes will be covered with "Maple Leaf."

How to cut the right size pieces:

1. Each piece must be cut so there is enough fabric to fill not only the pattern, but also the seam allowance plus a bit extra (refer to attached pattern).
2. For example, Section A, piece 1. Set your ruler as shown with 1/4" beyond the line where 1 meets 4. Align the ruler at least 1/4" beyond the furthest right, left and opposite points. In this example (shown edged in pink), piece 1 would be a 2" square.
3. Cut rectangles to fit each piece.

How to figure sharply angled pieces:

1. For example, Section D, 3+4+5+6 > 7. Lay the fabric for piece 7 parallel to edge of the block. Cut 7 parallel to 3+4+5+6 (-----).
2. Lay cut edge along 3+4+5+6. Sew on pattern line.
3. Press open; piece and seam allowance are covered.

Don't stress ... have fun ... lots of good skills to learn with this block!

Jim Jensen and Marlene Sullivan
2014 Block of the Month Committee
"Maple Leaf"

Sewing order:
A > B, then AB > C > D

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