

October 2017 LOTTO BLOCK Due October 4<sup>th</sup>

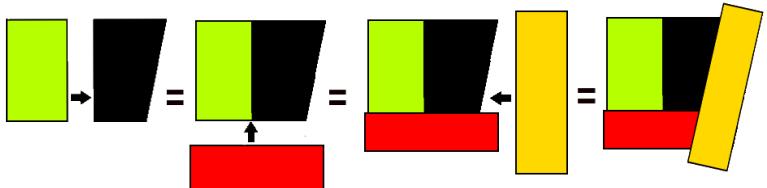
## Crumb blocks – Finished size 10" (10 ½" unfinished)

A crumb block is a block made up of scraps of **BRIGHT** fabrics that would have otherwise ended up in the trash. Sometimes extra pre-pieced pieces leftover from other quilts or blocks that were mistakes are used to add to the crumb blocks. The goal is to use up as much of the "small stuff" as you can.

This crumb block is made up of four sub-blocks, with sashing, a center-stone, and a border.

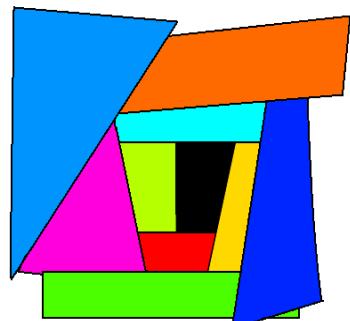
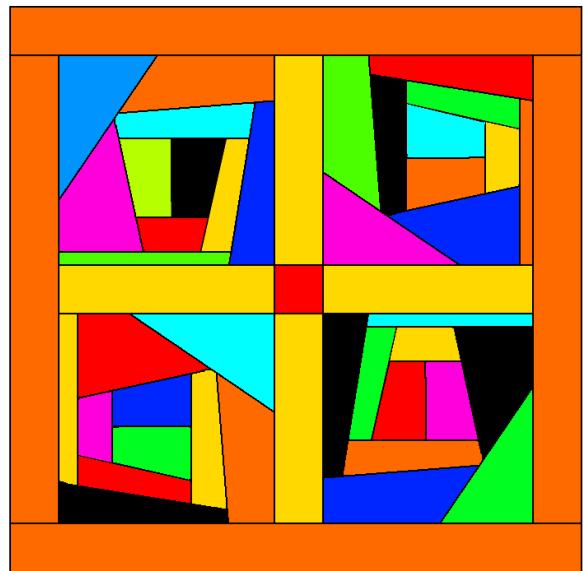
### How to make the 4 crumb sub-blocks:

1. **Start by grabbing** a couple of handfuls of scraps from your scrap bin. **Look for BRIGHT fabrics.**
2. **Prepare your scraps.** Press them all before starting. It's important that every piece have a straight edge to use as the seam guide. Most of the pieces will have at least one straight edge. Unless they're flat you won't know which edge is actually straight. If you use a piece without a straight edge, you need to cut one edge straight when you use it. It has to lie flat to get a straight cut so it needs to be pressed. Take your selection of scraps and press them. While you're at it, separate out the small pieces. Use them first, in the centers of your blocks. It's much harder to use them later.
3. **Start a sub-block.** For each of the 4 sub-blocks, start by sewing two small pieces together. If one has a straight edge use it as the guide for this first seam. If not, cut a straight edge on one of the pieces of fabric.



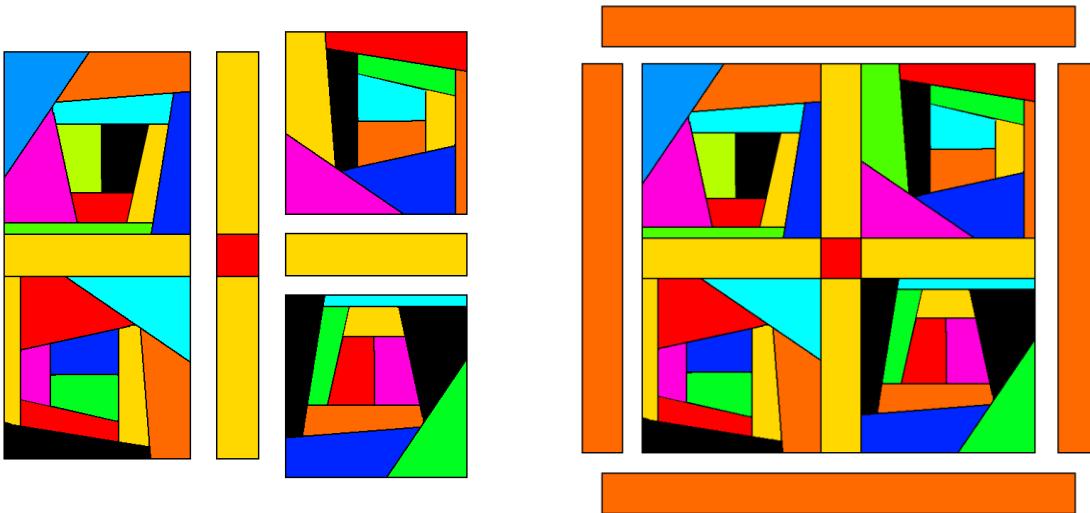
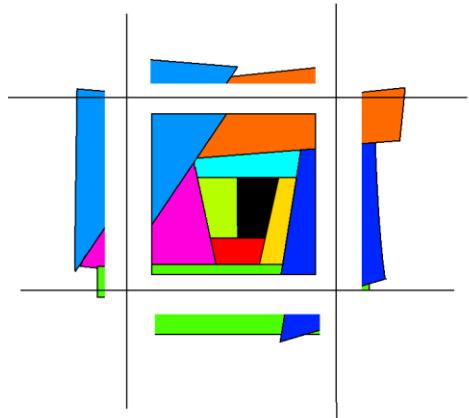
**\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*** although a 1/4" seam is important in MOST quilt piecing, it really isn't with crumb piecing. What you want is a **STRAIGHT** seam. Seams have to be straight so that the block will lie flat, if you have a curved seam, you are going to have hills and ripples in your block. Shoot for a straight seam every time, even if the edge of your "crumb" is crooked! You can add a scrap that has a straight edge to a wonky edge of block. Use the straight top scrap as a seam guide to correct the wonky edge of the piece.

4. **Press the seam.** Every seam needs to be pressed before you sew over it or the finished sub-block won't lie flat.
5. **Build the sub-block.** Add the next piece of fabric, using its straight edge as your seam guide. Continue adding pieces or strips, building the sub-block larger with each one you add. Add each strip so it crosses one of the previous seams. Press every seam before sewing across it. Remember you are building a square. Keep working toward making a square that is a little bigger than 4". Work out from the center or up from a corner.



## Assembling the block:

1. Trim your four crumb blocks to 4".
2. Cut sashing & center-stone using a contrasting or unifying colors.
  - a. Cut four 4" x 1½" strips
  - b. Cut one cornerstone 1½" x 1½"
3. Sew 2 of the sashing pieces to 2 of the crumb sub-blocks and then sew the remaining two crumb sub-blocks to the other side of each sashing.
4. Sew the remaining 2 sashing pieces to either side of the center-stone.
5. Sew the crumb strips to either side of the center-stone strip.
6. Cut the borders from a contrasting or unifying color.
  - a. Cut two 8½" x 1½" strips
  - b. Cut two 10½" x 1½" strips
7. Sew the two 8½" strips to opposite sides of the block then add the longer strips to the remaining sides to finish the block. Your block should measure 10½" x 10½"



## More Helps!

- Work all four blocks at the same time. This allows continuous piecing. Since every seam has to be pressed before you can sew across it, it can speed things up if you get up and press four blocks rather than doing one at a time.
- If you have one piece of fabric that really stands out, use it in a number of blocks (not as one big piece in one block) or the quilt has one spot that draws the eye.
- Blocks with a diagonal line are more interesting than blocks with only horizontal and vertical lines
- Sew leftover squares of fabric together to make strips – remember to cut one edge straight
- If adding a strip with seams in it, press toward the piece with the fewest seams
- Use any of the following as the first piece of your block: crumbs, partial blocks, pieces of strip sets, half-square triangles.
- If the piece on top is straight, the one under it doesn't have to be
- After each strip is added, trim the seam allowance to ¼ inch to keep bulk to a minimum. (if required)
- When trimming, keep those triangles and bits you're cutting off. You'll be surprised how often you want just that size to fill in a corner.
- Lay the block on the ruler to determine when to stop building it. Make it a little bigger than the desired finished size. Add small pieces to corners if required

Information and text for making crumb blocks was taken and edited for content from Bonnie Hunter's blog: <http://quiltville.blogspot.com/crumbs-crumbs-crumbs>