

# *Schoolgirl Sampler Sew Along*

## Week 2

This week, make Blocks numbered **7 through 12** on pages 43 - 45 of the Schoolgirl Sampler book. There are two easy ones - Yay!



(Blocks by Sue Bennett)

You'll get more practice making the 1 ½" finished half-square triangles (HSTs) again. See my HST tip in the file for Week 1. Some like to cut their squares larger and then trim down after sewing so that's an option if you don't like cutting 7/8" pieces. Take your time and cut accurately. If you're having trouble getting your blocks to come out correctly, try doing these three things -

\* Make sure you are sewing a scant ¼" seam (a bit less than 1/4 ").

\* Try changing your machine needle to a thinner one - Size 75/11 Universal or 70/10 Microtex Sharp.

\* Try Aurifil thread, an excellent fine thread to go along with the finer needle.

I find that doing all three makes a difference in my little blocks.

If there's one block that always seems to give people trouble, it's the little basket block (# 7). The problem seems to come when you line up the base and sides incorrectly. If some of you are having trouble putting the block together, see if this helps:

First, make the half-square triangles (red check) and sew together in pairs as shown. Sew the 2 top ones together with the small background square. Sew the other two to the side of the larger blue and light print HST. Then sew these units together to make the basket body.

Next, sew the small blue triangles to the light rectangles as shown, making sure the points hang over as you see in the pic. Sew them to the sides of the basket unit. Triangle points will overlap at the basket point. This is part of your seam allowance so make sure there is 1/4 " overlapping below the point or your basket point will be cut off. Then, sew the light background triangle to the basket base. Use a scant 1/4 " seam (a bit less than 1/4 ") throughout and you should have no trouble. Remember to press after each step.



If you can master those tiny HSTs, the rest of the blocks are a breeze. Keep in mind these are only suggestions. I'm sure all of you have your own way of doing things and if it works for you, great - keep doing that.

And, again, if you finish the blocks this week and have some time, make a few more 2 ½" half-square triangles for the sawtooth border if you're planning to add it to your quilt. You'll end up needing 92 of these so it'll be easier if you make a few at a time as we sew along. (See page 17 in the book.)

Stay motivated - The next six blocks will be posted on **Friday, January 15.**

