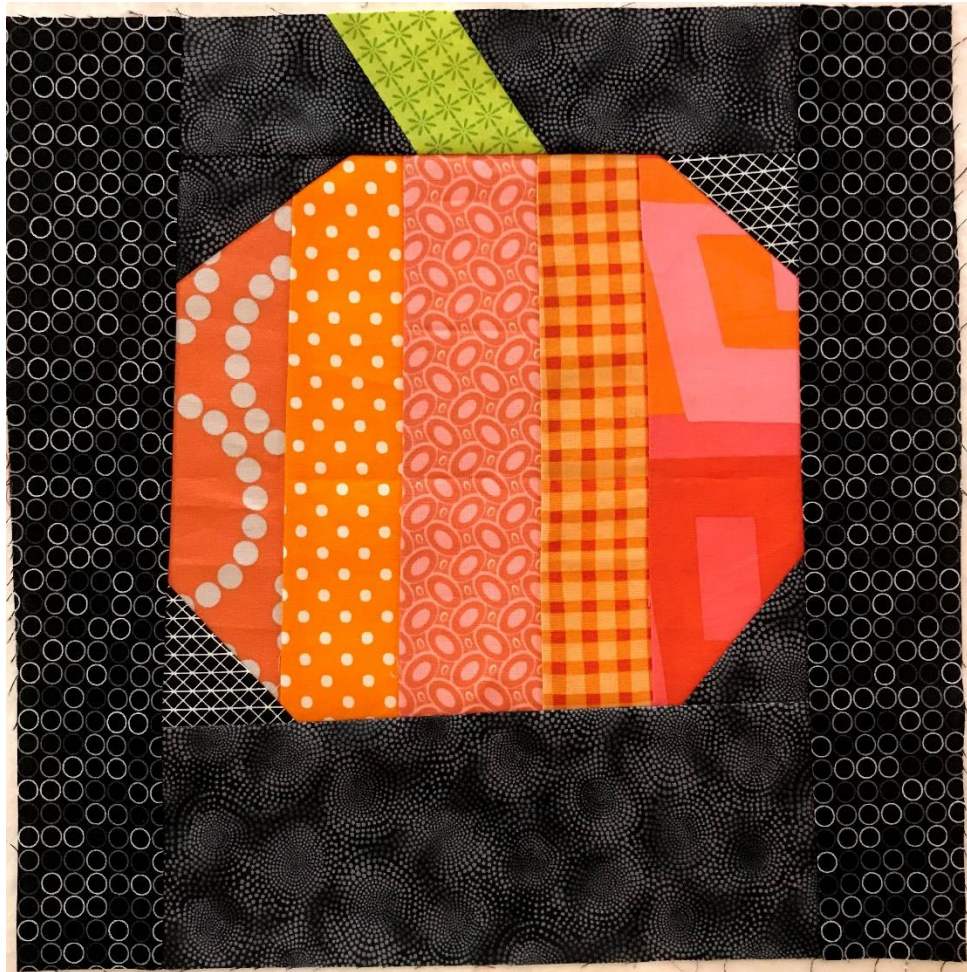


October Block Lotto: Scrappy Improv Pumpkin Block



We'll be making a spooooooky pumpkin block for Hallowe'en/October! Block size is 12½" unfinished.

Colourway:

Background: modern black/white fabrics that read primarily black – at least three different prints to give the block a scrappy look.

Pumpkin: Modern orangey fabrics.

Stem: green, brown, whatever you fancy.

How to Make the Improv Scrappy Pumpkin Block

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: Let go of your need to measure exactly! These instructions feature a lot of approximations. You can do it! Read through the instructions first to get a sense of what you need to make your block.

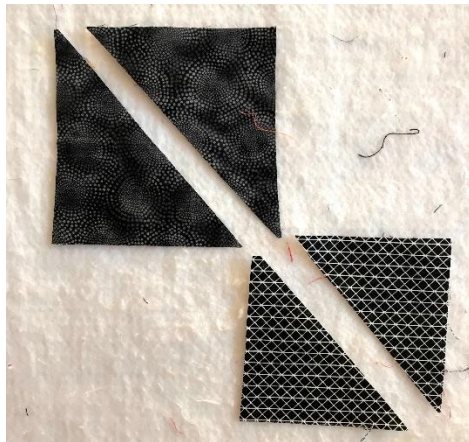
MAKE THE PUMPKIN SEGMENT:

Collect 5 to 6 strips of modern orangey fabric around 6" to 8" in length. Can be longer or shorter but bear in mind your pumpkin will only be as tall as your shortest strip. Also, the lengths should ideally not differ more than about 1" meaning your shortest strip should be no more than 1"

shorter than your longest. Trim scraps if necessary. Total width of the strips laid side by side should be around 8"-9" (ish). Sew strips together in a strip set and press seams. This strip set is the pumpkin.



Take two squarish scraps of black fabric that measure around 3" to 4" and cut them in half. You don't even need to use a ruler. Just cut those bad boys freehand if you want. Or use a ruler if you like.



Now we're going to add background corners to the pumpkin using a stitch and flip triangle technique. Take one of the triangles you just created and lay it face down across the corner of your pumpkin strip set. Make sure it extends around 1/2" from the triangle tips. You can even hold down the edge and flip it over to make sure it completely covers the background before you stitch it down. Using a 1/4" seam, stitch down the triangle corner.



Flip it up and back and make sure it covers the pumpkin corner completely. Stitch background triangles onto the other 3 corners of the pumpkin.



Once all the corners are attached and you're sure they will fully cover the pumpkin corner, go ahead and trim away the pumpkin fabric corners that extend beyond the edges of the triangles.



Flip the background triangles up and back and press them in place.



Trim all sides of the pumpkin segment with your ruler. The pumpkin segment doesn't have to have square corners, just make sure each side is trimmed straight.

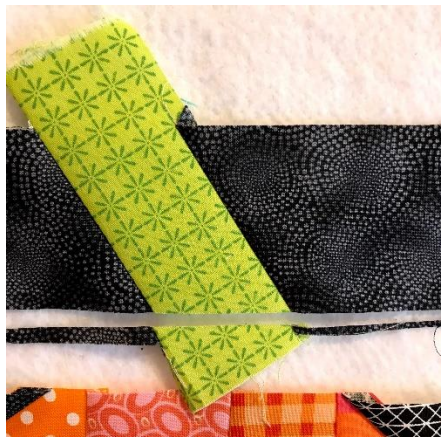


MAKE THE STEM SEGMENT:

Take a 2"-2.5" strip of background that is as long as the pumpkin is wide plus around 1". Make a cut in the centre of the strip that's straight or angled like mine. You will be inserting a piece of stem fabric into this gap. Choose a scrap of fabric for the stem that's about 1.5" wide and long enough that it extends well past the background strip on top and bottom (see photo).



Stitch the stem piece into the background to create the stem segment. Trim the **bottom** of the stem segment.



COMPLETE THE CENTRE BLOCK SEGMENT

Attach the stem segment to the top of the pumpkin segment. Find a scrap of background that is at least as wide as the pumpkin segment, and tall enough so that it and the pumpkin segment measure around 14".



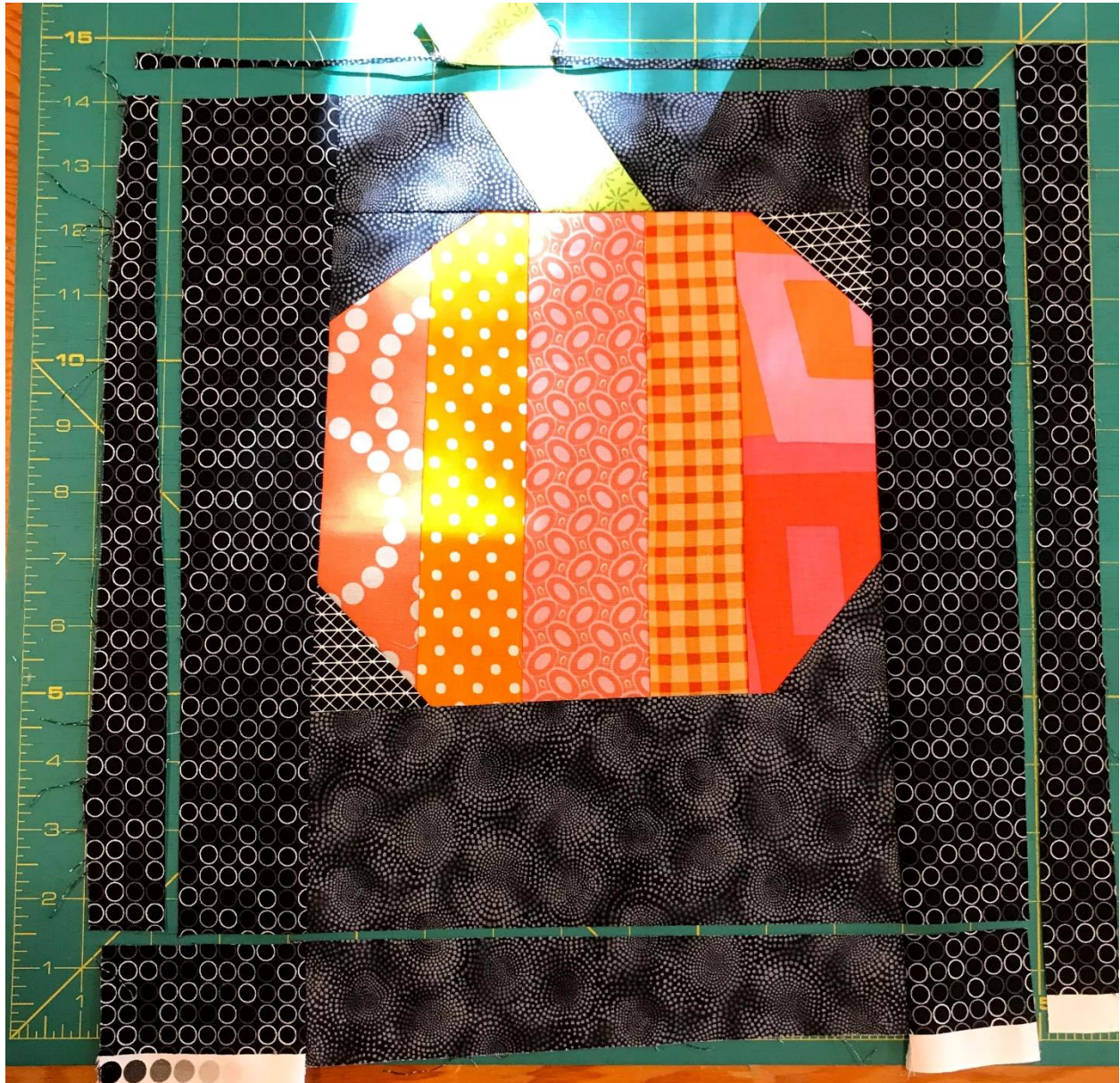
Attach the background to the bottom of the pumpkin segment to create the centre block segment (shown in next photo).

ADD BLOCK SIDES AND COMPLETE BLOCK

Finally, choose two more strips of background that are at least as tall as the centre block segment and wide enough that when they are laid alongside the centre block segment, the whole thing measures around 14".



Attach to either side of the centre block segment and trim to 12.5"



TROUBLESHOOTING

If a segment is too small, add some fabric. If it's too big, trim it. Trim between steps if you want (eg. If the sides of the centre block segment are very uneven, feel free to trim sides straight, but you don't need to square until the very end).