

Seymour Quilters' Guild Block of the Month - March 2026

Nonsense Block

Fabric Requirements:

Colour 1 (white background):

Cut (2) 5" squares for HSTs

Cut (2) 5½" x 5½" for the hourglass blocks

Colour 2 (Pink):

Cut (2) 5" squares for HSTs

Cut (2) 5½" x 5½" to make the hourglass blocks



Colour 3 (Centre Focus):

Cut (1) 4½" x 4½" square for the focus fabric. You may wish to fussy cut a square for the centre.

Step 1 (HSTs):

Take your 5" squares of the white and pink fabric to make the HSTs. Draw a diagonal line on the back of the white background squares and place right sides together on top of the pink squares. Sew on each side of the diagonal line. Cut apart. Press towards the darker fabric. Trim to 4½" x 4½". You will have 4 HSTs.

Step 2 (Hourglass blocks):

Take your 5½" x 5½" squares of white background and the 5½" x 5½" pink squares. Draw a diagonal line on the back of the white background squares and place right sides together on top of the pink squares. Sew on each side of the diagonal line. Cut apart. Press towards the darker fabric. This will make the HSTs for your hourglass block. **Do not** trim your HSTs for the hourglass block as the trimming will be done in the next step.

To assemble the hourglass block, place two of the HSTs and place them right sides together, making sure the colours are opposite each other and the seams are aligned in the same directions. Draw another diagonal line perpendicular to the seams. Sew on each side of your diagonal line. Cut apart which will give you two hourglass blocks. Press your seams open or press to one side and "twirl" the seams to reduce the bulk. Trim the hourglass units to measure 4½" x 4½".

Repeat for the remaining two HSTs to make the other two hourglass blocks.

Step 3:

All your units should measure $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ ". You will now layout all the units as shown in the block pictured above like a nine patch. Your HSTs will be placed in the corners, and your hourglass blocks will be placed around the top, bottom and sides of your centre focus fabric. See photograph for colour placement as you want your focus fabric to look as if it is in a box.

Sew the three horizontal rows together. Press the seams for the top and bottom rows to the outsides, and the middle row towards the centre. Join the rows together. Your block should measure $12\frac{1}{2}$ " x $12\frac{1}{2}$ " unfinished.

The Nonsense block was made by Carrie Nelson at 8" finished. However, I decided to recalculate the cutting for each piece so that the unfinished block would be $12\frac{1}{2}$ " x $12\frac{1}{2}$ " (which would be 12" x 12" finished).

Interesting Fact:

I did some research on this block and it is c. 1898. It is also referred to as the Box block. There is another block that is very similar called Boy's Nonsense. The only difference between the two blocks is the hourglass block. The Boy's Nonsense block is made with Quarter Square Triangles. See images below for the Nonsense block and the Boy's Nonsense block.

Happy Quilting!

Susanne Dickenson

Nonsense block:



Boy's Nonsense block:

