Ignite

inspired by NQM Collection Artist Judith Larzelere

Sample by: Becky Glasby
Becky Glasby is a self-taught quilter who turned her love of quilting from a personal hobby into a professional career when she moved to Paducah to start working at the National Quilt Museum as the Director of Education.

At the museum Becky works to inspire the next generation of quilters and promote the art of quilting through: youth & adult tours, hands-on programs, off-site visits, community collaborations, the Block of the Month Club program, and coordinating the annual School Block Challenge for students across the country.

Becky enjoys sharing her love of quilting with everyone she meets, and loves encouraging creativity in other quilters.

Blog: https://bumblebzs.blogspot.com/

Instagram: @bumblybzs
“I work abstractly and I am interested in setting up an ambiguous figure/ground dialogue through the manipulation of hue and value. I feel committed to piecing because I see it as the most unique aspect of art making in this medium.” — Judith Larzelere

“Red Squared” is part of the collection of the National Quilt Museum
Sample Block

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Materials

- 5-7 gradations of light to dark in a color family — Fat Eighth of each color
- 1 Contrasting color for a pop of color — Fat Eighth
- Removable marking pen — I like the Dritz blue Mark-B-Gone which is water soluble

Cutting

To start cut 3 strips at 1 ½” x WOF from each color, including the contrasting pop.

From the contrasting pop - subcut 16-22 pieces that measure 1” x 1 ½”.

From the remaining colors, subcut several pieces of each size to start, more may be cut to fill out the design as you go.

1 ½” x 3”
1 ½” x 4”
1 ½” x 5”
1 ½” x 6”

Tip: I found it useful to tape a 12 ½” square to my table to help visualize the space that needed to be filled (Photo 2). Use the diagram (Photo 3) as reference for piecing sections.
Instructions

We’ll work to have the lighter colors in the center and move the darker colors towards the outer edges. We’ll work in sections alphabetically, but keep in mind that as the design grows, pieces may need to be added or adjusted to account for seam allowances.

1. Starting with Section A, begin laying out strips of the two lightest colors along the diagonal to fill your square. Add the pop pieces between strips (Photo 4).

2. Continue to lay out and adjust strips and pop pieces from the first diagonal towards the upper left corner, moving from light to dark as you go (Photo 5).

Be sure to check that your ¼” seam allowance is accurate.


4. Continue sewing together each row in Section A and lay them back into the design. Make sure the rows extend past the tape square, the uneven edges will be trimmed later.

5. Sew the rows in Section A together and press all seams open (Photo 6).
6. Start laying out the pieces for Section B, keeping the idea of light in the center and dark in the corners (Photo 7).

7. Stitch the pieces into rows. Press all seams open.

8. Stitch the rows together to create Section B and press all seams open. The edges that will touch Section A should be evenly lined up as the rows come together (Photo 8).

9. Layout Section C pieces, allowing some overlap into Sections A & B at this step (Photo 9).

10. Stitch the pieces into rows and press all seams open.
11. To stitch the rows together, they will need to be staggered by 1” from the top right corner of Section C. So the second row down will extend 1” on the left end (the side that will touch Section A) from the first row (Photo 10).

12. Continue to stagger these rows until you reach the ones that will touch Section B. Then the stagger can drop back until all of Section C is sewn and seams are pressed open (Photo 11).

13. Place Section B on top of Section C where they will join, adjusting the angle as needed. Mark on Section C with a removable pen where they overlap (Photo 12). Set Section B aside.
14. Measure a ¼” away from the marked line and trim Section C along the angle (Photo 13). Remove the marked line.

15. Place Section B right sides together with the trimmed edge of Section C and sew the pieces together into Section BC. Press seams open (Photo 14).

16. To trim Section BC, line the ruler up along the straight edge of section B, and trim any excess fabric away (Photo 15).
17. Place Section A right sides together with Section BC and sew. Press seam open (Photo 16 & 17).
18. Trim block to 12 ½” x 12 ½” (Photo 18 & 19).

Finished? Fantastic!