

Maine - Honey Bee Block

The Honey Bee block dates back to 1840 but in 1929, Ruby McKim added the center 9 patch for the Kansas City Star newspaper. It is usually a 12 inch block with a 6 inch center 9 patch. It can be found on many websites and in most any book of quilt blocks. The gold "wings" on each corner represent the honey bees, which is the state insect of Maine.

Cutting -

Center - 5 red 2 inch squares and 4 white 2 inch squares
4 white 2 3/4 inch squares for the corners
4 blue 2 3/4 x 5 inch rectangles for the sides.
gold scraps for the 'bees'

Construction -

Make the center 9 patch as shown.



Sew one white to each end of 2 of the blue rectangles for the top and bottom rows.
Sew the other 2 blue rectangles to each side of the center 9 patch.
Sew the 3 sections together as shown.

Add gold "bees" using your favorite applique method - either fusible applique or needle turn applique.

If using fusible, draw the bees on the fusible then fuse it to the BACK of your gold and cut them out. Fuse to each corner as shown.

If using needle turn, draw the bee on the fabric then cut them out leaving about 1/4 inch all the way around. pin to your corners and sew them down turning the edges under as you go.

