

## PVQA Block of the Month—December 2024: Pumpkin



Pumpkins aren't just for Halloween. They appear throughout the fall and winter on holiday tables and in decorations. And they don't have to be orange!

Your kit includes the background and stem fabrics. You provide the fabric(s) for the pumpkin body, leaf, and for the stem if you prefer something different.

The center of the pumpkin is 6" wide by 9" high. Instead of using three strips of fabric as in the example shown on the left, you can be creative and make that part anything you'd like, from scrappy to a conventional block like the example on the right. The colors and patterns of the fabrics should be whatever makes you happy.

### Cut

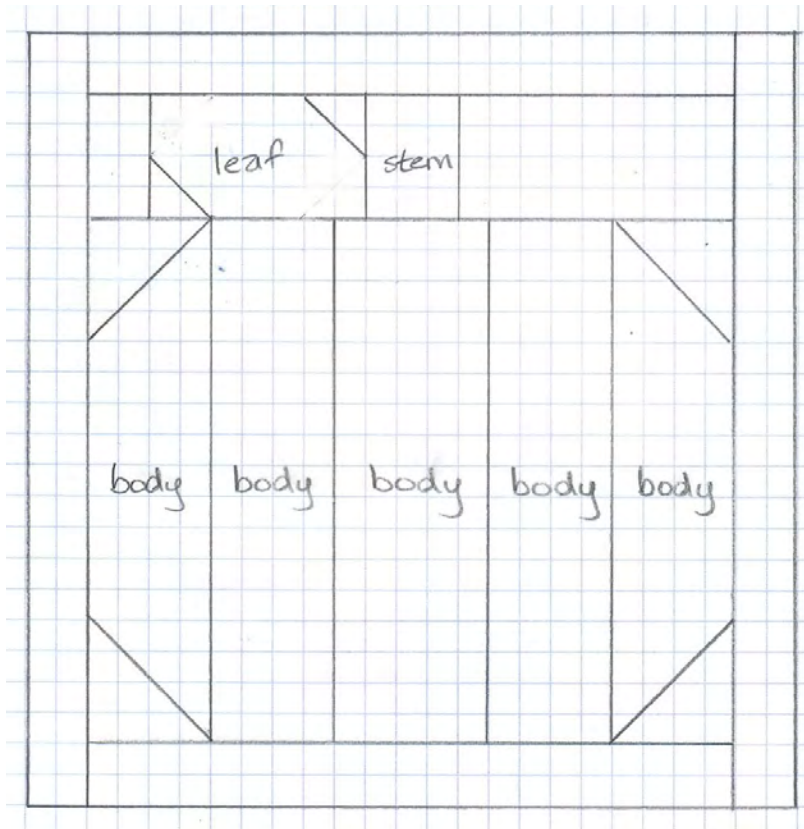
- **Background**
  - Two pieces 2" x 14"
  - Two pieces 2" x 11"
  - One piece 5" x 2½"
  - One piece 1½" x 2½"
  - Four 2 ½" squares
  - Two 1" squares
- **Pumpkin body**
  - Four pieces 2½" x 9" (two for the outside edges, two for the inner edges)
  - One piece 3" x 9" (for the center)
- **Stem**
  - One piece 2" x 2½"
- **Leaf**
  - One piece 4" x 2½"

Make sure all the pieces are pressed so they sit nice and flat.

## Instructions

### *Step One—Lay out the pieces*

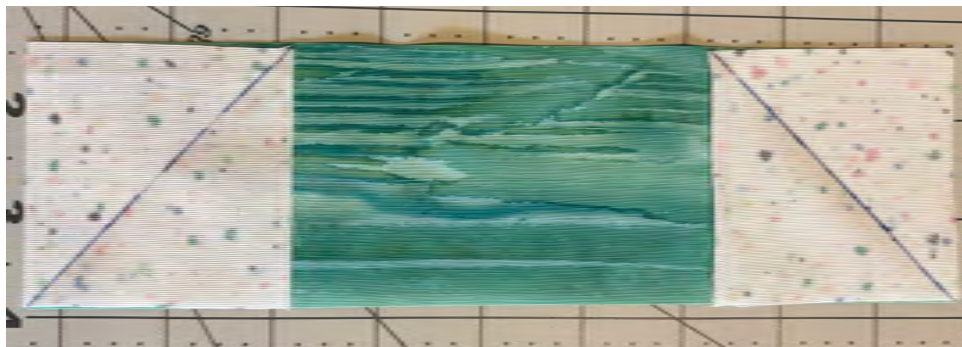
Lay out the pieces in the arrangement of the pumpkin block. This will make it easier to sew.



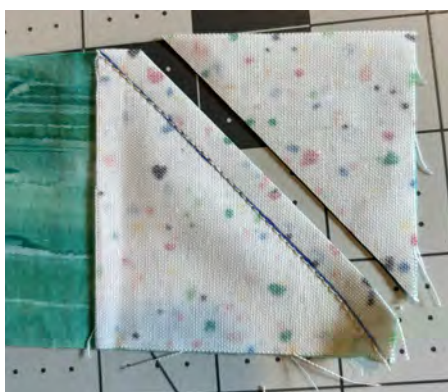
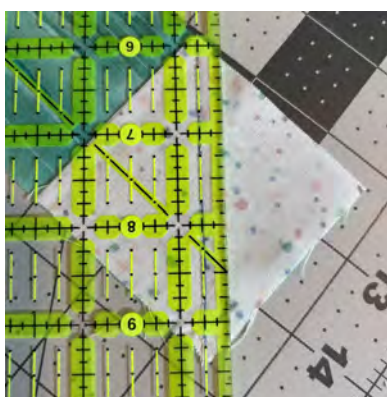


## Step Two—Pumpkin body

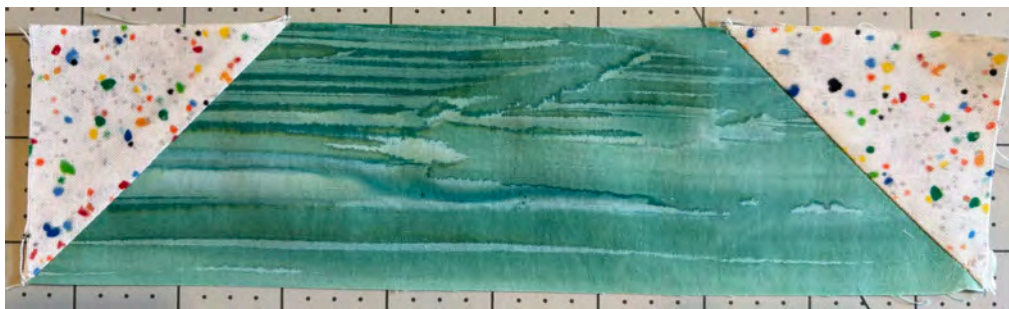
1. Place a 2½" background square onto each end of one of the 2½" by 9" strips, with the right sides of the fabric facing each other. Draw a line on the back of one of the squares diagonally from corner to corner. Do the same on the second square along the opposite diagonal. Sew along the drawn lines.



2. Place your ruler's ¼" line on the seam line and cut off the excess.



3. Press the corners open.



4. Repeat for the strip on the other side of the pumpkin.

5. Sew the three strips comprising the center of the pumpkin body together along the long edges using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Press the seams toward the center strip.

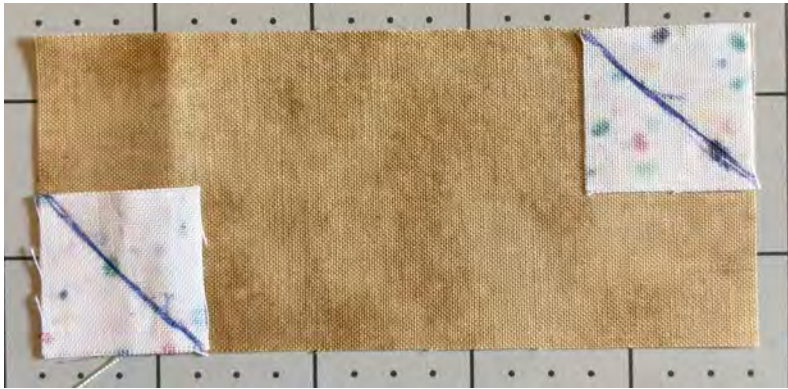


6. Sew the side strips to the three center strips to complete the body of the pumpkin. Press the seams toward the center strips. Your pumpkin body is complete.

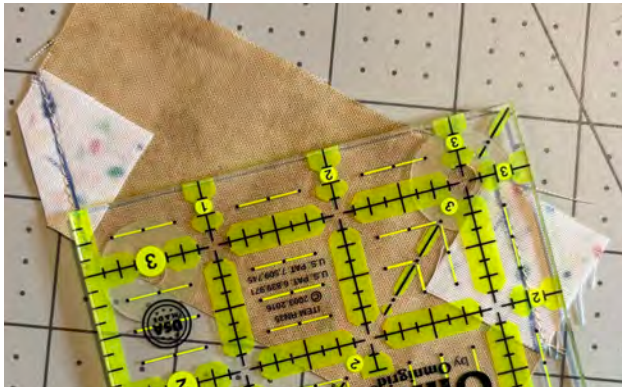


### Step Three—Leaf

1. Similar to what you did with the sides of the pumpkin, place a 1" background square onto opposite corners of one of the 2½" by 4" leaf fabric, with the right sides of the fabric facing each other. Draw a line on the back of one of the squares diagonally from corner to corner. Draw a line on the second square along the same diagonal. Sew along the drawn lines.



2. Place your ruler's ¼" line on the seam line and cut off the excess.



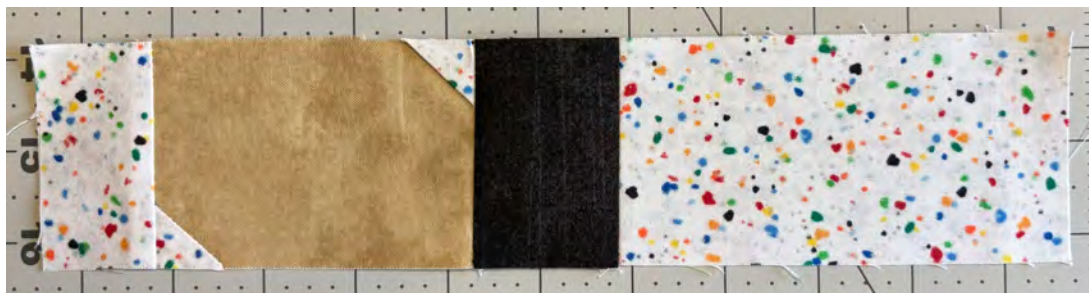
3. Press the corners open. Your leaf is finished.





### Step Four—Assembly

1. Sew the top row together: the 1½" x 2½" background piece to the leaf, the stem to the 5" x 2½" background piece, and then the leaf to the stem. Press. It should look like this:



2. Attach the top row to the pumpkin body and press.



3. Now add the top and bottom borders and press, then the side borders and press.
4. The block should be oversized. Trim so that the unfinished block measures 12½" square.

