Serrated Block with Anna Maria Parry

Chapter 1 -
Serrated Block
(ambient music) - I'm Anna Maria Horner. I am a textile designer, a quilter and a sewing book author. I designed this block and called it Serrated and my inspiration for the block was just very simple geometry. But a nice kind of razor sharp pointed edge and the block itself comes together really simply using a single template. And it's just the position of that template as you cut, that sort of grows this diagonal jagged line. And I'm really just trying to play up two different color categories or fabric categories. I decided to play with solid tones and then printed tones. But you could do something totally different. You could play up dark and light. Or warm and cool. But the single block continued throughout an entire quilt layout will build a beautiful diagonal graphic. (upbeat ambient music)

Materials
- For our materials, I have two different categories of fabrics on hand. I have some solid tones, but my solids are a little bit interesting. I have some yarn dyed wovens here for a little textural interest and I also have some pretty bright colored prints. For all the fabrics, they can be basically scraps, fat quarters, whatever you have around, but you do want to be sure that they're at least 3.5 inches wide because we're gonna start by cutting strips in that width. You'll also want to print out your template that goes with the serrated block, have your cutting tools on hand, your rotary, a grid for measuring and cutting and your cutting mat and also some straight pins and you'll want to have your iron and ironing board and a machine with some neutral colored thread.

Select, Cut & Piece Fabric

Select and Cut Fabric
- First part of our cutting step is gonna involve cutting down our fabric selections to three and a half inch wide strips, and I'm gonna do that first with these solid-ish fabrics that I have on hand. Arrange them so that they're widths are similar, I'm gonna kinda double it up, just to make room on my mat here. Just gonna start by squaring off and getting a clean edge. Okay, and now I'm gonna use my grid over the top to measure three and a half inches on that nice clean edge. Okay, and these strips we'll do more than just one block, but for variety, let's pull in the other two colors here. Again, I'm just gonna kinda fold these in a way that I can cut a few at a time. I have all sizes and shapes of scraps. And line up the edge around three and a half inches again. That'll be good to get us started. To begin composing this block, you're going to sort of keep your solids and your prints in two different piles. And this template that you have has four different markings added. And these markings are gonna help you position the edge of each of these strips at various points so that we continue to have different length pointed strips. And to demonstrate that, I'm just gonna take a random pairing of a print and a solid. And layer one on top of the other. And I wanna make sure I've got a clean, straight edge here. I'm going to cut that salvage off of that print. We're gonna need two that are the full length, that have the edge of the fabric at this A line here. Which means all we have to do is make one angled cut. Pick up another, different yet equally lovely, pairing of solid and a

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print. And again, I'm just gonna use this edge to kind of square up, but this time, instead of cutting at the A, I'm gonna slide it over to B line. So that you can see I'm making a shorter pointed rectangle. I am layering another print and another solid, getting a nice clean square edge on the end of the pair. And I've already done A and B, and now I'm gonna slide down to that C line. And one more pair of solid and print. Now, obviously, if you were doing several of these blocks, you could cut a whole bunch at once, in several sizes, then have a whole pool of different fabrics to compose each block with. We're gonna slide all the way down to the D mark now. Now I can show you the logic of how this stair step sort of jagged angle happens. The way that I've been arranging my blocks, is to put all the print on one side, and you can see just from this layout right here, how simple the construction of putting it together is gonna be. And you can also see how nice it would be to go ahead and have lots of different prints and solids in two color categories ready for you to just play with and assemble lots of pretty blocks.

Sew Block

- The first step in assembling this block is taking care of each of the angled strips along each horizontal here. I'm gonna do that first. Right sides together with a quarter inch seam allowance. You don't have to do any backstitching at the beginning or end of these seams. (sewing machine stitching) The next angled one is just like the first. (sewing machine stitching) Continue sewing all your angled seams. I've got mine finished here, and at this stage I'm going to go ahead and give them each a little bit of a pressing. Let's flip them all over here, before I move on to joining the longer seams. You can really press these seam allowances in either direction because you can see that none of these seams are gonna line up to each other in the construction. Once you have that pressed, you can move on to joining each with the long passes, with right sides together and quarter inch seam allowances. (sewing machine stitching) All right, we have a pretty block that only needs a little bit of pressing from the back. When you do several of these blocks, you might wanna alternate which direction you press these long seams, so that when you sew one to the next, they can nestle in opposite directions to reduce the bulk on the back of your quilt. This is a really, really fun block to play with some really graphic qualities between two different color groups or fabric groups, because once joined they can create this really beautiful angle. When you're composing an entire serrated quilt from these simply constructed blocks, you can see that I've got four put together here, the whole thing takes on that same direction of that angled jagged edge, as did the little block. In fact, if you want to put them side by side, all you have to do is flip them over to continue the lines of diagonal between print and solid. In fact, there are so many fun opportunities to play up the contrast between two groups of fabric in this block.

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