

### ***Erik's Tips:***

Careful consideration of your scraps is key for the success of these blocks. Pick a fabric that is either very light, as we did, or very dark to make the hour glass shape stand out in the **D/D** units and the **A** square. Feel free to experiment with the scraps you have, mixing colors of the same value, or keep it simple like we did, by using the same fabrics for each piece. Since this block is nothing more than a slightly complicated nine patch, be especially diligent and press the seams opposite to ensure a clean and crisp block!

### ***Notes about our Hour Glass Blocks:***

There are various quilt blocks named 'Hour Glass'. Our simple version was named by R Finley in her 1929 book *Old Patchwork Quilts and the Women Who Made Them* (reprinted by Howell Press, 1992). It is a striking block giving the feel of being set on-point even though it stands straight. The hour glass appears when the pieces around it contrast. It is a good block to have in one's repertoire and can be called on again and again to make a beautiful quilt.

We felt it most important to include a block that signifies time. Benjamin Franklin was a strong advocate of using time wisely and to its full potential! He made the best of the time he had, and was quick to comment or offer advice. After all, "early to bed, early to rise, make a man healthy, wealthy, and wise"...was penned by none other than our dear man!

Although nothing more than a slightly complicated nine patch block, the Hour Glass should be easy to construct. We decided not to tamper with the block's design nor complicate it any further by cutting small pieces we thought would be difficult to sew. Have fun playing with your scrap pieces to find the combination you like and that makes the most of the simplistic design!