

Constructing the blocks, cont:

Following the diagram on page 2, layout the pieces to the block paying close attention to the direction of the **A** and **B** units. Sew the **A** unit row together, then the center **C** row, then the **B** unit row. Sew the rows together like a Nine Patch block, laying and pressing seams in the direction of the arrows in the diagram.

Erik's Tips:

These blocks are quick to make and can be quite fun to lay out! If you are uneasy about cutting the 2 7/8-inch squares, cut them larger and trim to the correct 2 1/2-inch squares when you are done sewing. Be careful laying out the blocks since it is easy to turn an **A** or **B** unit ruining the 'streak' effect of the **Beige** scraps. Simply make sure the units are laid out correctly and keep checking your work as you sew to avoid any last minute mistakes. Carefully press your pieces as you sew.

Notes about our Streak of Lightning Blocks:

This particular block was actually inspired by several blocks; heavily inspired by R Finley's Streak O' Lightning (1929) that was later called Streak of Lightning (C Hall 1935) or Lightning (N Cabot 1937). Each of these designs has a simple play of diamonds created by squares and half squares and the arrangement of the color allows for the evidence of the bolt of lightning.

Electricity was an important element to the life of Benjamin Franklin. He was enthralled and entranced by it and achieved great fame through the publication of his studies imagining it to be a fluid present in all matter. He was invited to tour Europe and explain his finding and discoveries, earning both recognition and honorary degrees in the field. He loved to talk about it much of his vocabulary remains; and the franklin (Fr), that used to measure an electrical charge was named in his honor.

Although it is not an actual block we found, the above mentioned block a bit to complex to be scaled down to 6 1/2-inches, we are happy to offer this block as part of the quilt project! If you choose to make the blocks as scrappy as we did, make all of the units at the same time, then jumble up the pieces. While you go thru your scrap pile, you may find that you have pieces already cut...or strips ready to be cut into squares. We found much of these pieces ready to go right in our scrap pile! Have fun!