

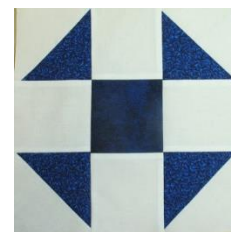
# January 2018 Block of the Month

## Village Quilters of Catonsville

### Shoo Fly 12 1/2" Block in Blue and White

Here's a little history lesson:

With the whimsical name of Shoo Fly this block may have originated from the blooms of the clover broom plant, which the pattern is said to resemble, this simple nine-patch, composed of blocks and half-square triangles, is an excellent block for beginning quilters to master.



The block originated in the early-to-mid 1800's, and became especially popular later in the century. Like most quilt blocks, it's been around a while, and you've no doubt seen Shoo Fly in its original form as well as variations, and even under another name. Sometimes it's called Hole in the Barn Door. (This makes sense. If you've got holes in your door, you will definitely be shooing flies.)

There is a very romantic and persistent myth that the Shoo Fly block pattern was used in quilts to signal help and safe passage to slaves fleeing the South via the Underground Railroad. It's a great story, but sadly not true.



1. Cut two 4 7/8" White squares. Cut these on the diagonal to make four white triangles.
2. Cut two 4 7/8" Blue Squares. Cut these on the diagonal to make four blue triangles.
3. Cut four 4 1/2" white squares.
4. Cut one 4 1/2" blue square.
5. Sew each blue and white triangle together to form block 1-2
6. Sew four of block 1-2
7. Follow sewing instructions above to assemble the block

\*Be careful not to stretch that triangle!