



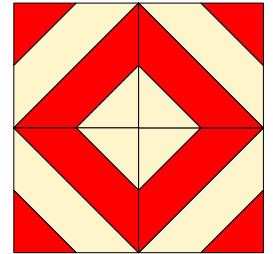


## Block 102 Mary Two-Axe Early

	From:	Sub-cut:	
	B 4" strip 2" strip OR 5"x13" rectangle	2 - 4" squares, cut once diagonally in half 4 - 2" squares	
	R 5"x13" rectangle	2 - 4" squares, cut once diagonally in half 4 - 2" squares	



## Mary Two-Axe Early (Kahnawake Reserve QC 1911-1996)

"Mary was the daughter of Mohawk Dominic and his wife Juliet an Oneida teacher and registered nurse from Wisconsin. When the marriage dissolved Mary lived with her mother in North Dakota until Juliet died from the Spanish flu then she lived with her Mohawk grandparents in Kahnawake.

Mary moved to Brooklyn, New York as a young woman, married an Irish-American electrical engineer, had two children and spent every summer in Canada on the Reserve. Like all Aboriginal women who married non-Natives, Mary lost her status under the Indian Act of 1876 and were denied all rights and benefits such as health, education, the right to live, own property, vote in band elections and be buried on reserves.

After her friends death in 1966, a case of death by discrimination caused by losing status and being forced to leave the reserve, Mary travelled across Canada listening to Native women who were exiled and no longer considered persons. She became a political activist, writing letters to politicians and the press, giving presentations and making submissions to the federal government. The male First Nations leaders were the strongest opponents they complained about the high cost of extending rights to deregistered Aboriginal women and children.

In 1969 when her husband died, Mary moved back to Canada to live in the log house she'd inherited from her grandmother but Band leaders said she had to turn ownership over to her daughter who had married a Mohawk and in 1975 she was served eviction notice. But the 1970 Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada recommending that the Indian Act be repealed to ensure that Aboriginal women and men had equal rights and privileges was brought to media attention. With Quebec premier René Lévesque's support Mary pleaded her case to reluctant ministers at the 1983 constitutional conference and two years later Bill C-31 passed restoring Aboriginal status and rights to most First Nation women who had married non-Indians as well as their children. In 1985 Mary was the first woman to regain her Aboriginal status as a tribute to her long years of work and a record of history.

Some bands refused to accept the ruling so Mary testified before the Federal Court of Canada after some powerful First Nations groups challenged the right of the federal government to decide on band membership. At eighty-three Mary won another legislative victory."

Merna Forster, "Mary Two-Axe Early—Set My Sisters Free", 100 More Canadian Heroines Famous and Forgotten Faces," The Dundurn Group Toronto, 2011, 134-136.

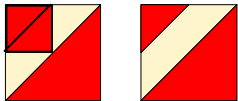
## Block 102 Mary Two-Axe Early finished: 6" unfinished: 6½"

### Procedure:

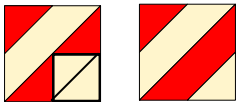
1. Sew [1] 4" **B** and **R** square together. Press [2] to **R** and [2] to **B**. Trim to 3½". Make 4.



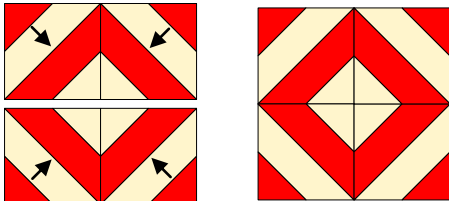
2. Follow Connector Corner on Corner of Square page to sew [1] 2" **R** square to the **B** corner on [1] Step 1 unit. Should be 3½". Make 4.



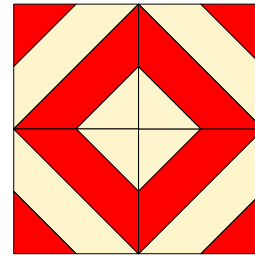
3. Follow Connector Corner on Corner of Square page to sew [1] 2" **B** square to the **R** corner on [1] Step 2 unit. Should be 3½". Make 4. Re-press [2] blocks so that the seam is in the same direction as Step 1 seam.

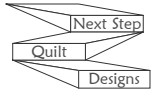


4. Layout and sew together [4] Step 3 units so the seams nest. Sew units together in rows. Press. Sew rows together. Open center spin and press. Should be 6½" square.



5. Option: Sew a 1½"x6½" background sash strip to the right side of block. ∞

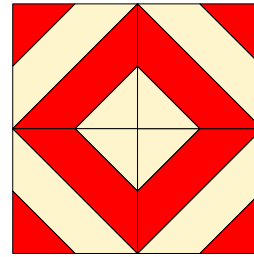




Block 102 Mary Two-Axe Early

PERSONAL REFLECTION & INSPIRATION

Stand up and be counted.



Horizontal lines for reflection and inspiration.

