

## Flying Geese—Four at a Time

There are a couple of different ways to make four identical flying geese at a time. One method is detailed in the instructions that come with the Wing Clipper. The following instructions are based on the method used by *Quilt in a Day*. The technique begins with two squares, one for the “goose” and one for the “wings.” This terminology is less confusing than using the word “background.” Sometimes the background is the goose; sometimes it’s the wings. Be sure you know which is which in your project.

**Formula:** The formula is based on the *finished* size of the block. Flying geese are always twice as wide as high. The formula starts with the finished width, and adds 1-1/2”. This is the size of the goose. Add another 1-1/2” to obtain the size of the wings.

*Example:* Finished flying geese block: 2” X 4”. Add 1-1/2” to the width: 5-1/2” square of the goose fabric. Add another 1-1/2” to the size of the goose square: 7” square of wings fabric. Always remember, goose first, then wings.

### Construction:

Mark the smaller (goose) square on the wrong side with two diagonal lines using the Quilter’s Quarter or the Quilter’s Magic Wand.

Center the goose square on the wings square, right sides together, and sew on the two marked lines. Cut between the sewed lines to make two triangles.

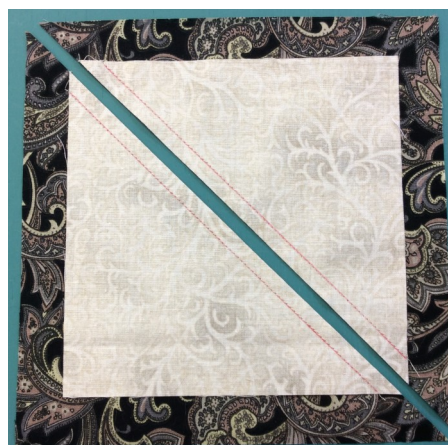
At this stage you’ll need to make a decision about pressing. Again, I recommend pressing the seams open. If you prefer to press to one side, press toward the *wings* fabric.

Mark one of the resulting “squares” on the wrong side with two more diagonal lines, crossing the seam at right angles. Layer the two squares, matching the corners. The wings fabric of the top square will be on the goose fabric of the bottom square, and vice versa. Sew on the two new diagonal lines and cut apart. Press seams open. (If you chose to press seams to the side, you’ll need to clip the seam in the center so that you can press each half toward the wings fabric.)

Now you’ll use the Wing Clipper. I prefer to cut the geese apart before I trim them to size. (See photo on page 2.) Follow the instructions with the Wing Clipper to trim the flying geese to the designated size.



Center the marked goose square on the wings square, *rights sides together*.



Sew and cut apart. Press seams open, or if you prefer, toward the *wings* fabric.



Mark one square with double diagonal lines, across the seam. Layer, right sides together, with wings fabric and goose fabric matched in the marked corners. Note that the previous seams are offset in this step.



Sew and cut apart. Press unit open.



The geese are offset in the final square. Cut them apart as illustrated, as close to center as you can by “eyeball.”



Follow the Wing Clipper instructions to trim the blocks to the size specified in the pattern. Note the block in the lower left, showing the seams pressed open.

Although it’s tricky, you can use a “normal” square ruler to cut down the blocks. You’ll have to be very careful to position the halfway measurement on the ruler over the upper point of the FG block. If you make a mistake on this, the block won’t come out balanced.

The traditional folded corners method can be used to make Flying Geese. This link will take you to a detailed discussion of three different methods. (The second method, called “stitch and flip” is the same as “folded corners.”)

<https://www.fabric.com/blog/sewing-101-flying-geese-3-ways/>

Also, you can Google “flying geese block: and find many other instructions and videos.