Robin Ruth Design
Strip-Pieced Mariner's Compass Basics Technique Class
In Person
Skill Level - Intermediate

(Students should have completed a couple of previous quilt projects.
Good rotary cutting skills and accurate sewing are a plus for this class.)

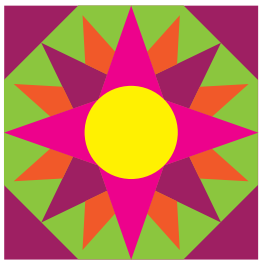
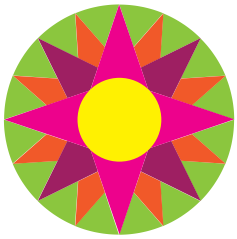
Class Description

Have you ever wanted to make a Mariner's Compass block but were too intimidated? Not a fan of paper piecing or using tedious templates? You'll love this class for learning how to make 16-point compass blocks in 16 different sizes using Robin Ruth Design's rulers and strip-piecing method! Join Robin and learn all the compass basics for making either a Skinny Robin or Fat Robin mariner's compass block.

Once you learn how to use my rulers and strip-piecing technique, you will be free to move on to one of the many patterns and projects made using this ruler system!

Students get to choose which kind of compass they will make - Skinny Robin (pictured left) or Fat Robin (pictured right). We will make an 18" compass block and finish it into a block using my No Circle Finishing OctaCompass Method.

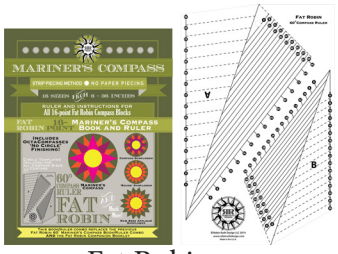
Students will also learn different techniques for finishing the centers of their compass block and also traditional circle techniques for finishing the compass block into the background (appliqué or sewing the circle block into your background square). I will share tons of tips for learning this revolutionary strip-piecing method for making mariner's compass blocks!

Skinny Robin
$49.95

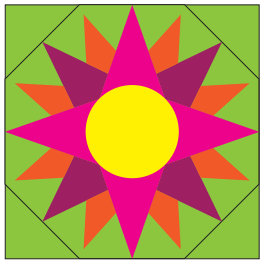
For class you will need either the
Skinny Robin 16-Point Mariner's Compass
Book & Ruler Combo
OR
Fat Robin 16-Point Mariner's Compass
Book & Ruler Combo

You can wait until the day of class to purchase either my Skinny Robin **OR** Fat Robin 16-Point Book & Ruler Combo. All the instructions you need to prepare for class are contained in this Supply List.



Fat Robin
$49.95

(Please make sure that you have my updated Book and Ruler Combo and that the cover of your book looks like the ones pictured here. You can get an updated "A la Carte" book only - to use with your existing ruler and template sheet - on my website. More info on my website Shop page.)



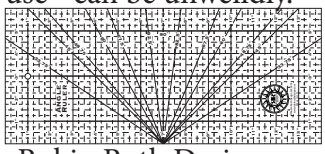
Tip: If you make the corner triangles (the 6½" squares listed on the supply list) the same color as your Background fabric strip, your points will 'float' into the background and you won't see the octagon shape.

Supply List

Students get to choose which kind of compass they will make - Skinny Robin (pictured below left) or Fat Robin (pictured below right). We will make an 18" OctaCompass block and then finish the center and into an 18½" square. This is a technique class and an introduction to my strip-piecing method. You will learn different techniques for finishing the centers of your compass block and for making all 16 sizes of Compass blocks.

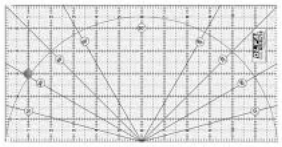
Checklist

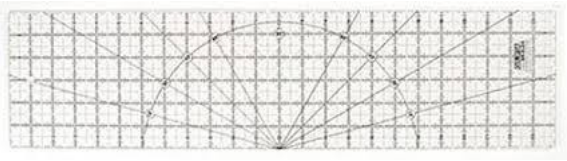
- ☐ Skinny Robin 16-Point Mariner's Compass Book/Ruler OR Fat Robin 16-Point Mariner's Compass Book/Ruler
- ☐ Regular sewing supplies (sewing machine, cutting mat and rotary cutter, thread, scissors, ironing station)
- ☐ Straight edge ruler with 45˚ angle for Skinny Robin and 60˚ angle for Fat Robin. Most straight edge rulers come with these angles located on the ends of the ruler. These rulers will work, but it will be a little easier if you have a ruler with the angles in the middle. Try my new Angle Ruler or Olfa makes one that you might already have. Rulers with the angles on the end will still work, but sometimes are a little more difficult to use - can be unweildly.



Robin Ruth Design
Angle Ruler
6"x14" $19.95
(purchase optional but highly recommended)

Olfa Rulers
6"x12"
6"x24"

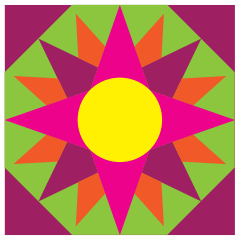




- ☐ Pins
- ☐ Freezer paper rectangle (an exact 9¼"x18½" rectangle) and center cirlce template for your style block found on Page 4 of this Supply List.
- ☐ Square-Up Ruler if you already own one (at least 12½") - optional
- ☐ Please have the following cut for class. **Full width** fabric strips (42") in high contrast fabrics - **your choice of fabric (see below)**. This is a good way to use up some leftover strips from another project. The colors listed in parantheses are so you can see where they will appear in your blocks.

18" Skinny Robin OctaCompass

-Background fabric (gray) 2 strips x 5"*
-Point 1 fabric (red) 2 strips x =2½"
-Point 2 fabric (light blue) 1 strip x 3"
-Point 3 fabric (dark blue) 1 strip x 3¾"
-Two 5¼" squares for center (yellow)
-Two 6½" squares (light blue) for making triangles to finish - see box at bottom of Page 1



18" Fat Robin OctaCompass

-Background fabric (lime green) 2 strips x 5"*
-Point 1 fabric (orange) 2 strips x 3"
-Point 2 fabric (dark purple)1 strip x 4"
-Point 3 fabric (pink) 1 strip x 5½"
-Two 7½" squares for center (yellow)
-Two 6½" squares (dark purple) for making triangles to finish - see box at bottom of Page 1

*Note that these strip widths are different than what are listed in the Skinny Robin or Fat Robin 16-Point Mariner's Compass Books for traditional finishing. This width is for an **OctaCompass** finish and taken from the OctaCompass table in the fourth chapter.

Homework

Please sew your Background and Point 1 strips together following the instructions found on Page 5 of this Supply list (or, of you already have your instruction book, from the **Mariner's Compass Chapter** - the first chapter - of your Skinny Robin or Fat Robin 16-Point Mariner's Compass as shown in **Step 3 only**.) You will offset your strips and then sew the strips together using a true (not scant- will talk more about this in class) quarter inch seam. Please wait to press your strip sets until class. See "Picking Fabrics...." for info on **video tutorials** for these first steps.

A few tips for a successful class!

This class is jampacked with information and moves along at a quick pace. You should have several piecing projects under your belt before taking this class. This technique is not difficult, but different than traditional square and triangle projects, so having a little more experience is helpful. If you have good rotary cutting skills and can sew an accurate ¼" seam, you will have a great time!

-Please **be ready to sew** at the advertised time.

-Have all of your strips and squares cut **before** class and do the **Homework** listed on the Supply List.

-Make sure your machine is in **good working order**. Sew a couple of seams and make sure everything is working properly before class. Don't forget to make sure you have a **full bobbin**.

-Please take some time before class to make sure you have the proper machine set up to make **accurate ¼" seams - I recommend a true ¼" seam rather than a scant**. To get accurate sized blocks, it is imperative that you sew with an accurate ¼" seam allowance and it will save you much time and energy if you already have this figured out. I will also work with you during class to make sure your seams will help you achieve accurate finished blocks.

-I **encourage** you to go to my website at www.robinruthdesign.com and watch some of the video tutorials to get yourself more familiar with the techniques. You can see some video shorts (animated overviews of the process) at my Intro Video tab, and real time video tutorials (sit with me and we make a block together in real time) at my Video Tutorials tab.

-All of my videos are accessible on my **FREE Web App** - type app.robinruthdesign.com into any computer or mobile device browser for access to all my blocks, videos, a block design feature, and a strips calculator.

-Come ready to learn lots and have some fun doing it!

www.robinruthdesign.com

Pictured below are the Skinny Robin (left) and Fat Robin (right) OctaCompass quilts that are shown in the Skinny Robin and Fat Robin 16-Point Books respectively along with instructions for making them. See more quilt photos on my website under the Quilt Gallery tab.

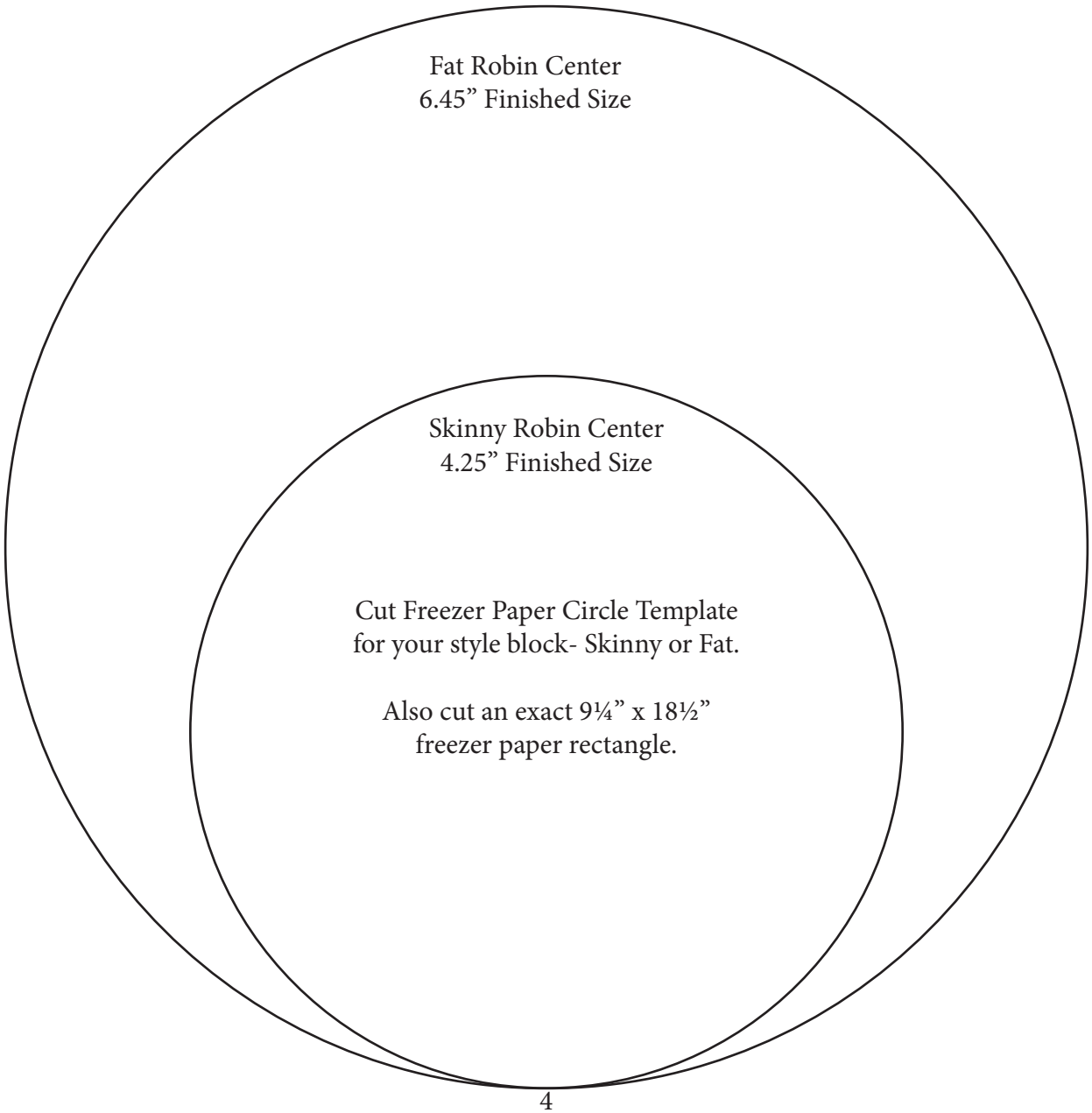
Picking Fabrics for Class and Tutorials to Get you Started

Remember that this is a practice block that you are making to learn this new construction technique. In your instruction book, I recommend making a practice block first, so we will do this together in class. You don't need to use your fanciest fabrics for this block. Maybe you can even use some leftover strips from a previous project. I do recommend, however, that you use full width strips – at least 42" for this first block. I will go over how you can use shorter strips, like from Fat Quarters in class, but please note that all the strips listed for all the block sizes are based off full width strips.

For this first block, try to choose some high contrast fabrics so that your points will really pop. I recommend that your Background Strip contrast with all three of your Point 1, Point 2, and Point 3 strips. Note on this Supply List that I use color to help you see where your fabrics will end up in your block. And lastly, I don't recommend using black or a very dark fabric for this first block as it will make it more difficult to see the lines on your rulers.

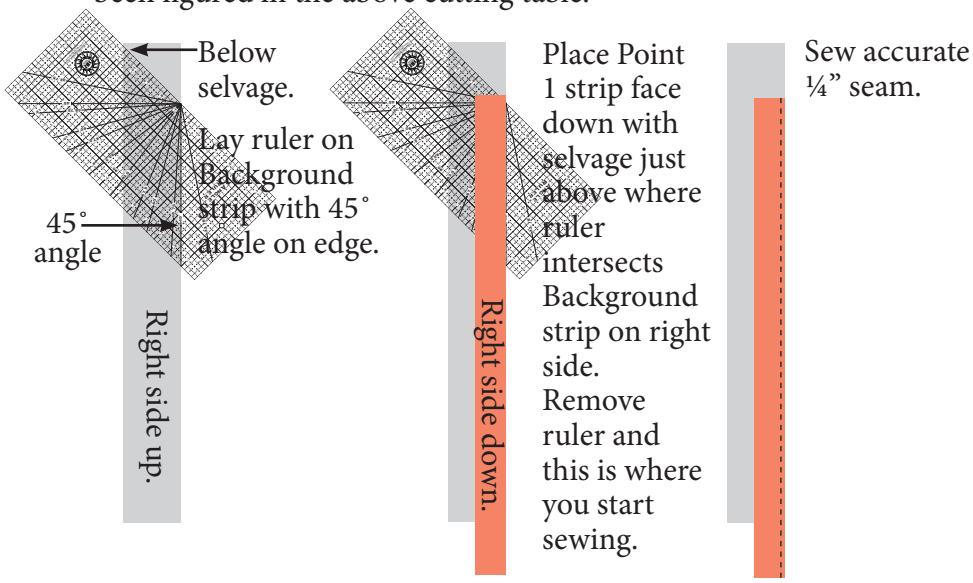
Have your checked out my FREE web app? You can design your block using the 87 colors of American Made Brand solids to get an idea of how your colors might work together. Type **app.robinruthdesign.com** into any computer or mobile device browser to have instant access to all my block videos, this block design tool, and a strips calculator.

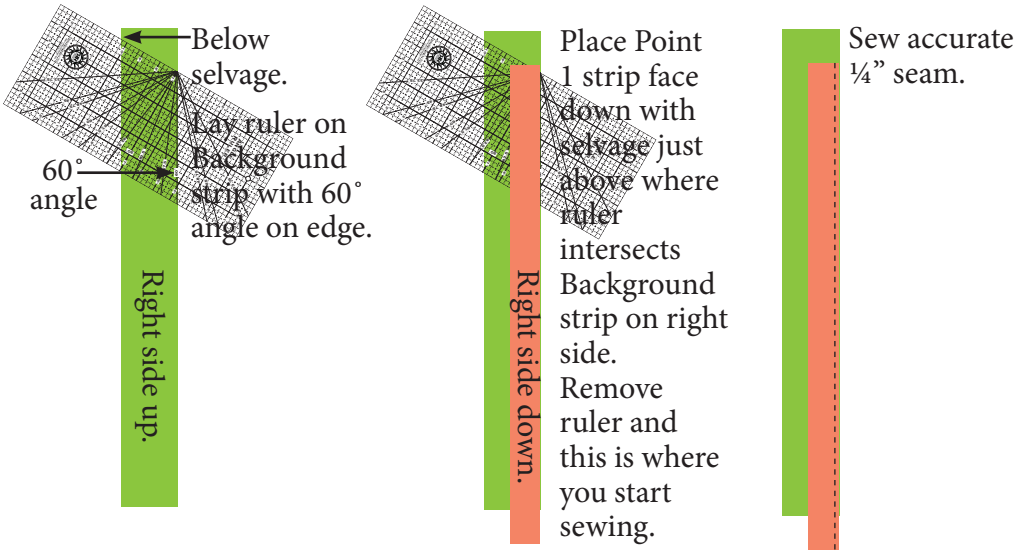
You can watch my video tutorials if you want to see videos of Step 3 and Step 4 for your homework. Cue up the Skinny Robin Compass Video at :58 to 4:34 and Fat Robin Compass Video from 1:00 to 4:37.



Homework Instructions for Skinny Robin

❸ Sew **Point 1** strip(s) onto the **Background** strip(s), right sides together, offsetting by 45˚, and using a ¼" seam allowance. Offsetting the strips allows you to get more units out of a strip set, and the amount that has been figured in the above cutting table.



Homework Instructions for Fat Robin

❸ Sew **Point 1** strip(s) onto the **Background** strip(s), right sides together, offsetting by 60˚, and using a ¼" seam allowance. Offsetting the strips allows you to get more units out of a strip set, and the amount that has been figured in the above cutting table.