

## 2025 DECEMBER BLOCKS



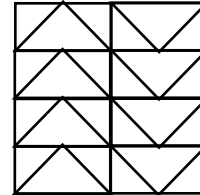
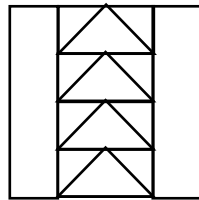
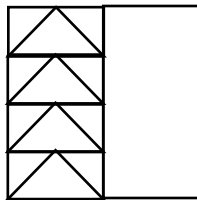
The pattern for this year's blocks will be "Flying Geese". **We will be making 4 identical Flying Geese units that measure 3" x 6" in the finished project, then sewing them together to form our December Block of 6" x 12" (finished).** There are so many ways to make these units, and so many ways to incorporate this block into finished projects, so hang in there! I'll try to cover it all.

In order for this particular design to work in the finished quilt, I recommend NOT using bright whites or solid blacks. Stick to lights, mediums, and darks, but don't go extreme on the value scale, as those can draw your attention away from the overall design when sewn together at the end of the year. Mix it up by making some with lighter centers (the "geese"), and some with darker geese, and use two fabrics that give at least a little bit of contrast to make the design show.



In review of the December Blocks program, participants are all making several of the same block as shown above. Deb Chilcote will collect your blocks during the year, mix them all up with other blocks turned in by others, and at the end of the year, will return the same number of blocks to you as you turned in. Deb's quilt at left was made with 18 blocks with added borders, measuring 40" x 50" (a baby size quilt). Eighteen blocks also makes a 36" square table topper, or 6 placemats that measure 12" x 18". **It is recommended to turn in at least 18 by the end of the year.** But no matter what size quilt/project you want to make, the number of blocks you turn in will be the number of mixed blocks you will get back.

Please keep in mind that once you get your December Blocks back in December, it's up to you to come up with a project that you like. And this year, maybe you want to add to this block to turn it into a 12" finished block by adding fabric on one side or the other, or two smaller strips of fabric on either side. Or sew them end to end to form a column of up's and down's, maybe put sashing inbetween. Deb sewed 3 together to form 12" x 18" blocks in her quilt. This block allows you to be creative!



I know that Flying Geese can be a little intimidating, but this will be a way for you to perfect your technique. If you took the Flying Geese workshop with Kaye Joachim, you can put these skills to use. Also, the Appalachian Autumn workshop by Konnie Glaze used Bonnie Hunter's "Essential Triangle Tool", which some people really like for making Flying Geese. I will try to walk you through the different ways you can achieve the same results, and hopefully you will find your favorite way of making these Flying Geese units, and have fun doing it!


So, LET'S GET STARTED!!.....

## "4 at a Time" Flying Geese

You will find many charts in magazines, on Pinterest, and elsewhere that tell you the size of squares you need to make certain size Flying Geese using the Four at a Time method, but you will discover that some of them do not give you much wiggle room when it comes to trimming to the size you need. So **this is a formula for you to use if you are making them 4 at a time: This will make them big enough that you can trim about ¼" all around, and feel confident that you are sewing & trimming them correctly, and not cutting off the top points on the geese.**

For this method you need:


- 1 Square that is  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " larger than your finished length; and
- 4 Squares that are  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " larger than the finished height.



Example – 6 x 3" finished ( $6\frac{1}{2}$  x  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " unfinished):

- 1 large square  $7\frac{3}{4}$ " ( $6 + 1\frac{3}{4}$ )
- 4 small squares  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " ( $3 + 1\frac{1}{4}$ )

*Deb's tip: For the smaller squares, first cut fabric 8-1/2" square, mark the backside with a big X, then cut into four equal squares.*



Makes 4

For a video on how you make these Flying Geese, please watch this YouTube video:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=DqKV-h-Mg0g>

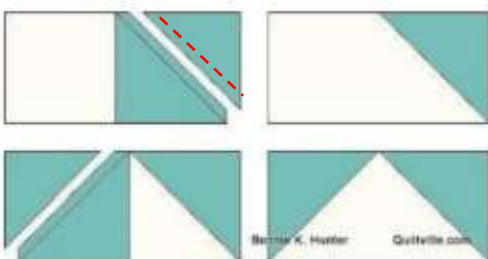
Other helpful videos on making Flying Geese using this method are:

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=1n\\_p9NMeRBA](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=1n_p9NMeRBA)

and <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=HfZ732A9S9w>

## Stitch and Flip Method (made one at a time)

You will need four  $3\text{-}3/4$  x  $6\text{-}3/4$  rectangles for the "goose", and eight  $3\text{-}3/4$ " squares for the "sky". Mark the back side of each square from corner to corner. Place one square right side down onto the right side of the rectangle, right sides together, and sew on the marked line. Trim away excess, and press outward. Then place the other square right side down on the left side of the rectangle, right sides together, and sew on the marked line. Trim away excess, and press outward. Do this for each of the four units, then trim to  $3\text{-}1/2$ " x  $6\text{-}1/2$ " using the trimming instructions on the next page.



**NOTE:** To prevent waste using this method, an option for you is to make a second seam  $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the corner seams (depicted by red dotted line on diagram), then cut between the seams to get a bonus Half Square Triangle unit to use in another project later.

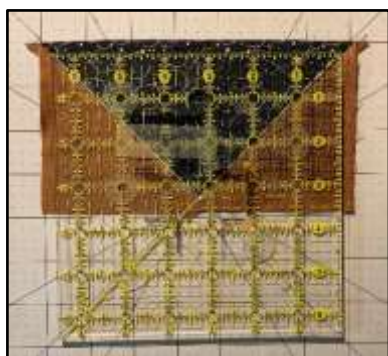
If you happen to have ever made a Bonnie Hunter pattern, most likely she has had Flying Geese in her blocks, and she uses her **Essential Triangle Tool** for making them. These are made one at a time, and instructions for making the 3" x 6" Flying Geese come with the tool when you purchase it. You can find it on her website called Quiltville.com.

### **Trimming**

If you have a special ruler that trims Flying Geese this size, that's great, but if you go to buy one, be aware that they can be very pricey. **I found that using my 6-1/2" square Omnigrid ruler works just fine.**

For the first trim, line up your ruler with the 45-degree line with the right seam as shown in the picture at left below. With a light-colored gel pen mark a line that is perpendicular to this line at the halfway point (the 3-1/4" center dot) to the upper left corner of the ruler. Make sure when you lay your Flying Geese unit underneath this ruler that the seams are directly under these lines, and that you have at least 1/4" between the center dot and the lower edge of your unit. Trim the 3 edges of your unit.

Remove the ruler, and turn your unit 180 degrees so that the goose is pointing up. I then turned my ruler upside down to read the measurements better. Line your ruler up so that the 3-1/2" line is even with the bottom edge of your Flying Geese unit, and trim along the top edge. As you can see, my trimmings are minimal, but enough to know that I have the exact 3-1/2" x 6-1/2" size that I need for all four units of this block.



### **Assembling the Block**

Once you have trimmed all four identical Flying Geese units, now is the time to sew them all together, making sure that they are all pointed in the same direction. **Important Tip:** If you backstitch at the beginning and end of the seam as you sew the units together, the block will stay in shape better, and this way, you can prevent the stitches from coming out.



### **Pressing Seams**

After you have sewn the block together, press seams in one direction, up toward the point.

***Thanks for participating! – Deb Chilcote***

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*In review, feel free to make as many blocks as you like. Turn them in to Deb Chilcote throughout the year, but mainly in June and November for a December redistribution of mixed December Blocks. Try not to use solid whites or blacks that stand out too much, but at least go for two fabrics with at least a little bit of contrast. Have fun, and let's begin to get rid of some of your scraps!*