

Pinwheel Block

This month's block is an airy pinwheel to keep you cool. We're going to utilize the half-square triangle technique we learned for the May block of the month to make quick work of this breezy block.

Block basics:

- Finished (finished = when you hand it in, before it is incorporated into a quilt) block size is 8 1/2" square.
- Use a neutral color (beige or white or gray) color thread.
- All seams are scant 1/4" seams.

**You will need the following fabrics:**

- Two bright coordinating fabrics, one with an obvious pattern, and one that reads as a solid (solid, tiny print, batik, etc.) when used with the first fabric. Novelty fabrics are fine, but please stay away from holiday fabrics.
- White or white on white fabric.

Cut the following fabric pieces:

1. Two 4 1/2" squares of your patterned fabric.
2. One 4 1/2" square of your solid fabric.
3. One 4 1/2" square of your white fabric.
4. Four 4 1/2" x 2 1/2" rectangles of your white fabric. (tip: If you have a fat quarter of white fabric, you can cut your square and four rectangles out of one 18" x 4 1/2" strip)

Create your Half Square Triangle units (HSTs):

NOTE: These are abbreviated instructions. For more complete instructions, refer to the May 2017 Block of the Month (Cabin Fever block). Follow the pressing instructions as shown here.

1. Set aside your four white rectangles, they won't be used until later.
2. Draw an X from corner to corner on the back of each patterned fabric square.
3. Place one of your patterned fabric squares and your white fabric square together, right sides together. Pin with the square you drew on on top. Pin, keeping pins away from the outer edges of the square.
4. Sew all around the outside of each square, 1/4" in from the edge. Remove pins.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 with your remaining patterned fabric square and your solid color square.
6. Cut each of your two squares into four pieces by cutting along the X lines. In the patterned fabric/white units, press towards the patterned fabric. In the patterned fabric/solid fabric units, press towards the solid fabric. You should now have four HSTs of patterned fabric and white fabric, and four HSTs of patterned fabric and solid color fabric.

Complete your block:

1. Pair together one of each of your two different HSTs and place them side by side to create a Flying Geese unit like the one shown in *Figure 1*. MAKE SURE your white fabric HST is on the right hand side.
2. Turn one over so they are right sides together and sew to create the center seam in your Flying Geese unit. Press towards the HST with the solid colored fabric (away from the white fabric). Pair together the rest of your HST units to end up with 4 identical units. Trim each down to 4 1/2" x 2 1/2", ending up with four Flying Geese units like those shown in *Figure 2*.

Tip: When trimming, remember the top point of your triangle must be 1/4" in from the edge of the unit, NOT at the edge of the unit. The bottom two triangle points should hit the corner (not be 1/4" away).

3. Now get out the four white rectangles you set aside and pair them with the 4 Flying Geese units. Pin them, right sides together with the Flying Geese unit on top. Sew each pair together along the side of the Flying Geese unit where the triangle point is to create a square like the one shown in *Figure 3*.

Tip: With the Flying Geese unit on top, you should be able to see your previous stitch lines and hit the tip of your triangle exactly as shown in *Figure 4*.

4. Press towards the solid white rectangle. Yes, pressing towards white fabric is usually a no-no, but this will allow seams to nest properly in the next step, and your fabric will really, really want to press this way anyway (pressing towards the Flying Geese unit will give you a huge lump in your block). Double check that each square is now 4 1/2" square and adjust if necessary.
5. Lay out your four squares so they look like those in *Figure 5*. Sew the top two together and press away from the white rectangle/towards the print triangle. Repeat with the bottom two squares.
6. Sew together your two pieces to complete your block. If you are familiar with picking out center threads and having all four seams run clockwise to reduce bulk, do that. Otherwise, press this final seam to one side.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Bring your finished blocks to the guild meeting on August 28 to participate in the drawing. Remember, you get one raffle ticket for each block you turn in, so, the more blocks, the more chances you have to win them all!

Questions? Comments? Suggestions for future blocks? Feel free to email me at smclarkson@gmail.com.