

Northern New Mexico Quilt Guild

April 2016 Block of the Month - Fussy Cut Star



The Basics:

- Finished block size is 8 1/2" square.
- Use whatever color thread makes the most sense. All seams are scant 1/4" seams unless otherwise indicated.
- Center square should be a large scale print, fussy cut if possible.
- Dark triangles should be one small scale print or solid that coordinates with your large scale print. This is a bright and bold block so don't be shy.
- Parts shown in the diagram to the left as white should be a pale color that coordinates (pale blue, light gray, beige, white, etc.).

Note: This block requires Flying Geese units. There are countless shortcut methods to making multiple Flying Geese units. If you have a different method that's your favorite, by all means, use it. I'm using the most basic, easiest to explain method here.

If you use another method, note that a) your completed Flying Geese units should measure 4 1/2" x 2 1/2", b) the cutting instructions will be different for you, and c) follow the seam pressing directions as outlined below.

Cutting Instructions:

Cut the following fabric pieces:

1. One 4 1/2" square (fussy cut if possible) of your bold center fabric.
2. Four 2 1/2" squares of your white (or pale) fabric.
3. Four 4 1/2" by 2 1/2" rectangles of your white fabric.
4. Eight 2 1/2" squares of your small print fabric or solid fabric.

What is fussy cutting?

It's cutting your fabric so a particular motif or pattern is centered in the cut piece.

The fussy cut square and the four white squares will be used as they are, set them aside for now. For the next step, you will use the white rectangles and small print squares.

Constructing Flying Geese Units:



Figure 1

You will need four Flying Geese units to construct this block (shown in *Figure 1*).

Step 1: Draw one diagonal line from corner to corner on the wrong side of each of your eight 2 1/2" squares of small print fabric.



Figure 2

Step 2: Place one of your small print squares face down on top of one of your white rectangles (face up) as shown in *Figure 2*. Note the direction of the diagonal line you drew in step 1. You may also want to pin your square in place.

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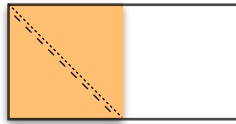


Figure 3

Step 3: Following this line, sew right next to the line, below it, at most one or two threads away from the line you drew, as shown in *Figure 3*.

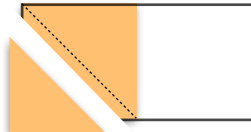


Figure 4

Step 4: Cut 1/4" from your sewing line as shown in *Figure 4*. Unfold your piece and iron the seam towards the triangle. The piece cut away is scrap.

Your block should now look like *Figure 5*. Sewing just below the line in Step 3 should have given you just enough give for the corner of your triangle to line up and keep the lines of your rectangle intact. Had you sewn directly on the line, it would have come up just a bit short.



Figure 5

Step 5: Place a second small print square face down on your Flying Geese unit as shown in *Figure 6*. Yes, it will overlap the triangle already sewn on. Repeat steps 3 and 4 to complete your Flying Geese unit.

Your completed Flying Geese unit will look like *Figure 7*. Double-check that your Flying Geese unit measures 4 1/2" by 2 1/2".

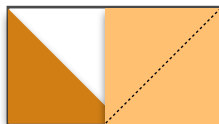


Figure 6

Step 6: Repeat steps 1-5 until you have four completed Flying Geese units.

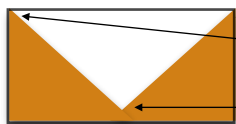


Figure 7

Diagonal seams will hit the corner of the rectangle here.

The point of your white triangle should be 1/4" in from the edge of the rectangle. The point should **not** hit the edge.

Completing Your Block:

Step 7: Lay out your four Flying Geese units, your four white 2 1/2" squares and your one 4 1/2" fussy cut square to look like the block diagram at the top of this handout.

Step 8: From here on out, you're simply constructing a basic 9-patch block. Sew the three units in the top row together, pressing seams in toward the middle. Sew the three units in the middle row together, pressing seams out away from the middle. Sew the three units in the bottom row together, pressing seams in toward the middle.

Step 9: Sew the three rows of your block together to complete your block. Press both seams outward, away from the center of your block. Double check that your block measures 8 1/2" square.

Bring your finished blocks to the guild meeting on April 23rd to participate in the drawing.

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