

Quilting Tips & Tuts #8 – Quick Piecing Flying Geese

Oh those Geese!

by Jane Schwarz, MS

This is the eighth of our Quilting Tips & Tuts! It has also been posted on the Plano Quilters Guild Website under 'How To' on the Resources Tab for easy referral.

This is a favorite quick piecing method that yields 4 Flying Geese blocks with no waste! In quilting terms, the 'geese' are the large, centered triangles in the unit. The outer triangles are called the 'sky'.

Now, for the math. Yes ladies, we use math all the time in quilting. Typically Flying Geese blocks are twice as wide as they are tall. But the formula is simple:

Sky Fabric: Cut 4 squares equal to the **finished height** of the flying geese **plus 7/8"**

Goose Fabric: Cut 1 square equal to the **finished width** of the flying geese **plus 1-1/4"**.

Always press towards the 'sky' fabric.

- Start with the light fabric. Determine what size you want your finished flying geese unit and add 1 1/4". We are making a 4 1/2" finished flying geese unit. $4\frac{1}{2} + 1\frac{1}{4} = 5\frac{3}{4}$ " square of the light fabric. Cut one of these to yield 4 flying geese units.
- Now the dark fabric. Determine the finished height of your flying geese unit and add 7/8". Our finished height is 2 1/4", so $2\frac{1}{4} + \frac{7}{8} = 3\frac{1}{8}$ " squares. Cut four of these to yield four flying geese units.

Hint: Before cutting out all the fabric and pieces that you have determined you will need, start by making up one set of 4 flying geese to be sure the size is what you're wanting.

- Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of 2 sky squares 3 1/8" x 3 1/8". Place 1 square on a 5 3/4" piece of geese fabric, right sides together. Place the second sky square in the opposite corner as shown. Align the raw edges in the corners. The tips of the squares will overlap in the center. Sew 1/4" from the drawn line on both sides of the line. Cut on the marked line. **(figure 1)**
- Press the sky away from the geese. **(figure 2)** You now have 2 partial units.
- Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of the remaining 2 sky squares. Working with 1 partial unit at a time, place 1 square with the drawn line perpendicular to the sewn seam, right sides together. Align the raw edges in the corner. Sew 1/4" from the drawn line on both sides of the line. **(figure 3)**
- Cut along the drawn line. **(figure 4)**
- Press the sky away from the geese.
- Repeat with the second partial unit. Voila, 4 Flying Geese! **(figure 5)**

