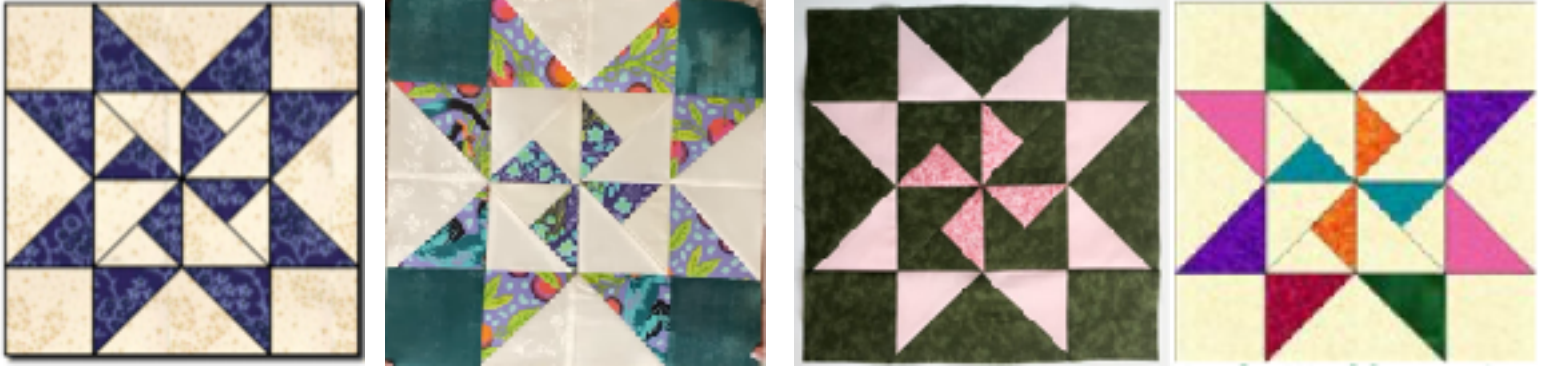


July 2023 BOM - Martha Washington's Star

The Martha Washington Star quilt block was designed in colonial times to honor President Washington's wife. Nancy Cabot wrote in 1933, "The old examples of the design were pieced in the turkey reds so popular at the time, but any color scheme may be used." So feel free to experiment !



Fun Facts about Martha (Dandridge) Custis Washington :

*Could read and write, unusual for women in 1700's

*Was inoculated for small pox so she could reside at winter encampments with George during Revolutionary War.

*Believed that her behavior as George's wife would be the model for the nation's future presidential wives so held weekly Friday night receptions, open to any and all wanting to attend.

Cutting Directions

White fabric

four 3.5" squares
two 4.5" squares
one 4.75" square
one 7.75" square

Blue fabric

four 4.25" squares
one 4.75" square

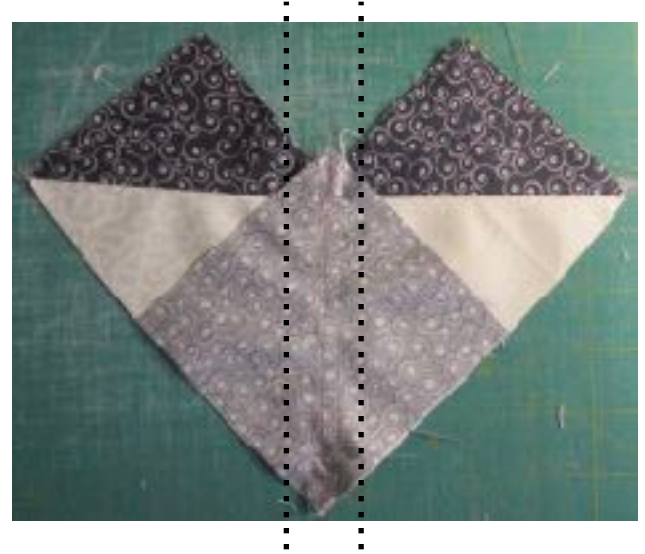
Step 1 - 4 Flying Geese - FG

You will need the white 7.75 square and the four blue 4.25 squares. Draw a diagonal line on back of each of the 4 blue squares. Place 2 of the blue squares on opposite corners of white square, RST (right sides together). Blues will overlap at the center. You might want to use a couple pins to keep everything in place. Sew 1/4 inch from both sides of diagonal line.





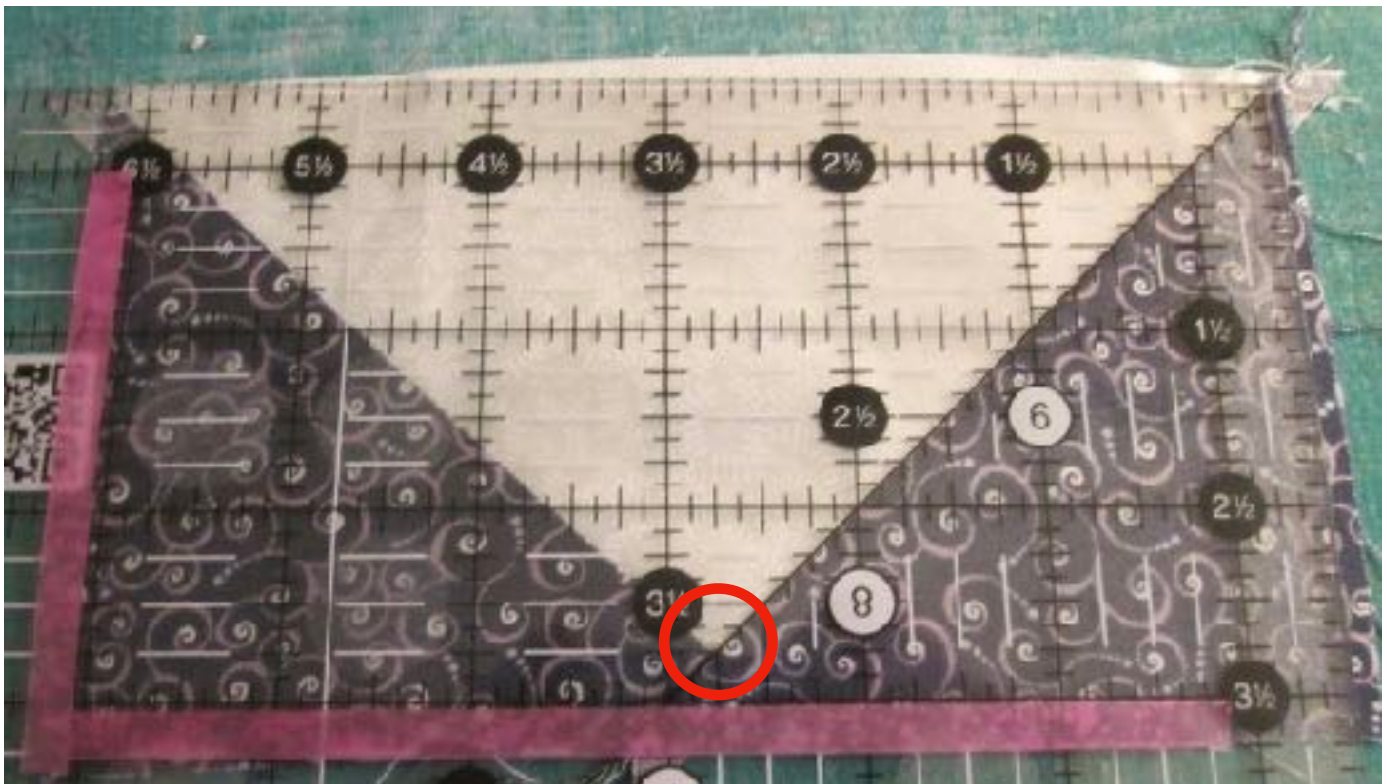
Cut apart on drawn line & press carefully to blue.



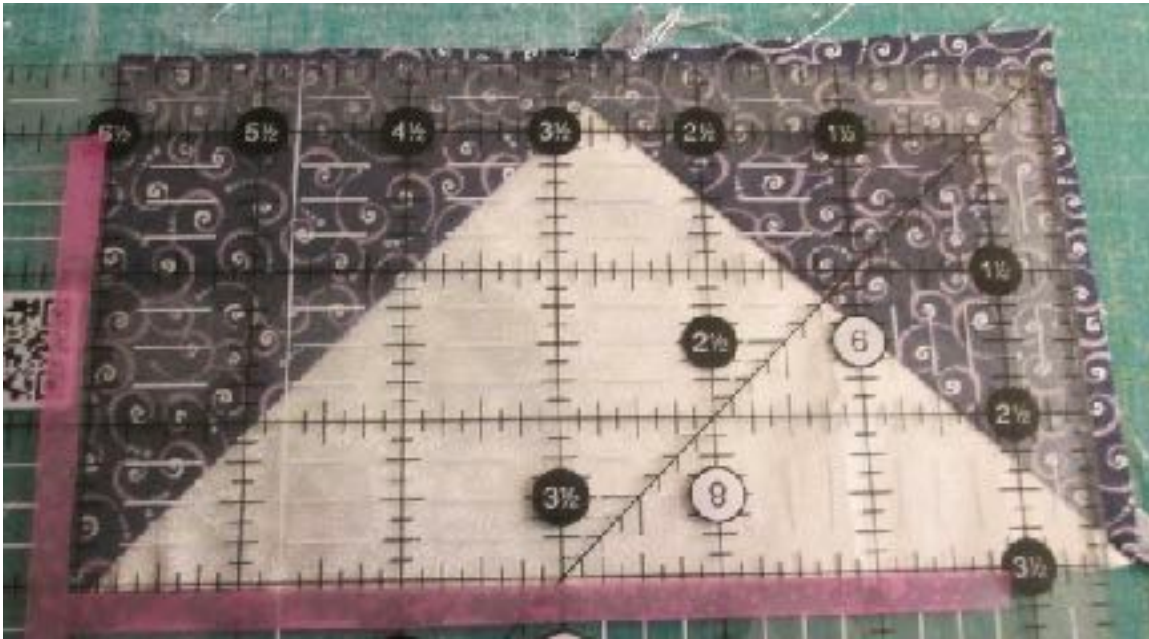
Arrange a blue square in the corner of each unit, right sides together, with diagonal line positioned as shown. Again, sew a scant 1/4 inch away from the marked diagonal line.

Cut on the diagonal line and press to blue. Trim to 3.5" x 6.5", making sure there is 1/4" above the goose's "beak" so you don't lose the point.

If you have a specialty ruler for Flying Geese, great. If not, a regular ruler with a diagonal line on it will work just fine. Mark the 3.5 and 6.5 lines on your ruler with tape. With "goose" pointing at you, line the ruler's diagonal line along right side of "goose". Note that the point is centered on the 3.25" vertical line and the 3.25 horizontal line. This will keep "goose" centered and give you 1/4 inch seam allowance. Trim right side and top.



Flip unit, line up tape lines and trim again.



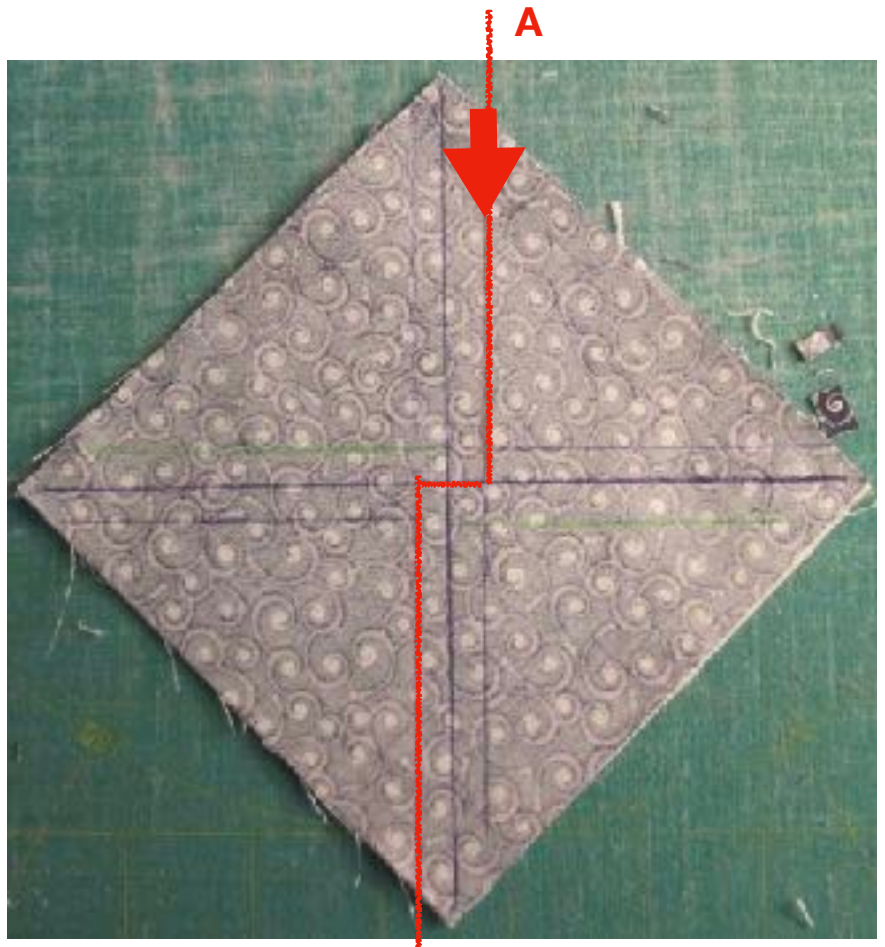
Step 2 - Mini Floating Pinwheels (also called Non-Mirrored Combos)

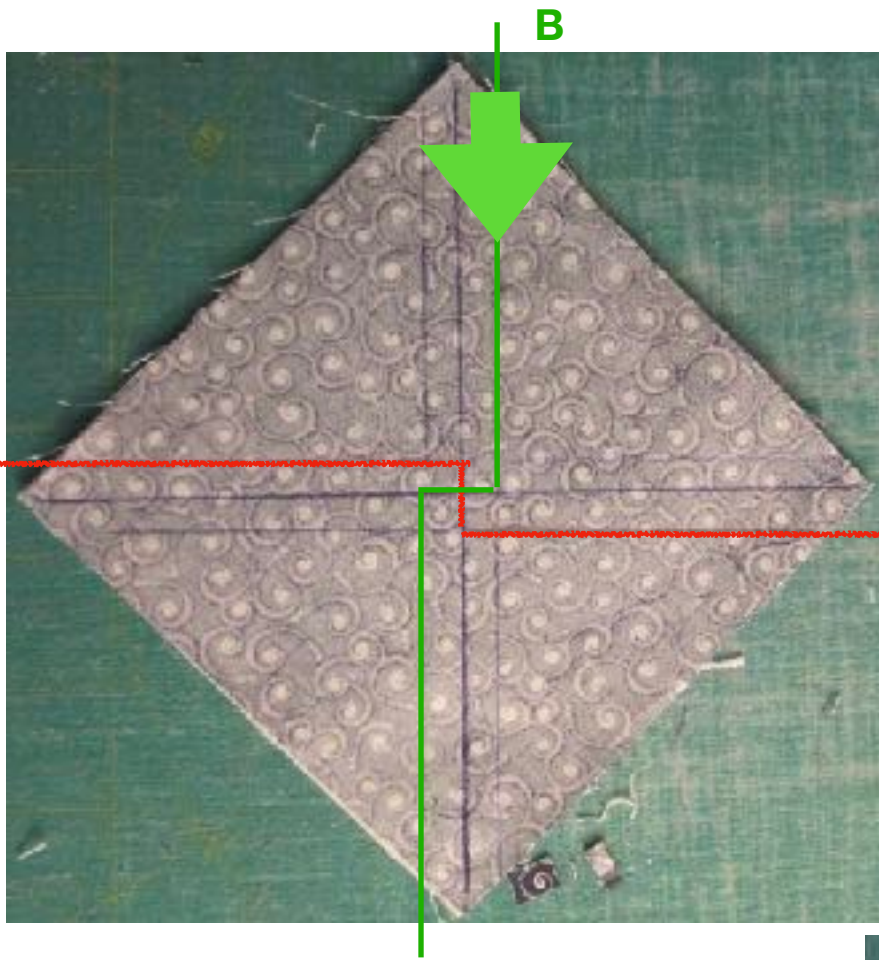
To have all the center blue pinwheel blades going the same way used to require the quilter to cut out lots of little triangles. I have a method that is much easier.

Take the blue and the white 4.75" squares. WITH BLUE ON TOP, place RST and draw a diagonal line in both directions. Next, draw lines 1/4 inch from each of the diagonal as shown.

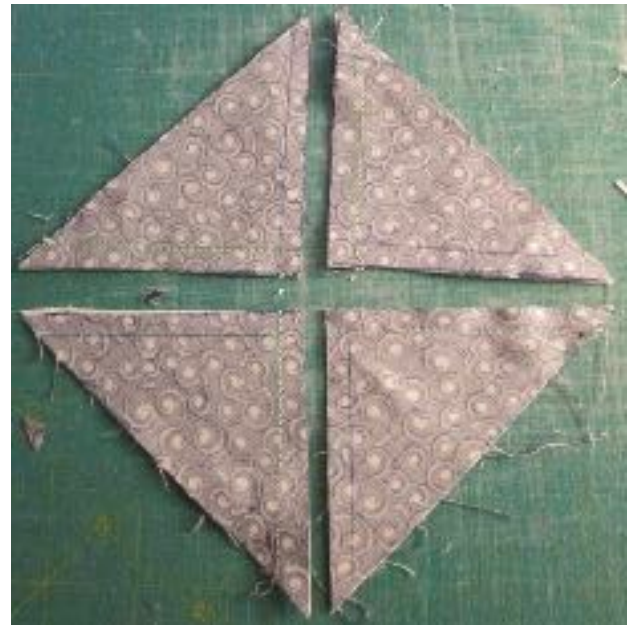
***** If using different colors, your blade (little triangle) color must be on top. *****

Sew all the way along the Red Line A.





Turn the unit a quarter turn.
Sew on the Green Line B.



Cut unit into 4 triangles on the original
diagonal line.

Press seams open.



Take 2 white 4.5" squares and cut once on the diagonal to make 4 large triangles.

Sew a large white triangle to 2-color triangle unit. White triangle will be a bit oversized.



Press to larger white triangle.
Trim to 3.5"



Layout these 4 units as shown at right and sew together as a 4-patch.

Watch the direction of the pinwheel blades.

Seams should nest.

The hard part is over !



Step 3 - Assemble

Lay out units as shown.

Sew white 3.5" squares to ends of FG in top and bottom rows.

Sew side FG to the pinwheel center.

Then sew 3 rows together. Press flat and trim to 12.5" if needed.

That's it. Martha would be proud !

