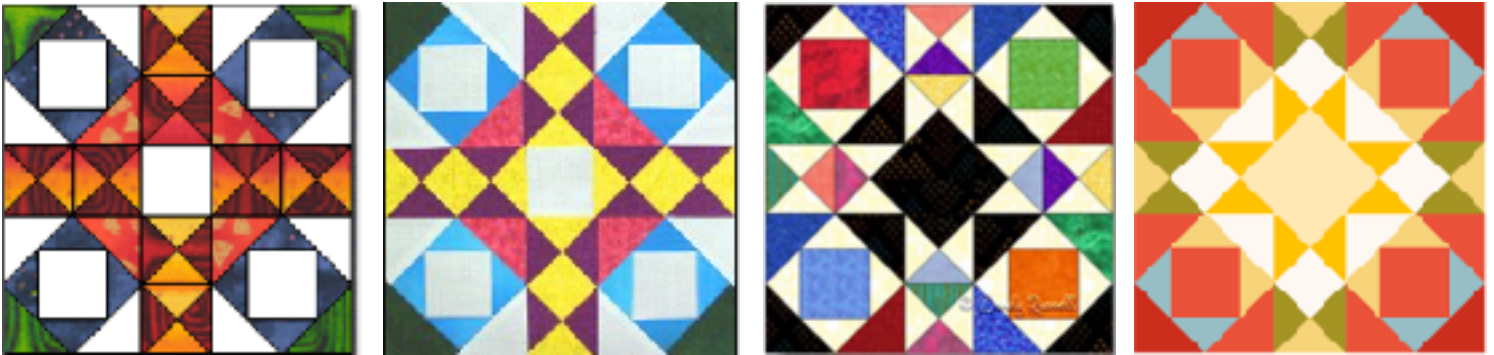


March Block of the Month - Joseph's Coat

As the name implies, this block uses LOTS of colors ! Do you have colorful scraps that are too big to toss but don't know what to do with them? This block will give them a home. Color placement can be an important design feature for this block so a coloring page is included to help you plan your block.



To end up with an 18" finished block, I made an adjustment to the hourglass units in the sashing.

Each Hourglass will finish at 3 x 3.75. Not Square as shown.

I've included a pattern for paper piecing those sections.

You will print 2 copies of the included paper piecing page.

DON'T PANIC ! Just call if you need help.

Let's start with the corner units. These are Square in a Square in a Square (S-3) To make 4 units, you need:

Four 4" squares for the centers. These can be all the same color or all different

Eight 4.5" background squares for inner triangles. Cut each on a diagonal to make 16 triangles.

Eight 5.5" squares for outer triangles. Again, cut each on a diagonal to make 16 triangles. I cut 4 black & 4 different colors.



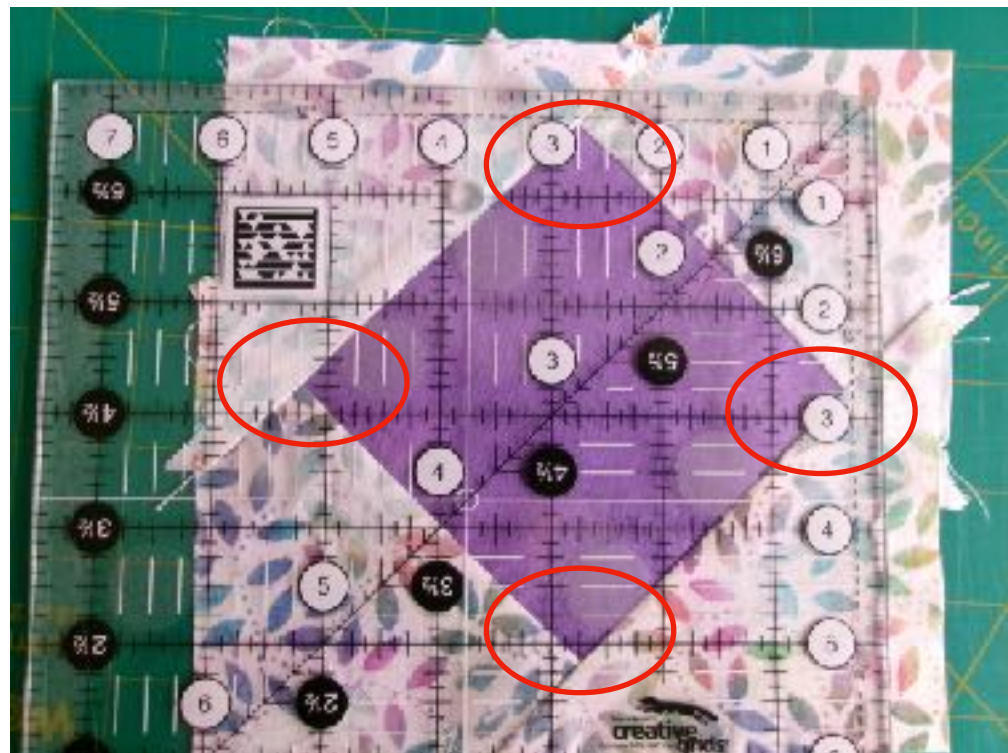
For 1 corner unit, chose a center square, 4 background inner triangles, 2 black and 2 different colored outer triangles.

Center 2 background triangles along opposite sides of the 4" square. Pin & sew together with a 1/4" seam. Press towards triangles. Now add 2 remaining background triangles to the remaining sides of the square. Sew & press towards the triangles.



Press flat and trim to 5.5". Align the 2.75" horizontal and vertical lines on your ruler with the corners of the center square. Trim top and side.

Rotate the unit. Align the trimmed edge of fabric with the 5.5" lines on your ruler and the 2.75" lines with the corners of the center square. Trim top and side.



Now for the larger, outer triangles. Take 2 black and 2 colors. You will see the overlapping edges of these triangles in the finished block so make sure you construct them all in the same order for a consistent look. I started with the black triangles so that the colors overlapped on the top. Center the black triangles, pin, and sew with S-3 on top so you can sew right on the corner points of the purple square. Press to triangles. Now add colored corners in the same way.

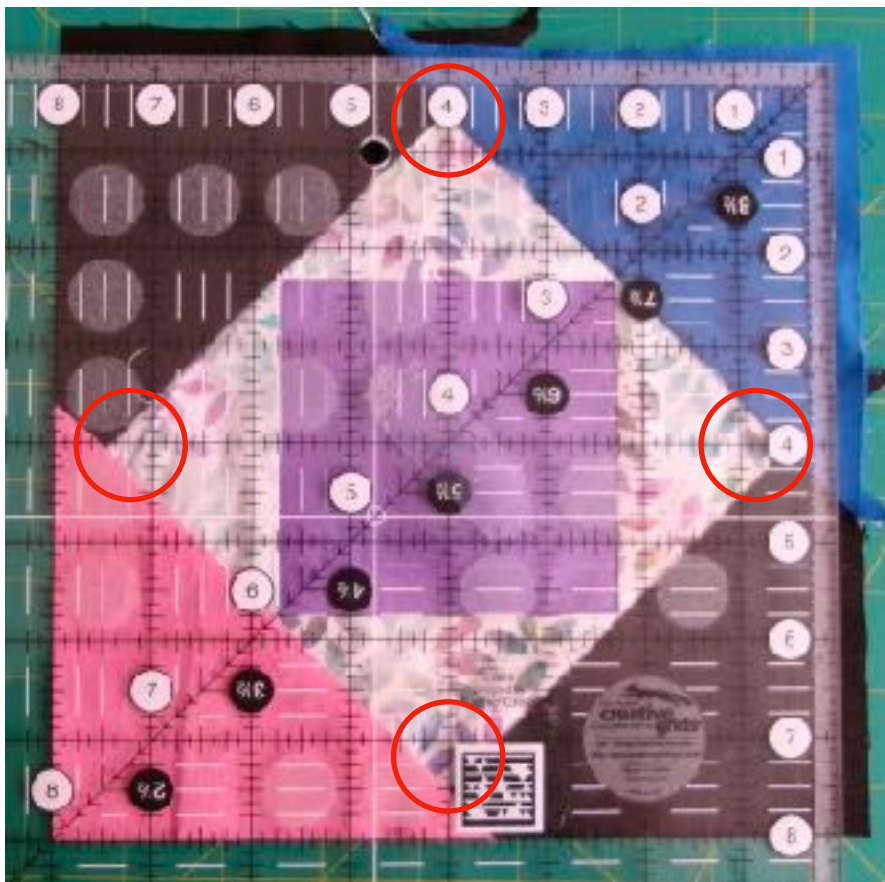


These S-3 units are trimmed to 8" square.

Line the 4" horizontal and vertical ruler lines on the background color points. Trim top and side.

**** There will be about 1/2" between point and edge of fabric. ****





Rotate unit, line up 4" lines, and trim top and side. Note how colored triangles are on top of black triangles. You can also sew with black on top. Totally a personal choice :)



Repeat these steps to make a total of 4 corner units.

Now to the hourglass units. If you have not tried paper piecing and want some help, please contact me. Once you get the hang of it, it is pretty easy. There are a variety of methods & tutorials on line. The links below make the most sense to me if you want to watch them. Again, don't hesitate to call for help :)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uaW26igygE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7Kx4Q7JSwQ>

**** Some personal hints I've found helpful ****

1. Write the colors you want to use on the paper.
2. Blank side of paper faces the wrong side of the fabric.
3. A pin or dab of glue stick works well to hold first piece in place
4. Cut your fabric pieces a little bigger than you think you need, especially with triangles. They never seem to fold the way you expect :)
5. If the corners of fabric & corners of paper slip around, take a couple stitches in the seam allowance BEFORE trimming.
6. Be sure to allow for the 1/4 seam allowance when trimming. Don't trim on the sewing line.
7. If you have a light box, this is a great time to use it. Much easier than holding up to a window or a light.
8. Shorten your stitch length to make the paper tear easier.
9. Start and end seams a bit beyond drawn lines.

Print 2 copies of the attached paper-piecing pattern. You can use plain printer paper, official Foundation Paper Piecing paper, or kids' tracing paper.

Follow the numbers on the paper. Each section has only 2 colors, so only 1 seam. Sew section marked 1 & 2 fabrics together first. Then sew 3 & 4. Lastly, sew the 2 sections together. Each sashing section will contain 2 hourglass units. I set out my colors and background pieces so I wouldn't get confused with what went where.



Okay, Here we go.

Step 1 - Cut a background piece that is at least 3" x 4". Put a dab of glue on back of paper and stick to back side of fabric.



Step 2 - Fold paper back on the SEW line between 1 & 2.

Trim fabric 1/4" **beyond from the fold.** Then open paper back up.



Step 3 - Cut a color or black piece at least 3 x 3.5". Align it along the edge of the background fabric, RST.

Pin in place on the paper side.



Feel free to fold colored fabric back along what will become the seam line to check that it is big enough to cover the space and seam allowance.

If all looks good, return fabric pieces to Right Sides Together as shown in step 3. Flip the whole thing over and sew on the line between 1 and 2.

Step 4 - Open & press flat.

I put a couple of stitches in the corners of the seam allowance to keep fabric from slipping around.



Step 5 - Trim unit along dotted lines.

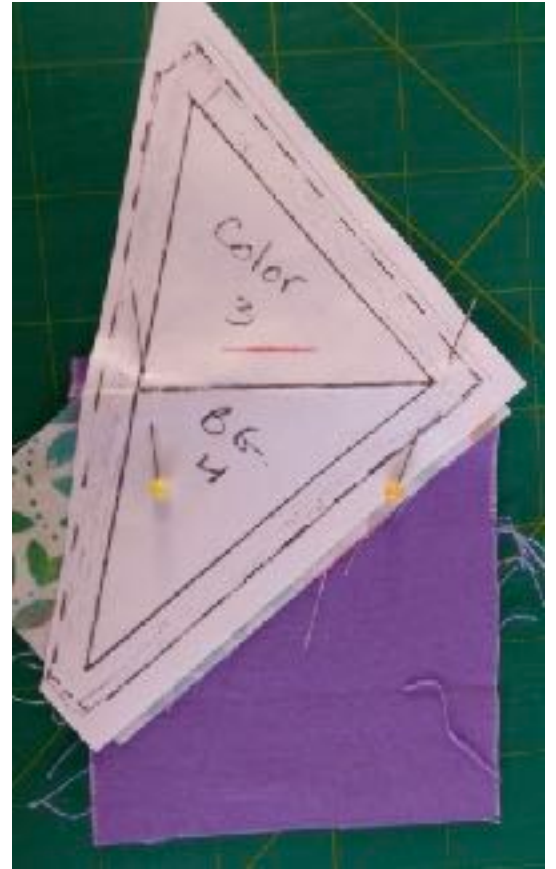


Now for the other half of the unit, labeled 3 & 4. Follow same steps as before.

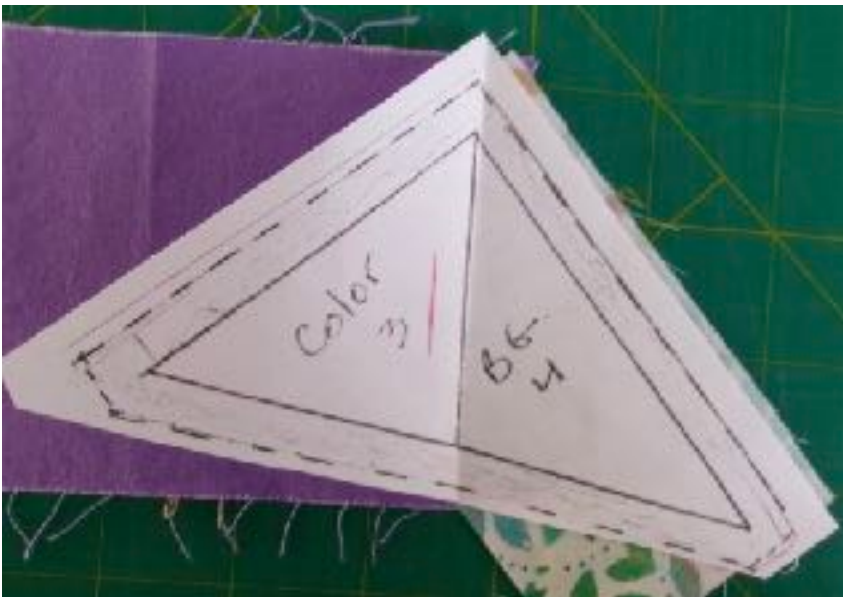
Steps 1 & 2



Step 3



Step 4



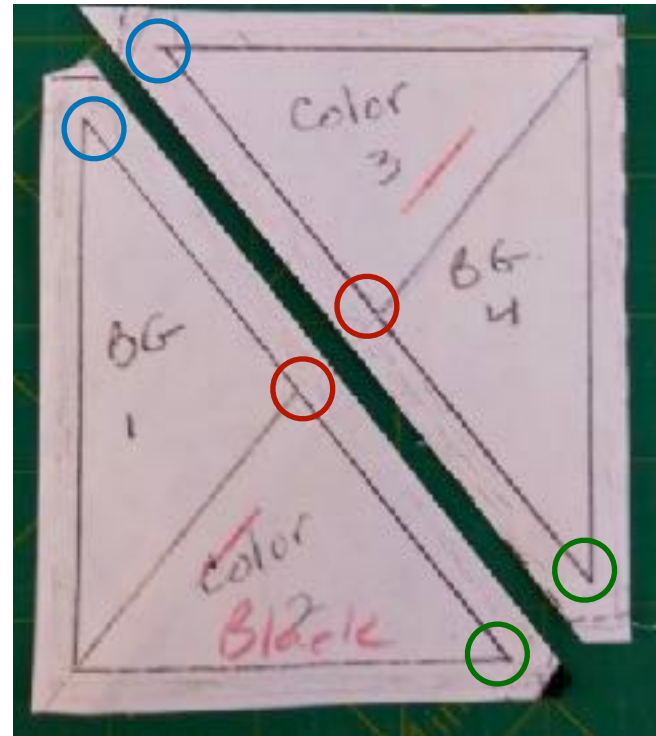
Step 5



Now we put them together.

Because we are not working with 90° angles, it is important to precision pin this unit.

Use pins to match up the 3 indicated points of the 2 units.



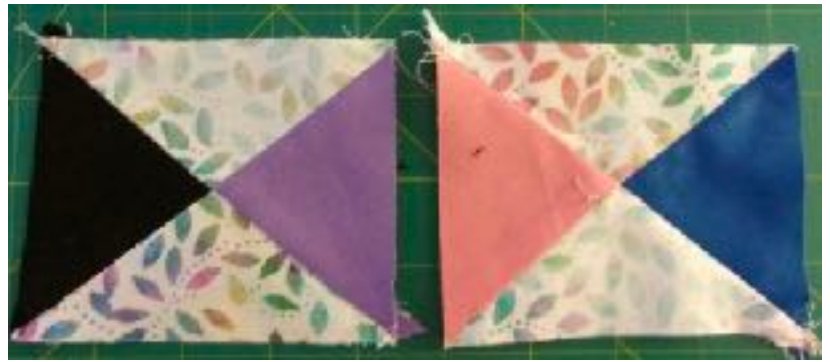
Once you have center points and corners matched and secure, sew along the line.

Open unit and press flat. You can remove paper and trim dog ears at this point

Repeat this process to make a total of 8 hour glass units.



Sashing - Time to assemble. Take 2 hourglass units and lay out as shown. Sew together, matching corner seams. Make 4.



Assembly

Cut a center black 3.5" square.

Lay out pieces as shown. Sew together in rows. Remember, the corner S-3 units have 1/2" of fabric beyond the points so their background color corners will not line-up with the hour glass points.





Sew with the hourglass on top.

Now sew the rows together.

Ta Da !!
Give it all a final
press and send
a picture to me
or Joey Strait.



