

How to Make Flying Geese

Let's look at a couple of different ways to make the Flying Geese Block.

Method 1: Traditional No Waste



Method 1 begins with three triangles. Two Half Square Triangles (HST) and One Quarter Square Triangle (QST). When working with this method you will be sewing on the bias, which is easily distorted. This method is great for Scrap Quilters. If using this method, you will need a large square for the goose, cut diagonally twice into 4 quarter square triangles (you will have 3 extra) and one sky square cut diagonally once (2 HST).

Place one of the HST right sides together with the QST aligning the bottom right hand corner. Your sky piece will extend past the top of your goose.



Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.

Press towards the sky unit



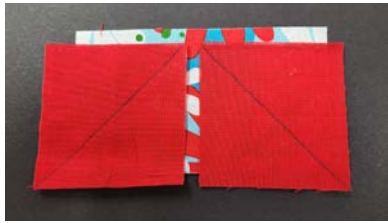
Repeat with the other sky unit.



Method 1: Cutting Chart

Finished Size	Sky Block Square	Goose Block Square
1" x 2"	1 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3"	2 $\frac{3}{8}$ "	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
2" x 4"	2 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
3" x 6"	3 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
4" x 8"	4 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	9 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
6" x 12"	6 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ "

Method 2: Stitch & Flip Flying Geese



This approach begins with a rectangle (the goose) and two squares (the sky). While still sewing on the bias, this method is a bit more accurate.

Begin by drawing a diagonal line on the wrong side of both 'sky' squares

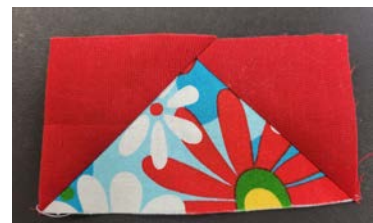
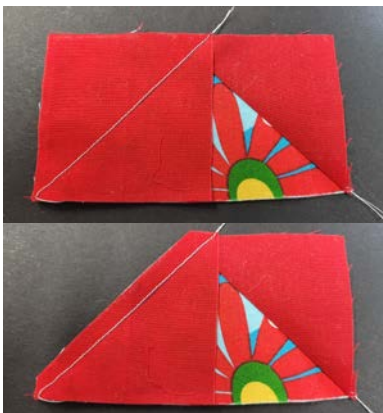


Place one square even with the right side of the rectangle. With the fabrics right sides together, sew directly on the drawn line.

Trim away the excess fabric and press the "sky" into place. You will have a bit of waste fabric. *When these scraps are large enough, I will sew a second seam 1/2" outside of the first and have a spare smaller HST already pieced when cut.*



Add the second square in the same manner as above, but on the left side of the rectangle. Stitch, trim and press to complete the corner triangle Flying Geese unit. When you are done, it should be the same size as your beginning "goose"



Method 2: Cutting Chart

Finished Size	Sky Block (cut 2)	Goose Block (cut 1)
1" x 2"	1 1/2"	1 1/2" x 2 1/2"
1 1/2" x 3"	2"	2" x 3 1/2"
2" x 4"	2 1/2"	2 1/2" x 4 1/2"
3" x 6"	3 1/2"	3 1/2" x 6 1/2"
4" x 8"	4 1/2"	4 1/2" x 8 1/2"
6" x 12"	6 1/2"	6 1/2" x 12 1/2"

Method 3: No-Waste Flying Geese Four at a Time!

Using this final approach, no fabric is wasted and you make a total of four geese at a time! This is the method we will be using for most of our geese, although we will use method 2 a couple of times.



Begin with one large square for the “geese” and four smaller squares for the “sky”. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of all four “sky” squares.

Place two sky squares right sides together on top of the larger geese square. The smaller squares will overlap a bit making one continuous line. I like to have the first square be on top of the second so that there is not chance of catching the corner of the second one as I sew up to it.

Stitch a $\frac{1}{4}$ ” seam on both sides of the drawn line. Be careful when sewing the second seam, that you do not catch that corner as you sew up to it. Having anchored it with the first seam, you will have no problem, just be aware.

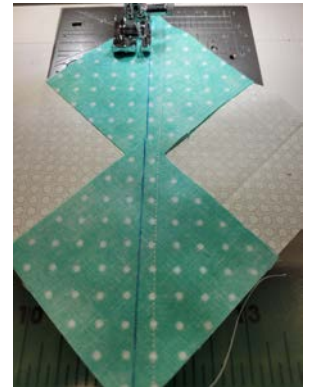


4. Cut the section apart using the drawn line as your guide.

Press the “sky” fabric up (even if it is lighter). There will be two units that look like this.

Place the remaining sky squares on top of each unit as shown.

Stitch a $\frac{1}{4}$ ” on both sides of the diagonal line, cut apart on the drawn line, press and trim dog ears.



Congratulations! You did it!

Method 3: Cutting Chart

Finished Size	Sky Block (cut 2)	Goose Block (cut 1)
1" x 2"	1 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3"	2 $\frac{3}{8}$ "	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
2" x 4"	2 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
3" x 6"	3 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
4" x 8"	4 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	9 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
6" x 12"	6 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ "