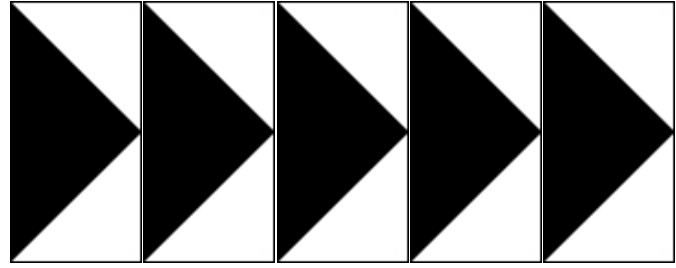


# Sophie's Tips For Flying Geese Units



Traditional Flying Geese Units are twice as wide as they are tall and are made of two “sky” triangles and one larger “goose” triangle.

There are a number of ways to construct them. Here are the three ways I use most often, one at a time or four at a time.

## One Unit at a Time (With Bonus Triangle Squares)

Cut:

- 2 squares of sky fabric that are  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch larger than the finished height
- 1 rectangle of goose fabric that is  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch taller and wider than the desired finished size.

For Example, for a 3 inch by 6 inch (finished size) FG unit, you’d cut a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  by  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inch rectangle and two  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inch squares.



Sew:

- Stack one of the squares on top of one side of the rectangle with right sides together
- Draw a line diagonally from corner to corner on the square.
- Sew ON the drawn line
- Trim  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the seam (on the side you don’t want to keep. If desired, sew the small triangles that you trimmed away together for a smaller bonus triangle square.
- Repeat with the other square on the other side of the rectangle, drawing/sewing on a line that is the mirror image of the first side.



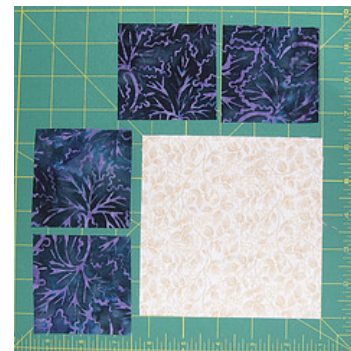
## Four Flying Geese at a Time with No Waste

Cut Fabrics. For each set of four geese, you'll need:

- One square of the geese fabric which is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches larger than the finished width of the geese unit (i.e.,  $5\frac{1}{4}$  for  $2 \times 4$  inch geese,  $7\frac{1}{4}$  for  $3 \times 6$  inch geese)
- Four squares of sky fabric that are  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch larger than the finished height of the geese unit ( $2\frac{7}{8}$  inches for  $2 \times 4$  geese,  $3\frac{7}{8}$  inches for  $3 \times 6$  geese).

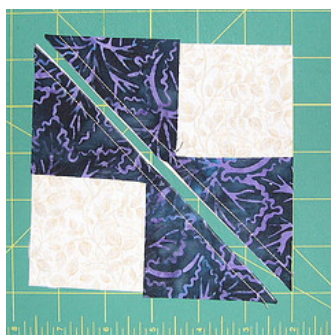
In this example, the cream is the geese fabric and the batik is the sky fabric.

NOTE: If you are tempted to round the  $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch up to an easy-to-add full inch and trim later, DON'T. It doesn't work for this method.

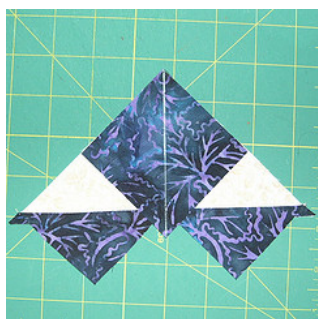


Sew.

- Putting right sides together, line up the edges of two of the small squares with the edges of two diagonal corners of the large square. Draw a line, across both small squares from corner to corner. You can also fold the square in half and press a crease to use as your line.
- Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch on each side of the drawn line. Then cut along the line.
- Press the seams toward the dark fabric.



- For each half, align a small square in the corner, right sides together. Draw a diagonal line.
- Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch on each side of the drawn line. Then cut along the line.
- Press the seams toward the dark fabric. Your four flying geese units are done.

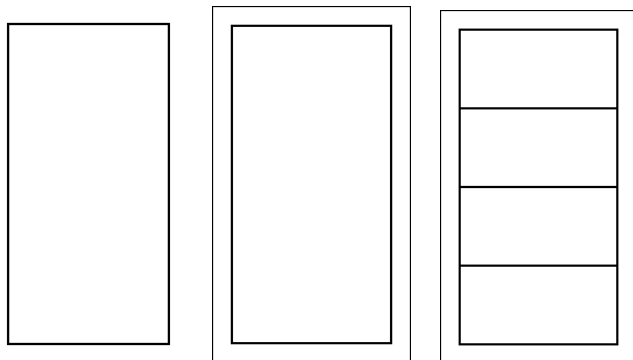


## Foundation Pieced Flying Geese

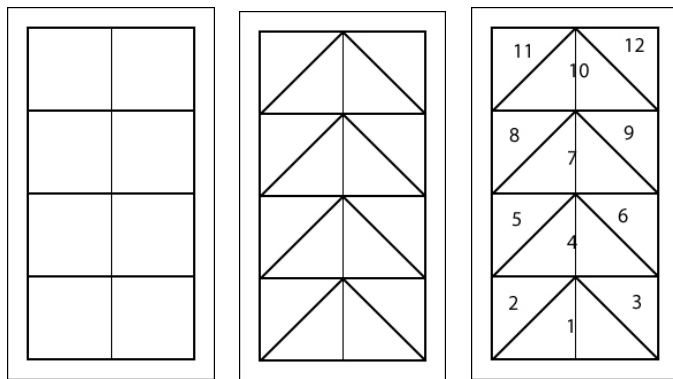
Columns of Flying Geese are a good candidate for paper foundation piecing, especially for odd sizes (which would make rotary cutting more challenging), geese with different than the tradition proportions, or geese that fly in curves.

To create a foundation template, here are the basic steps:

1. Draw a rectangle that represents the finished size of your block or border.
2. Add the outside seam allowance,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch larger, around the outside of the rectangle.
3. Subdivide the rectangle into units.



4. Draw the "goose" inside each rectangle. If you are making traditional (non-wonky) geese, it will help to draw a temporary line down the center first.
5. Number the areas within your template, starting with the last goose, as shown.



When you cut the fabrics to prepare for paper-piecing, if you start with a square and cut it diagonally for the sky units, your finished block or border will have straight-of-grain fabrics along the edge, making it easier to join with the rest of your quilt without any bias edges stretching.