

## WILD GEESE

Finished Block Size: 9"

Fabric A: Theme print

Fabric B: Plaid

Fabric C: Green and Tan Background

What could be more representative of fall than a flying geese design and a plaid! Please read the tips section before you begin, it will really help with the piecing.

### **TIPS-READ THIS EVEN IF YOU DON'T READ ANYTHING ELSE!**

1. The plaid is a homespun. Homespuns are a softer, thicker, loosely woven fabric, not as firm as the typical broadcloths you are used to using. So you need to be aware that they can ravel and stretch if they are over handled. Take your time cutting and sewing them, be gentle with the pieces. Even if you don't normally use pins I definitely recommend using them on this project. When possible while sewing place the homespun on the bottom so it is next to the feed dogs that way your presser foot can't push the softer fabric out of alignment. It would also be a good idea to use a dry iron when pressing and use steam for the final pressing when the block is completed. By the way I do mean pressing, as opposed to heavy handed ironing. Always use a light handed approach so you don't stretch out the seams. Remember it's a quilt block not a pair of jeans!
2. This block has a lot of seams. The more seams a block has the faster it seems to shrink in size as you sew. The real key to accuracy in sewing a quarter inch seam is speed. Take your time and enjoy the process, there is no reason to sew at the speed of light. You had to rush while you were on the hop so you could make it to just one more shop before it closed but now you're home so relax and become one with your machine. Sew a sample seam first with the scraps left over from the cutting then measure the seam to be sure you're sewing accurately. I've discovered that when working with thicker fabrics like the homespuns sewing a scant 1/4" seam works better. If you take the few minutes to adjust your seam before you start on the project you'll get much better results and be much happier with the finished result. If you're a beginner make a sample block out of your own scrap fabric first to work out any bugs you encounter, that way you haven't wasted any of the precious kit fabric.
3. Don't let the block intimidate you! If you like it then make it! Remember it's just a quilt block, you actually faced more hazards driving to all those quilt shops!

### Cutting Instructions:

Fabric A (theme print)

Cut 1 – 4  $3/8$ " square; cut in half diagonally twice to make 4 quarter square triangles

Cut 2 – 2  $3/4$ " squares

Fabric B (plaid)

Cut 1 – 4  $3/8$ " square; cut in half diagonally twice to make 4 quarter square triangles

Cut 2 – 2  $3/4$ " squares

Fabric C (green/tan background)

Cut 1 - 5  $3/4$ " square; cut in half diagonally twice to make 4 quarter square triangles

Cut 8 – 2  $1/2$ " squares; cut in half diagonally once to make 16 half square triangles

### Piecing Instructions:

Block Center – Place a fabric A quarter square triangle RST with a fabric B quarter square triangle. Keep fabric A on top as the presser foot can stretch the homespun out of alignment while sewing. Sew a  $1/4$ " seam on the shorter straight grain side of the triangles. Repeat with another pair of A and B quarter square triangles. Carefully press the seams toward A (theme print). Place the two sewn triangle units RST along the longest edge, matching the center seam and the points at both ends. Sew and carefully press whichever direction gives the best looking match at the center. You will now have a square. Set it aside.

\*Geese Units – Place a fabric C half square triangle RST with a fabric A quarter square triangle, matching the points at the bottom edge (the long side of the quarter square triangle), let the point at the top of the half square triangle hang over the edge as it will be trimmed after sewing. Sew and carefully press toward fabric C (yes I mean toward the background, the geese just lie flatter and you get a sharper nose on them if you press this way). Trim off the excess triangle points. Repeat these steps for the other side of the geese units. Be sure to press carefully and trim off the excess points. You should have 2 completed geese units.

Now make 2 geese units from 4 fabric C half square triangles and 2 fabric B quarter square triangles.

\*These units can be chain pieced if you want to avoid a lot of starting and stopping.

Corner Units – Carefully fold a fabric A square in half, making a crease at the center edge. Carefully fold a fabric C half square triangle in half (Be sure the points match up) and pinch a crease at the center edge. Place the two pieces RST matching the creases.

Check to be sure there is an even amount of point hanging over both sides of the square. Re-position the pieces if you have to then sew and press toward the square. Trim off the excess points. Fold the square in half again matching the edges (unstitched raw edge to stitched raw edge) and pinch a crease at the center edge. Fold another C half square triangle in half (be sure the points match up) and pinch a crease at the center edge. Place the two pieces RST matching the creases, checking the amount of over hang on the points. Where the point extends past the seamline the needle on your machine should line up at a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in the groove, theoretically at least. If it's a little off don't worry, if it's a lot off re-check the position or your seam allowance. Stitch and press and trim. Repeat these steps to make a second corner unit.

Repeat the above steps to make 2 corner units from the fabric B squares and the remaining fabric C half square triangles. Sometimes it's hard to see the crease on the homespun so use a small ruler to find the center and put in a pin. Then match the crease on the triangle to the pin on the square.

\*Sewing the Units Together: Sew a fabric B goose unit to each side of the center square placing the point (nose) of the goose unit to the long edge of the fabric B quarter square triangle. Press toward the long edge of the center square triangle (away from the point). Sew a corner unit to each end of the strip of geese. Again press toward the long edge of the fabric B quarter square triangle, away from the corner point. Now you have the center strip for the block, set it aside.

Sew a fabric A corner unit to each fabric A goose unit, press seam away from the corner point toward the goose unit. Place the sewn unit RST with a large fabric C quarter square triangle matching the ends. Be sure the sewn unit is on top so you can see how your seam intersects the previous seams to keep your points sharp. Press toward the large triangle. Trim off excess points. Repeat for the opposite side. You now have a large pieced triangle unit. Repeat the steps to make another one.

Now you are going to join the large pieced triangle units to the center geese strip. Carefully match and pin all seam intersections. Handle these sections carefully because this is where things can really stretch out of shape. Sew the seam and press toward the large pieced triangle unit. Repeat for the other side. Trim off any excess points. According to the math the block should be  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " but mine always come out a little smaller,  $9\frac{3}{8}$ ". If your points match and the block lays fairly flat consider it a success and move on to the next block!

Congratulations and thank you for stopping by the Quilt Loft. Please email us a picture of your sampler, we'd really love to see it.

Karen Roberts, owner and Debi Wahl, teacher