

FLYING GEESE 4 WAYS

1. TRADITIONAL

Traditional Flying Geese units are twice as wide as they are high. To make four units, cut a square $1\frac{1}{4}$ " larger than the desired finished width of your flying geese unit (i.e. for a 4" block, cut your fabric $5\frac{1}{4}$ " square). Make two diagonal cuts to yield four triangles (the geese). For each unit cut a contrasting square 1" larger than one half the finished width of your unit (for a 4" wide block, cut your fabric 3x3"). Cut the square diagonally corner to corner to yield two small triangles (the sky).

Sew one small triangle to geese unit as illustrated and press seam toward the corner. Repeat on the other side with a second small triangle. Duplicate this procedure to make a second unit.

You can also draw the entire unit to size on paper and make templates. Be sure to add a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance all around each piece when cutting the fabric. See <https://www.craftsy.com/blog/2015/06/how-to-make-flying-geese> for a photo of how this should look.

2. FLIP AND STITCH

Cut a rectangle to the desired finished size plus $\frac{1}{2}$ " (ex. For a 2x4" unit, cut $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ "). Cut two squares in a contrasting fabric one half the size of the finished unit plus $\frac{1}{2}$ " (ex. $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ "). Draw a diagonal line on the back of each square. Place one square right sides together on the rectangle, aligning corners. The diagonal line should face the center top of the rectangle. Sew.

TIP: sew a second line $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from first line. Then cut half way between the two sewn lines. You will end up with a small half-triangle square you can use in another project.

Press the seam toward the outside corner.

Repeat this process with the second square.

TIP: If your $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams are a little less than accurate, cut your pieces about $\frac{1}{8}$ – $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger and trim the unit to size when complete.

See <https://www.craftsy.com/blog/2015/06/how-to-make-flying-geese> for internet instruction

3. PAPER PIECED

Draw your own pattern or print from the Internet, where you can find everything from single units to rows of multiple geese. Cut your pieces as in Flip and Stitch,

but about 1/8" to 1/4" larger. Turn **paper pattern wrong side up** and position **geese fabric right side up** with a dot of glue. Position a **contrasting square right side down**, aligning corners as in Flip and Stitch method. Turn pattern so printed side is up and stitch along diagonal line. Fold paper pattern back along stitched line; insert a postcard in the paper fold. Using a quarter inch ruler, trim off excess fabric from the corner. Press seam toward outside corner. Repeat on other side. **TIP:** remember that when sewing paper pieced patterns, everything is reversed. This is not important for a symmetrical pattern, but for asymmetrical patterns or designs where you have a different "sky" fabric on each side, double check that everything is in the correct place before stitching.

Refer to this website for excellent instructions and photos – a little different from above - <http://www.generations-quilt-patterns.com/flying-geese.html>

4. NO WASTE

See Patti Anderson website listed below (patchpieces)

5. DIMENSIONAL GEESE

For class attendees only. See handout; instructions printed by permission of Judy Doenias.

WEBSITE RESOURCES (these are just a few)

<https://www.craftsy.com/blog/2015/06/how-to-make-flying-geese> (really good photos!)

<http://blog.shopmartingale.com/quilting-sewing/how-to-sew-flying-geese/> (this article includes tables for fabric cutting dimensions for each method).

www.quilterscache.com/H/Howtomakegeese.html

www.patchpieces.com/files/flyinggeese/pdf

google Missouri Quilt Co Tutorials/flying geese

<http://www.patchworksquare.com/index.php?function=DisplayCategory&showCategory=Y&links=1&id=50&order=1651870667&page=1>. LOTS of block ideas

BOOKS (these are just a few good authors for drafting patterns and block ideas)

Look for Ginny Beyer, Gail Garber, Judy Mathieson, Harriet Hargrave, Sally Collins