

York Heritage Quilters' Guild
Block of the Month for March 2010

By Joan Hug-Valeriotte

From "Selina and the Bear Paw Quilt"

By Barbara Schmucker,
Quilts by Lucy Anne Holliday



"That evening, when the oil lamps were lit, Selina crept to the head of the stairs and watched her mother set up the quilting frame. Spread out on it was the Friendship Star quilt top, with a layer of wool batting inside and a strong cloth underneath. Selina wanted to be one of the quilters, but Mother had told her she needed more practice."

Although the Friendship Star quilt is featured in the illustration in the center of the page in the book, it is surrounded by a border of Sawtooth Stars. This pattern can be made using half-square triangles for the points of the star, but instructions below are also given for making the Flying Geese block which can then form the points of the Star, thus avoiding an extra seam in the background fabric. This is an 8" block when finished, 8 1/2" unfinished. Please remember to use traditional small prints, esp. florals or a small print on a white background, not cream.

You can create the "Flying Geese units by sewing triangles together, but then you have to deal with messy bias edges stretching while you're sewing. To avoid that, try one of these methods.

Method 1. Half-square triangles (leaves a seam up the middle of the Flying Goose background)

Cut a 4 1/2" square from a small print on a yellow background.

Cut 4 x 2 1/2" square from a small print on a white background for the corners.

Cut 4 x 3" squares from the same print for the center portion of the Flying Geese on the sides.

Cut 4 x 3" squares from a small floral or other traditional print on a red background for the points of the stars. See previous newsletters for instructions on making the half-square triangles. Join two half-square triangles to make a "Flying Geese unit."

Join 2 Flying Geese units to each side of the centre yellow square. Assemble the top and bottom strips, joining two small background squares to each side of a Flying Geese unit and assemble the two strips top and bottom, taking care to press the seams in opposite directions so they will "nest", neatly.

Method 2. The Snow Ball method for making the Flying Geese units

Cut 4 x 4 1/2" x 2 1/2" rectangles from the white background print.

Cut 8 x 2 1/2" squares from the red print.

Place a red square on one end of the white rectangle, right sides together and draw a diagonal line from the middle of the long edge of the background fabric to the corner. Sew, NOT on the line, but just to the outside of it. Press the red piece back over to the corner and trim both triangles away from underneath. Repeat on the other side of the block. Trim to 4 1/2" x 2 1/2" if necessary. (This can be the start of your stash of little triangles for future mini's). – (See over)



Method 3 Using a Jodi Barrows or Al Miller Shaded 4-patch ruler.

If you need to make lots of Flying Geese for a border, these fast, easy and accurate methods make four at a time.

These rulers have the point of a 90 degree angle against a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance marking on the edge of the ruler. You can create one yourself, using masking tape, or you can use one of the 45 degree angle lines on an Omnigrad or other ruler to help you "register" the angle of the flying goose while you are trimming it.

3a. Al Miller method, using his Shaded 4-patch ruler. There is no waste, makes 4 at a time.

Cut two fabric squares, one $5\frac{1}{2}$ " for the white background and one $6\frac{3}{4}$ " of the red.

Visually center the white square over the red one, right sides together. Draw a diagonal line corner to corner and sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam on either side of the line. Cut apart and press towards the larger triangle.

Place the right sides together so the opposite coloured fabrics are on top of each other, being sure to match the outside edges. Draw a diagonal line perpendicular to the first seams. Sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam on each side of the line. Cut apart, press. Using the 90 degree angle on a Jodi Barrows or Al Miller ruler to register the background triangle, trim each unit to $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ ".

3b. Jodi Barrows method, using the square in a square technique. Makes 4 at a time with some waste.

pages 12 and 13 in "Borders by the Square" by Jodi Barrows, See www.quiltinglyyours.com