o c t o b e r :

FLYING GEESE

It's fall and the birds are starting to migrate – what better a block for October than the "Flying Geese" block? Again, this month I'm giving you two pattern options, but remember that you're welcome to just use these as a guideline and go nuts with your block, or, use the pattern to create this traditional block with a modern twist! Remember to have fun ☺

Assume exact ¼" seam allowance. Yields one beautiful 12.5" block.

Block 1: 'Classic' Flying Geese – The Ombre Block

Cutting:
From background color, cut
(16) 3 ½" squares (geese corner triangles)

From color(s) cut
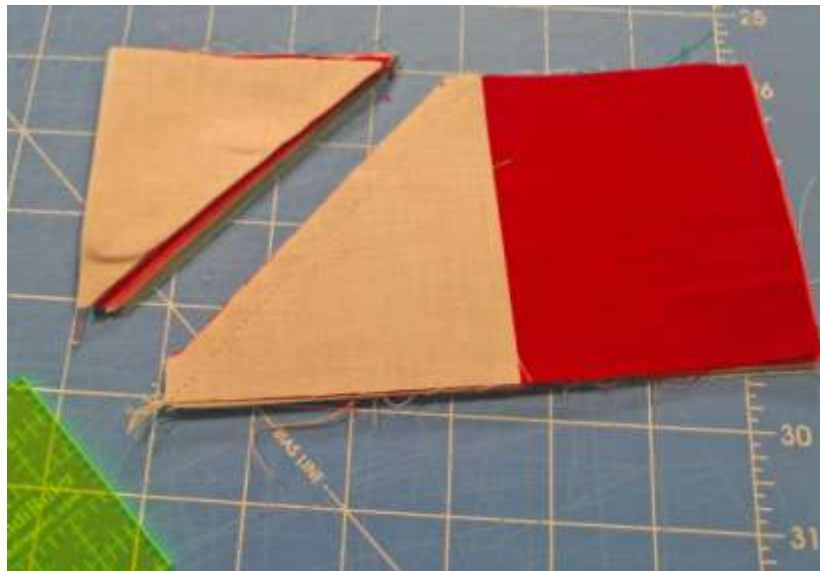(8) 6 ½" x 3 ½" rectangles

Instructions:

Draw a line down the diagonal of your background squares (the geese corner triangles).
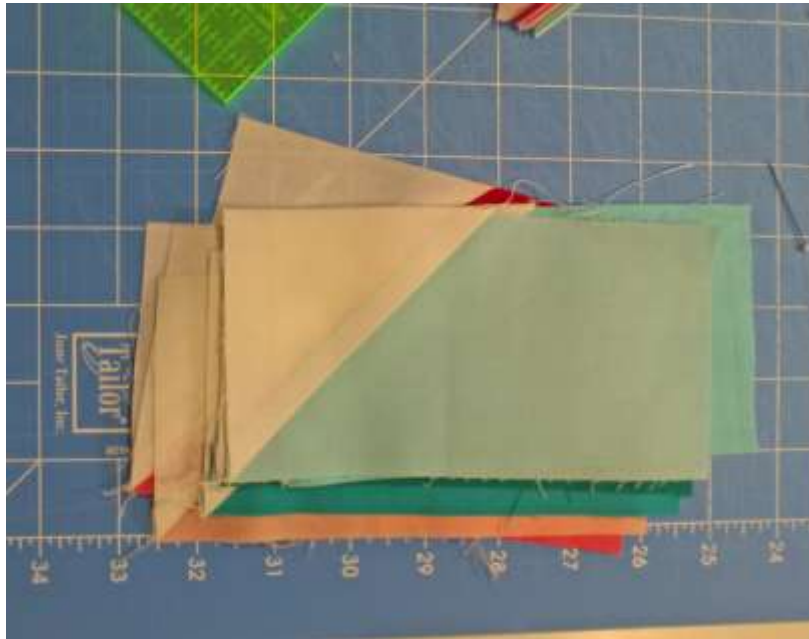
In one corner of each of your 8 colored rectangles, align a background square with the top, bottom and side edge – your drawn line should run from the middle of the block to one corner edge, like so:
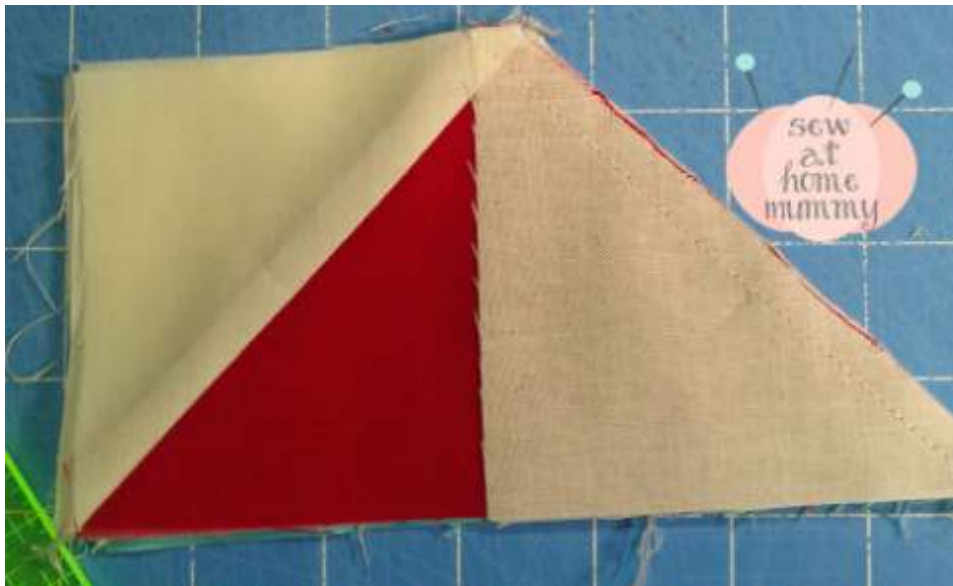

Sew along your drawn line (as pictured above). Trim the excess background and colored fabric away from the outside of the seam, at ¼". Repeat for all 8 of your rectangles:

Press the geese triangle flap back, like so:

Place a second square, with your drawn line oriented from the center (overlapping the first geese seam) to the opposite corner, on your colored rectangle, and sew along the drawn line again. Trim again to ¼" from the sewn line, like so:

Press the background triangle portion back, creating the other geese triangle corner.

Now it's time to play!

Work with the orientation of your rectangle geese segments until you get a composition you're happy with. For this block, I decided to go with an apposing ombre effect.

Once you're happy, go ahead and join your blocks into two rows of four, aligning points:

...and then join those two rows together, matching seams, to create your final block:

Block 2: The "Modern" Mini Flying Geese Block

Cutting:
From background color, cut
(24)   2 ½" squares (triangle geese corners)
(6)   4 ½" x 2 ½"   rectangles

From colored fabrics cut:
(12)   4 ½" x 2 ½"   rectangles

Instructions:

Creating your Geese Units:

Using the technique stated above for creating your 'geese', draw a diagonal line across all 24 of your
    background colored squares, stack them on top of your colored rectangles, matching top,
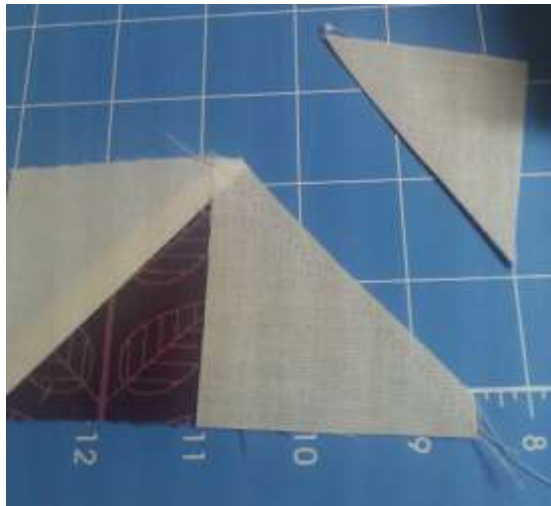   bottom and side edges. Sew along the drawn line.

Trim ¼" from the sewn line, creating a ¼" seam.

Press triangle 'flap' back, creating one triangle corner of the goose. Repeat for all of your colored rectangles.

with the remaining squares, position the drawn diagonal line so that it intersects the first geese seam in the middle of the rectangle, and the edges of the square align with the top, bottom and side edges of the colored rectangle. Sew along line, trim away excess fabric to create a ¼" seam allowance:

Press triangle 'flap' back to reveal your goose &

repeat for all colored rectangles:

Now, it's time to play.

Using your geese and background rectangles, go ahead and play with several orientations.

Tip: each time you come up with an orientation you like, snap a picture of it so that you can go back and reference each orientation you played with when making your final decision!

Here are some of the orientations I played with:

Once you've decided on a block design you love, assemble your pieces into rows first, then join those rows together to create your block:

Don't forget to upload pictures of your block(s) to the Sew at Home Mummy: Classic meets Modern QAL group, and then link-up your photo to the blog post at Sew at Home Mummy!

I hope you're all having fun! Only 2 months left in the quilt along, and we'll start discussing some options for layouts in December for the wrap up. As always, thank you so much for quilting-along with me!

- Erin