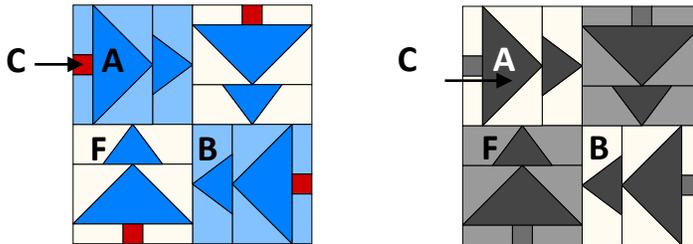


River City Quilters' Guild Block of the Month 2022

DECEMBER

Each block finishes at 12" x 12". All seams are ¼ inch. Your prepared block should measure 12.5" x 12.5". Save any extra units, strips, or scraps for future blocks.



Four Pine Trees

This block has four identically pieced units. The lower half of the tree is a standard "flying geese" unit. The upper half is a non-standard "goose" unit. You can make templates of either or both sections, or you can make a standard flying geese unit for the bottom and use **either** templates **OR** paper piecing for the upper half of the tree.

Tree Trunk

Cut four (4) squares of fabric C: 1 ½" x 1 ½" 

From your 3 ½" leftover strip of BOM fabric F, cut four (4) rectangles: 1 ½" x 3" 

Cut four (4) rectangles from fabric B: 1 ½" x 3" 

Stitch a rectangle to either side of each square to make two (2) F + A units and two (2) B + A units.



Tree Lower Half

This is a standard flying geese unit finishing at 3" x 6".



Cut one square of fabric A: 7 ¼" x 7 ¼"

Cut twice long the diagonals to make four (4) quarter square triangles (QSTs).

Cut two (2) squares of BOM fabric F: 3 7/8" x 3 7/8"

Cut in half on the diagonal to make four (4) half-square triangles (HSTs).



Stitch the HSTs to either side of the QST, pressing seam allowances toward the HSTs.

[Alternative Method: Folded Corners

Cut four (4) rectangles of fabric A: 3 ½" x 6 ½"

Cut four squares EACH of BOM fabric F and fabric B: 3 ½" x 3 ½"

Draw a line from corner to corner along one diagonal of the HSTs. Place one square on the QST right sides together and stitch on the line. Press and trim away the excess fabric B.]

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Tree Upper Half

Method 1: Use templates to cut the three shapes for each tree top. Stitch together as for earlier blocks.

Method 2: Paper foundation piecing practice!

Make four copies of the tree upper half paper foundation piecing section (on your printer or by simply tracing the pattern four times on foundation piecing paper or vellum. (Light weight copy paper can be used but is much harder to see through. You might need a light box or well-lit window.) Foundation paper is really helpful, because it is translucent, allowing you to see the fabric behind the paper. Solid lines are sewing lines. Dashed lines are cutting lines.

For either method, you will need



3" x 16" of fabric B (sides)..... Cut four (4) rectangles: 3" x 4"

3" x 16" of BOM fabric F (sides)..... Cut four (4) rectangles: 3" x 4"

3" x 15 1/2" fabric A (tree top) Cut four (4) rectangles: 3" x 3 3/4"

Cut the BOM fabric from the leftover 4" strip. If you are new to foundation piecing, consider cutting your side units a little larger at 3" x 4 1/2". If so, cut your strips longer at 3" x 18".

If you are familiar with foundation piecing, follow your usual methods. These pieces are large and easy. We are paper piecing because the triangle is not a standard 45- or 60-degree triangle, the side wedges are also odd shapes, AND it's a good practice before we reach a more complex paper-pieced block later this year.

1. **Center tree top.** Start by turning the foundation to the unmarked side. Place the center rectangle of fabric A so that it is centered over the tree top triangle and covers all lines with **at least 1/4"** all around—a 1/2" or more is better! Pin or use a fabric glue stick to secure this fabric patch to the paper **RIGHT** side UP (wrong side against the paper). Turn the paper over to the marked side and fold back the paper on one triangle side along the creased sewing line. Trim the fabric 1/4" away from the paper's folded edge.

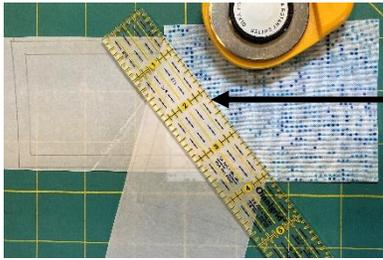
In many paper-pieced blocks, you can use any scraps or precut fabric shapes to create your pattern. If you don't need to or want to pay attention to grain line, then consider starching your fabric first, to help stabilize it so the block edges don't stretch.

2. **Precut the side patches to the matching angle.** To keep the grain lines straight along the block edges, precut the angled end of the BOM fabric patches. Put two side patches right sides together. Place the foundation on the BOM fabric, keeping the long edges of the fabric and the foundation parallel, and placing the sewing line at the upper corner of the BOM fabric patches. Fold the foundation paper back along one triangle side. Mark a line along the foundation edge. Remove the foundation and trim the BOM patches on the marked line. (See next page.)

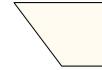


Patches ready for foundation piecing.

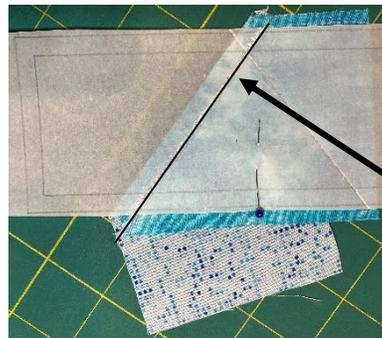
River City Quilters' Guild Block of the Month 2022



Using the foundation to trim the side wedge to the correct angle. Draw a line along the paper's folded edge. Then cut along that line.



When adding the side patches to the center triangle, align the angled cut edge with the trimmed edge of the center triangle. On this simple pattern, you can start stitching at the edge of the foundation and stop at the other end. Remember, this tree top is really just a goofy flying goose unit.



Fabric patches are right sides together on the unprinted side of the paper pattern. Sew on the printed side of the paper along the solid line.

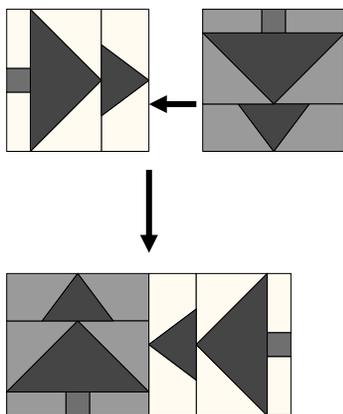
Sew on one side panel. Trim any excess seam allowance with your ruler to $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

Press the seam allowances toward the tree's tip. Repeat on the other side of the tree top and press toward the tree's tip. Press the block and then trim excess paper and fabric around the block (on the dotted line).

Assembly

Sew each of the four trees, by stitching three subunits together to form each pine tree. Sew the four trees together by stitching two rows and then joining the rows. Press the two rows toward the dark.

Press the final seam toward the dark, swirling seams at the block's center into a little four patch.



Pressing

Pressing this block is a challenge. Each seam wants to lay both up and down. You can try pressing them in one direction or pressing them open, but I chose to clip the seams and press in opposite directions. Clip to within 2 threads of the seamline, but don't clip through the seam.

Keep in mind that you will have to take extra care if you do stitch-in-the-ditch quilting.

