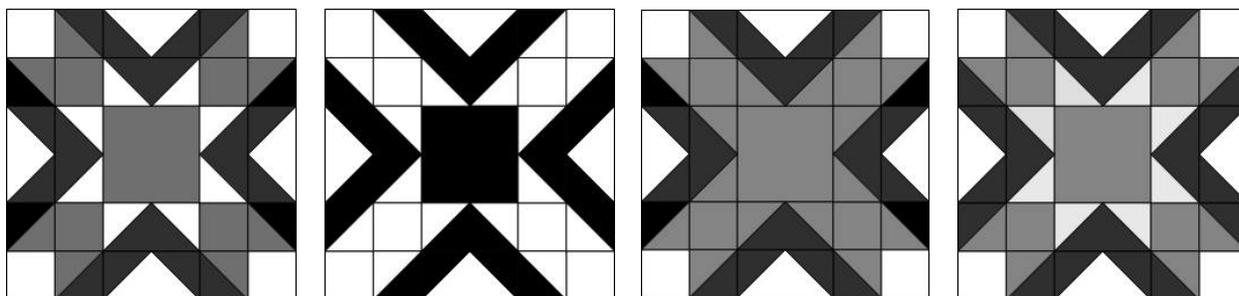




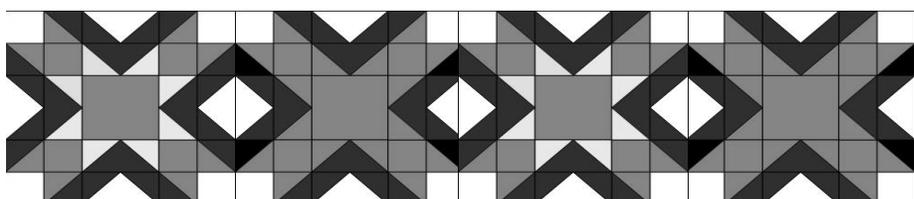
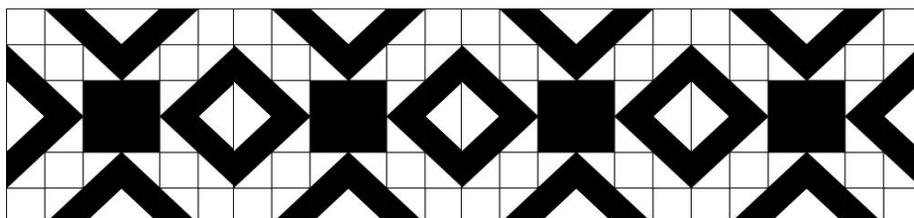
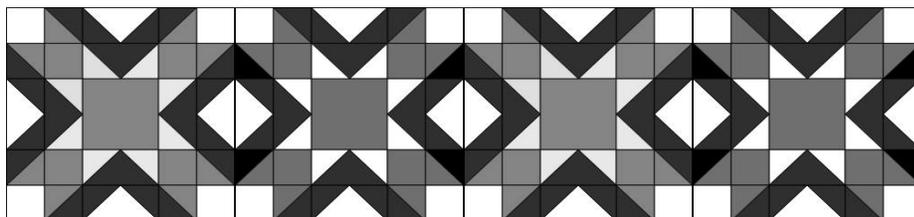
Block Magic

Designed by Helen Cochran for
April 2021 Patchwork Party

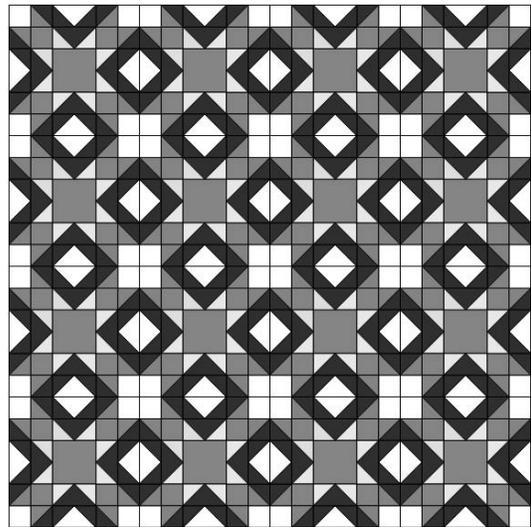
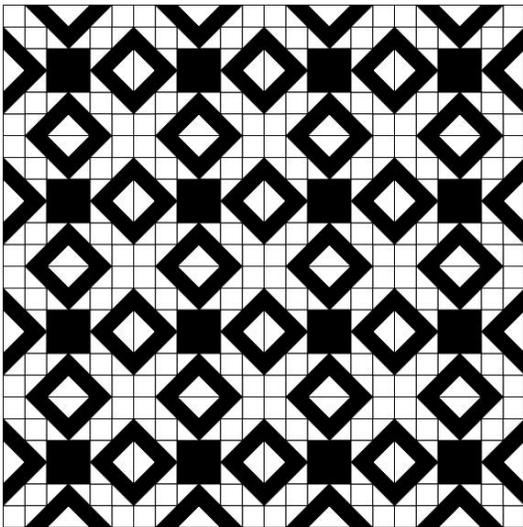
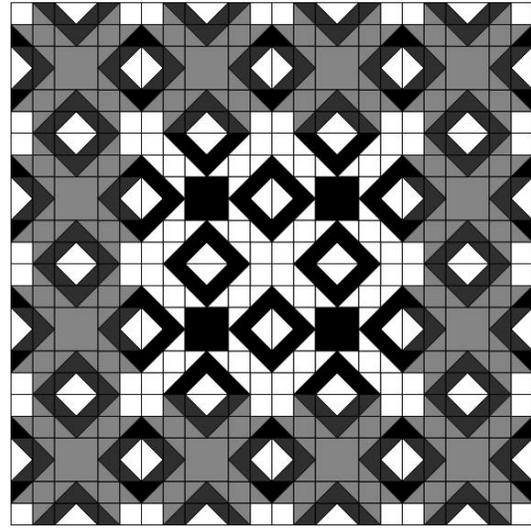
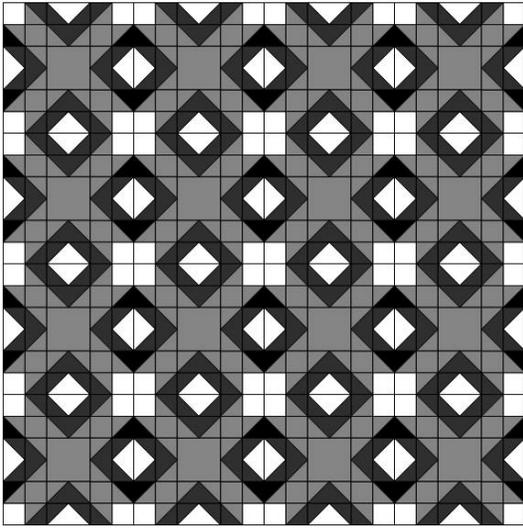
In this month's project, we'll explore the impact of how just changing a color or a value creates a totally different look. The block we will be using contains four flying geese, eight half square triangles, a center square and four cornerstones. Look how different each of these look! They are all the same block.



Look what happens when you combine them into table runners



Or the magic that happens when you combine them to create different quilts. The possibilities are almost endless.

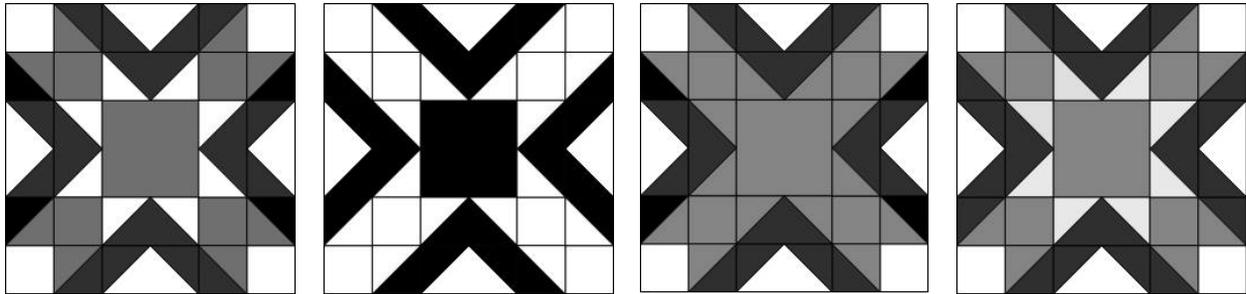


Now, think what happens when you add different colors and values The picture on the right is actually the Medium Inner Star block. The picture below is the criss cross block.



This month, your challenge will be to create your own version of these blocks to make a pillow, table runner, tote bag, mini quilt, or quilt ... your choice, but you must create at least two blocks and they must be the base block.

Creating Your Base Block – Finished Block Size 12”



Background Inner Star

Mosaic Tile

Criss Cross

Medium Inner Star

Here are the elements in each of the blocks, along with the value used in the original design... feel free to change them to create your own!

	Background Inner Star	Mosaic Tile	Criss Cross	Medium Inner Star
Focal Fabric				
Center Square	1		1	1
Small Squares	4		4	4
Half Square Triangles	8 (focal & dark accent)		8 (focal & dark accent)	8 (focal & dark accent)
Outer Flying Geese	4 (dark accent & bkgd)		4 (dark accent & bkgd)	4 (dark accent & bkgd)
Inner Flying Geese	4 (bkgd & dark accent)		4 (focal & dark accent)	4 (medium & dark accent)
Dark Accent				
Center Square		1		
Half Square Triangles		8 (dark & bkgd)		
Background				
Cornerstones	4	4	4	4
Small Squares		4		
Outer Flying Geese		4 (dark accent & bkgd)		
Inner Flying Geese		4 (bkgd & dark accent)		

bkgd = Background

Here are the fabric requirements to create two blocks:

	Background Inner Star	Mosaic Tile	Criss Cross	Medium Inner Star
Focal Fabric	1/4 yard		1/4 yard	1/4 yard
Dark Accent	1/4 yard	1/4 yard	1/4 yard	1/4 yard
Background	1/4 yard	3/8 yard	1/4 yard	1/4 yard
Medium Accent				scraps

Here are the cutting requirements to create two blocks:

	Background Inner Star	Mosaic Tile	Criss Cross	Medium Inner Star
Focal Fabric				
Center Square	(2) 4.5" x 4.5"		(2) 4.5" x 4.5"	(2) 4.5" x 4.5"
Small Squares	(8) 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"		(8) 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"	8) 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"
Half Square Triangles	(2) 6" x 6"		(2) 6" x 6"	(2) 6" x 6"
Inner Flying Geese			(4) 3" x 3"	
Dark Accent				
Center Square		(2) 4 1/2" x 4 1/2"		
Half Square Triangles		(2) 6" x 6"		
Half Square Triangles	(2) 6" X 6"		(2) 6" X 6"	(2) 6" X 6"
Inner Flying Geese	(1) 5 1/2" x 5 1/2"		(1) 5 1/2" x 5 1/2"	(1) 5 1/2" x 5 1/2"
Inner Flying Geese		(1) 5 1/2" x 5 1/2"		
Outer Flying Geese	(4) 3" x 3"		(4) 3" x 3"	(4) 3" x 3"
Outer Flying Geese		(4) 3" x 3"		
Background				
Cornerstones	(8) 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"	(8) 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"	(8) 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"	(8) 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"
Small Squares		(8) 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"		
Inner Flying Geese		(4) 3" x 3"		
Outer Flying Geese		(1) 5 1/2" x 5 1/2"		
Half Square Triangles		(2) 6" x 6"		
Inner Flying Geese	(4) 3" x 3"			
Outer Flying Geese	(1) 5 1/2" x 5 1/2"		(1) 5 1/2" x 5 1/2"	(1) 5 1/2" x 5 1/2"
Medium Accent				
Inner Flying Geese				(4) 3" x 3"

bkgd = Background

Here are the helpful notions I used to create the blocks:

1. Simple Folded Corners – alternate method
2. Tucker Trimmer
3. Wing Clipper
4. TrueGrips – optional
5. Eight at Once – optional, but terrific reference tool
6. Quilters Magic Wand -- optional, but really helpful

Techniques to create your blocks:

Since everyone's blocks will be different, these instructions will focus on creating your half square triangle units and your flying geese.

Half-Square Triangles – 8 at once!

1. Layer a 6" square of one color with a 6" square of another color right sides together and aligning raw edges. (See the elements grid above for which colors go with which layout.) Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner. Repeat for the other corner. I used the Quilters Magic Wand by Studio 180.
2. Draw a line through the vertical center (3 inches in from the side).
3. Draw a line through the horizontal center (3 inches in from the bottom).
4. Stitch a seam a ¼" on either side of both **diagonal** lines. Don't stitch on the horizontal and vertical lines. Press.
5. Cut along the drawn line **vertical line**.
6. Cut along the drawn **horizontal line**.
7. Then, cut on the drawn diagonal lines.
8. You just created 8 half-square triangles!
9. Carefully press the fabric toward the dark fabric. Your Steady Betty and the Easy Press Fabric Pen come in real handy.
10. Trim using a Tucker Trimmer or the Simple Folded Squares ruler from Doug Leko. Trim the units so they measure 2 ½" x 2 ½".
11. Repeat for the other six-inch squares so you have a total of 16 half square triangles to create two blocks.

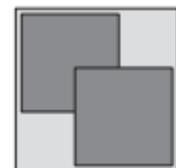
Flying Geese Units – 4 at once the Wing Clipper and Studio 180 Way – note, you can use another ruler to trim your flying geese, but the Wing Clipper really, really, really helps make trimming easy and accurate. Thanks to Studio 180 for their instructions and illustrations.

You're going to be working with the 5 ½" and 3" squares. The 5 ½" squares will become the large triangle in the geese and the 3" squares will be the outer smaller triangles. Follow these steps to create a total of 8 outer geese and 8 inner geese (four each for each block)

Helen's tip: Make sure to nudge the small squares so they are 3 or so threads in from the outer edges. ***This is the secret sauce!!***

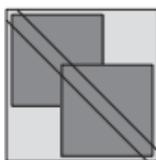
Repeat the "nudge" in Step 5!

Step 1 - Position two of the smaller squares right sides together in diagonally opposite corners of the one large square. Nudge them in toward the center just a few threads.



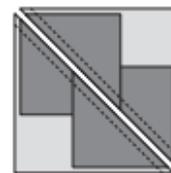
Step 1 - Position

Step 2 - Mark two lines, each $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the center diagonal. I like to use my **Quilter's Magic Wand™** and a fine line marking tool. The **Quilter's Magic Wand™** keeps my seam allowances from getting too wide and a fine line gives me better accuracy.



Step 2 - Mark

Step 3 - Stitch on both of the drawn lines, then **Trim** between the lines of stitching on the center diagonal.



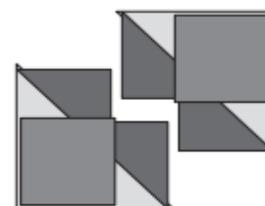
Step 3 - Stitch and Trim

Step 4 - Press seams toward the smaller triangles (I do this no matter which is dark or light).



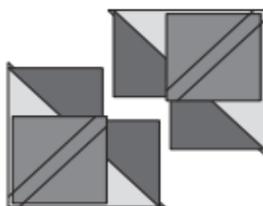
Step 4 - Press

Step 5 - Position one small square in the corner of the previously pieced units. Nudge the squares in like you did before.



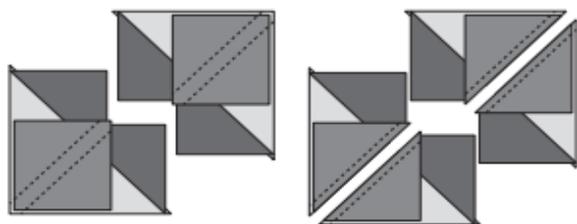
Step 5 - Position

Step 6 - Mark two lines, each $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the center diagonal. Use the **Quilter's Magic Wand™** and fine line marker.



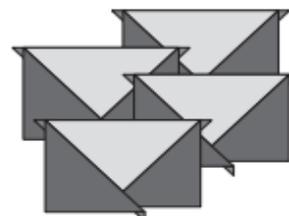
Step 6 - Mark

Step 7 - Stitch on both of the drawn lines, then **Trim** between the lines of stitching on the center diagonal.



Step 7 - Stitch and Trim

Step 8 - Press seams toward the smaller triangles (I do this no matter which is dark or light).



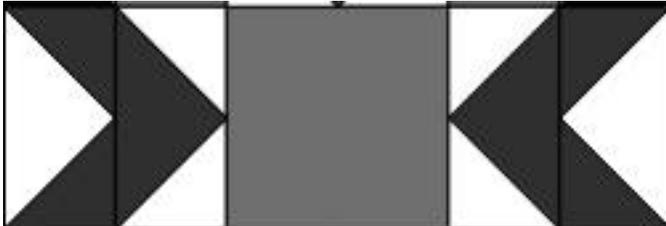
Step 8 - Press

At this point the pieced Flying Geese units are slightly larger than they need to be. You will use the **Wing Clipper®** to trim them to a precise measurement.

Trim your unit so they measure $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Constructing your blocks

Layout the individual elements according to the design you're creating. Working in rows, create each row and then sew the rows together. When pressing, press in the direction the seam wants to go. As you assemble the rows together, you may need to change the direction of a seam or two in order to nest your seams.



Can't wait to see what blocks and projects you create!!!