

March 2023 Block of the Month

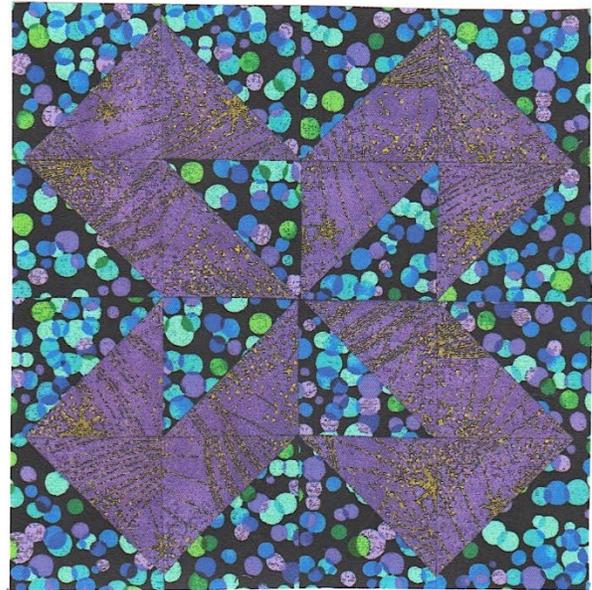
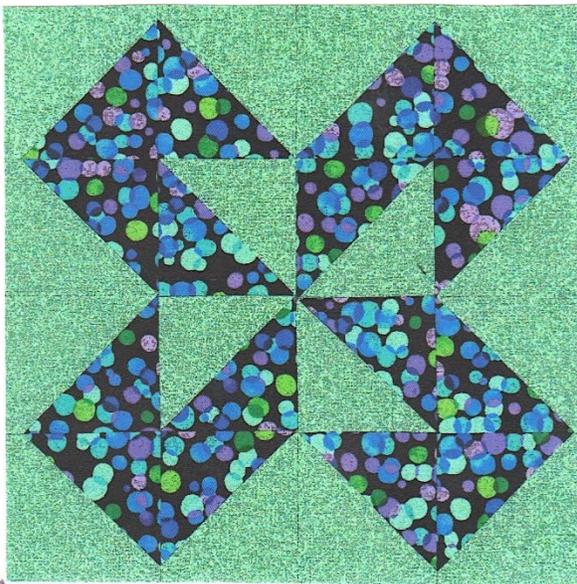
Double Pinwheel

Karen G. Fisher

I really like half-square triangles. They're simple to make, and there are hundreds of variations of blocks made completely from them, and hundreds more that contain them as part of a bigger design. I found this one as part of a 1983 painting by Miriam Schapiro that honored quilting and other forms of needlework as legitimate art forms. I could not find this particular block in Ginny Beyer's book, *The Quilter's Album of Blocks & Borders*, so I decided to make my own pattern to share with you.

Along the way I discovered that it could become very graphic by using two fabrics, and switching the areas of the block that use each fabric. I also think it would be great fun to pick a multi-color focus fabric, and select a whole group of coordinating tone-on-tones. Then make two blocks each from the focus fabric and one color, switching the areas of the block where each fabric is used.

Cutting is easy, with 8 squares of each of the two fabrics per block. Squares are sewn together into pairs, then cut apart, pressed, and reassembled into the proper arrangement. I discovered it was easy to mix up the direction and arrangement of the squares, so take your time to get the sequence right. A bit more time up front will avoid ripping time later on!



Cutting sizes and numbers of pieces will make two coordinated blocks, with the fabric placement reversed for the two blocks.

Block Size: This design will work easily for any block that can divide into 16 equal squares. Common sizes are below.

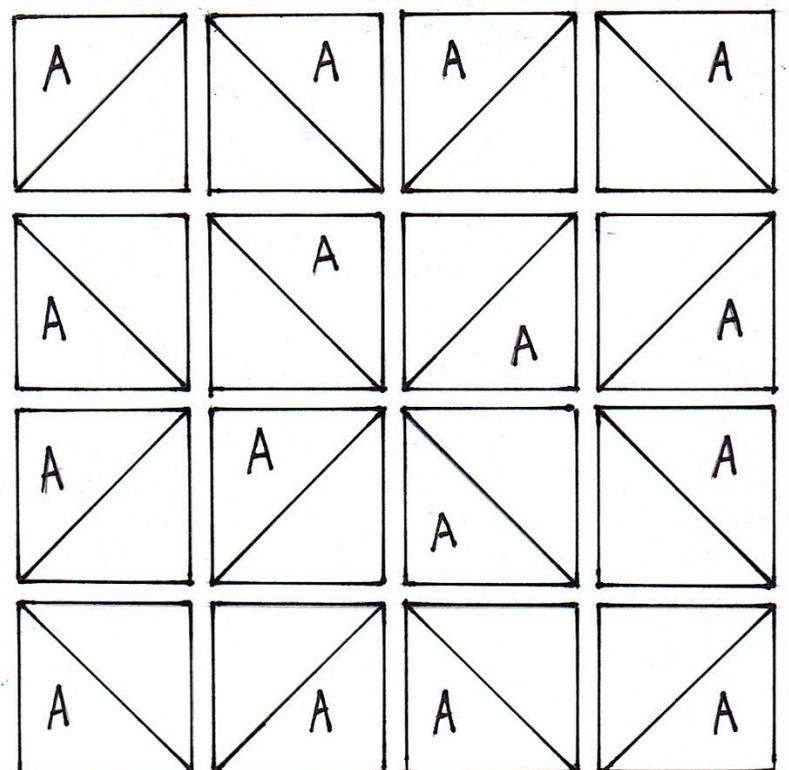
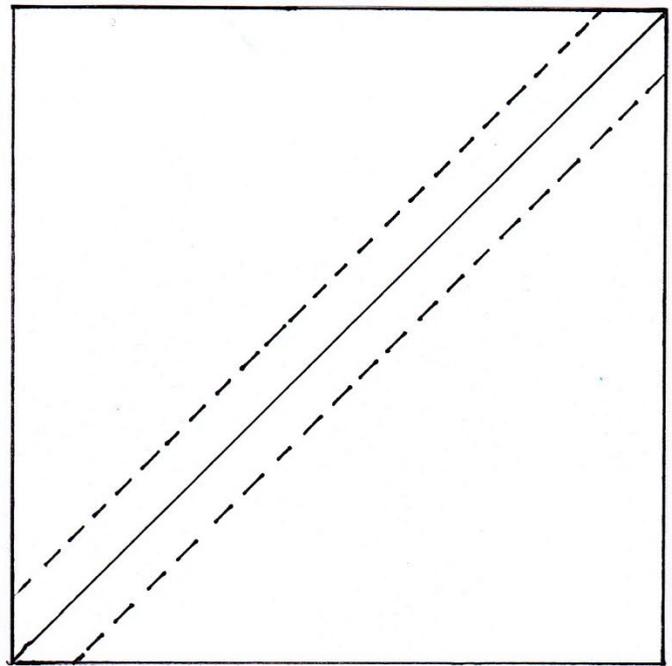
8" blocks: cut 16 squares each 3" x 3"
12" blocks: cut 16 squares each 4" x 4"
16" blocks: cut 16 squares each 5" x 5"

My favorite method for half-square triangles: place one square of first fabric, right sides together, with one square of second fabric. Mark a diagonal line across square, corner to corner. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from drawn line on each side of line. Cut apart on line, and press seams OPEN.

Trim each half-square unit to size:
For 8" block: $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ "
12" block: $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ "
16" block: $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ "

For each pair of blocks, assign the letter "A" to one fabric, and assemble the 16 units for that block. THEN, switch the second fabric to "A", and assemble another block. I complete one block at a time, so that I don't mix up the units. PRESS ALL SEAMS OPEN.

Once you have made your blocks in "pairs", you can decide on a final overall combination of all your colors. Add sashing if you prefer.



And after all that description, I used ONE focus fabric, and two different coordinated fabrics, to make my practice blocks!

But I know you all get the idea. Have fun!

