

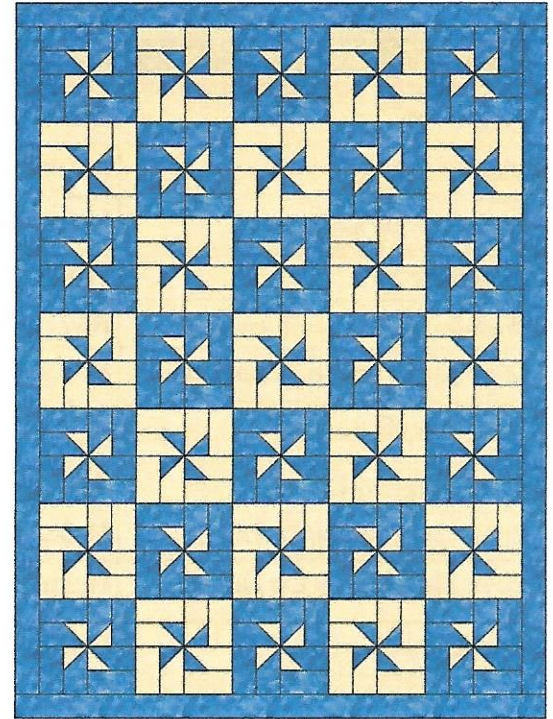


## Pattern of the Month - March 2018

By Evelyn George

### Floating Pinwheels

(8" block; 44" x 60" quilt)



March brings up visions of children playing with pinwheels on a breezy day—and memories of this favorite pinwheel block. It's so easy to make, and the points will never get cut off, with a clever piecing trick. This would be a quick baby quilt!

Make half the pinwheels dark, on a light background, and the other half light, on a dark background. Use two colors, or make it as scrappy as you like; just make sure there is plenty of contrast between the lights and darks, so the pinwheels will show up nicely.

All pieces are cut from  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " strips of fabric, so you can use yardage, precuts, or scraps of your choice.

The quilt shown has 5 rows of 7 blocks each = total of 35 blocks; 18 dark and 17 light, in the quilt shown at right.

**APPROXIMATE YARDAGE:** Light -  $1\frac{5}{8}$  yards; Dark -  $2\frac{1}{2}$  yards (includes borders and binding.)

**CUTTING:** (WOF = width of fabric from selvedge to selvedge, approx. 40" after trimming off selvedges)

**Light** - cut 17 strips  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF; cut into  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " pieces (need 136 light rectangles).

" " cut 5 strips  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF; cut into  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares (need 72 light squares).

**Dark** - cut 18 strips  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF; cut into  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " pieces (need 144 dark rectangles).

" " cut 5 strips  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF; cut into  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares (need 68 dark squares).

" " cut 6 additional strips for borders; piece as needed to make borders.

" " cut another 6 strips for binding, from same fabric as borders, or a different fabric.

**PINWHEEL BLOCKS:** For each block you need 8 rectangles and 4 squares. (Use light squares with dark rectangles, and vice versa.) Follow the illustrations closely as you sew:



Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner on wrong side of square; align square at right hand end of rectangle with right sides together and the drawn line angled as shown. Stitch on the line. Trim off corner as shown, leaving  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Press triangle toward corner.

Make 4 identical triangle units for each block.

Sew a matching plain rectangle to each triangle unit, positioned as shown→



Make 4 identical units and arrange them into a 4-patch, rotating the 4 units to position them as shown, to make a pinwheel.

Sew together to make the block, taking care to keep the pinwheel formation as you sew.

Make light and dark blocks, as many as you need for your quilt.

