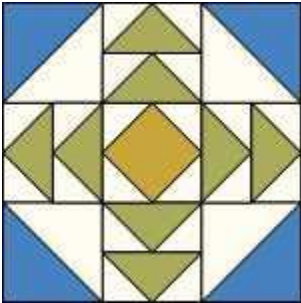


## Rockford, ILLINOIS. This month we will celebrate the beautiful state we live in with three Illinois Blocks:

- 1) One 12½" block, simply called Illinois Block
- 2) One 12½" block called corn and beans. Not only is Rockford surrounded by Forest Preserves, there is also a lot of farmland. I think it's rather nice to be so close to farms and forests!
- 3) One 18½" block called the Illinois Star

### ILLINOIS QUILT BLOCK:



This is a 12 ½" square block and consists of 8 flying geese blocks. We are going to jump back to BOM #2 and use the same flying geese method.

This block can use up to four fabrics, although technically, you can make it a two color block. Directions will be for four fabrics.

Eight Flying geese blocks:

Cut two 5¼" square for the "geese"

Background: cut eight 3" squares

Center square in a square block:

The diagonal center square

Cut one 3⅝" square

Outside triangles of the center square

Cut two 2⅞" squares, cut on diagonal to get 4 triangles

Outside corners, ½ square triangle block

From each color

Cut two 4⅞" squares, cut on diagonal to get 4 triangles

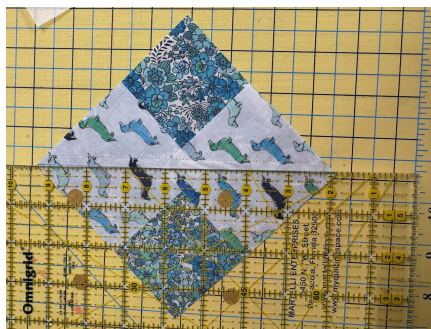
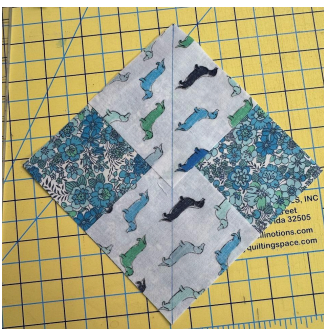


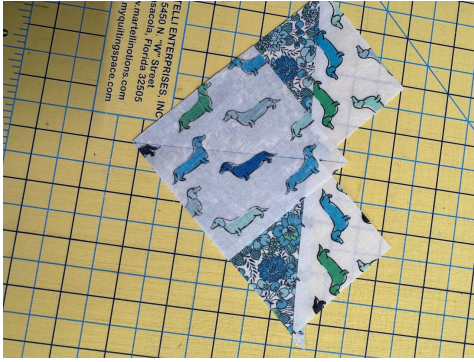
Piecing: I lay out all the block pieces except the flying geese, just to see what it might look like, and maybe edit at this point if needed.

I then pieced my flying geese blocks. Take your 5¼" square, then place two of the 3" squares lined up on opposite corners, with their inside corners overlapping. (see photo)

Draw a line diagonally through the two 3" squares. Pin and stitch a ¼" away from the drawn line on both sides of that line. Now cut directly on that line.

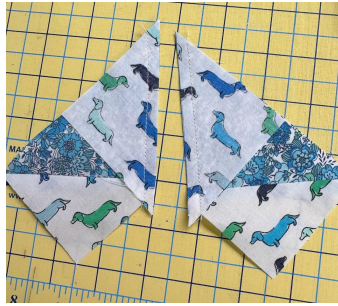
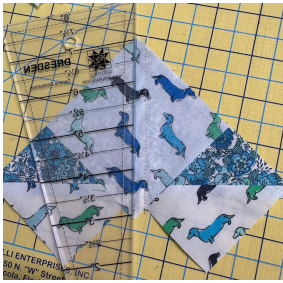
Press seams open. Doing the same with the other 5¼", you will end up with two weird heart shaped pieces.





Add a 3" square to the bottom of your 'heart-shaped' piece. Draw a diagonal line as shown. Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away on both sides of the drawn line. Cut on the drawn line and press seams open.

Square each block to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " X  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle. Add them to the block layout.



Piece the four corner  $\frac{1}{2}$  square triangles. Square to  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " square.

Center block, find the center of each side of the square by folding in half and marking (with a crease or a marker). Fold the triangles in half and mark the base in the center using the same method. Doing opposite sides of the square, pin the centers of triangle bottoms to the center mark of the square. Press the seams open and repeat on the remaining edges to complete the square in a square block. Trim to  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " square. You are now ready to piece the block.



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