

THE PINWHEEL

The Pinwheel quilt block is quite an old traditional block. Barbara Brackman's Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns describes early versions found in Ohio Farmer (1891), Dakota Farmer (1929), and Woman's World (1931).



To make the traditional pinwheel, it's time for **half square triangles!** (hsts)

Four hsts are needed to create the pinwheel shape.

To make a 12 ½ inch block, you will need 4 hsts, each 6 ½ inches square, which means you will cut 2 squares of each colour at 6 7/8 inches.

Follow the simple instructions at

<http://delawarequilts.com/BOMs/BasicPinwheel/index.html>

to make your pinwheel.

If you really hate making hsts that way, check out Jenny Doan's pinwheel instructions in **Learning To Make Fast and Easy Pinwheels** on the Missouri Star Youtube channel.

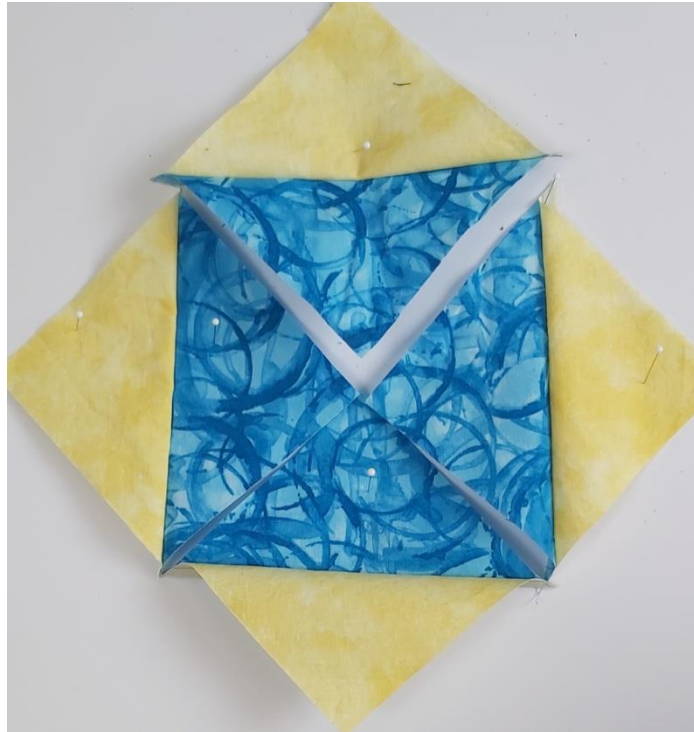
She uses a clever shortcut which involves cutting two large squares (She uses layer cakes), stitching them right sides together around the edge as shown here (1), then cutting twice on the diagonal to open (2), and make four half square triangles. (3)



1



2



3

4

Simple layouts for pinwheel blocks from Pinterest





Pinwheel Variations

Variations of the pinwheel begin to show up in print in 1938.

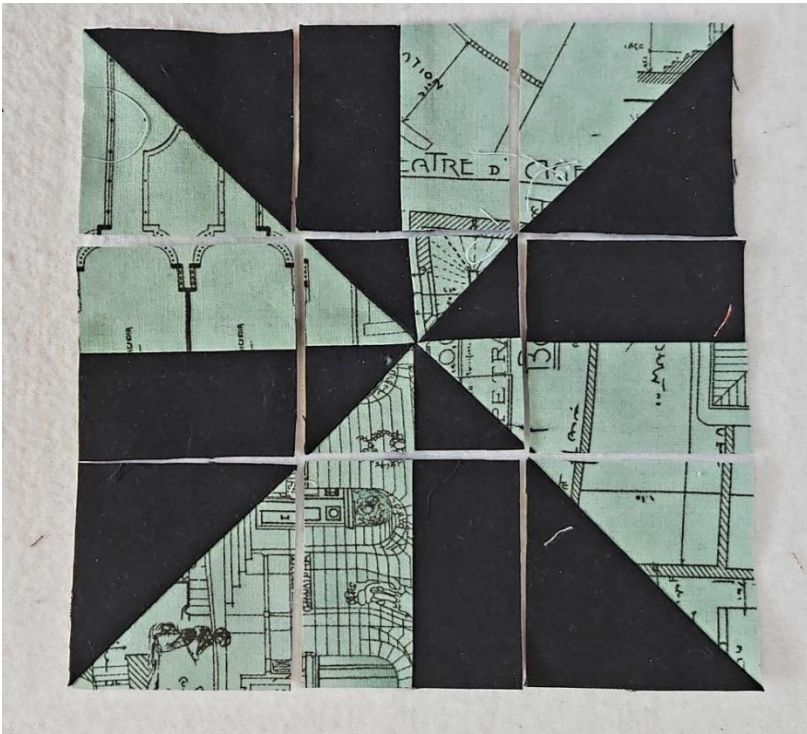
We will continue that tradition by working on the ways we can alter the basic pinwheel in 2022.

A very simple variation is to use different fabrics in each pair of hsts.

You could even experiment with using a different fabric for each of the 4 “spokes”.

The internet is full of possibilities for changing up the pinwheel block, including multiple variations of the **Disappearing Pinwheel**.

For all of these variations, you will make a pinwheel block, then cut it into 9 equal squares before performing the changes below. *(In my trial blocks, I discovered it was easiest to trim your pinwheel block down to a size that is easily divisible by 3- or even 6, as you will be making your cuts on either side of the centre seam.)*

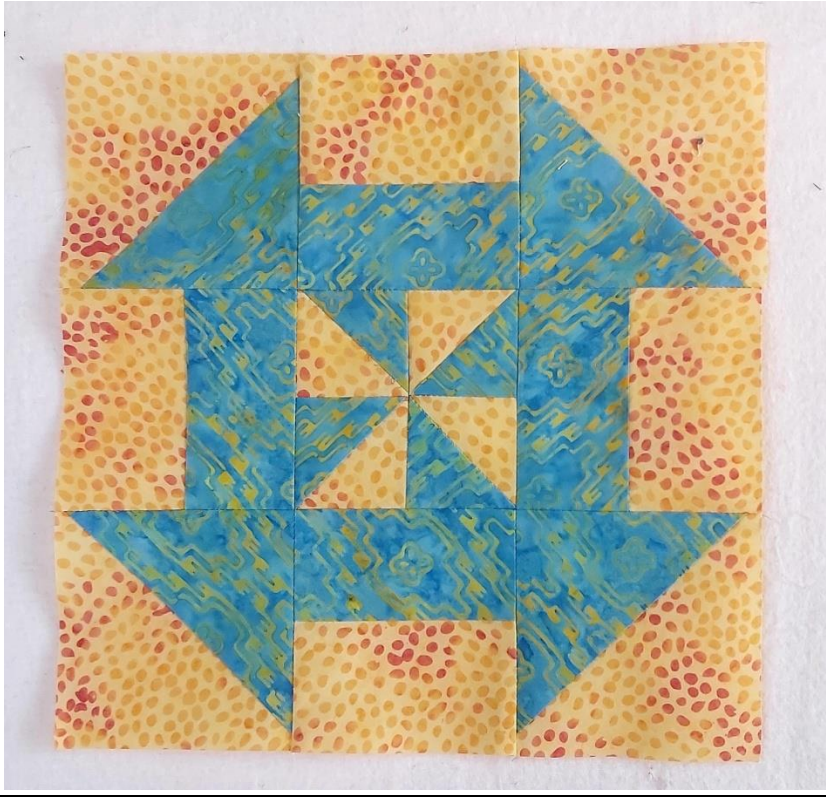


Shoo Fly Variation



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rgQd6asPQs&t=276s&ab_channel=MissouriStarQuiltCompany

Churndash variation



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZUXNMpKF74&t=53s&ab_channel=MissouriStarQuiltCompany

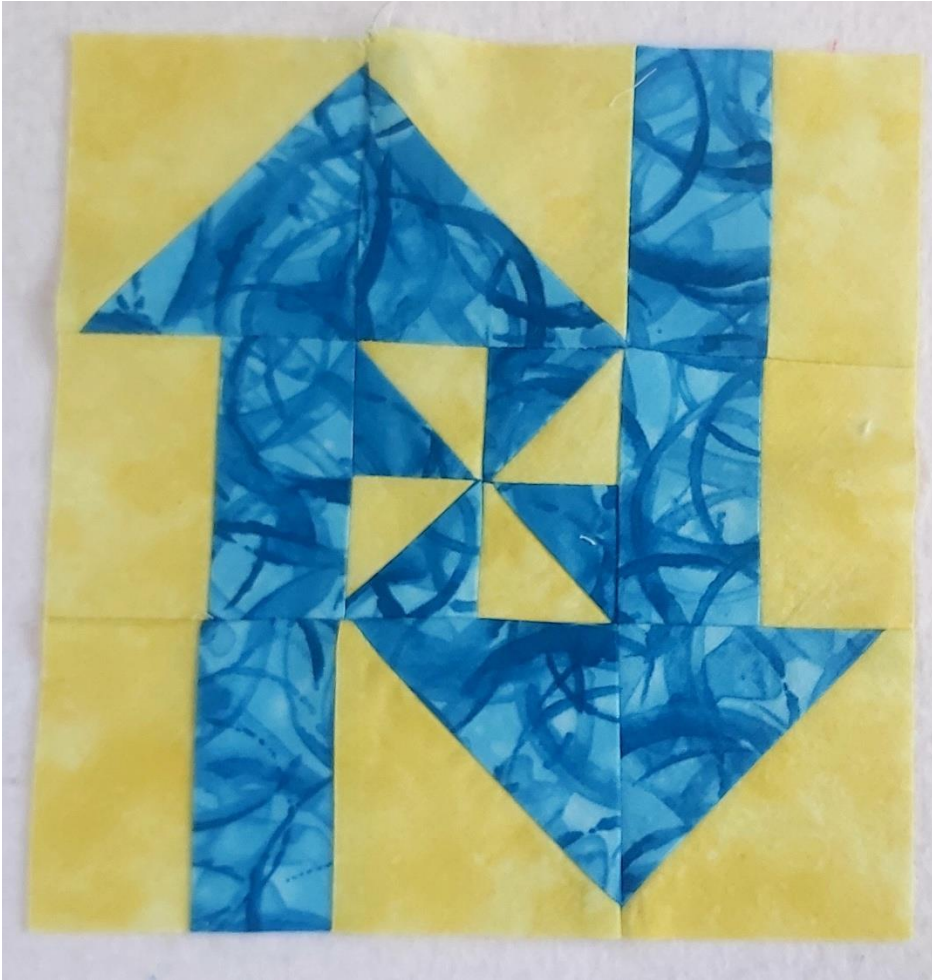
Friendship Star Variation

In this video, Jenny shows you how to make a Friendship Star block with the same disappearing pinwheel block. It creates a wonderful secondary design when put together with other blocks. Have a look at this video:

youtube.com/watch?v=XrOasfMpyXo&t=3s&ab_channel=MissouriStarQuiltCompany

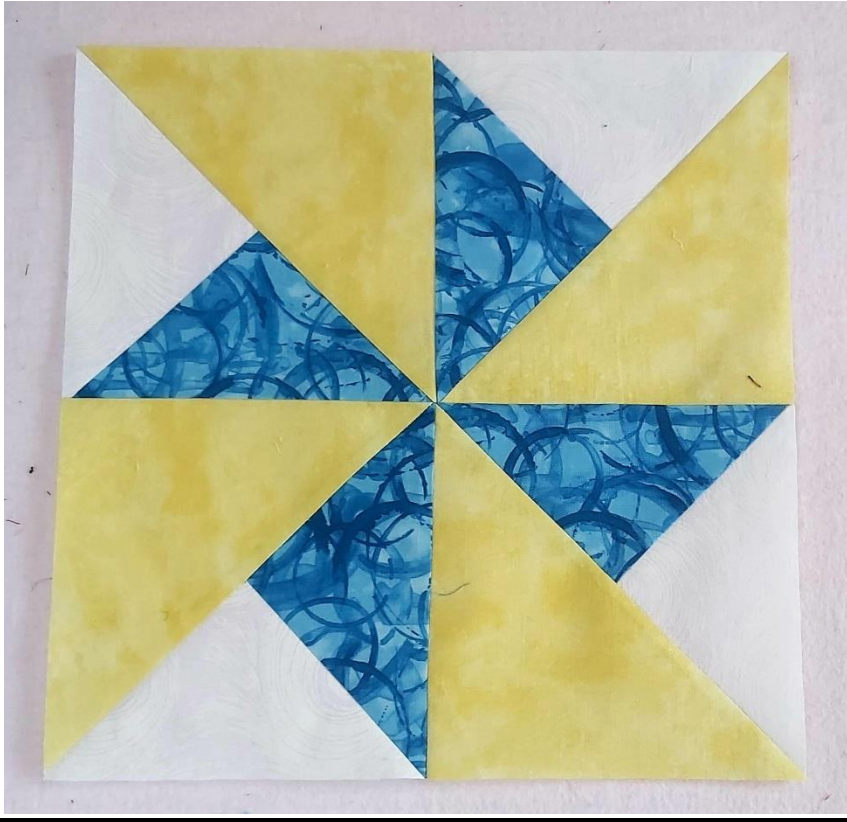


Arrow Disappearing Pinwheel



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFyLNGMEHrg&ab_channel=MissouriStarQuiltCompany

Double Pinwheel Variation.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIS5L57xsCE&ab_channel=PoppyPatchwork

The following two videos, by Brita Nelson, show you some different ways to arrange your disappearing pinwheel blocks and the secondary designs that develop as you put your blocks together. It's well worth watching if you want to make a quilt that looks much more complicated than it really is.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESEfbzra3gU&ab_channel=BritaNelsontheQuestioningQuilter

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLHNvfbHW5U&ab_channel=BritaNelsontheQuestioningQuilter

Here is another version from Donna at Jordan Fabrics.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SICJnUuptAk&ab_channel=JordanFabrics

Hope you have fun with this block. The possibilities seem endless.

Brenda Dagg