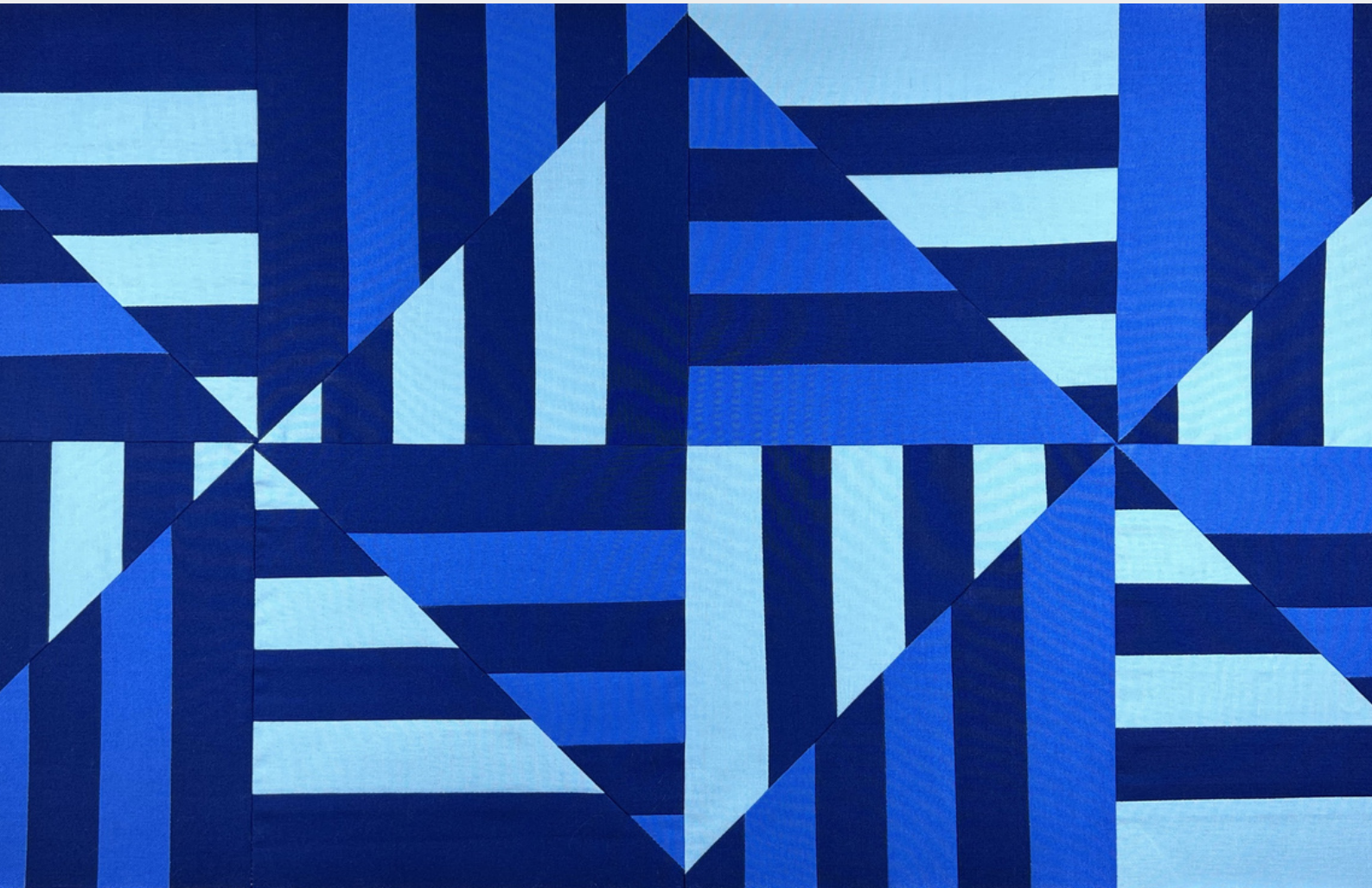




OCTOBER 2023

quiltmuseum.org/botm

**Block of the
Month Club**



Spinning Stripes by Elizabeth Ray

Guest Designer



Follow Elizabeth Online!

Website: elizabethkray.com

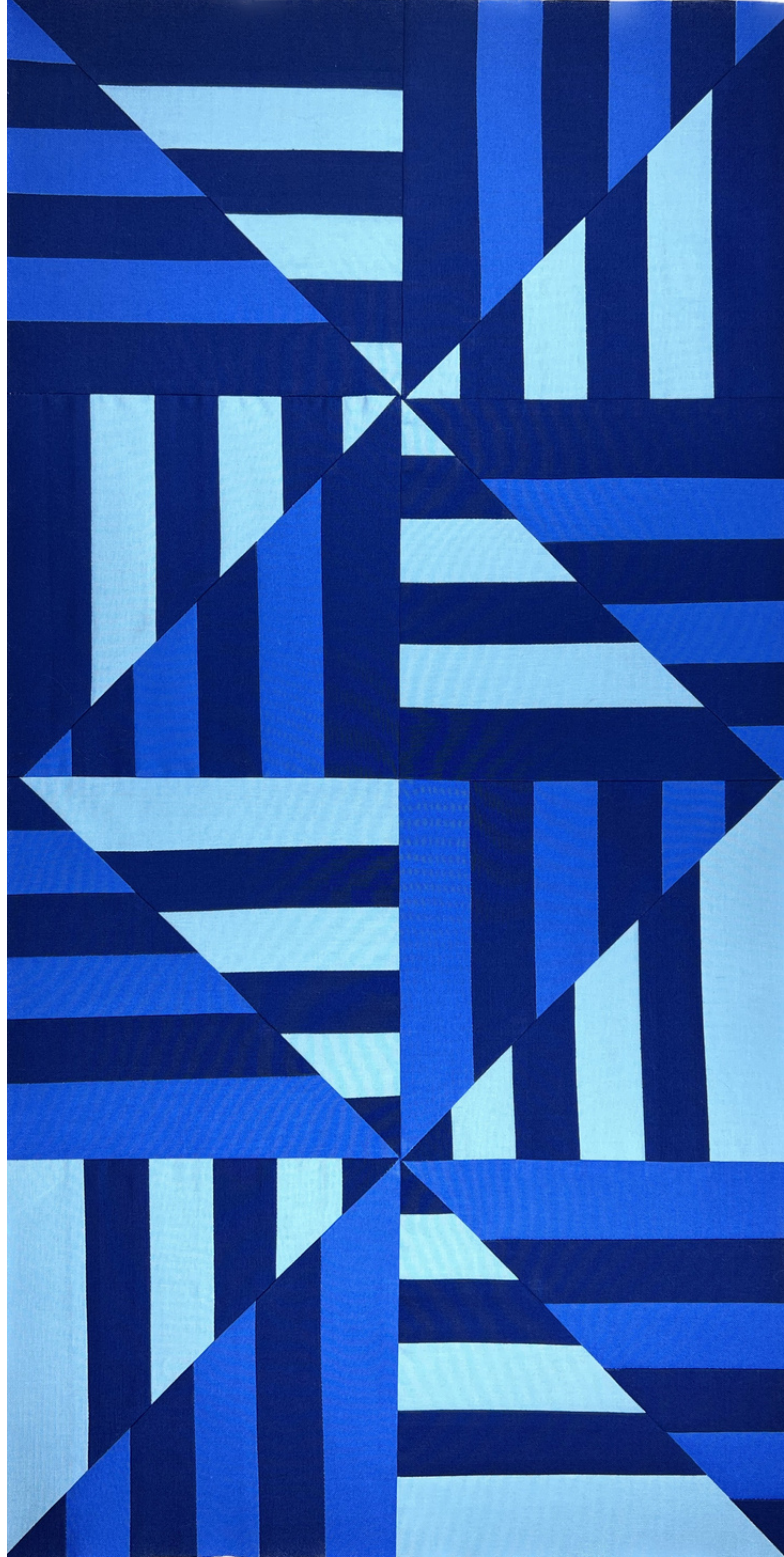
Instagram: [@ElizabethKRay](https://www.instagram.com/ElizabethKRay)

Elizabeth Ray is a modern quilter and designer who loves math, creating, and the quilting community. Her designs are largely inspired by geometric shapes, color, and lines.

Her quilts have won awards, been juried into the Houston International Quilt Festival, Road2CA, QuiltCon, AQS, and Mancuso shows, been exhibited at the National Quilt Museum, and part of the U.S. Art in Embassies program. Her *Vote* quilt is part of the permanent collection of the International Quilt Museum in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Elizabeth lives in Bentonville, Arkansas with her husband and two daughters. For quilt patterns check out her website, or follow Elizabeth on Instagram to see what she's currently working on.

Spinning Stripes



Exploration/ Exploring/ Explore

My designs often revolve around the fusion of colors and color values. This block aligns with my ongoing series of quilts, where the fusion of colors is via pieced stripes that are orchestrated into half-square triangles (HSTs), half-rectangle triangles (HRTs), or curved blocks. My fascination lies in the meticulous assembly of pieced stripes, coupled with the captivating interplay of colors, particularly within the realm of dual-color stripes.

In this design I chose to explore the interaction of color values within a solitary color hue, expressed through monochromatic pieced stripes. By juxtaposing the color combos: darkest and medium values against the interplay of darkest and lightest values, a distinct differentiation is perceived, even as the darkest color remains the same in each combo.

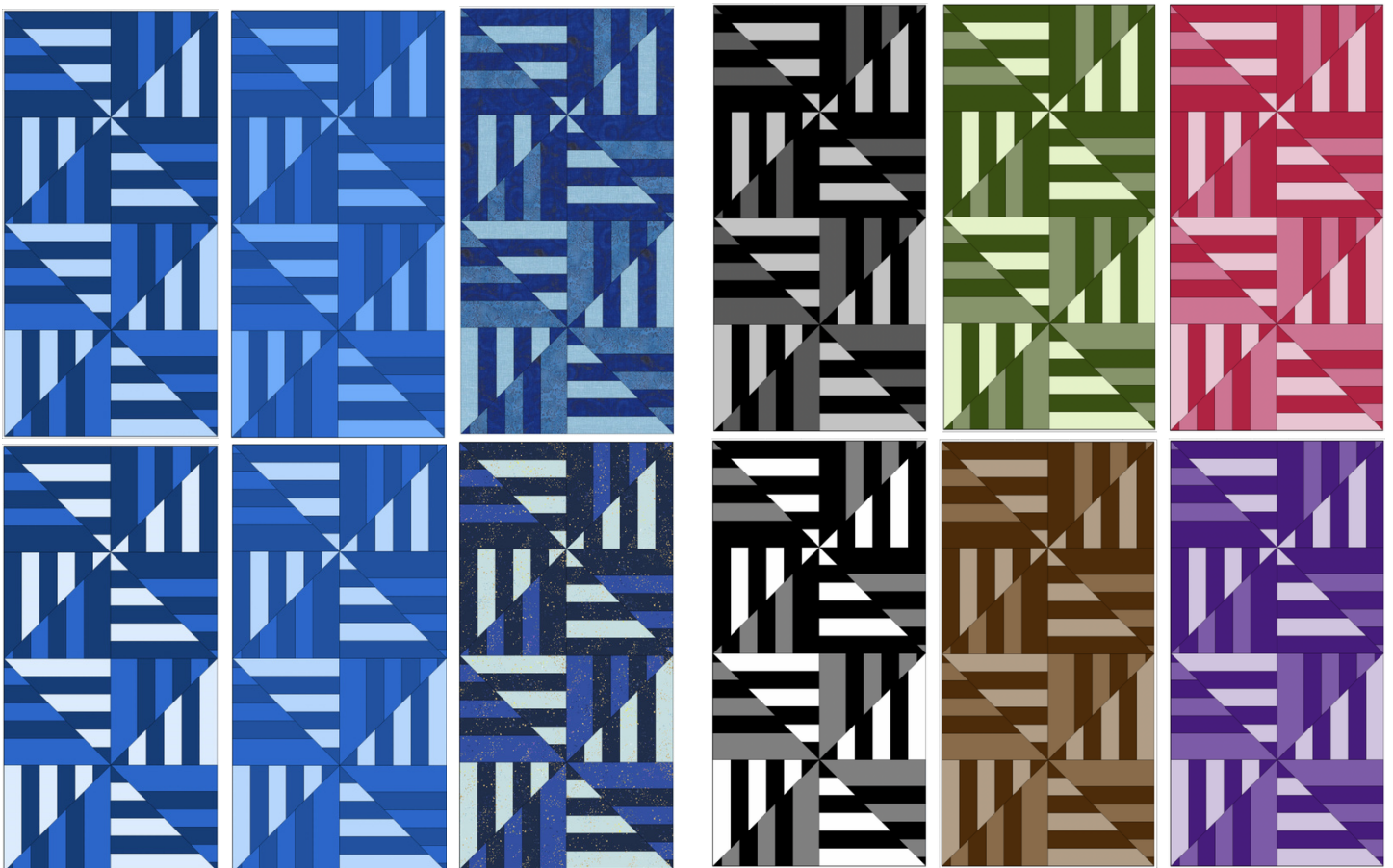
After the stripe coupling, for this block, I chose the versatile HSTs quilt block unit. HSTs hold a special place in my creative design toolbox, as they allow for a multitude of arrangements into captivating patterns. In this design two pinwheel blocks emerge, revealing a visually engaging design. As the dark and light segments gradually fade into the backdrop, they give rise to a sequence of concentric squares, creating an illusion of depth and vibrant motion.

In this block I recommend an exploration using 3 values: dark, medium, and light, of a single solid color. The making of this block can also be approached with a playful spirit, leveraging print fabrics from your collection. These prints would ideally encompass a trio of values: one dark, one medium, and one light, forming a harmony of hues and tones that offers both success and enjoyment.

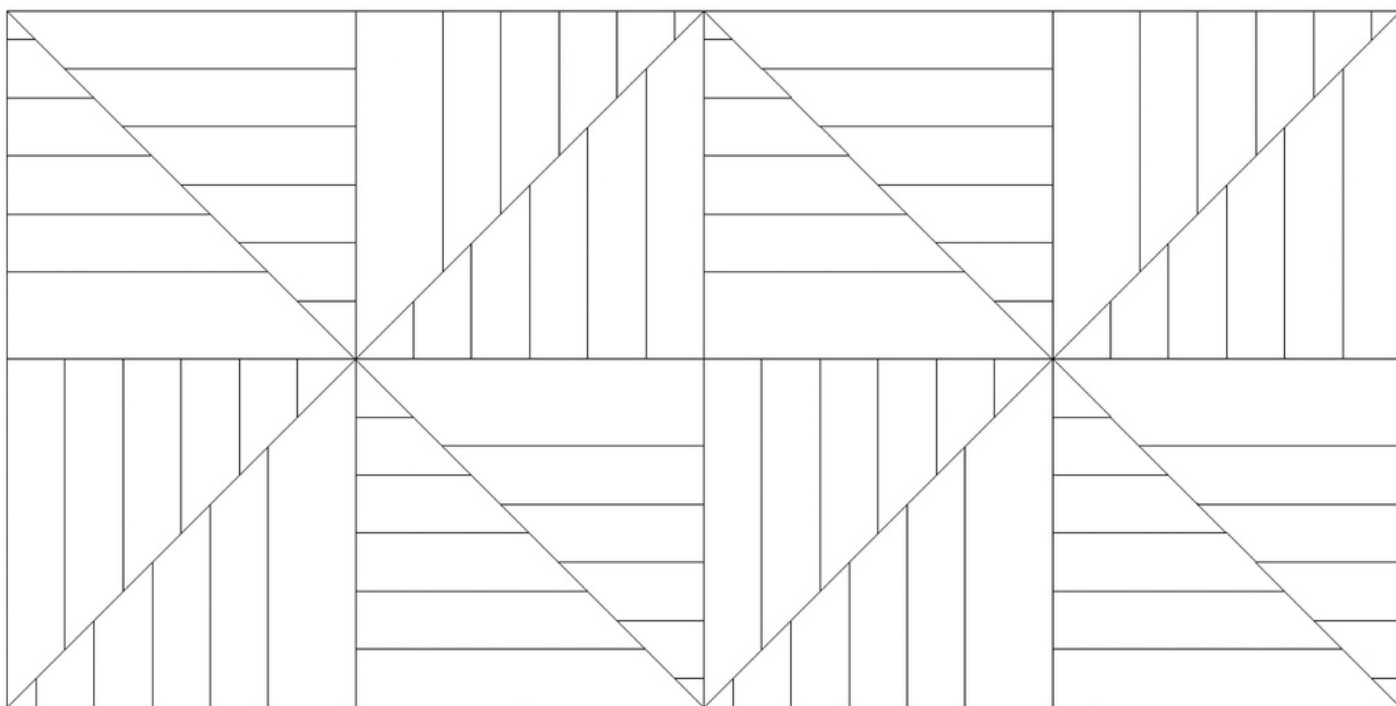
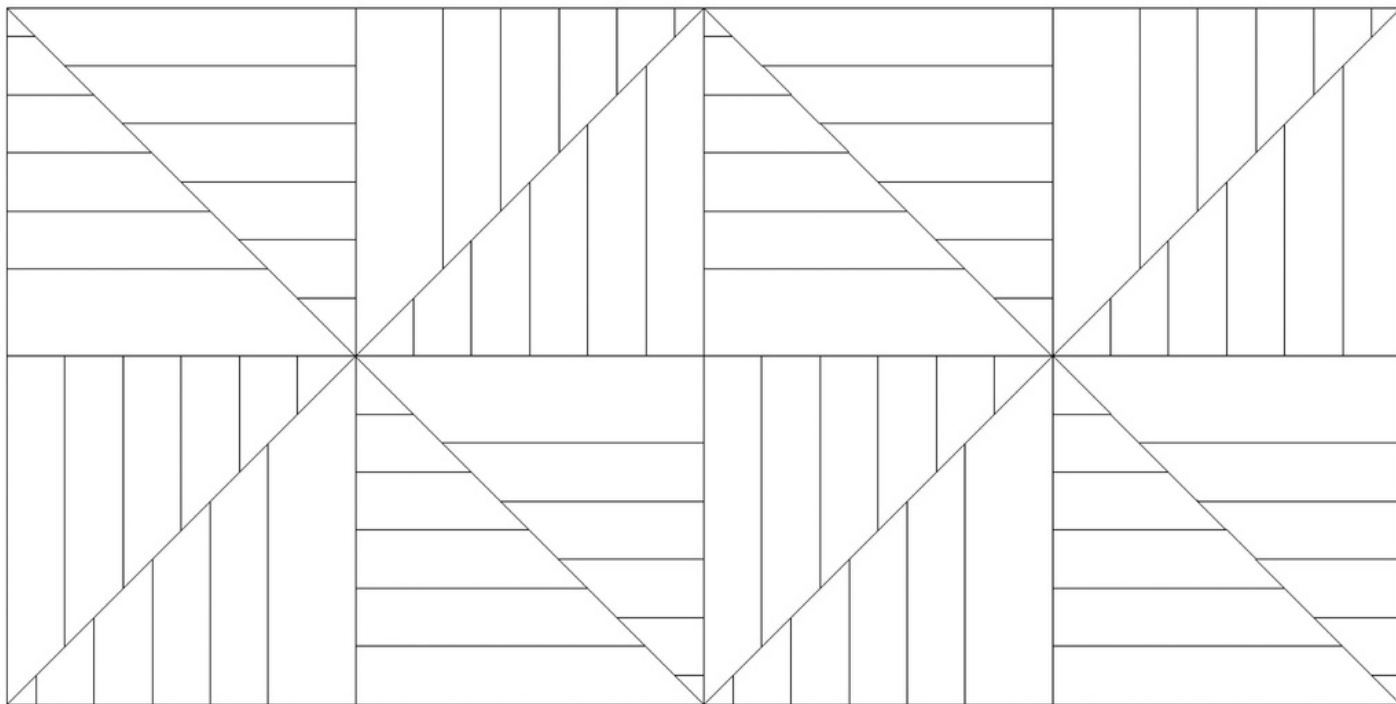
Color Selection

I've observed that this design achieves its optimal effect when there's a strong contrast among the three fabrics. Presented below are several variations that aim to assist you in visualizing the differences in colors and levels of contrast in value choices.

A coloring sheet is provided on page 6 for you to test your color selections prior to constructing the block. You can also utilize this sheet by attaching small fabric scraps or using colored pencils or markers to serve as a reference while assembling the block.



Coloring Page



General Instructions:

1. Please read through all instructions before beginning.
2. Measurements include 1/4" seam allowances unless otherwise stated.
3. RST = Right Sides Together
4. WOF = Width of Fabric 40"
5. Pressing seams as indicated or all open is recommended.

Materials

Rotary cutter and cutting mat

Square ruler 7" or larger for squaring up

Iron and pressing surface

Sewing machine with medium value matching or neutral thread

Fine point marking pencil or chalk

Optional Items:

Straight pins

Fabric A - Lightest value color - 1/4 yard

2 - (1 1/2" x WOF) sub cut: 8 - (1 1/2" x 8")

1 - (2" x WOF) sub cut: 4 - (2" x 8")

Fabric B - Medium value color - 1/4 yard

2 - (1 1/2" x WOF) sub cut: 8 - (1 1/2" x 8")

1 - (2" x WOF) sub cut: 4 - (2" x 8")

Fabric C - Darkest value color - 3/8 yard

3 - (1 1/2" x WOF) sub cut: 15 - (1 1/2" x 8")

2 - (2" x WOF) sub cut: 8 - (2" x 8") and 1 - (1 1/2" x 8")

The sample quilt block uses these Moda Bella solids:

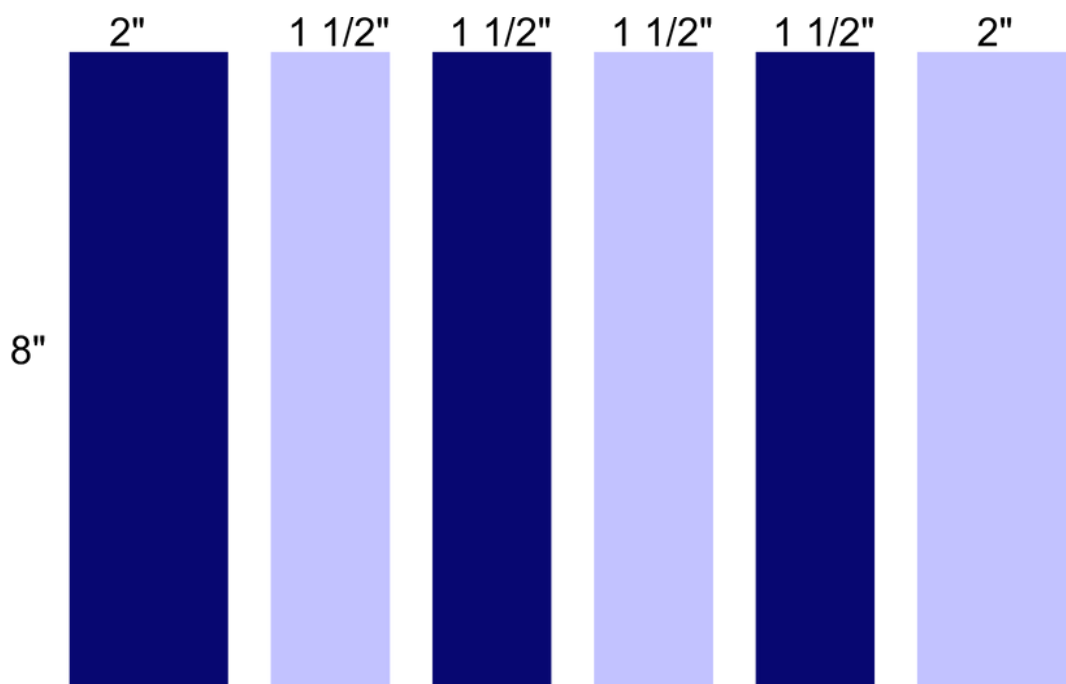
A - Bella Solids Bluebell Yardage SKU# 9900-141

B - Bella Solids Amelia Blue Yardage SKU# 9900-167

C - Bella Solids Royal Yardage SKU# 9900-19

Directions

1. To make a dark/light striped block, arrange 6 pieces in the following manner: place 3 dark pieces and 3 light pieces alternating, while including the 2" wide pieces at both ends, as depicted.

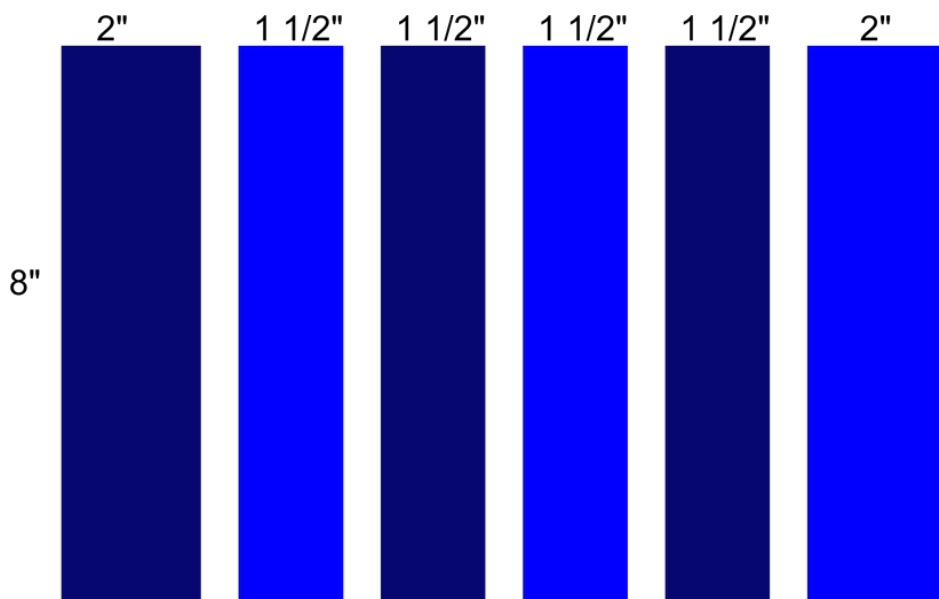


2. Sew the 6 pieces together on the long edge. Press the seams open or alternatively press toward the darker fabric.

Note: Striped blocks are intentionally oversized measuring around 7.5" x 8", and must be a minimum of 7" x 7" in unfinished size. So there's no need to focus on perfect alignment for those edges while piecing.

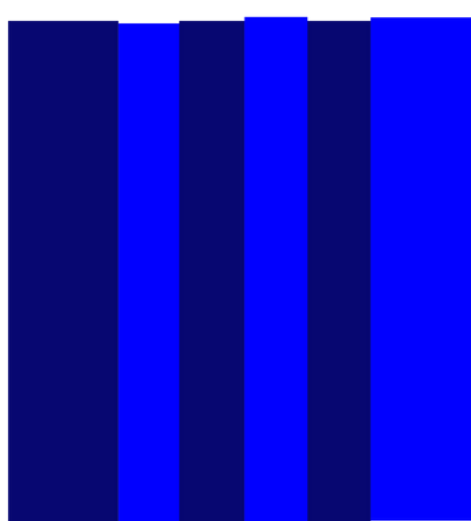
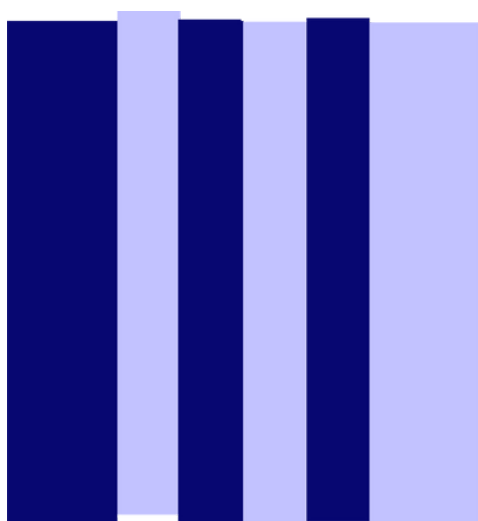
Directions

3. To make a dark/medium striped block, arrange 6 pieces in the following manner: place 3 dark pieces and 3 medium value pieces alternating, while including the 2" wide pieces at both ends, as depicted.



4. Sew the 6 pieces together on the long edge. Press the seams open or alternatively press toward the darker fabric.

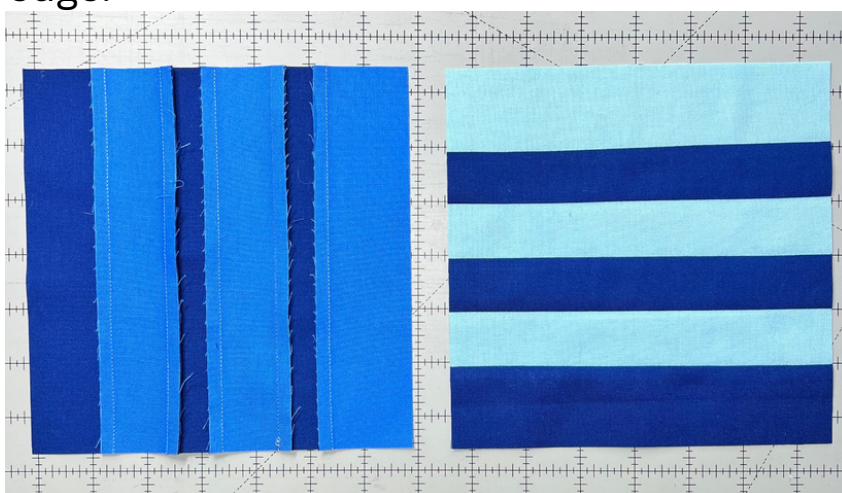
5. Repeat steps 1-4 in order to create a total of 4 blocks featuring dark/light stripes and 4 blocks with dark/medium stripes.



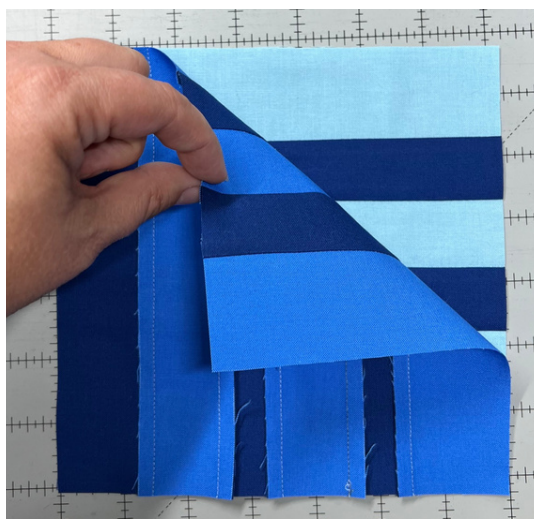
Directions

8. Continue by pairing a block featuring dark/medium stripes with a block featuring dark/light stripes. Position the dark/light striped block with its right side facing upwards, ensuring the horizontal alignment of stripes, and position the light stripe on the upper edge.

Simultaneously, position the dark/medium striped block with its wrong side facing upwards, making sure that the darkest stripe is situated along the left edge.

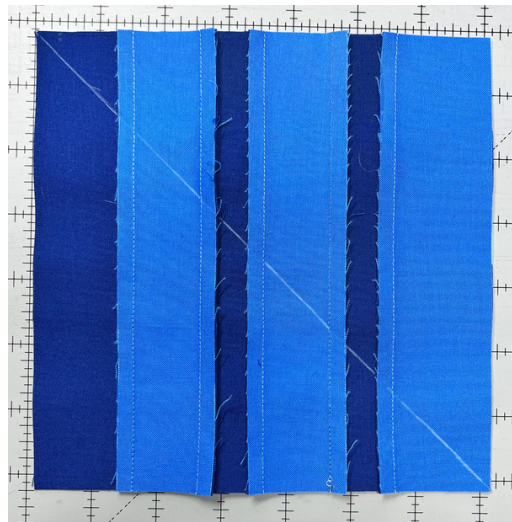


9. Retain the existing orientations and place the two blocks, dark/medium block on top of the dark/medium block, with their right sides together (RST), ensuring that their edges are precisely aligned. Optionally, secure the blocks together with pins to prevent any unintended shifting.



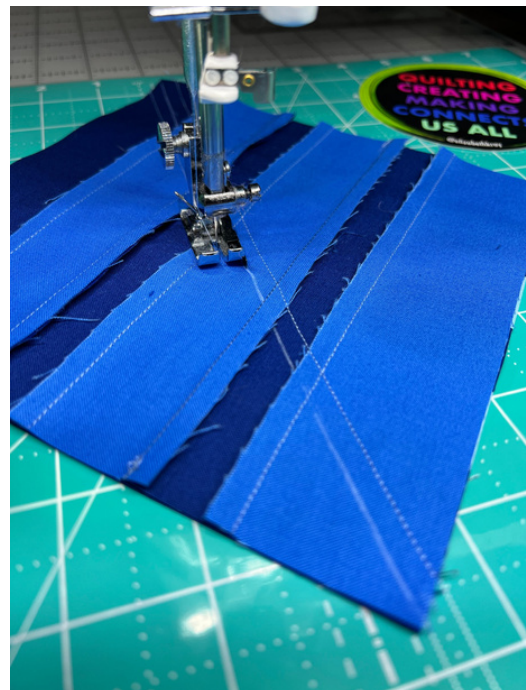
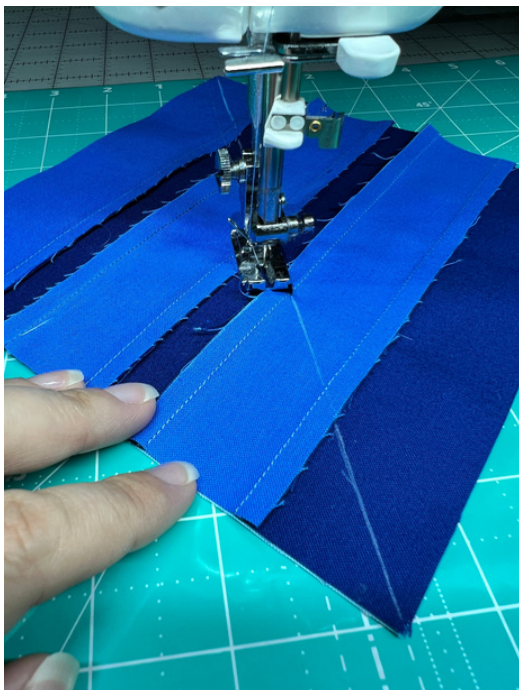
Directions

10. Using a straight edge and marking tool, draw a diagonal line from the upper left to the bottom right. We will be making half square triangles.



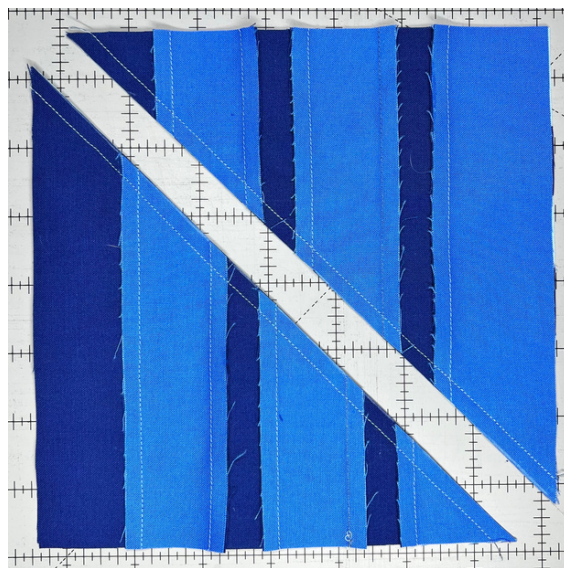
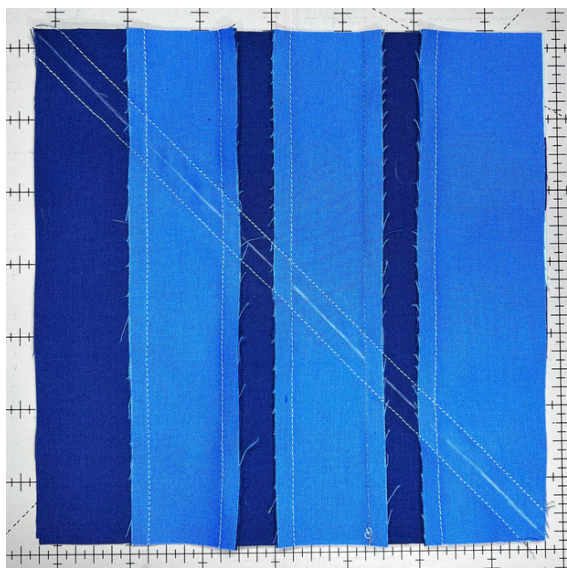
11. Sew a quarter inch along each side of the drawn line. I use my quarter inch foot as seen here and run it along the diagonal line. Alternatively you could also draw the 2 sew lines, each a 1/4" from the center line.

12. Then turn the unit around and sew 1/4" away along the other side of the drawn line.

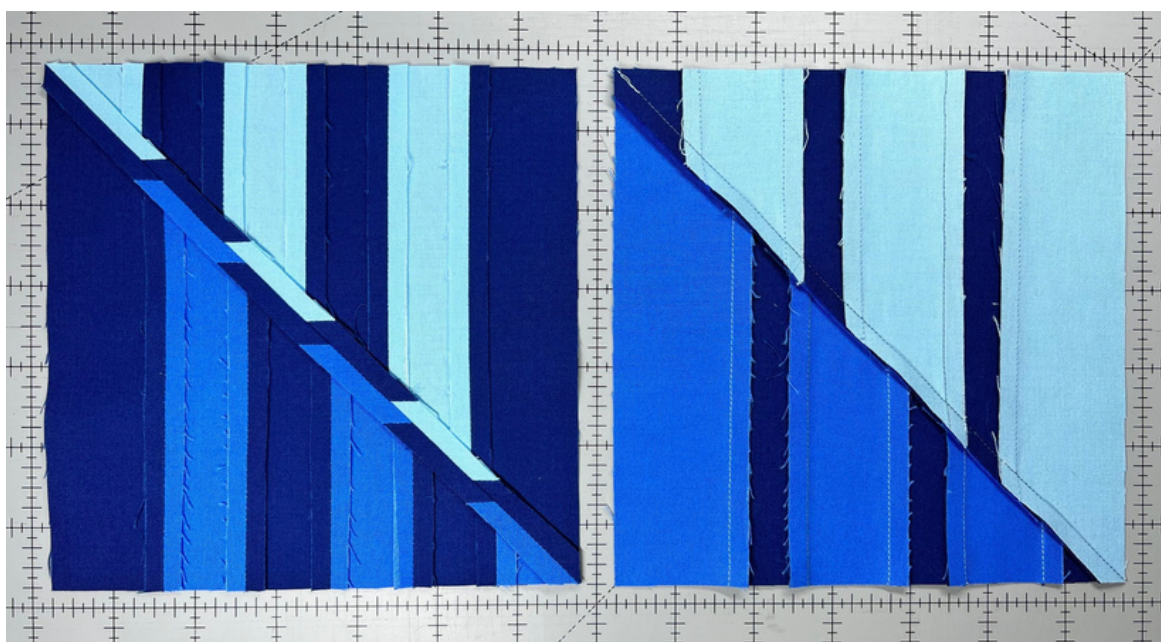


Directions

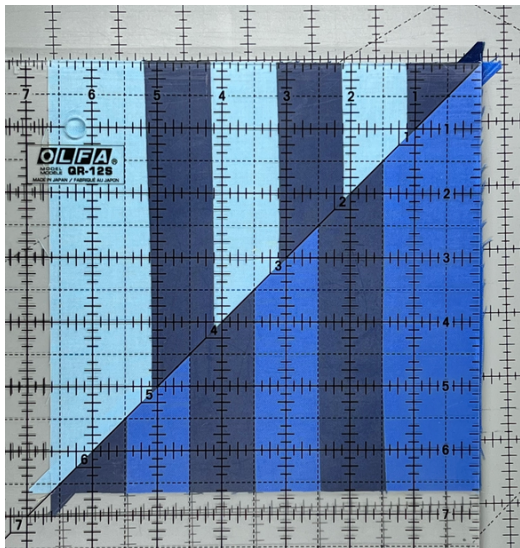
13. After you have sewn a quarter inch along each side of the drawn line. Cut along the drawn line thus creating 2 half square triangles (HSTs).
Wahoo!



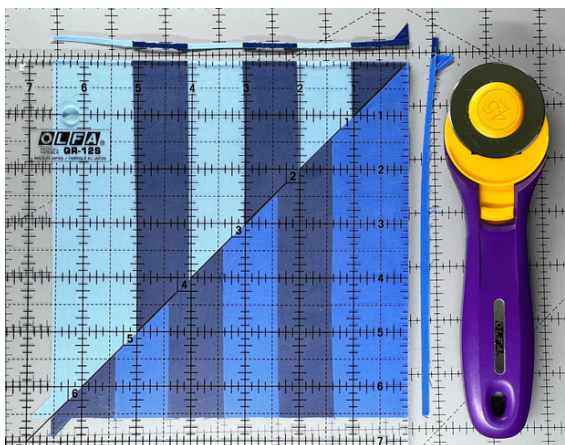
14. Open up the blocks and press the HST diagonal seams open or alternatively press toward the darker side. Press all 8 HSTs with the same method.



Directions

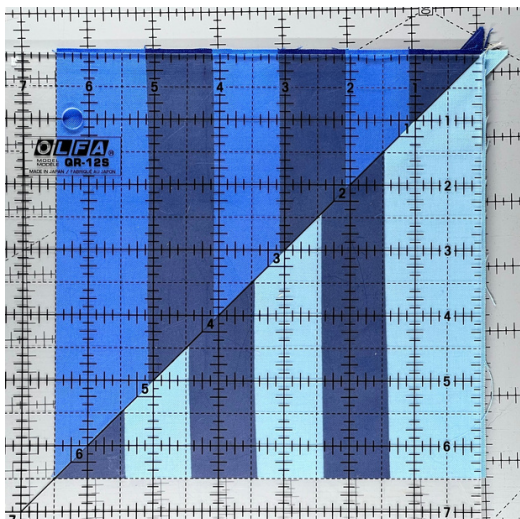


15. Now we will be squaring up the HST blocks to 6.5" unfinished. Start by aligning the 45 degree line on your square ruler exactly on top of the diagonal seam line of the block. Ensure 6.5" of coverage, where the edges of the block go beyond the edges of your ruler and beyond the 6.5" lines.

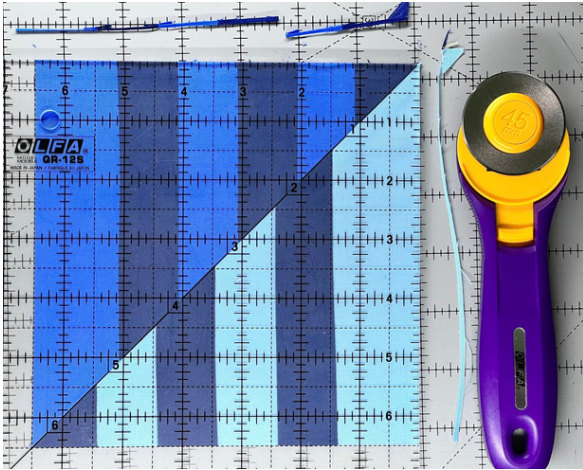


16. Trim the right side and the top side.

17. Rotate the blocks so the freshly trimmed corner is now in the bottom left. Align the 45 degree line on your square ruler exactly on top of the diagonal seam line of the block and position the bottom left corner directly at 6.5" x 6.5".



Directions



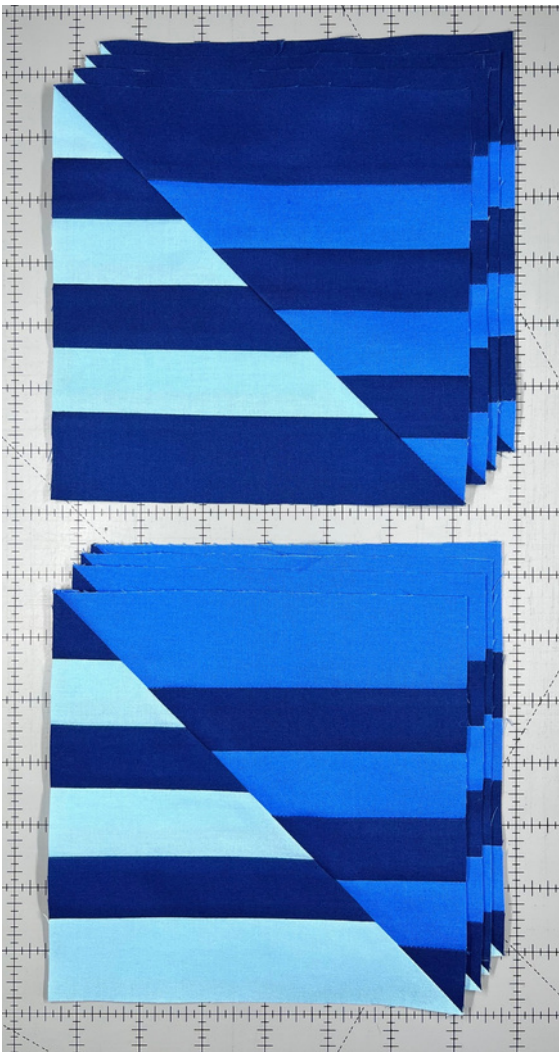
18. Trim the excess on the right side and top side. Your block now measures 6.5" x 6.5" unfinished. Beautiful!

19. Repeat steps 7 - 17 for all stripe block pairings creating 8 HST blocks in total, all 6.5" square unfinished.

20. Sort the 8 HST blocks into 2 groups:

Group A - blocks with 2 longer dark stripes on the edges.

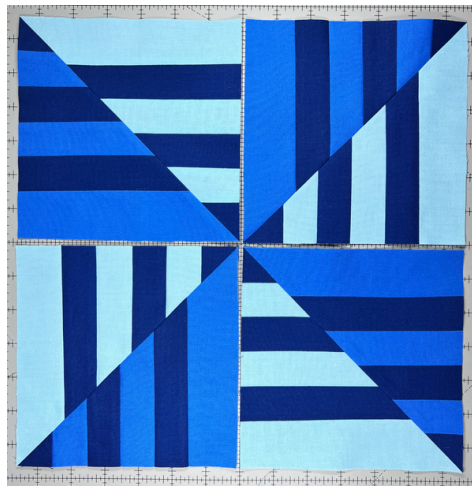
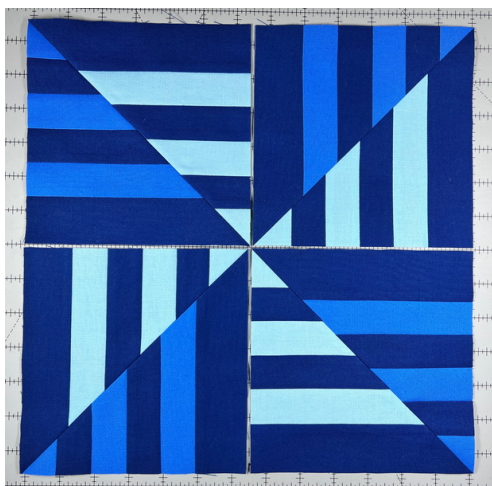
Group B - blocks with the longer light and medium color stripes on the edges.



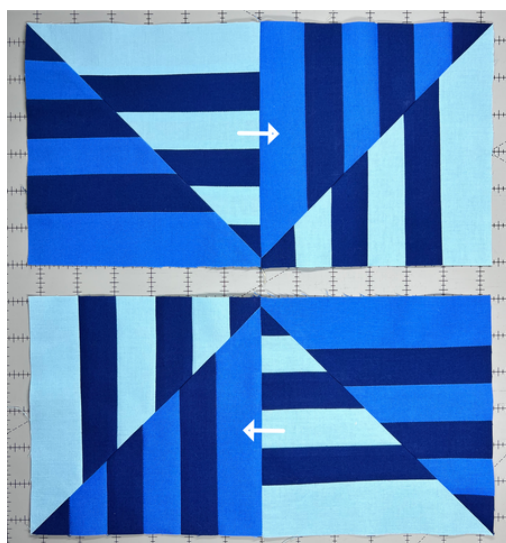
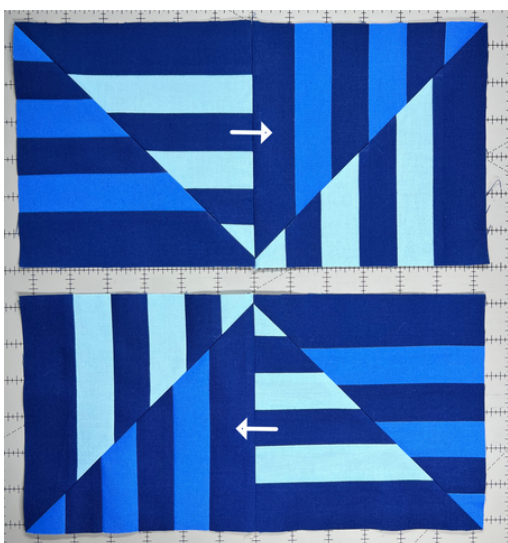
Directions

21. Arrange the 4 blocks from Group A into a pinwheel where the points from the light/dark sections create a light little pinwheel in the center, see left image below.

Arrange the 4 blocks from Group B into a pinwheel where the points from the light/dark sections create a dark little pinwheel in the center, see right image below.



22. Sew together the 2 top blocks then sew the 2 bottom blocks together from each group. Press to the side with one long singular stripe as indicated by the arrows, alternatively you can press the seams open.



Directions

23. Sew together the top of each pinwheel to the bottom. Center seams of pinwheels are bulky, I like to spin my seams and press as indicated by arrows, you could alternatively press seams open.

Each pinwheel is 12.5" x 12.5" unfinished.



24. Sew together the 2 pinwheels to create your 12.5" x 24.5" unfinished block. Congratulations! Enjoy your block!

