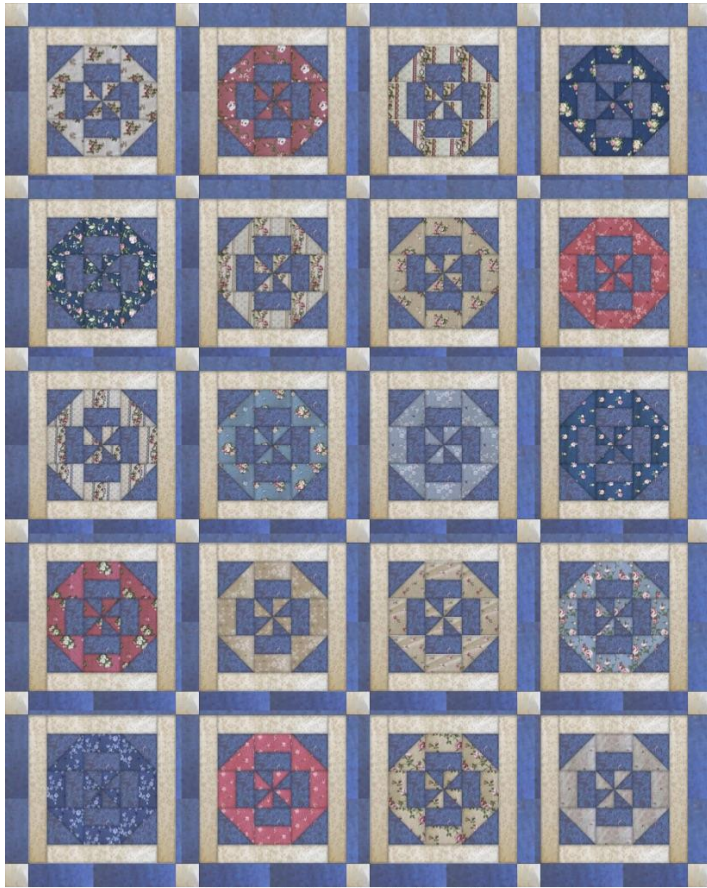


A midnight walk in the garden.



Quiltography for iPad © 2014 SlideSwipe

A fun quilt that looks complex but is quite simple to construct! The block that is used is a disappearing pinwheel block.

NOTE: We will be sewing along the fabric bias (i.e., not along the fabric grain but along the diagonal bits of the fabric which is also the stretchy part of the fabric). Unfortunately, this cannot be avoided, so be careful to pin your fabric and not accidentally stretch it further when sewing and pressing.

This is a modification of the disappearing pinwheel sampler quilt from **Sewn Together by Theresa Down Under**. You can find the original here: <https://teresadownunder.com/2016/04/28/disappearing-pinwheel-sampler-quilt-free-pattern/>

Fabric Requirements (yay for shopping!) for the quilt-top

- 10" squares of fabric with floral prints – 20 (or 2 metres of running fabric)
- Dark background fabric – 2 metres
- Light background fabric – 1.5 metres



I used scrap bits of fabric in coordinating colours to make up the 10" floral squares. I got these as cut pieces from leftover fabric samples at a fabric store. I did spend money on the light and dark background fabric though.

Non-Fabric Requirements

- A trusty square ruler (I use a 12.5" square one)
- A rotary cutter (you *could* use scissors, but using a rotary cutter makes it so much easier)
- A cutting mat (I use an A2 one)
- Your favourite sewing instrument with a 0.25" foot (I use a Janome sewing machine, but you can use whatever you prefer)
- A super fun playlist or binge-worthy TV show that you can listen to or watch while you sew! (I'm watching Blue Bloods and it has been riveting).

Constructing the Disappearing Pinwheel Block

A "disappearing" block is one that has been sewn together, cut up and then sew together again with the different squares swapped around. They're really quite fun and the end result seems complex and intricate. We will be making this disappearing block from a starter pinwheel block. Once we make it, we will be cutting this pinwheel block into 9 equal squares.

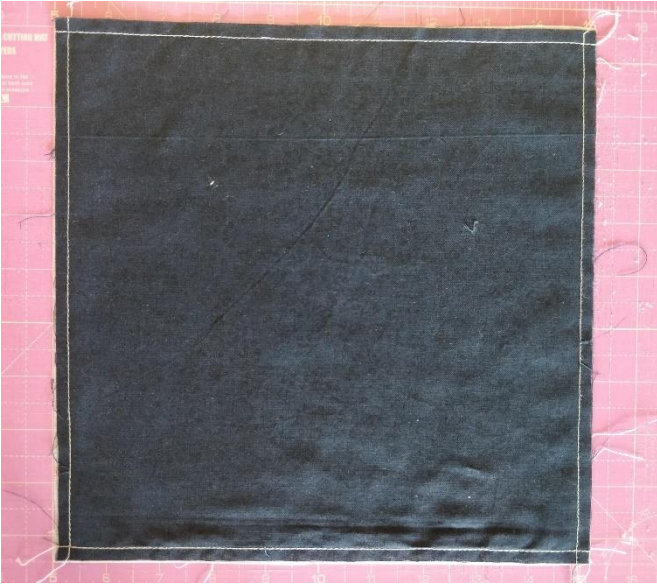
For those who are sewing by hand: make sure your stitches are small and as close together as possible. Because we will be cutting the blocks down further, there is a danger of the stitches unravelling if they're too big.

Get Down to Business (of sewing) - the starter block

1. Make 20 10" squares from the dark background fabric. Take one floral print square and one dark background fabric square and lay them **right sides together**. Do excuse the quality of the photos; for some reason there is some discolouration when I insert the photos to this document.



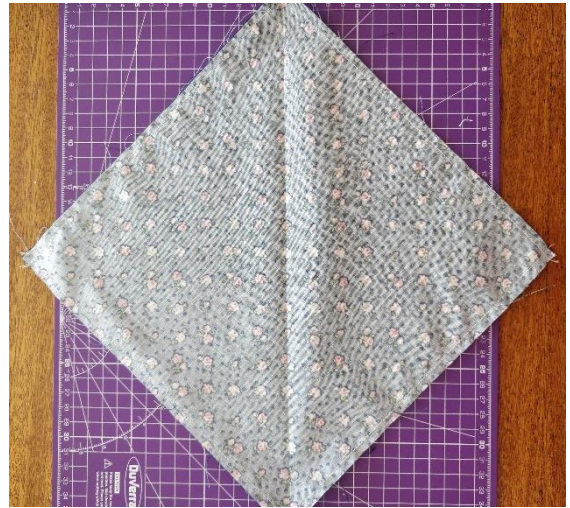
2. Pin along all four edges of the square securing the two pieces of fabric together. Sew along the edges leaving a 0.25" or a ¼" sewing margin.



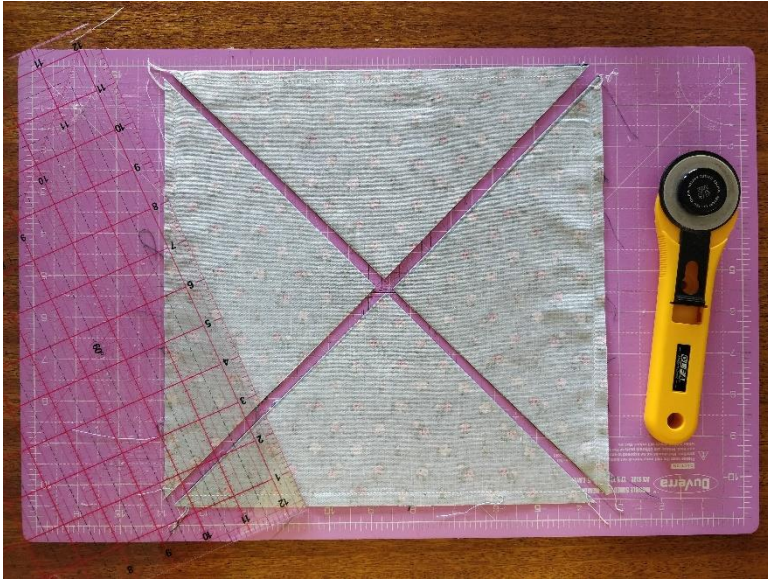
If you are hand sewing instead of using a machine, mark lines 0.25" from the edge along the edges of the fabric on all four sides. If your cutting is accurate, then you will have marked a 9.75" square within the square.

3. NEXT! Press your freshly sewn double square to get rid of any fabric bulges. Remember to **Press** and not **Iron**.
4. Mark lines along the two diagonals of the fabric. You can use a pencil to do this or fold over and mark the fabric. Whichever method you use, make sure your lines are straight, from one corner to another.



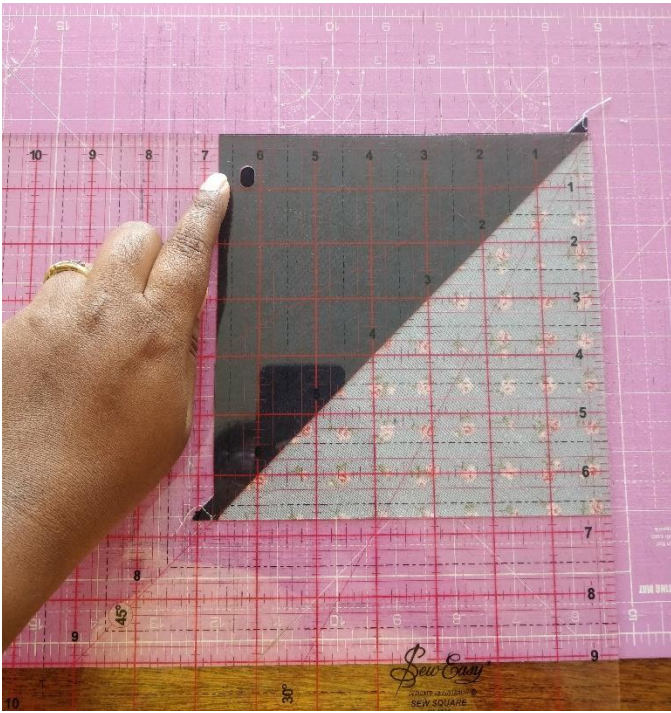


5. Cut along the diagonals. Be as precise as you possibly can with your cutting!



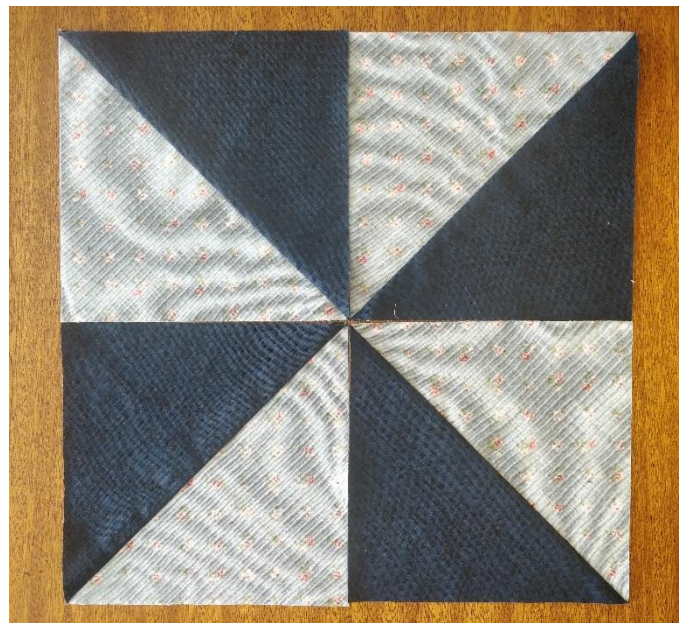
6. Open along the seam and press your HSTs (HSTs = Half Square Triangles). *It is important that you *press* down with your hot iron and not *iron* as you would clothes. This block will be quite stretchy, and it is super important that the block does not stretch and become mis-shaped.*



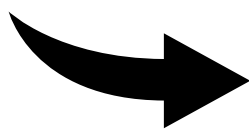


7. Square up to the closest square measure that is clearly marked on your ruler. I squared my HSTs to 6.75". (If your ruler is marked to 0.5" then use 6.5" then trim down to that). **To get the BEST HSTs**, line up the diagonal 45° mark along the diagonal of your HST instead of using one of the edges.

8. Arrange your HSTs into a pinwheel; pin together and sew! Make sure you're using a 0.25" sewing margin.



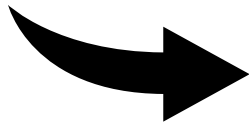
*** PINNING TIP*** *I find that my seams all line up nicely if I pin along the sewing line (as shown in the picture) as well as pinning along the edge.*



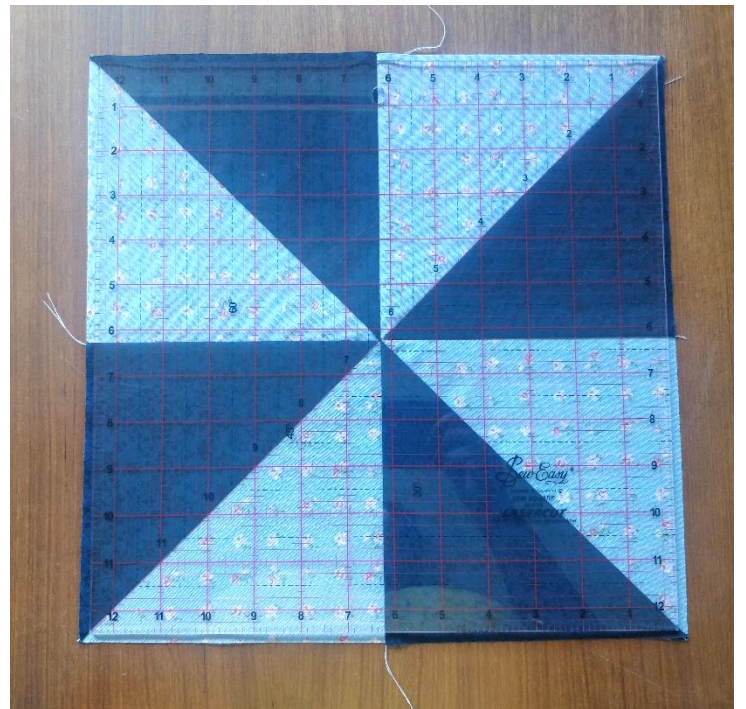
Open up and press the two halves of the pinwheel block (PRESS not iron!)



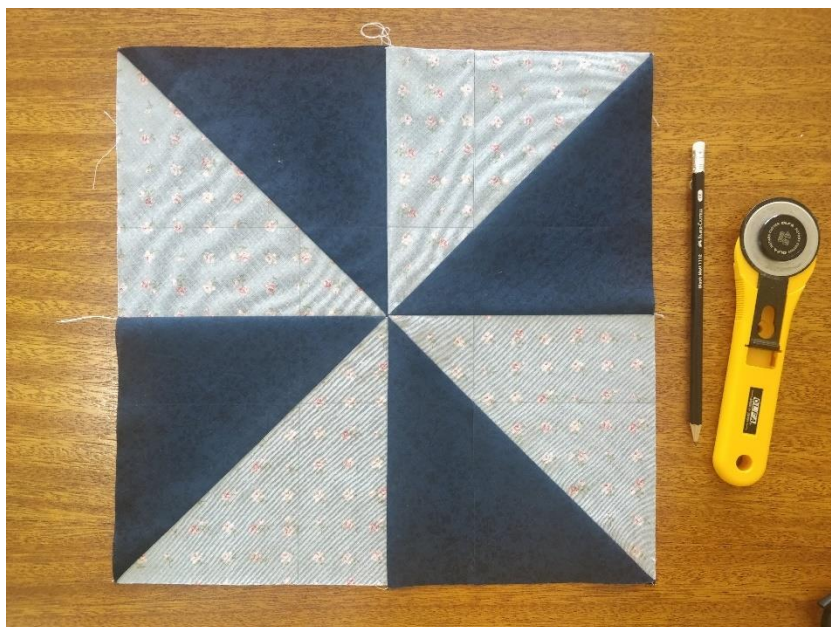
Take the pressed two halves of the pinwheel block; pin and sew together. Make sure you are lining up the seams when you pin and your centre pin goes through the tips of both “triangles”.



9. Voila! Pinwheel is READY! My pinwheel block was a 13” square. Depending on your sewing margins and original HST block size, your pinwheel might be bigger or smaller than this. Whatever the size ends up being it is totally fine!

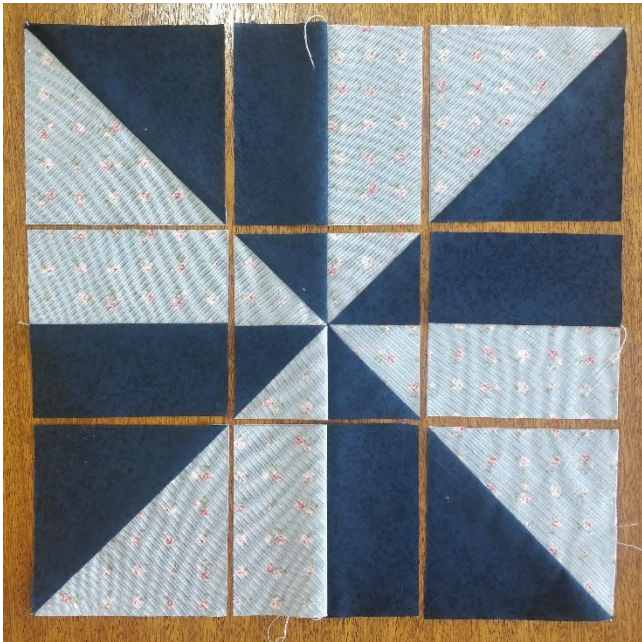


The disappearing pin-wheel block



10. Draw two lines horizontally and vertically on your quilt-block, separating it into 9 equal squares as shown in the picture (the pencil marks are faint, but they are there!)

11. Cut your block along those lines. You will have cut your pinwheel quilt-block into 9 parts as shown in the photo! Each of my resulting block is a 4.25" square; but this will vary based on your own measurements and sewing.



12. Next comes the fun part! I have picked a certain layout of these 9 blocks for this quilt, but if you like a different one better, then go for it! Here are some layouts you can create with this block (this is not in any way exhaustive!):



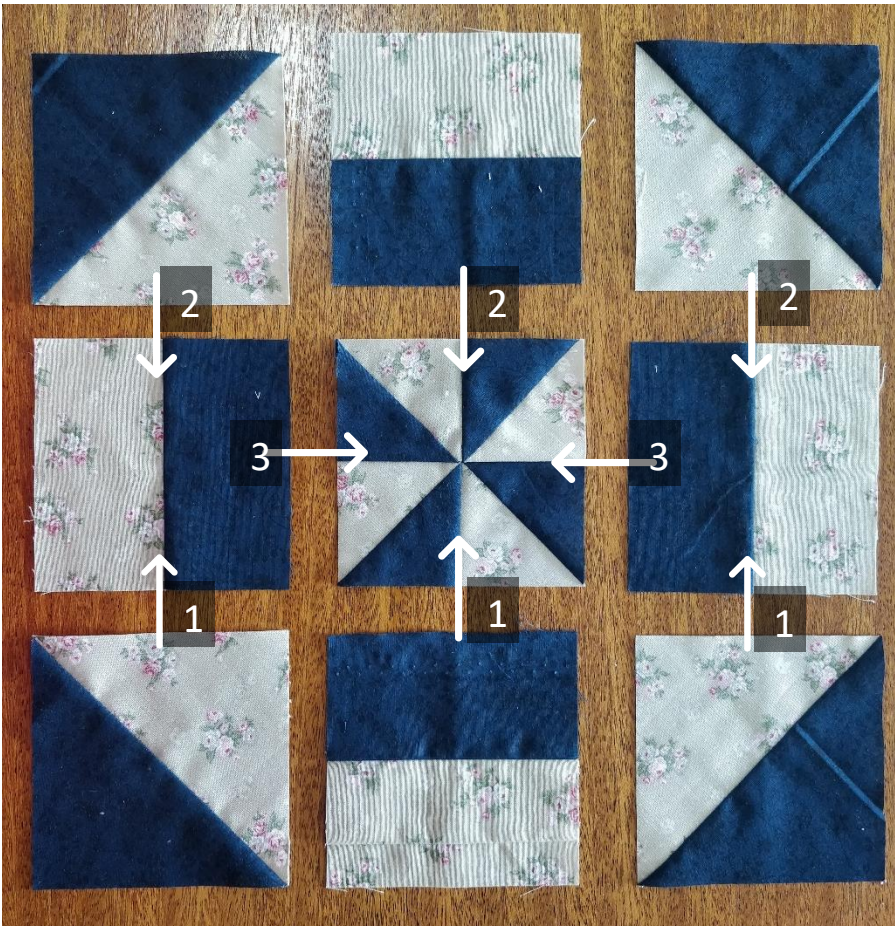


And so so so many more...

This is the layout that I have picked for the purpose of this pattern:



13. Once you have picked your favourite one (or more), it is time to assemble the block. I like to sew them in the order shown by the arrows below:

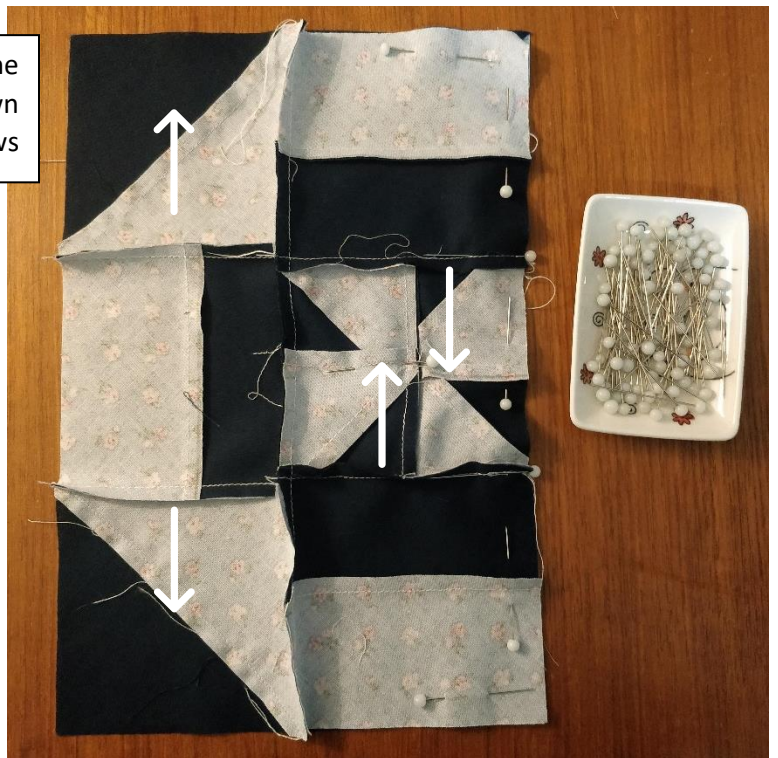


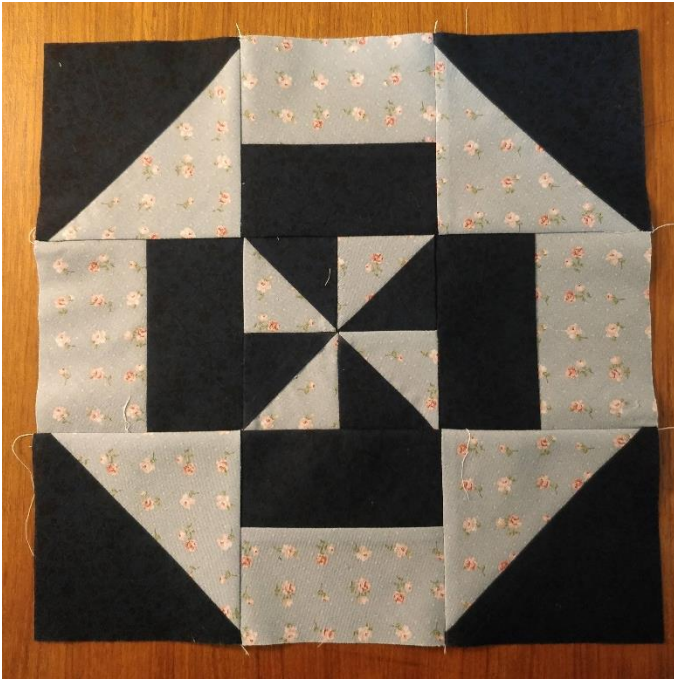
First the 1s then the 2s and finally the 3s. It's important to pin lots (especially along the seams) and press seams as you sew – this helps with keeping the fabric in place to counter stretching because of sewing along the bias. Also, you will want to press the seams so they “nest” or press the seams open. This helps with aligning the different mini-blocks and also help prevent a “bulky” seam.

A “nested” seam



Press seams in the direction shown by arrows





This is another point to stop and square up your blocks before you go any further. Squaring up is simply measuring all sides of your block and trimming where necessary to ensure that you are left with a square block. Measure your block as well as we will need these measurements in our next step.

My completed disappearing pinwheel block is almost **11.75" square**. I will likely trim down to **11.5" square** to make it simpler going forward.

- 14.** Make 19 more blocks like this one (20 total); you can make them an assortment of layouts or one specific layout of the disappearing pinwheel block for the 20 blocks.

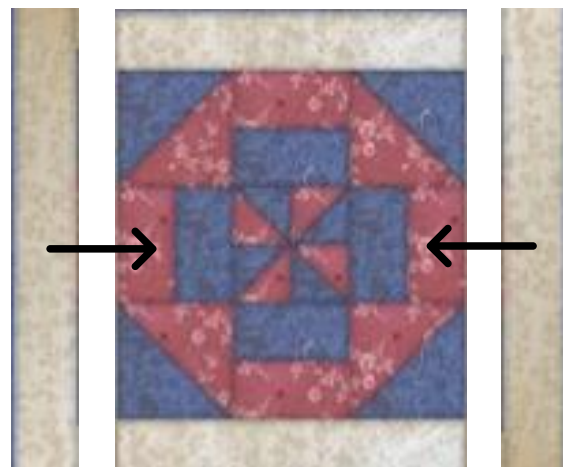
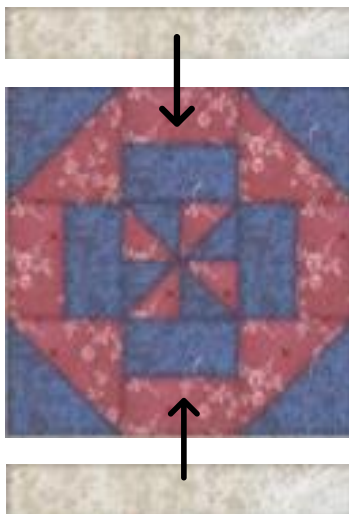
One thing to note when you are sewing – the pinwheel blocks are directional! So, the layout of the original pinwheel block is important. I missed this completely when I made my first two pinwheel blocks and ended up with blocks that are reflections of each other. To avoid unpicking I will make an assortment of both and arrange them accordingly in my final quilt layout. But if it is important to you to have identical blocks make sure you watch out for this!

Adding Borders to the Blocks

- 15.** Next, we add borders to these blocks. From the light background fabric, cut strips that are $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and long enough to go around your block. For ease of sewing, you will need 40 strips that are the same length as the edge of your block and 40 strips that are the same length as the edge of your block + 4.5".

Mine will be 40 strips that are 2.5" by 11.5" and 40 strips that are 2.5" by 15.5".

Attach them as shown below:



Write down the measurements of your final block! Mine is **15.5" square**.

Adding the Sashing

- 16.** From the dark background fabric, cut 49 strips that are 2.5" by 15.5" or as long as your block. From the light background fabric cut 30 2.5" squares.

Construct the sashing in horizontal strips from the mock-up of the quilt. You will need to make 6 of these.

Assembling the Quilt-top

- 17.** Lay all your quilt blocks on a flat surface with the sashing in between in an order that you like. Once you have a layout you like, take a picture! Sew the blocks together in rows with one strip of dark background fabric in between each block. Once you are done you will have 6 horizontal sashing strips and 5 horizontal block strips. Sew these together and voila! Your quilt-top is done.