



*Tuning My Heart Quilts*

*by*

*Debra Davis*





## ❄️ We Can Build A Snowman ❄️

A Block of the Month Program  
by Debra Davis  
Tuning My Heart Quilts, LLC



### ❄️ Block 4: ❄️

Welcome to block #4 in this BOM "Fun with Mr. Snowman" who is bringing back childhood memories of afternoons spent flying a kite.



*Finished Size 12" x 12"*

This month's block is based on the Merry Kite quilt block from the Ladies Art Company (1928). Nancy Cabot published a version in the Chicago Times in 1933 as part of her series of quilt blocks and wrote this about the block: "*Inspired by the kites every boy flies with more or less skill is the quilt pattern known as the Merry Kite. Their shapes and designs are as varied as the imagination of small boys can make them, but no more varied than can be the prints and colors used in this quilt*"

For this block we will be using Fabrics 1, 2, 3, 4, and 11. You will also need the fabric for the snowmen applique and a small scrap of your choice to use for the kite. In the cutting directions you will see which fabric to use and what piece to cut from that fabric. Before cutting I like to starch my fabrics. Labeling your pieces as you cut them is also a good habit to get into to help you stay organized as you put your blocks together.

*Debra*

## ❄️ Cutting Directions ❄️

From Fabric 1 cut:

H-(cut 1)  $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4\frac{1}{2}''$

From Fabric 2 cut:

E-(cut 1)  $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 5\frac{1}{2}''$

F-(cut 4)  $3\frac{1}{8}'' \times 3\frac{1}{8}''$

From Fabric 3 cut:

C-(cut 4)  $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$

D-(cut 4)  $3\frac{1}{8}'' \times 3\frac{1}{8}''$

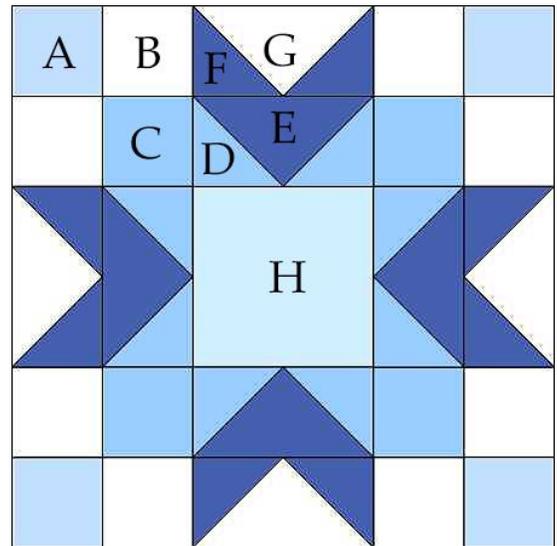
From Fabric 4 cut:

A-(cut 4)  $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$

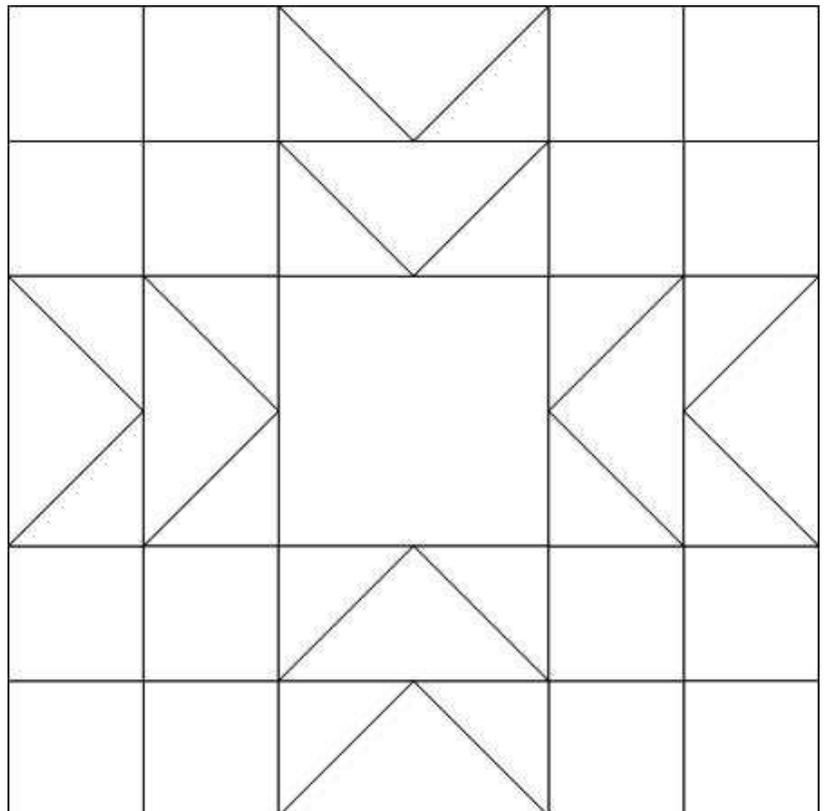
From Fabric 11 cut:

B-(cut 8)  $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$

G-(cut 1)  $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 5\frac{1}{2}''$



*Color it Your Way*



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Website: [www.tuning-my-heart.com/](http://www.tuning-my-heart.com/) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tuningmyheartquilts/](https://www.facebook.com/tuningmyheartquilts/)

Sew Along Facebook Group: [www.facebook.com/groups/tuningmyheartsewalong/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/tuningmyheartsewalong/)

## ❄️ Step 1: Making the Four-patch Units ❄️

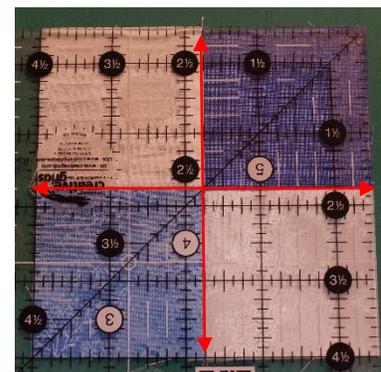
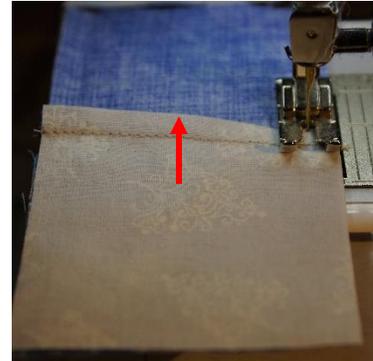
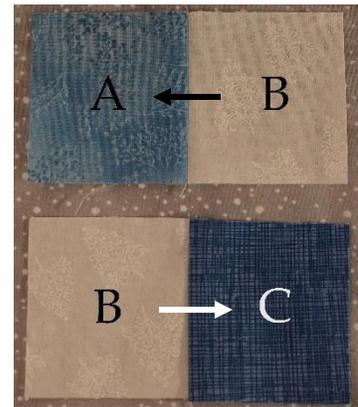
Using the A, B, and C squares join together into pairs making 4 of the A/B combination and 4 of the B/C combination.  
Press as directed by arrows.

Join the pairs together to make the four-patch units. I find pinning is not necessary when the seam is facing up towards my needle (see arrow); this seems to force the seams to join together nicely.

Press towards the A/B pairs as shown by arrow.

**These units should measure 4 ½" x 4 ½"**

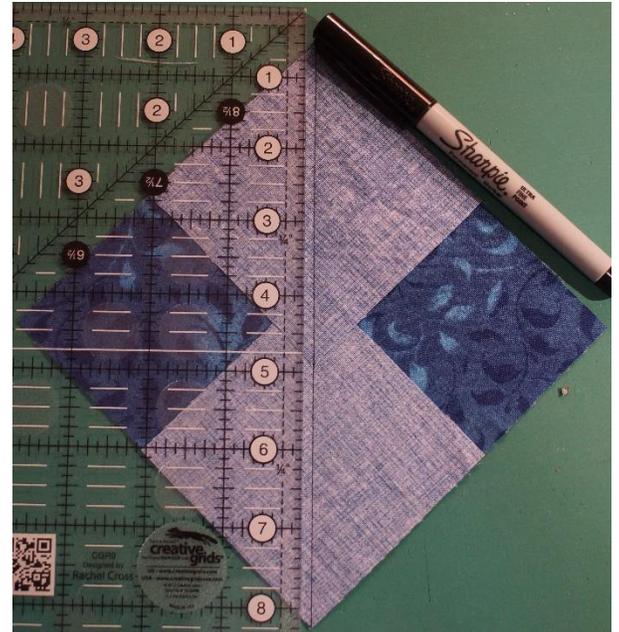
If trimming is required be sure to line up your ruler so that it is centered on the unit (the 2 ¼" line of your ruler is on the center seam lines as shown by red arrows.)



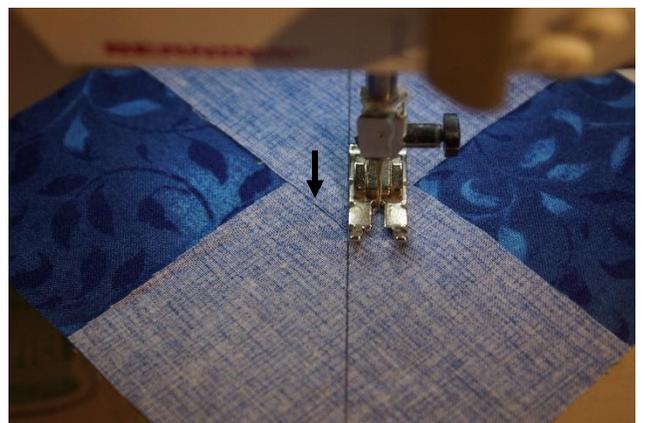
## ❄️ Step 2: Making the Flying Geese Units ❄️

To make the Flying Geese units I like the no-waste method. There is some waste as I have cut my pieces a little large in order to trim them to the correct size. (There is a video tutorial for this method that was done for Block 2 on my website at: <https://www.tuning-my-heart.com/we-can-build-a-snowman-bom#/> )

Using the D and E squares, lay two D squares right sides together on top of the E square as shown and draw a diagonal line down the middle. I use an extra fine Sharpie for this as it will not show and is easier to see.



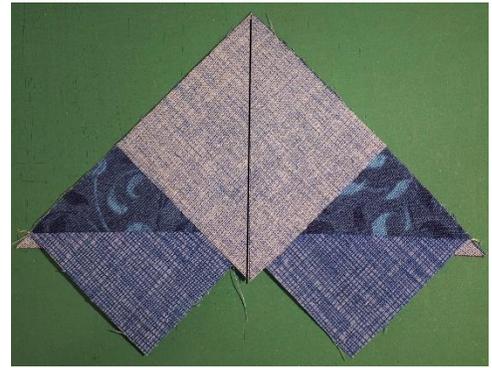
Sew  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from each side of the drawn line. It helps to face the top square away from the needle as you sew. (See arrow) This keeps the small square from bunching up as you sew over it and everything stays nicely lined up.



Cut apart on the drawn line and press towards the small triangles (direction of arrow)



Place the remaining D squares on the units you just made and draw a diagonal line down the middle.



Sew  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from each side of the drawn line.



Cut apart on the drawn line and press towards the small triangles.



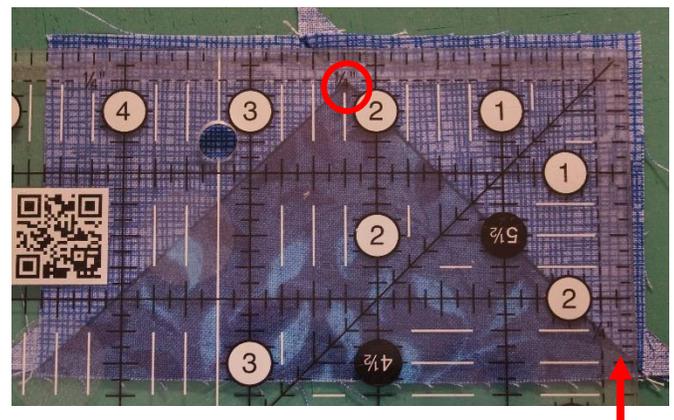
### **Trim Flying Geese units to $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ "**

(My video tutorial has very helpful, detailed instructions if you need help with trimming to size.)

Line up the  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " mark on your ruler with the tip of the "goose" which is circled in the photo. You need  $\frac{1}{4}$ " for a seam allowance above that mark.

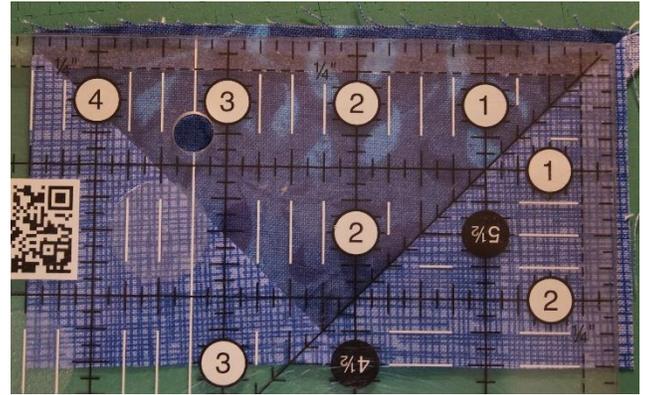
Line up the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " mark where the diagonal seam comes together indicated in photo with arrow.

Trim first two sides.



Rotate the unit to trim the remaining two sides.

Line up the 4 ½" line and the 2 ½" line with the edges that you just trimmed. The diagonal line on your ruler will lay on the seam line now. The 2 ¼" mark should fall at the point of the "goose" again with a ¼" seam allowance beyond it. Trim.



Repeat using the F and G squares.



My favorite ruler for trimming these is a Bloc Loc Ruler. For this block I am using the 2 x 4 size. It is so much easier to use than a regular ruler for trimming. Another good choice is the Creative Grids Flying Geese ruler which has several sizes of geese in one ruler.



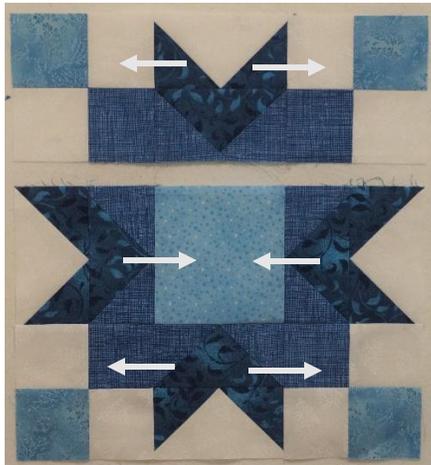
Join the D/E units to the F/G units as shown. Press towards the D/E units. You will have four of these double Flying Geese units.

**These units should measure 4 ½" x 4 ½"**



## ❄️ Step 3: Putting it all Together ❄️

Lay out the Four-patch units, the Flying Geese units, and the H square as shown. Be sure that the Four-patch units are rotated so that the A squares are on the outside corners. Join into rows pressing the top and bottom rows towards the four-patch units and the middle row towards the H square as shown by arrows. Join Rows together to complete Block. (see Tips)



### TIP #1:

When I have seams that do not lock into each other because they are pressed in the same direction (1) I make a little cut near the seam that is sewn (2)...right up to the stitching, being careful not to cut the stitches and then finger press that seam the way I need it to go (3) so that the two seams lock in place (4). Everything goes together much better and there is no bulky seam to deal with.



1) Two seams face same direction



2) Clip seam to stitching



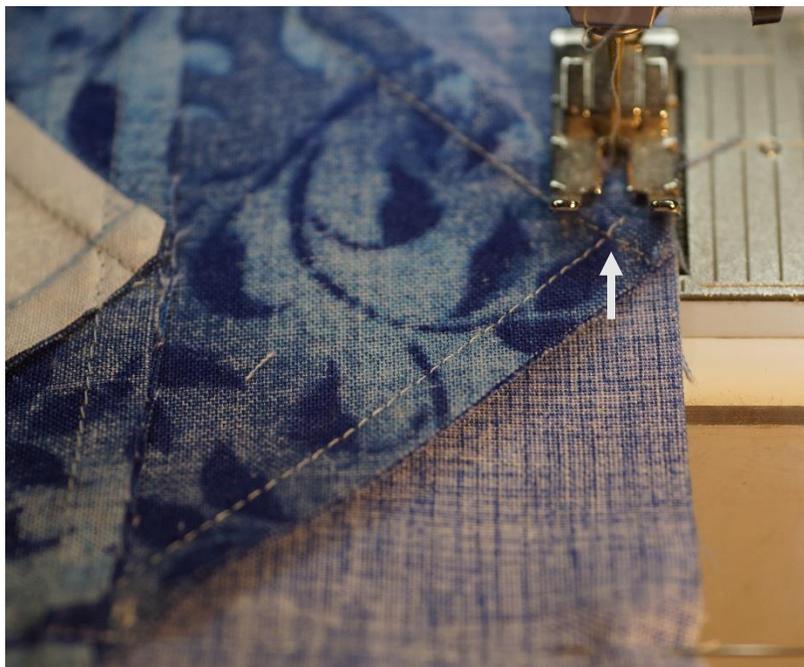
3) Finger Press in new direction



4) Seams now lock together

## Tip #2

Sewing with the Flying Geese units on top allows you to make sure that you sew right across the top of the point ensuring that you have nice sharp points. I aim for the middle of the "X" where all the seams cross. A sewing stiletto can help guide that bulky seam under the needle too.



*That Purple Thang is one option to use as stiletto*

## Tip #3

When pressing the completed block you end up with bulky seams, which I prefer to avoid. Normally I would fan the seams to solve this problem, but in this block that method does not work. Instead I clipped the seams in order to get the bulky seams to lay flat.



*Bulky seam that won't lay flat*



*Clipped and seam pressed in opposite directions*

## ❄️ Step 4: Adding the Applique ❄️

This month our snowman is enjoying the day out flying a kite. You will need a small scrap of fabric for the kite.

Trace the Pattern pieces onto the paper side of your fusible leaving about ¼ inch around the outside. Following the directions on your fusible fuse the pattern pieces to the wrong side of your fabric, let them cool, and then cut out on the traced lines. (Tip: before fusing to your background fabric trace the details onto your snowman. They are a lot easier to see before it is fused in place on the darker fabric background.) Using the full size applique pattern as a guide place your snowman and kite applique pieces and fuse onto the background (the center H square of your block.)



For the machine applique I use an open toe foot on my machine. I set my stitch to the Double Buttonhole (a regular buttonhole, satin stitch, or zig-zag stitch works well too.) I want my stitches to be fairly small and close together so my width is 2.0 and my length is set to 1.9. ( I go into great detail in my video tutorials for this BOM on my website at [https://www.tuning-my-heart.com/we-can-build-a-snowman-bom#/#/](https://www.tuning-my-heart.com/we-can-build-a-snowman-bom#/))



Once the stitching around the applique pieces is finished trace the rest of the embroidery design onto the square.



### ❄️ Step 5: The Embroidery ❄️

Stitches used:

Backstitch: Mouth (2 strands of black)  
Arms (2 strands of dark brown)  
Kite String (2 strands of Ecu)

French Knot: Eyes (2 strands of Black)

Satin Stitch: Carrot Nose (2 strands of orange)

Stem Stitch: Kite Tail (2 strands of Ecu)  
Ribbons on Kite Tail (3 strands of colors to go with your kite)



There are also video tutorials for these stitches on my website. Mouse over "Tutorials" and click on We Can Build a Snowman on the drop-down menu to access them all.

I hope you have fun making your own kite flying snowman block this month.

You can purchase previous patterns in this series on my website or on Craftsy (search for either Tuning My Heart or We Can Build a Snowman.)

I would encourage you to consider joining my Facebook Sew Along group-there you can see the blocks others are making, get updates, and the ability to ask myself and the other quilters in the group any questions you might have. I am here to help however I can as my goal is your success. So until next month...

Happy Quilting!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra".