

BLOCK HEADS 3

BLOCK
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FABRICS + SUPPLIES



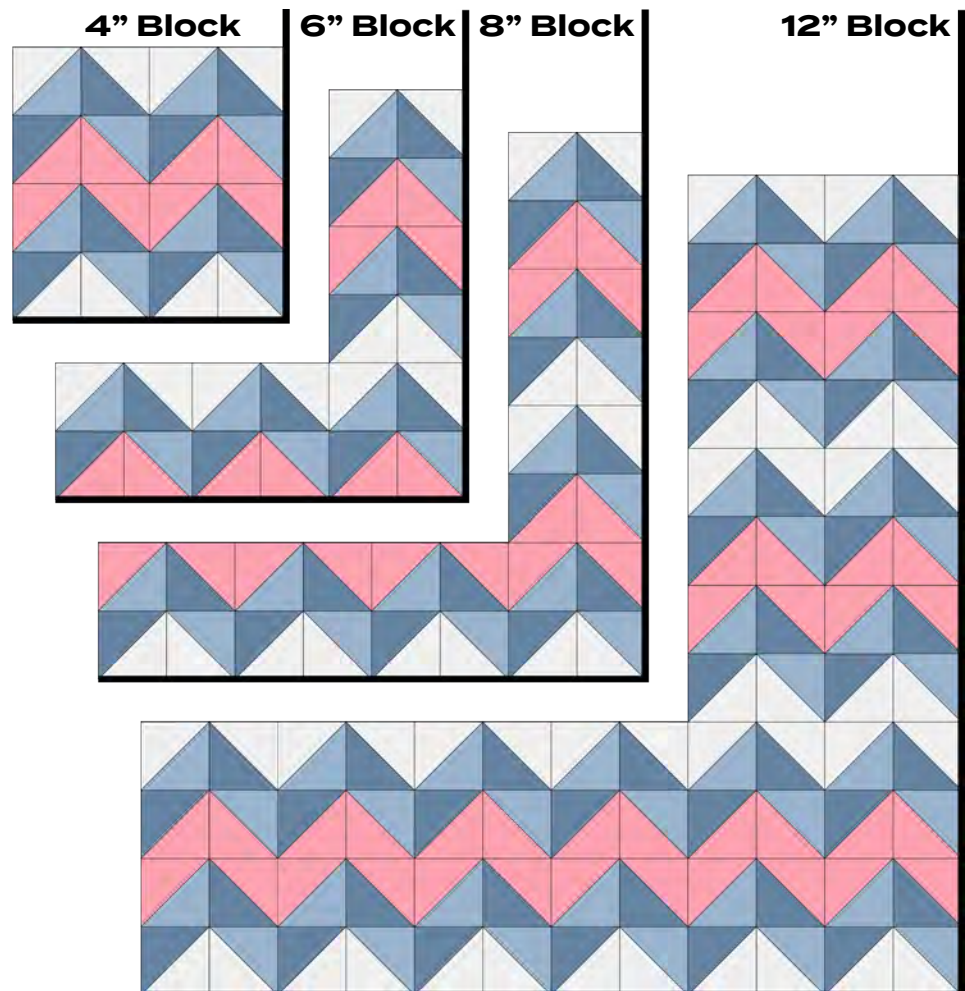
ZIG ZAGS

BY JANET CLARE

My teenage sons love a zig zag block. I think it's because they're simple, graphic, modern and have an energy to them.

HOW DOES AN EXPAND-A-BLOCK WORK?

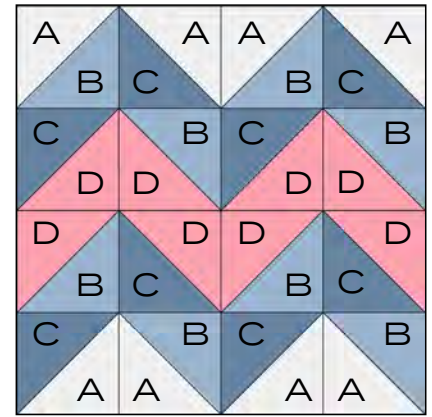
All HST units created for the Zig Zags Block are 1 1/2" unfinished (1" finished). Simply decide which size block you want to make, and follow the cutting guide and instructions listed for how many HST to create for that size block. For example, a 4" block uses a 4 x 4 grid with 1" finished HST units, totaling (16) HST units. A 6" block uses a 6 x 6 grid with 1" finished HST units, totaling (36) HST units.



The diagram to the right shows the difference between each block.

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS:

(For fabric choices refer to the diagram. Block is shown using (4) colors. A triangles are shown as background fabric, B triangles are shown as light blue, C triangles are shown as dark blue and D triangles are shown as pink. Quantity of triangles to cut varies by size of block. Follow cutting chart below for accurate quantities of triangles.)



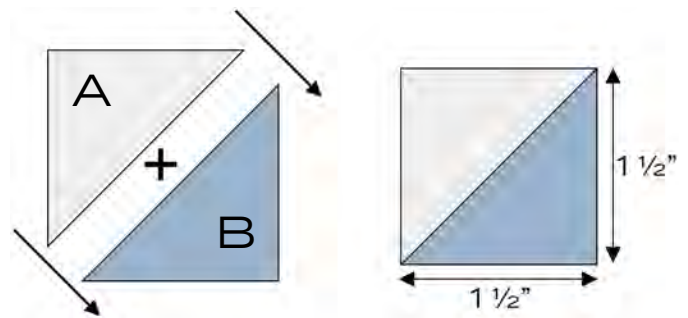
Block shown is the 4" block.

For fabrics A-D, cut each square once diagonally to create (2) triangles.

	4" Block	6" Block	8" Block	12" Block
A:	Cut (4) 1 7/8" squares; create (8) A triangles.	Cut (9) 1 7/8" squares; create (18) A triangles.	Cut (16) 1 7/8" squares; create (32) A triangles.	Cut (36) 1 7/8" squares; create (72) A triangles.
B:	Cut (4) 1 7/8" squares; create (8) B triangles.	Cut (9) 1 7/8" squares; create (18) B triangles.	Cut (16) 1 7/8" squares; create (32) B triangles.	Cut (36) 1 7/8" squares; create (72) B triangles.
C:	Cut (4) 1 7/8" squares; create (8) C triangles.	Cut (9) 1 7/8" squares; create (18) C triangles.	Cut (16) 1 7/8" squares; create (32) C triangles.	Cut (36) 1 7/8" squares; create (72) C triangles.
D:	Cut (4) 1 7/8" squares; create (8) D triangles.	Cut (9) 1 7/8" squares; create (18) D triangles.	Cut (16) 1 7/8" squares; create (32) D triangles.	Cut (36) 1 7/8" squares; create (72) D triangles.

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Use the following instructions to create all HST units. Place (1) triangle from (2) colors right sides together and edges aligned.
2. Sew along the longest edge using a 1/4" seam.
3. Trim HST unit to measure 1 1/2" unfinished (1" finished).
4. Press seam toward the dark fabric.
5. Use the following guide to create HST units in the correct quantity and fabric pairing for each size block. HST units are paired as A/B, A/C, B/D and C/D. Diagrams show accurate fabric pairings.



a. 4" Block:

1. A/B: Create (4)
2. A/C: Create (4)
3. B/D: Create (4)
4. C/D: Create (4)

b. 6" Block:

1. A/B: Create (9)
2. A/C: Create (9)
3. B/D: Create (9)
4. C/D: Create (9)

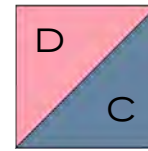
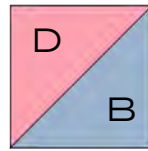
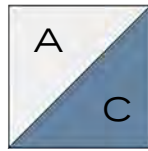
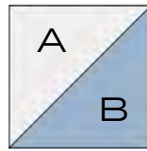
c. 8" Block:

1. A/B: Create (16)
2. A/C: Create (16)
3. B/D: Create (16)
4. C/D: Create (16)

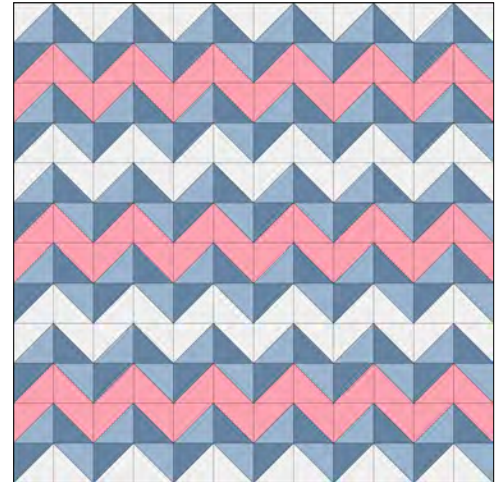
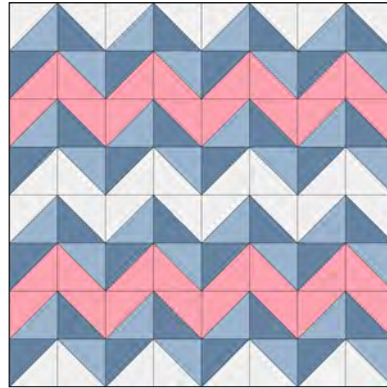
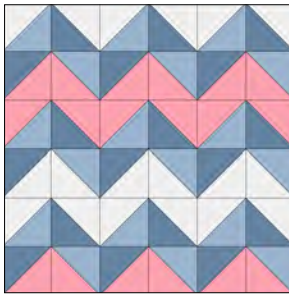
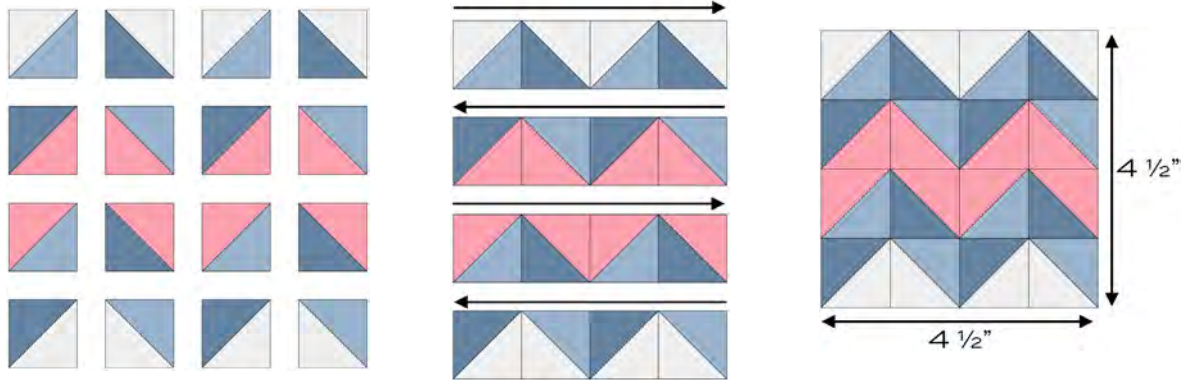
d. 12" Block:

1. A/B: Create (36)
2. A/C: Create (36)
3. B/D: Create (36)
4. C/D: Create (36)





6. Begin block assembly by laying out HST units as shown in the diagrams to create a zig zag appearance. For a 4" Block, use a 4 x 4 grid, for a 6" Block use a 6 x 6 grid, for a 8" Block use a 8 x 8 grid and for a 12" Block use a 12 x 12 grid.
7. Sew HST units together in horizontal rows, alternating the direction in which you press the seams in each row.
8. Sew horizontal rows together to complete.



9. Trim block using the guide listed below:
 - a. 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" unfinished (4" x 4" finished)
 - b. 6 1/2" x 6 1/2" unfinished (6" x 6" finished)
 - c. 8 1/2" x 8 1/2" unfinished (8" x 8" finished)
 - d. 12 1/2" x 12 1/2" unfinished (12" x 12" finished)

DESIGNER INFO

Tip: I actually always press seams open (not traditional I know!). But I find it helps me to piece more accurately as you can see exactly where the pieces should match up. Pressing the seams open also helps me be more consistent with my pressing. I don't have to remember which direction to press the seams in for which row. I've also found that blocks lay flatter.



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