

**Royal City Quilters Guild  
Summer Milady Mystery 2021**

**Week Three**

**Combination Units and Bird-in-the-Air Blocks**

For this week, we are making what Deb Tucker calls “combination units.” They involve a half-square and two quarter-square triangles. Since I have provided the cutting sizes for the blocks, you don’t need Deb Tucker’s technique sheet or the Tucker trimmer. If you have a Tucker trimmer, it is a great asset for this block, but a regular square ruler can work as well.

The other block we will be making is the Bird in the Air. We only need four of these, but pay attention to the instructions. Watch the video below for help.

**Cutting Instructions for Combination Units**

**Fabric #2:** ⇨ Cut two (2) 5” strips WOF. Subcut into sixteen (16) 5” squares.

**Fabric #3:** ⇨ From a remnant of fabric from previous clues, cut one (1) 3 1/2” square. Cut the square twice on the diagonal.

**Fabric #4:** ⇨ From a remnant of fabric from previous clues, cut one (1) 3 1/2” square. Cut the square twice on the diagonal as above.

⇨ Then, cut two (2) 3” squares. Cut both squares once on the diagonal.

**Piecing Instructions for Combination Units**

1. **Using** fabrics 3 and 4 cut above, match one quarter-square triangle with a similar triangle in the other colour. Be consistent in their orientation. With RST, sew along one of the shorter sides. Press the seam open.
2. **Fold** the half-square triangles in fabric 4 in half along the long side as shown. Finger press at the middle.
3. **Match** the finger-pressed centre of the half-square triangle with the seam on the joined quarter-square triangles. Pin if you want. Sew along the long side of the triangles. Press the seam open.

4. **Trim** each block to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " square making sure that the intersection is in the centre of the block. You should have four (4) identical units.
5. **Find** sixteen (16) untrimmed HSTs made in week 1. These were made from fabrics 1 and 5.
6. **Place** one of these HSTs on top of one of the sixteen (16)  $5$ " squares RST. These will not be exactly the same size. As if making hourglass units, sew from corner to corner perpendicular to the sewn seam of the HSTs  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on both sides of the centre diagonal line, drawn or imaginary. Separate the blocks and press toward the larger triangle.
7. **Trim** each of the combination units to  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " unfinished. You should have thirty-two (32) combination units, sixteen in one orientation and sixteen their mirror image.

## Cutting Instructions for Bird in the Air Blocks

**Fabric 2:** Cut four (4)  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " X  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles.

**Fabric 5:** Cut two (2)  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " X  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles.

## Piecing Instructions for Bird-in-the-Air Blocks

1. **Find** the four (4)  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " HSTs made from fabrics 1 & 2 in week #1.
2. **Sew** the four (4)  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " X  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles to the squares as illustrated. Press toward the rectangle.
3. Carefully **place** the four units into two groups as follows. Fold the top over the bottom RST, and sew the units together.
4. **Set** the seam with the iron and then snip the seam allowance  $2\frac{3}{4}$ " from either end (the centre of the seam) just to the stitching. Press both sides toward the larger rectangle.
5. **Draw** a line at a  $45^\circ$  angle through the point in seams in fabric 1 on both sides of the piece as illustrated. Place pieced rectangle on top of  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " X  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle in fabric 5. Pin at the corners.
6. **Sew** along both lines. Cut the block apart leaving  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance on both sides. Press the seam toward the larger triangle of fabric 5. Trim dog ears. You should have four (4)  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " square bird-in-the-air blocks.