

Schoolgirl Sampler Sew Along

Week 9

Work on Blocks **49 through 54** on pages 64 - 66 of the Schoolgirl Sampler book.



(Blocks by Sue Bennett)

This week you'll get some practice making pinwheel blocks. I suggest you start with Block 52, your basic pinwheel block, to get the hang of making them and to practice getting your points to match in the center. You may find that you have to use your seam ripper a little bit this week.

First, make sure your half-square triangles are trimmed to the correct size for the block you're working on. Each pinwheel block or unit consists of sewing 4 triangle units together. Either press your seams open or press to the side in opposite directions. When you sew the pairs of units together, pin the center where the seams meet so the points match up. (I use Clover fine

glass head pins.) I don't sew over pins but if you feel you must, do it carefully and go slowly so you don't break your needle. I usually sew right up to the pin and then remove it.



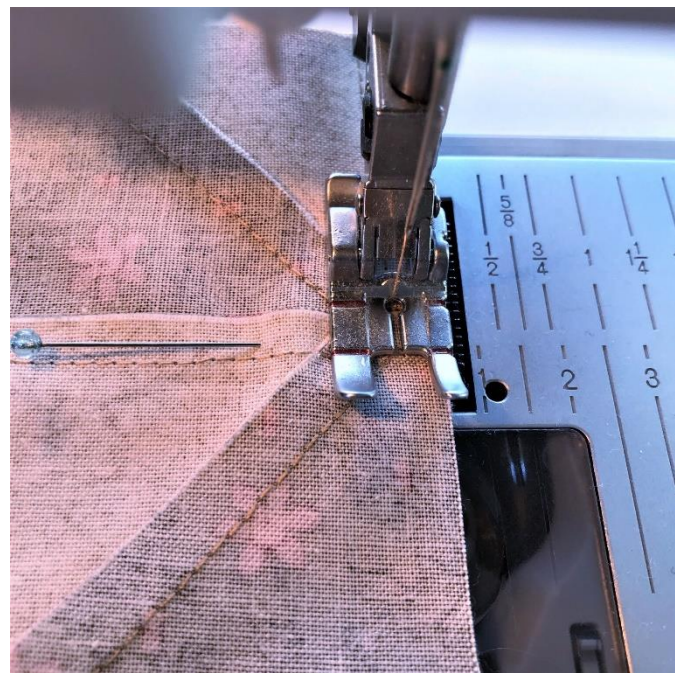
Make sure to leave a ¼" seam where the points meet.



Sometimes I like to press my seams open. Run a bit of water along the seam to get it flat. Or, if you prefer, press in opposite directions and butt the seams (see photo below).



Pin the units together, matching the seam lines or nesting the seams if pressing in opposite directions.



Sew units together. Stop right before the pin and remove before sewing over it.

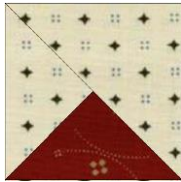


Open seam, dab a bit of water along it with your finger and press flat. Or, try this - gently "pop" a couple of threads in the seams where they intersect to "spin" them and reduce the bulk. Gives you a cute little pinwheel. Dab a bit of water in the middle and press.

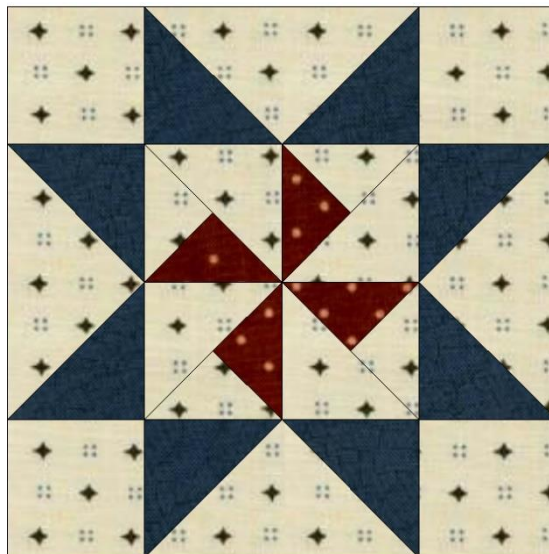
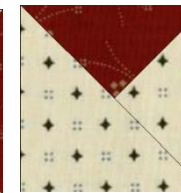
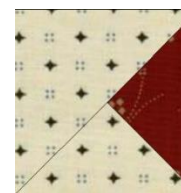
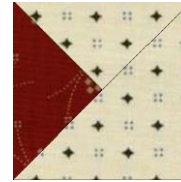
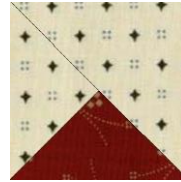


Voilà! As perfect as I can get it, which is good enough for me.

If the Martha Washington Star block (Block 52) looks a little daunting, take it step by step. Make the center part with the tiny triangles first. The easiest way is to make four units like the one below and then sew them together to get the pinwheel. Follow directions above for sewing the triangle units together. Finish the block by sewing flying geese units to the sides and then sew the flying geese with squares to the top and bottom.



Make 4.



You're all making such good progress! Some are ahead of the game. Don't be intimidated by those who are almost finished. You'll get there too if you stay with it and follow "the plan" by sewing blocks every week. After that, we'll work on the center and then add the sashing and borders. One step at a time

The next six blocks will be posted on **Friday, March 5.**