



## Quilting Corners Skill Builder: Month 1 Carpenter's Wheel

### A few notes before we begin.

This is *your* quilt. Make it your own. Unless you have been hired or commissioned to strictly follow a set pattern (or your daughter-in-law *must* have that baby quilt with 400 flying geese), feel free to make changes to fabric colours, block styles, block arrangement, etc. as you see fit. You should enjoy the process.

### Abbreviations used:

wof = width of fabric

HST = half square triangle

B/G = background fabric

CT = corner triangle

w/s = wrong side

TTT = Technique to try

All seam allowances are  $\frac{1}{4}$ "

Reserve all unused cut strips of fabric for following months. Use them first wherever you can in the following months.

Each month we will discuss alternatives to the suggested round. To substitute for the carpenter's wheel block this month, any  $16\frac{1}{2}$ " square unit will substitute easily:

- A different  $16\frac{1}{2}$ " block
- A 12" block with borders added to make a  $16\frac{1}{2}$ " square
- 4 – 8" blocks
- 4 – 6" blocks with appropriate sashing and/or borders
- A panel piece cut to  $16\frac{1}{2}$ " square
- $16\frac{1}{2}$ " square of feature fabric

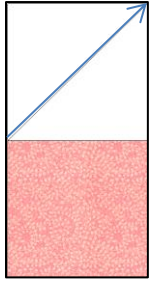
### Carpenter's Wheel Block

Traditionally made with only HST's and squares, this method uses corner triangles, two flying geese, 4-HST's and several squares. This method reduces bulk and is an alternative if HST's are not your favourite. If you are a fan of HST's, by all means, adapt the pattern to use them.

### Sewing Corner Triangle (CT) units:

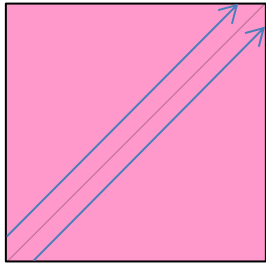
Use any of the following methods:

- Draw a diagonal on the w/s of the squares (make sure mark is removable)
- Press the square along the diagonal
- **TTT**: Place a piece of painter's tape on the bed of the machine, mark a line straight out from the needle and follow along the marked line on the tape (See tutorial on last page)



Place the CT square on the rectangle, making sure of orientation. Sew just a thread to the *outside* of the marked line. Press the seam allowance as indicated and trim the seam allowance to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " if desired to reduce bulk.

### Sewing HST units:



These units are cut over-sized and trimmed for accuracy. As for the CT units, mark a diagonal line by your preferred method on the w/s of one of the fabrics. Sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on either side of the unit. Cut the unit apart, press as indicated and trim to the required size, making sure the seam line runs through the corners of the trimmed unit.

**TTT**: These units can also be sewn without marking as shown in the tutorial on the last page.

### Cutting:

**B/G**: Cut 3-  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x wof strips. Sub-cut the strips into: 40 -  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares, 2 -  $2\frac{1}{2}$  x  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles

**Green**: (Needed: 10 -  $2\frac{1}{2}$  x  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles, 10 -  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares, 2 - 3" squares)

Cut 1 -  $2\frac{1}{2}$  x wof strip. Sub-cut into as many  $2\frac{1}{2}$  x  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles as possible (approximately 8)

Cut 1 - 3" x wof fabric strip. Sub-cut into 2 - 3" squares. Trim the strip to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and cut remaining  $2\frac{1}{2}$  x  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles and 10 -  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares (There should be some fabric left on strip one to cut some  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares)

**Pink**: (Needed: 10 -  $2\frac{1}{2}$  x  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles, 6 -  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares, 2 - 3" squares)

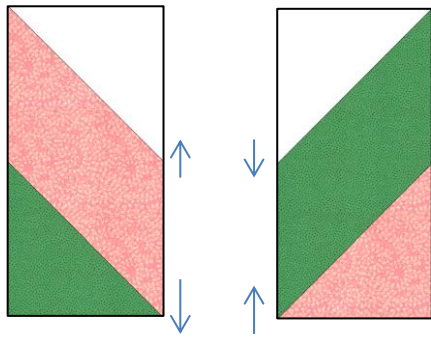
Cut as for Green, cutting only a total of 6 -  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares

**Assembly:**

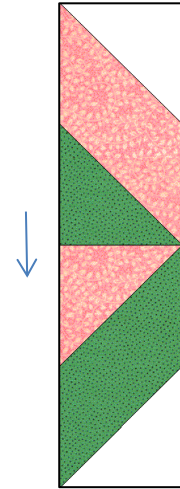
The block will be constructed from the centre pinwheel star outward instead of the usual row by row construction.

Centre Pinwheel – construct the following units and press as indicated by the arrows.

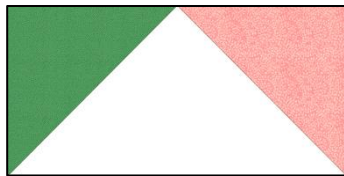
CT units: For each unit, use a base  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle and add the appropriate CT squares. Make two of each:



Sew the completed CT strips as shown at right to make two long strips.

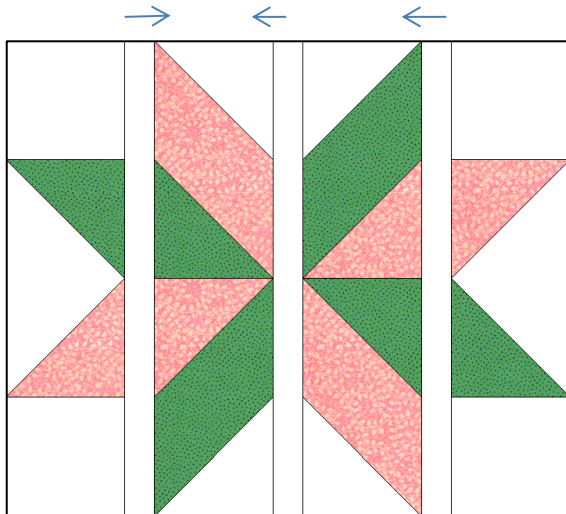


Flying Geese units: make two



Use the CT method. Start with a  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ " B/G rectangle and add 1 pink and 1 green  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " square- making sure to orient them correctly. Press seams away from the B/G. Add a  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " B/G square to each end of the unit. Press toward corner squares.

Assemble the units into strips:

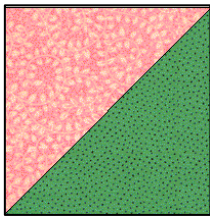


Sew the strips to form the centre pinwheel star. (Sew the two centre strips together first and spin the centre seam of the pinwheel if desired. See page 4 for directions).

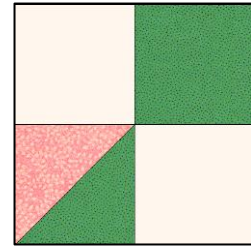
The completed star should measure  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Outer round:

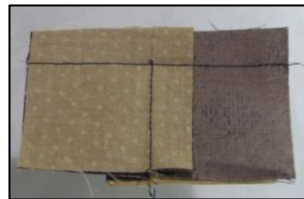
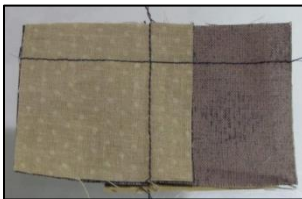
4-Patch units



Using two pink and two green 3" squares, make four HST units as described on page 2 and trim to 2 1/2" square.  
Using 2 1/2" white and green squares, assemble the units as shown.



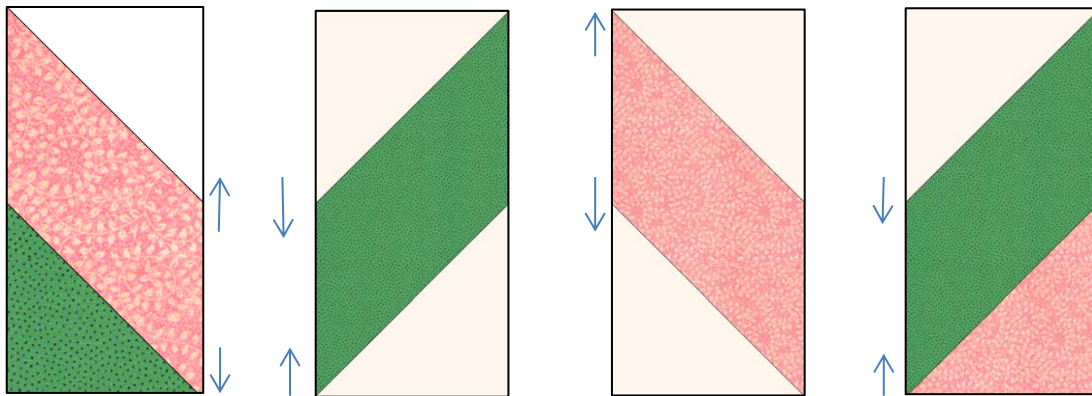
**TTT:** "Spin" your seams. Sew the four-patch as usual, but release the few stitches where shown.



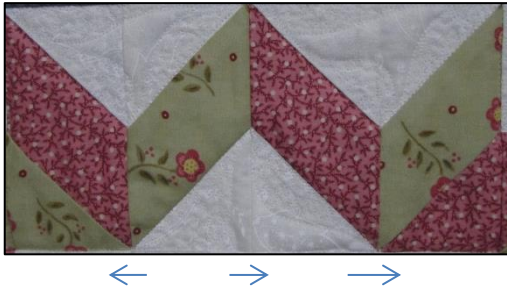
Open the seam allowance and press the right seam allowance up and the left seam allowance down. This will look like a mini four patch at the seam intersection and should make your unit lay flatter.

CT Units:

Make four each of the following CT units:



Using the above units in the order shown, construct four identical strip units:



Sew the 4-patch units to two of the strips as shown – watch orientation.

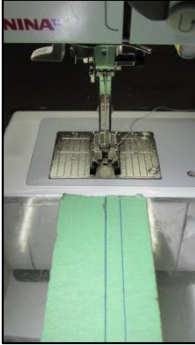


Sew the four unit strips to top and bottom and finally add the side strips including the 4-patch units.

The finished block should measure 16 1/2" square. If it doesn't, don't panic. We'll talk about it next month.

## TTT: Using Painter's Tape as a Sewing Guide

Using Painter's Tape and a permanent marker can eliminate many marking chores.



Apply a piece of painter's tape to the bed of the machine straight out from the needle.

With a PERMANENT marker (it won't rub off onto your fabric), draw a line straight out from the needle. Draw a second line  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the right (and left if desired) of the first line. Make sure the line is at  $\frac{1}{4}$ " – you may need to compensate for the width of your marking pen.

Using the tape for CT's:



Place the corner of the square under the needle and align the opposite corner with the line straight out from the needle.

Sew the seam keeping the fabric corner aligned with the marked line.

Using the tape for HST's:



Place the fabric under the pressure foot aligning the edge of the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " foot with the corner of the fabric. Align the opposite corner of the fabric with the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " line drawn on the tape. Sew the seam while keeping the fabric corner along the marked tape line.

Rotate the fabric and sew the second line of stitching.

