



## Row 1: Pinwheel Variation



This row has six 6-inch blocks.



1. Starting with 5-inch squares, to make all 6 blocks, you will need:

- 6 background / sky squares (I used blue)
- 12 main pinwheel squares (I used yellow and red print)
- 6 accent pinwheel squares (I used 6 different gold/oranges.)

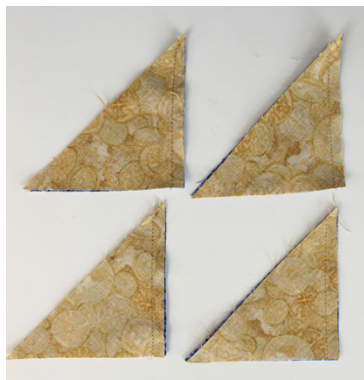
You can use any combination of scraps that you have; the blocks do not have to be identical.



2. Make 2 diagonal cuts across each of the background and accent pinwheel squares to make 4 triangles from each square.



3. Make 1 diagonal cut across each main pinwheel square to make 2 triangles from each square.



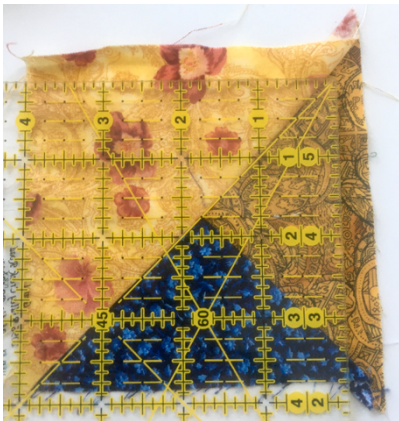
4. Pair one background triangle with one accent pinwheel triangle.

Stitch the triangles together down one short side of the pair.

**\*IMPORTANT\*** There is a directional aspect to how this 2-triangle unit fits into the block. To make the 'spin' happen, the 2 triangles have to be layered consistently. My gold accent square is always on top of the blue background square (which is almost invisible in this picture) AND you always have to sew down the same short side. It doesn't matter which is on top, or which side you sew down (your pinwheel will just spin in the opposite direction) but it must be consistent.



5. Press the 2-triangle unit seams to the dark side (or open if you like.)  
 Stitch each unit to the main pinwheel triangles.  
 Press the seam toward the main pinwheel triangle.  
 \*Important\* Your main pinwheel triangle will be a little larger than your 2-triangle unit: you started out with the same size squares but you lost a seam allowance in the 2-triangle unit. You haven't made a mistake!



6. Remember back in the intro when I said I compensate for inaccurate diagonal seams by making the units bigger and then trimming them down after the seam is sewn? This is where it happens.

Your unit is now too big to fit into a 6 ½-inch block, so you need to trim it down to 3 ½ inches.

Some of you will have a familiar way to deal with this, or a specialty ruler to use. But if you don't, here's how to do it with a regular old ruler.

You are going to place the diagonal line on the ruler on the diagonal seam between the main pinwheel triangle and the 2-triangle unit. And you will place the 1 ¾ mark, both horizontally and vertically, on the spot where the background (my blue) and the accent pinwheel (my gold) meet the long diagonal seam. Trim the side and top edges, then turn the block and trim again to make it 3 ½ inches.



7. After you've trimmed down all your units, lay them out so that they form the pinwheel block and stitch them up. If you are doing the row as written, you will have 6 blocks to sew together in one row.

NOTE: Your pinwheel may spin in the opposite direction, depending on how you stacked your triangles back in step 4. That's OK!





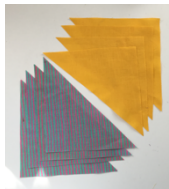
## Alternate Instructions

Maybe you want to make a wonkier block. Both of the following options are made as single pinwheels that have been skewed a little.



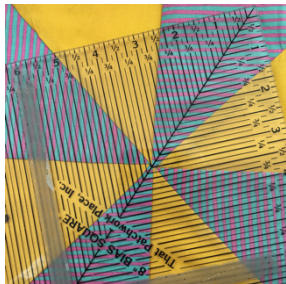
The blocks in the top row have been skewed (twisted) but the center point where all the triangles meet, remains in the center.

The blocks in the bottom row have been skewed (twisted) and the center point is no longer in the center.



If you are going to go for either of these 2 options, you have to make your blocks bigger than normal to allow you to twist the ruler. For these, cut all the beginning squares 6 x 6. Cut them in half diagonally. Piece 4 half square triangles for each block. Assemble into a pinwheel.

Now trim, depending on which look you are going for.



For the top row blocks, you want to end up with a 6 1/2 inch block, keeping the center of the pinwheel at the center of the block. So, I have tilted the ruler to wonk-i-fy the block but I have kept the center point (3 1/4 inches on the ruler vertically and horizontally.... half of 6 1/2 ) at the point where the triangles meet. Trim one side and the top, then turn the block and trim to 6 1/2 square.



For the bottom row of blocks, you want to end up with a 6 1/2 inch block, but the center of the pinwheel will no longer be in the center of the block.

For this one, I have tilted the ruler to wonk-i-fy the block, AND the center of the triangles is no longer at the 3 1/4 inch mark on the ruler horizontally and vertically (half of 6 1/2 inches.). Trim one side and the top, then turn the block and trim to 6 1/2 square.

Sew your 6 wonky blocks together for the row....OR they look really good with a little space between them...you really see the spin. You can choose to make 5 blocks and add a 1 inch sashing (cut 1 1/2 inches) before the first block, between the blocks and after the last block.



