I have had an inbox FULL of requests for sizes and details of how I am recreating the fabulous string pieced flying geese quilt I found a couple weeks ago.

I know I know I know! I can’t leave this quilt alone either, and I’ve been madly piecing geese units since ---

So as my Christmas gift to all of you – I’m presenting this as a “Short Cut” tutorial.

There are many ways to make the geese, but since I am dealing with a box of strings ---not big hunks and chunks – mine might look a bit different than the quilt that inspired me, but hopefully have the same “make do” feeling.

I just LOVE everything about this quilt!
There are 6 rows of string pieced geese separated by bars of green – make the bars of green any width you want. Make the rows of geese as long as you want – this little Short Cut is not a full quilt tutorial, but rather all about the geese – do with them what you will!

Sewing Strings to foundation paper!

Yes, I do use foundation paper. These are 5.5” squares – I cut them from some left over pattern pages that were already cut at 8.5” X 5.5” so cutting 5.5” off one end was easy. You can actually get by with about 5 1/4” – but I wasn’t going to trim down any farther since they’d be trimmed down more in the next step!

Set your stitch length VERY small. Place your first strip right side up on top of the paper – down the center diagonal from corner to corner. Lay your next strip with right sides together against the first one – if you are using yarn dyed shirt fabrics like me, they are the same front and back so it doesn’t matter! Continue to add strips and scraps to the block to completely cover the paper, pressing after each strip is added.

Here I am busy covering foundations with strips!
Cut from Corner to Corner with the Companion Angle ---

I am using the Companion Angle to trim up my geese to size so it’s easy to let one ruler do the job of both the cutting on the diagonal, and the trimming!

Using the 3 1/2” line down the center of the ruler ((the big 6 will be on the side) trim the excess fabric away on both sides, and across the top notch.

Carefully remove papers. I photographed this with the paper side up because it was easier to photograph the numbers.

Wing triangles are cut with the Easy Angle ruler from 3-1/2” strips.
Position the notched edges of the wing triangles so that they will meet with the flat top on the goose triangle as shown.

Matching edges and the top notches of the right side wing triangles to the right side of the goose triangle, stitch. I chain piece all the right wing triangles first – chain press the seam outward toward the wing triangle, cut apart…and trim dog ears, then come back and add the left wing triangles.

Right side wing triangles pressed out and dog ears removed!
When adding the left wing triangles, the bottom edge, bias edge, and top notch should be even with the edges of your goose triangle. Do you see how the flat spot on the left wing triangle is even with the edge of the unit? Don’t let it slide down or creep above the edge of the unit. Keep it EVEN!

Two geese units, ready to fly!

Press this seam outward toward the wing triangle just added and remove dog ears.

Make as many geese as you want to get the rows the length you want them to be.

Geese can also be made with crazy crumb piecing --- no paper required. Just crumb piece a block big enough to cut two triangles from it as above. For more info on Crumb Piecing, click HERE!

If you do not have the Companion Angle ruler or the Easy Angle ruler – the math is going to be a bit different.

From paper foundations cut 1 7-1/4” square. Cut the square with an X. String piece onto the paper triangles, covering them completely. Trim to size. You have to string piece triangles instead of squares if you don’t use the ruler ---- if you string piece the square first, and then cut it with an X, your strings will either slant – or half of them will be up and down and the other half will be side ways – see what I mean? If you want them all up and down, cut the paper square into quarters first so you can plan the way the strings will lie.

Wing triangles can be cut from 3 7/8” squares cut once on the diagonal.
Can you tell which unit is newly made?! Pretty good match, don’t you think?!

Sew up those scraps and enjoy!

Bonnie