

Fractured Pinwheels

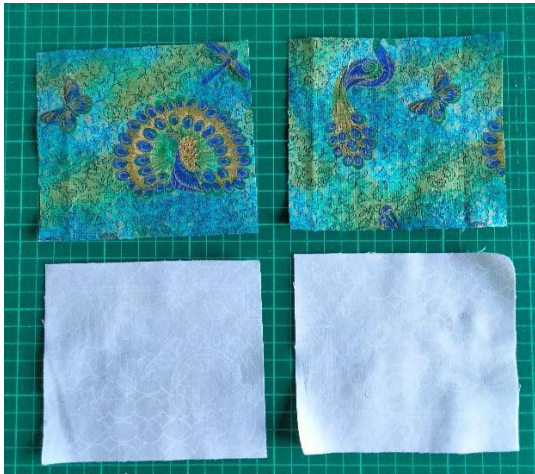
This month we will be making Fractured Pinwheels. Read all the instructions before you start and use a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam throughout. Please press seams as directed as this will make it easier for me to join the blocks together neatly.

Fabric requirements

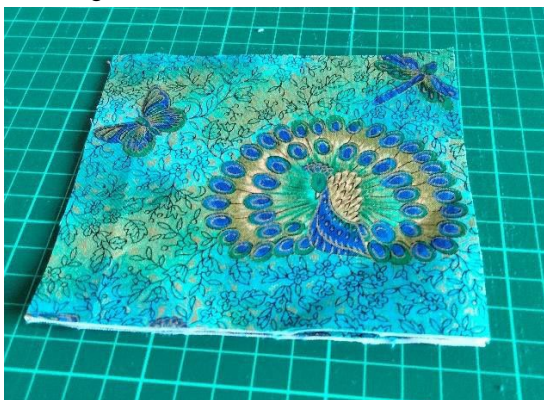
Use bright fabrics of any colour for the feature pinwheel and neutrals for the background. The neutrals can be plain cream, beige, grey, black, or a print on a cream, beige, grey or black background so long as it reads as a neutral. See my example photos at the end for ideas.

Cutting

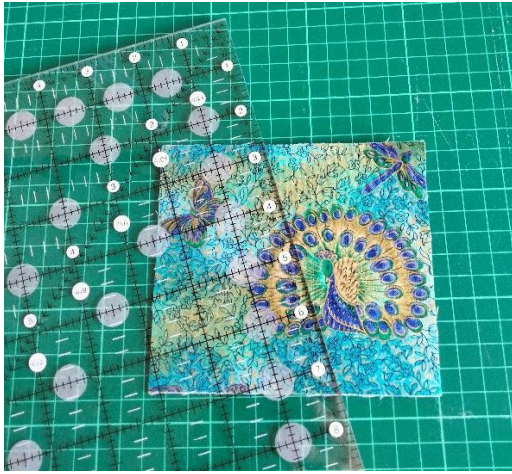
1. Cut:
 - 2 5" x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles of feature fabric
 - 2 5" x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles of neutral fabric



2. Place all 4 fabric pieces on top of each other, right sides up, long edges towards you and align the edges.



3. Place your ruler across the pile of pieces, from one long side to the other, roughly in the middle of the rectangles. The cut should be on an angle from top left to bottom right and at least 1" from the corner on each side.



4. Cut through all 4 pieces to create 4 feature/neutral pairs.

Sewing

1. Sew each feature/neutral pair together along the diagonal cut edge. For those new to quilting, you will need to offset the corners as shown below, so that the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance meets the edge of both fabrics at the same point. This ensures that once sewn and opened out, the edges with the join are in a straight line.

Note: If you struggle with this or if you find scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams difficult, then cut the initial fabric pieces $5 \frac{1}{4}$ " by $4 \frac{3}{4}$ " and trim to $4 \frac{1}{2}$ " by $4 \frac{1}{2}$ " once sewn into pairs.



2. Each sewn pair should now form a $4 \frac{1}{2}$ " square. Trim off the 'ear' where the point of the feature fabric sticks out, and you may need to trim slightly if it isn't quite square.
3. Press each seam toward the feature fabric.
4. Place the 4 squares as shown to form a windmill with the narrow ends of the feature fabric to the centre.



5. Sew into 2 pairs, pressing the seam towards the feature fabric, then sew the pairs together ensuring that the centre seams line up.
6. Press each side of this final seam towards the feature fabric. If you place it face down and undo a couple of stitches at the centre of the first 2 joining seams this makes it possible and reduces the bulk at the block centre.



7. The final block should measure 8½".



Note: If you inadvertently cut very uneven pinwheel arms, (as I did on one of my test pieces), you can repeat the cutting steps using one of the cut pieces as a template, to cut another 4 blocks in exactly the same way. This will then give you 2 sets of 4 matching feature/neutral pairs to create blocks like those below.



Examples

