

## WHIRLIGIGS

This block is a simple variation on Rail Fence and is designed to use up as much as possible of your 'spare' fat quarters and/or scrappy bits of fabric & odd jelly-roll strips.

For each complete block you will need a minimum of two contrasting fabrics, one light and one dark.

The preferred colourways for you to use are either:

- 1) A light and a dark of the same colourway as shown in the sewn example below, or with tints/shades (e.g. blues, greens, red/pink, orange/yellow, purple/mauve) – doesn't matter if the contrast is not huge so long as the whirligig can be seen; **or**
- 2) White (white on white is fine) or black as the centre colour with any scrappy colours of your choice as the 'second' outside colour.

For the two-way colour scheme, for **each** colour you will need:

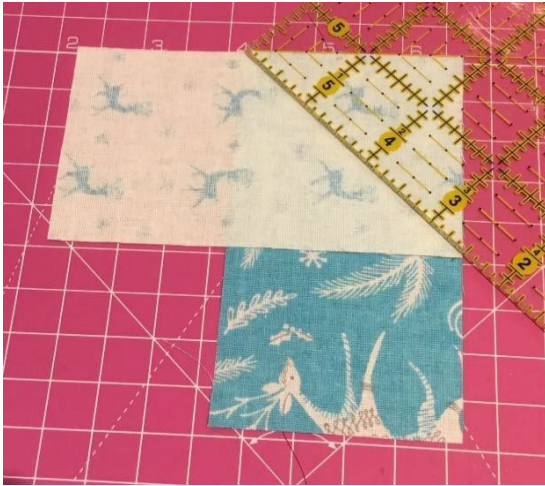
4 pieces 6.5" x 2.5" and 4 pieces 4.5" x 2.5"



Take the 4.5" pieces first. Place them right sides together at right angles to each other as shown below.



Use a ruler on the top piece of fabric to draw a sewing line diagonally from the top left corner to the bottom right corner; use a pencil for light fabrics and a white or chalk pencil for darker fabrics. If you have a 45-degree line on your ruler, use that to assist you.

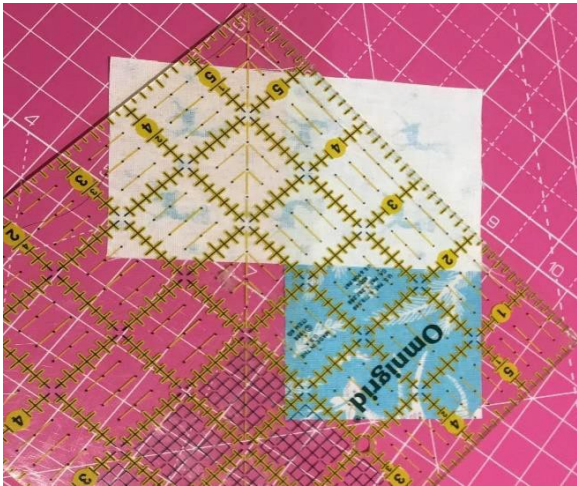


Putting a pin in at this stage helps keep the edges aligned on the way to the sewing machine.

Make sure all 4 blocks are done in the same way to ensure the whirligigs rotate correctly when sewn together.



Sew along the pencil line on each block, or a couple of threads to the right of it. You can chain-piece these for speed! Then clip off the corner @  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the seam line and discard it.



Open out each of the blocks and press, preferably pressing the seam to the darker fabric.

Then add a 6.5" x 2.5" piece to each side of the block using one of the light fabrics and one of the dark.

Make sure that the shorter side edge of the middle section is against the long edge of the same colour of fabric 6.5" strip as shown below. This gives you the whirligig effect.



Each block should measure 6.5" square when the side strips have been sewn on.

Now you decide whether you want the lighter colour to be in the middle of the whirligig or on the outside.

Take your four blocks and set them in a square, rotating each block by 90-degrees before sewing them together.



Luckily there is very little seam matching to do! Sew the top two blocks together, then the bottom two, and press the seams in opposite directions so that the middles nest together when you sew the two halves together.

Your finished Whirligig should measure 12.5" square.



These were my two options showing the difference between choosing the lighter fabric as the middle or the darker one.



### SCRAPPY VERSION

If you prefer to go for the scrappier version, please follow the above instructions but cut either:

4 pieces x 6.5" x 2.5" black and 4 pieces 4.5" x 2.5" black, plus

4 pieces x 6.5" x 2.5" scrappy colours and 4 pieces 4.5" x 2.5" scrappy colours

OR

4 pieces x 6.5" x 2.5" white and 4 pieces 4.5" x 2.5" white, plus

4 pieces x 6.5" x 2.5" scrappy colours and 4 pieces 4.5" x 2.5" scrappy colours



These were made with the same left-over jelly-roll strips to show the effect of black versus white. Any colours and variety of fabrics for the scrappy element will be fine.

