

Working With Oddly-Shaped Pieces

By Carol Dockery

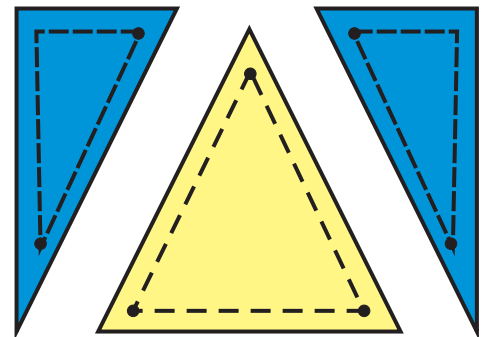
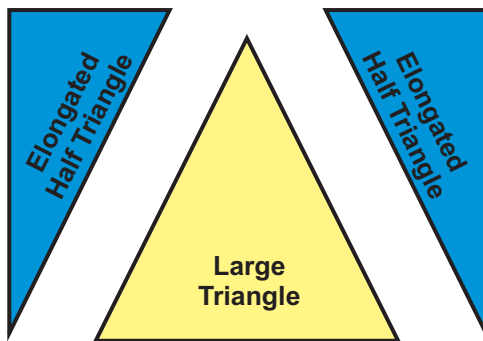
Properly piecing odd shapes to produce units with the correct dimensions can be tricky. However, if you know how to accurately identify the points that should be matched in each piece, you can successfully sew together any two oddly-shaped pieces. The example below shows how to identify matching points in a Square Flying Geese unit comprised of a Large Triangle and two Elongated Half Triangles. Another practice example follows.

Whenever you are working with units containing oddly-shaped pieces, it's a good idea to use this technique to make a few test units. When done, measure each unit to make sure it has the right dimensions, and, if necessary, make a test block using the units, and check its size.

Repeat this procedure to find the matching points for each corner of each piece to be sewn, as shown below.

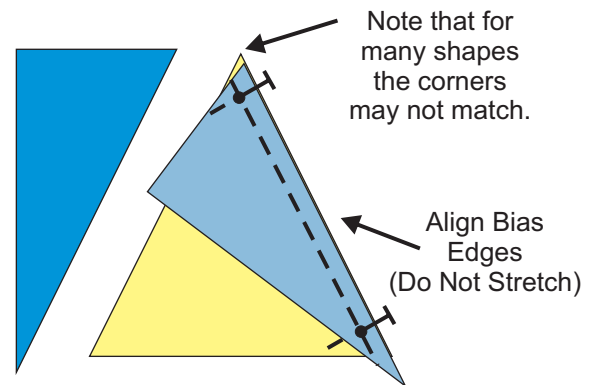
Piecing Square Flying Geese

The Square Flying Geese Unit is made up of a Large Triangle and two Elongated Half Triangles.



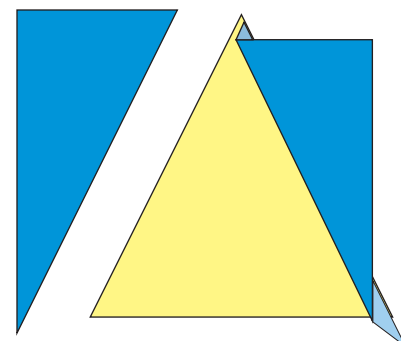
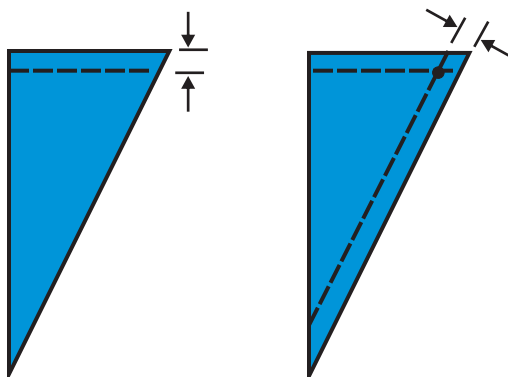
To piece, flip the Elongated Half Triangle on the right over, right sides together, onto the Large Triangle matching the dots. It is helpful to put a pin through each piece at the matching dots.

You must accurately mark the sewing lines to find the matching points for each corner of each triangle to be sewn. These points are exactly 1/4-inch from each adjacent side measured perpendicularly from the raw edges.

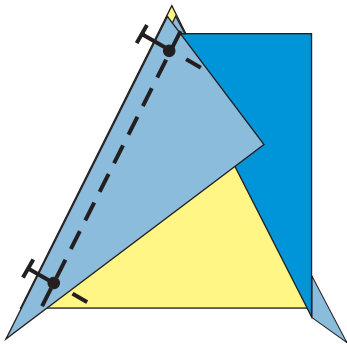


To find the correct point on each piece choose a side on the corner to be matched, and mark a 1/4-inch seam allowance. Do the same with the adjacent side. At the intersection of these lines place a dot. This is the matching point for this corner.

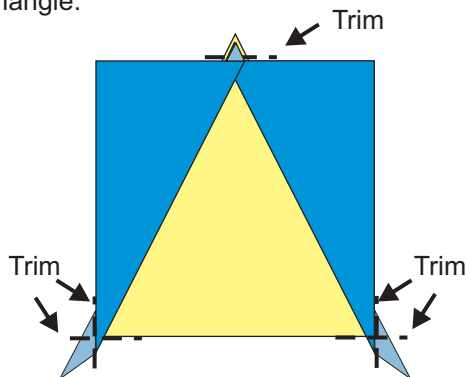
Sew the pieces together along the line shown above. Open out and press the seam toward the Elongated Half Triangle.



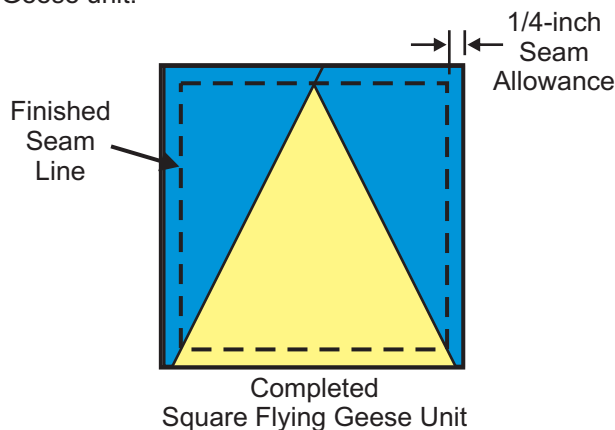
Flip the other Elongated Half Triangle on the left over, right sides together, onto the Large Triangle matching the dots and pin together.



Sew together along the line shown above. Open out and press the seam toward the Elongated Half Triangle.



Carefully trim the excess triangle tips even with the edges, as shown, to complete the Square Flying Geese unit.



Note how the three points of the Large Triangle terminate **exactly** at the finished seam line in the completed, unfinished unit.

Practice

Use the templates that follow to practice piecing the Square Flying Geese unit. Your unfinished unit should measure **exactly** 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" when done.

Once you are comfortable with the technique, you will be able to determine the location of each matching point in an oddly-shaped piece without having to draw the full seam allowance lines.

A second set of templates (Odd Shape A and Odd Shape B) is provided for additional practice.

Mark the matching points on A and B with a dot. (Figures 1 & 2) Place pieces right sides together matching the dots, and pin at the matching points. (Figure 3) Sew together along the line shown. (Figure 4) Press open. (Figure 5) Make a second A/B sub-unit. Sew the two sub-units together as shown. (Figure 6)

If your unfinished unit measures **exactly** 5 1/2" x 3 1/2", you have passed this tutorial!

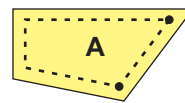


Figure 1

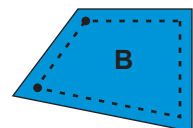


Figure 2

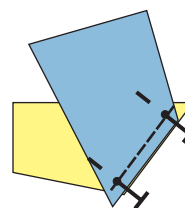


Figure 3

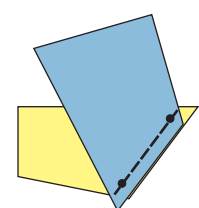


Figure 4

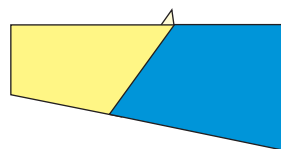


Figure 5

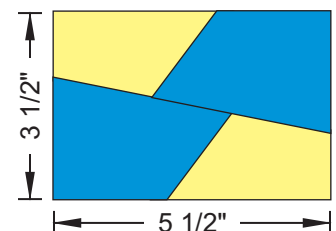


Figure 6

Working With Oddly-Shaped Pieces

Practice Templates

