



## Fit to Be Geese ~ with Charm Squares

I love the Fit to be Geese ruler by Monique Dillard for Open Gate Quilts. It is my favorite tool for making big flying geese, little flying geese and charm square flying geese. The only hitch in my “giddyup” is that I haven’t been able to use the ruler to make geese when the little triangles on the sides of the geese are cut from a charm square. You know which triangles I mean, the wings, the sky-portion, the star-points, etc. The problem is simple, you can’t cut 4 squares that measure  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ” x  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ” from a 5” x 5” square. Trust me, I’ve tried. The greatest mathematical minds at Ivy League schools concur – it doesn’t work.

But I’m stubborn. There just had to be a way to use the ruler to get my much-desired and much-needed “perfect geese”. All I needed was some sort of “adjustment” to get this to work... and I found it. It isn’t perfect but it works. The adjustment gives you the little bit “extra” you need to have the “extra size” necessary to trim and square-up the geese.

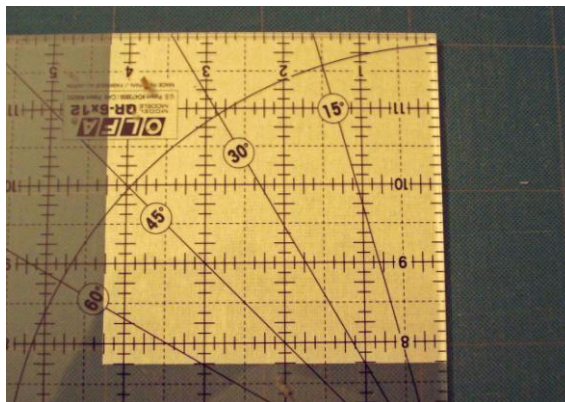
What you need to make this work: **Fit to be Geese Ruler** – Large or Mini size  
Small triangles on flying geese: 1 charm square – 5” x 5”  
Large triangle on flying geese: 1 square –  $4\frac{1}{4}$ ” x  $4\frac{1}{4}$ ”

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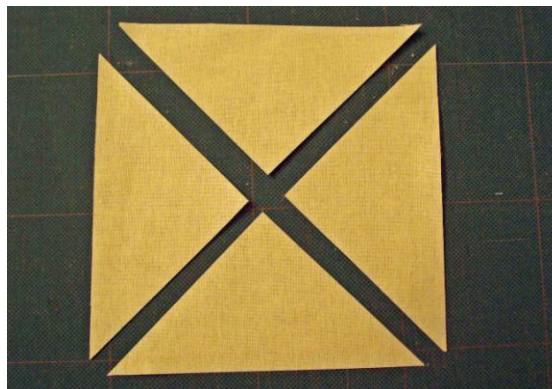
**Step One.** Disregard the cutting instructions in the pattern. They don’t work with the charm squares.

**Step Two.** Follow these directions to piece the geese:

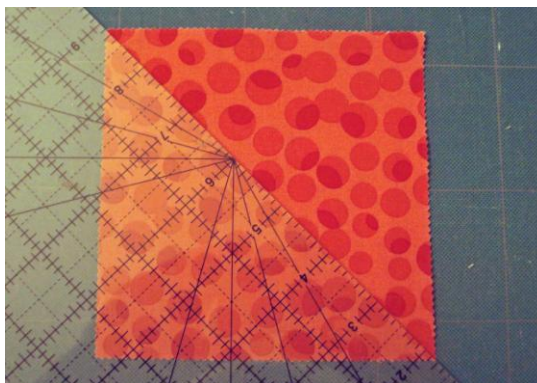
**For the large triangles in the flying geese --** Cut 1 square measuring  $4\frac{1}{4}$ ” x  $4\frac{1}{4}$ ”.



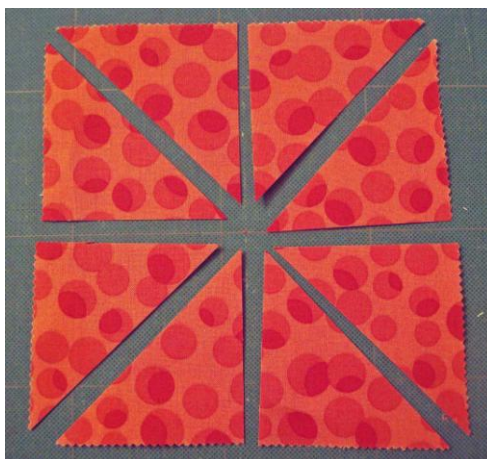
Cut the square **twice** on the diagonal as shown.



**For the small triangles** ~ Cut 1 charm square **twice** on the diagonal as shown.



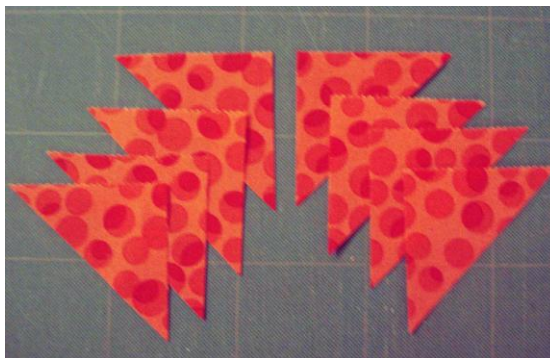
Then cut the charm square into four equal squares as shown.



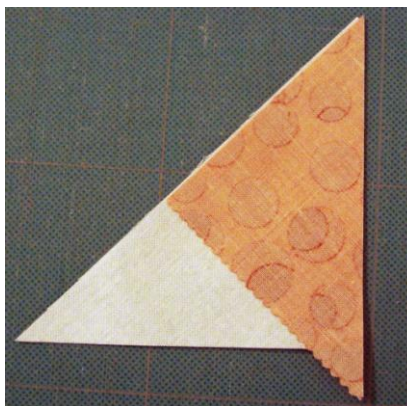
Arrange the triangles into two **identical** groups ~ each group should have the pinked edge on the same side of the triangle as shown.

In this picture, the pinked edge is at the **top edge** of each triangle.

Select the group of four triangles on the right.



With right sides together, align the triangle as shown ~ the pinked edge will be in the center of the large triangle. Repeat for all four triangles.



Here's the tricky part ~ stitch the seam using a **smaller than scant 1/4" seam allowance**. A generous 1/8" is about right.

Press the seam toward the small triangle.



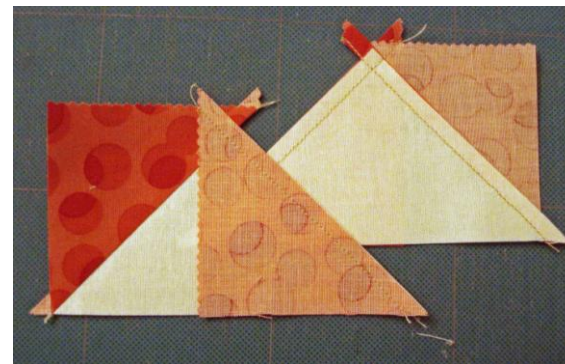
When the units have been pressed, the pinked edge of the small triangle should be at the **top** of the pieced unit.



Repeat with the remaining triangles ~ when the small triangles are positioned on the large triangle, the pinked edge of the triangle should be in the **center** of the large triangle.

Remember to use a **smaller than scant 1/4" seam allowance**.

Trim the little point sticking out from the seam allowance and press the seam toward the small triangle.



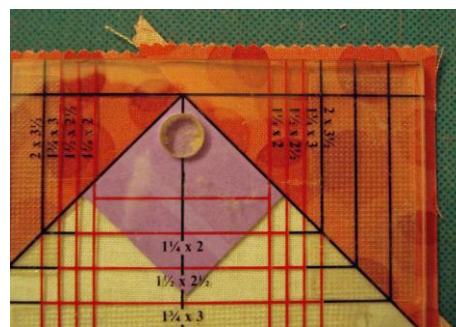
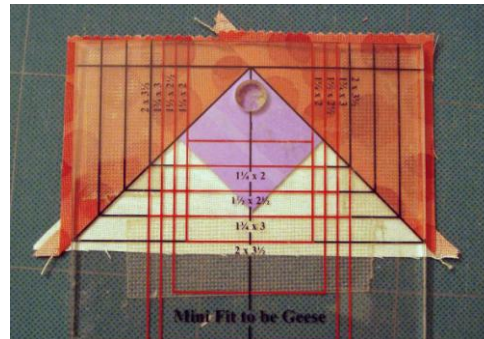
All four flying geese will have a pinked edge all along the top of the flying geese units.



And on the wrong side, the seams are just smaller than regular ~ a generous  $\frac{1}{8}$ ".



And look ~ room to trim the flying geese ~ goose? ~ exactly to size. Straight, square and perfect ~ the best kind of flying geese.



**Step 3.** To trim the geese to size, follow the trimming instructions that come with the ruler. They're excellent. Monique wrote them. ☺

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If you don't have a Fit to be Geese Ruler, check your local quilt shop or contact Monique at [www.opengatequilts.com](http://www.opengatequilts.com). The size shown above is the Mini Fit to be Geese Ruler.

The **Fit to Be Geese** Ruler makes flying geese in the following sizes:

- 1 1/2" x 3" finished size
- 2" x 4" finished size
- 2 1/2" x 5" finished size
- 3" x 6" finished size

The **Mini Fit to Be Geese** Ruler makes flying geese in the following sizes:

- 3/4" x 1 1/2" finished size
- 1" x 2" finished size
- 1 1/4" x 2 1/2" finished size
- 1 1/2" x 3" finished size