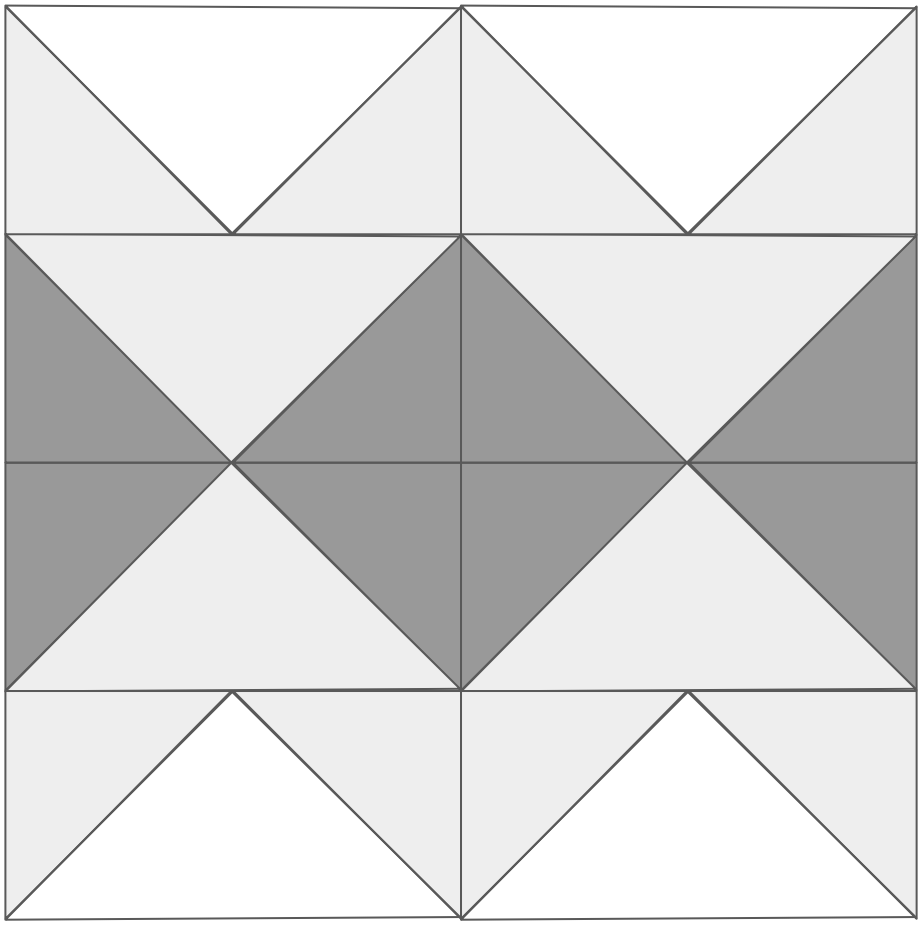


Spiegel Flying Geese Pillow

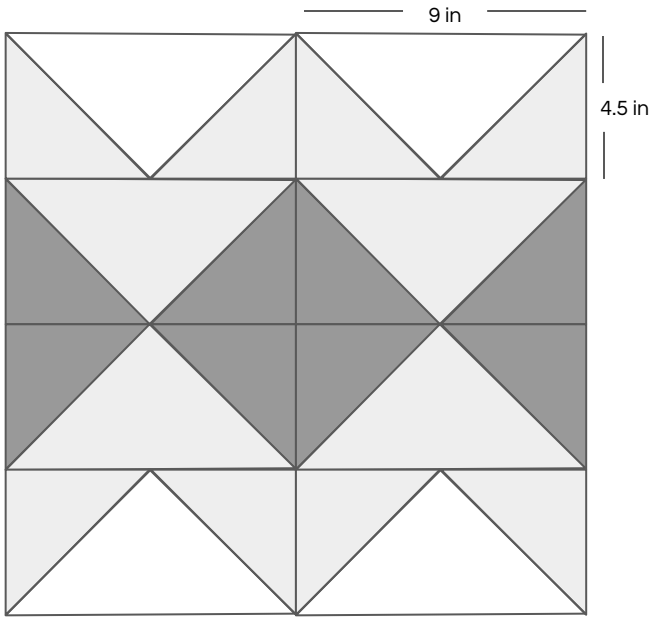
Step-by-Step Instructions

© Erin Van Handel | Sie macht

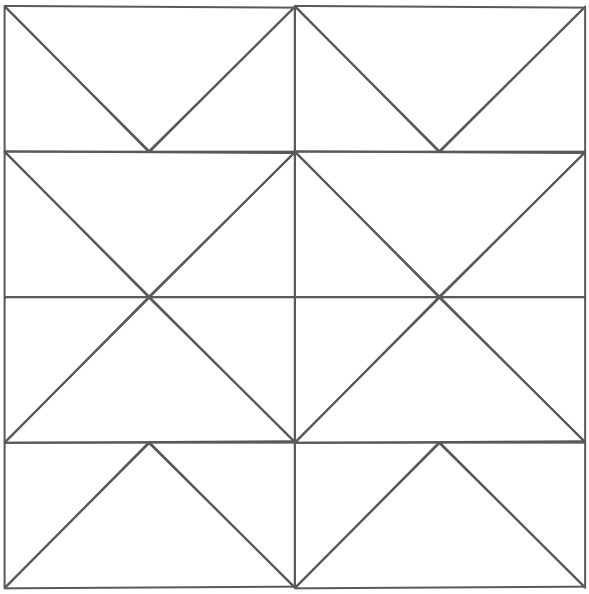
Sew the Spiegel Flying Geese Pillow

1.) Play Picasso

Using colored pencils or markers, color a flying geese design.



Original



Your Design

2.) Choose Fabric

This pattern is intended for quilting cotton, but feel free to experiment! These measurements are generous to ensure extra in case of emergency and to build your fabric stash.

- Dark - ½ yard
- Medium - ½ yard
- Light - ¾ yard

Sew the Spiegel Flying Geese Pillow

3.) Round Up Supplies
You also will need:

- An 18-inch square pillow form
- Coordinating thread
- Fabric shears or rotary cutter and cutting mat
- Ruler
- Iron
- Optional: quarter-inch quilting foot with guide

4.) Perform Pregame Rituals
Wash, dry, and iron your fabric. (Refer to laundry care instructions if you're not using quilting cotton.)

5.) Make the Cut
Cut the following pieces:

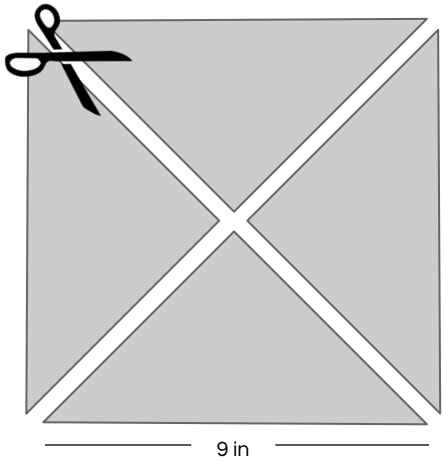
- Dark - (4) 4 ½-inch squares
- Medium - (4) 4 ½-inch squares; (1) 9-inch square
- Light - (1) 9-inch square; (2) 18 ½ inches x 12 ½ inches rectangles (for the back)

So far, so awesome!

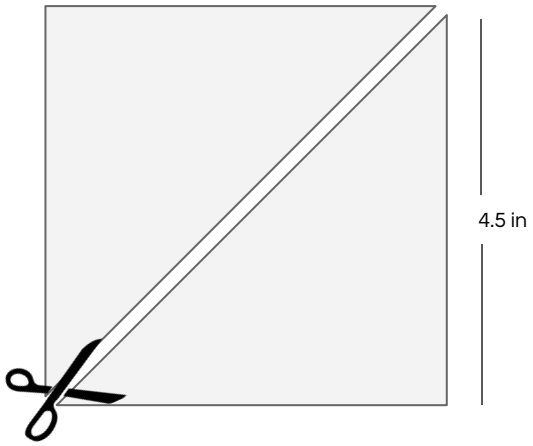
Sew the Spiegel Flying Geese Pillow

6.) Divide and Conquer

Cut the squares, corner to corner, into right triangles.



Cut the **large** 9-inch squares into four right triangles.



Cut the **small** 4 ½-inch squares into two right triangles.

You will end up with:

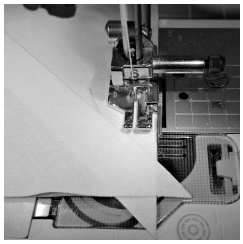
- Dark - (8) 4 ½-inch right triangles
- Medium - (8) 4 ½-inch right triangles; (4) 9-inch right triangles
- Light - (4) 9-inch right triangles

Sew the Spiegel Flying Geese Pillow

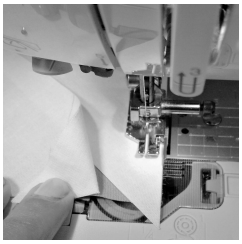
7.) Get Stitching

This is the traditional way to sew flying geese. **All seam allowances are ¼ inch.** Make eight flying geese blocks.

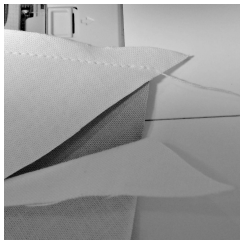
a.) Align the **bottom** corners of one large triangle and two small triangles, right sides together, and stitch. The small triangles will overlap and hang over the edge.



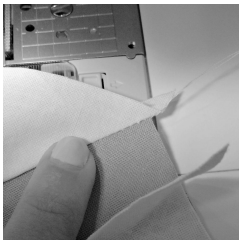
b.) Lift the overlap and stitch to the edge.



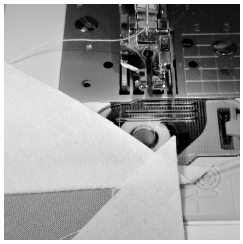
c.) One piece of "sky" is stitched to the "goose."



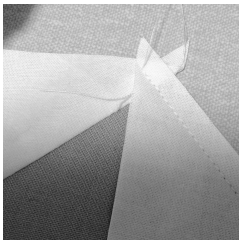
d.) Finger press the first small triangle away from the large triangle.



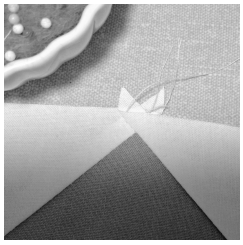
e.) Stitch the second small triangle, starting at the overlap.



f.) The second piece of "sky" is stitched to the "goose."



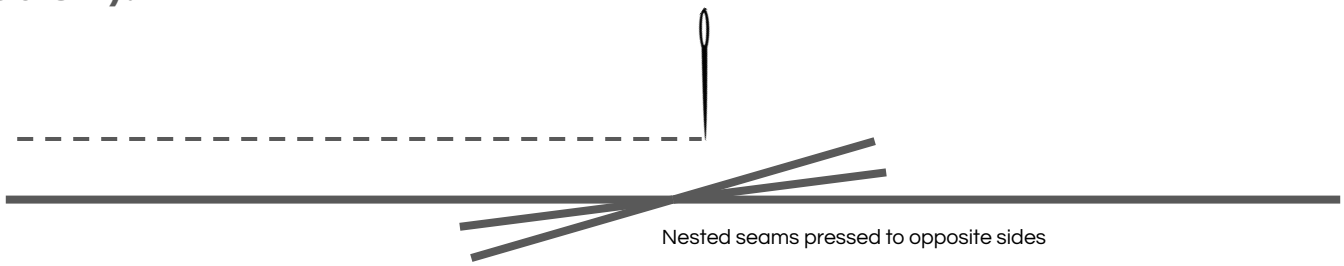
g.) Finger press the second small triangle away from the large triangle.



h.) Press the completed flying geese block. Check to make sure it's square and the correct size.

Sew the Spiegel Flying Geese Pillow

8.) Practice Seam Strategy
Using your design as a guide, stitch the blocks into two columns, four blocks each. Press all seams to the same side in the first column. Press all seams to the opposite side in the second column. This is called nesting seams, and it reduces bulk when you stitch together the columns (see cross section).



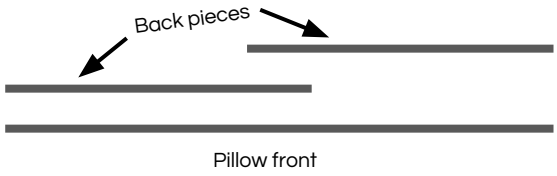
9.) Complete the Front
Stitch together the two columns. Press the seam. Press the right side. Admire your finished piecing! Go, you! It's gorgeous!

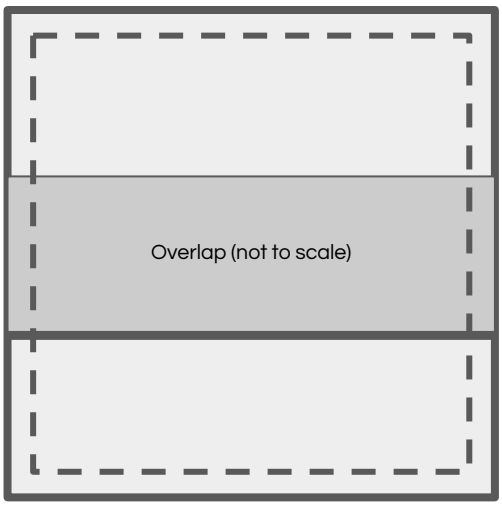
10.) Finish Back Edges
Press one long edge of each back piece under ¼ inch. Turn the pressed edge under ¼ inch again, press, and stitch one-eighth inch from the fold.

Sew the Spiegel Flying Geese Pillow

11.) Sew Envelope Back

Place the back pieces on top of the pillow front, **right sides together**, and pin (see below for cross section). Sew the back pieces to the front using a ¼-inch seam allowance. Snip the corners to reduce bulk.





12.) And You're Done!

Turn the pillow cover right-sides out, press right sides for posterity, and insert the pillow form. Fluff and enjoy! **Please share you pillow on social with #siemachtspiegel.**

Notes

Resources
-Tips for sewing Spiegel:
http://siemachtsewingblog.com/2016/12/spiegel-flying-geese-block-pillow-ebook
-How to calculate flying geese:
http://siemachtsewingblog.com/2016/06/the-easy-way-to-calculate-flying-geese
-Quilting tips for beginners:
http://siemachtsewingblog.com/2016/11/quilting-tips-for-beginners

Your turn! Add even more stuff worth remembering below: