

Dodge the Geese

A Storied Quilts pattern by Vasudha Govindan



60" x 72"

Confident Beginner or Intermediate

Fabric Requirements:

Width of fabric (WOF) is assumed to be at least 41". Fat Quarters (FQ) assumed to be 18" x 20".

Focus Fabric (prints)	Eight Fat Quarters or Eight quarter yard cuts.
Accent fabric (red grunge)	½ yard
Background (light green)	3 ¾ yard
Binding	⅝ yard (If using fat quarters for focus fabric, there should be enough left over for a scrappy binding)
Batting	68" x 80"
Backing	4 yards

The fabric requirements are based on the no-waste method for Flying Geese blocks. You may need more if you are using a different method. The pattern includes complete instructions for all blocks, but you are welcome to use specialty rulers or other tools that help with the construction and trimming of any of the block units. Refer to the ruler/tool instructions and this pattern and make necessary changes before cutting your fabric.

Suggestions for fabric choices:

Pick the focus fabric first and then choose the accent and background fabrics.

For the focus fabric, use large or medium scale prints. The large block units can show off the large-scale prints without cutting them up. You may even have a bundle of fat quarters in your stash that you can't bear to cut up into small pieces. Alternately, you can use solids or blenders, and highlight the large block units with custom quilting.

For the accent fabric, pick a color that contrasts with the focus fabric. If you are using prints for the focus, use a blender or solid in a color that coordinates with the prints. You can also use a print that contrasts with the focus prints – for example, if the focus fabric has floral prints, use polka dots, plaids, or gingham for the accent fabric.

For the background fabric, use a solid, textured solid, blender or a small-scale print that reads as solid. Choose a color that contrasts with most of the focus and accent fabric. Do not use directional prints.

You can use the same fabric for the accent and the binding to give a coordinated look. You may also use leftovers from the focus fabric (if using fat quarters) for a scrappy binding. As always, stripes, plaid or polka dots make great binding choices too.

The cover quilt uses fat quarters from Sassy Summer Salsa by Jane Sassaman for Free Spirit as the focus fabric, Moda Grunge in scarlet as the accent, and Moda Bella in green apple for the background.

Cutting Instructions:

Focus Fabric (prints):

From each FQ or each $\frac{1}{4}$ yard, cut two 7.5" x 7.5" (C), one 7" x 7" (B) and two 6.5" x 6.5" (E). Refer to the cutting diagrams in

Figure 1. Some of the 7.5" x 7.5" (C) squares are for flying geese units. If you are using a special ruler for constructing or trimming flying geese blocks, check with the instructions that came with your ruler before cutting.

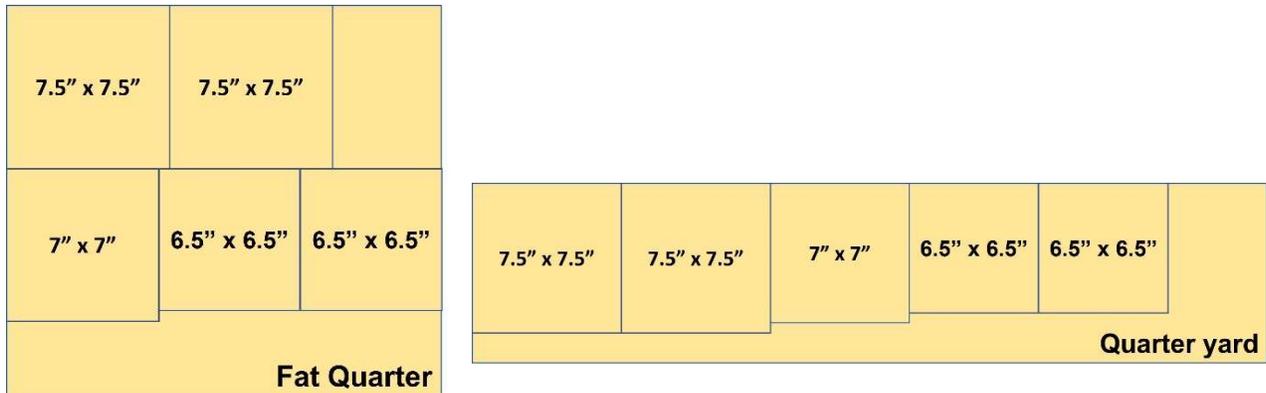


Figure 1: Cutting Diagrams for Fat Quarters or Quarter yard cuts.

Accent Fabric (red):

- Cut two 7.5" x WOF strips. Sub-cut four 7.5" x 7.5" (C) squares from each strip.

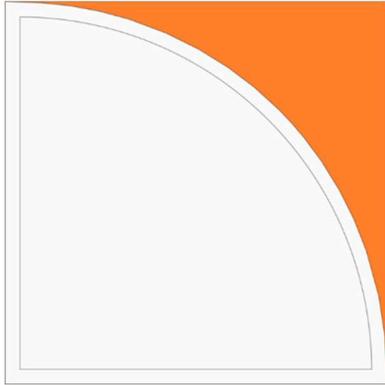
Background Fabric:

- Cut six 4" x WOF strips. Sub-cut ten 4" x 4" squares (A) from each strip.
- Cut two 7" x WOF strips. Sub-cut four 7" x 7" squares (B) from each strip.
- Cut two 7.5" x WOF strips. Sub-cut four 7.5" x 7.5" squares (C) from each strip.
- Cut two 7" x WOF strips. Sub-cut four 7" x 8" (D) from each strip.
- Cut one 6.5" x WOF strip. Sub-cut four 6.5" x 6.5" squares (E).
- Cut one 3.5" x WOF strip. Sub-cut two 3.5" x 14.5" (F).
- Cut two 3.5" x WOF strips. Cut one 3.5" x 34.5" (G) strip from each strip.
- Cut four 3.5" x WOF strips. Join them all end to end and cut two 3.5" x 72.5" (H).
- Cut one 12.5" x WOF. Sub-cut fourteen 12.5" x 2.5" (J).
- Cut three 2.5" x WOF. Join them on the short end and sub-cut two 2.5" x 54.5" (K).
- Cut two 2.5" x WOF. Join them on the short end and sub-cut one 2.5" x 66.5" (L).

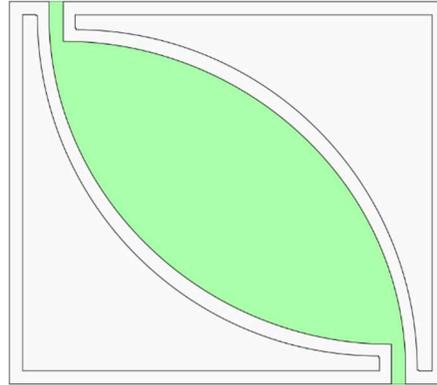
Cutting for Quarter Circle blocks:

We will be making 6" (finished) quarter circles. Print out the templates for the concave and convex parts of the quarter circle. Use the 1" test square to make sure the templates are printed at scale. You can use

the paper templates as is or glue them to cardboard and cut them out for ease of use. **Tip:** When cutting curved pieces, using a smaller rotary blade (28 mm) makes it easier to follow the curve.



Place the convex template on the 6.5" x 6.5" (E) focus fabric. Line up the straight edges and carefully cut along the curved edge. Repeat for all sixteen E squares of the focus fabric.



Place the concave template on the 7" x 8" (D) background fabric. Line up the straight edges and carefully cut along the curved edge. Rotate the template and line up with the opposite edge and cut another. You can cut two concave pieces from one D. Repeat for all eight D rectangles to cut 16 concave pieces.

Table 1: Cutting chart listing all the pieces you need to cut.

Use this to verify and label your fabric after cutting.

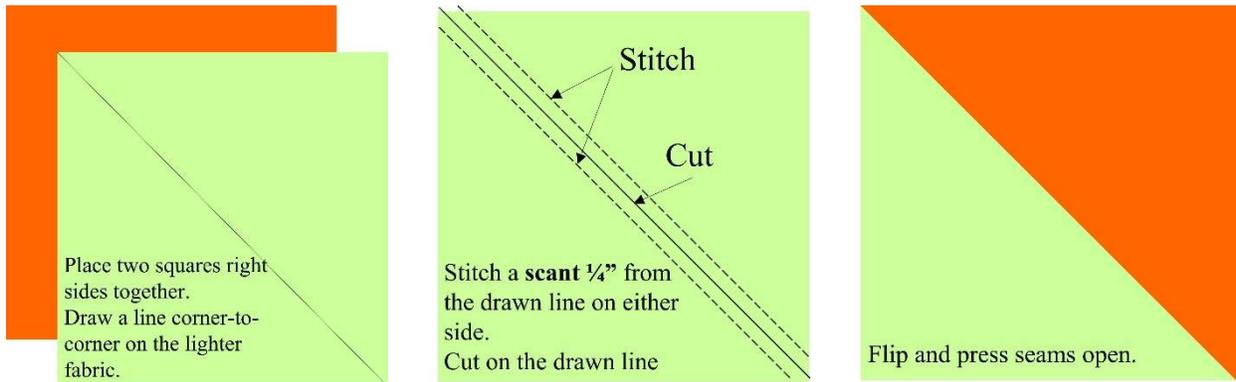
Fabric	Label	Size	How Many	Used For
Focus	C	7.5" x 7.5"	16	FG, QST
Focus	B	7" x 7"	8	HST
Focus	E	6.5" x 6.5"	16	Quarter circle - convex
Accent	C	7.5" x 7.5"	7	Flying Geese
Background	A	4" x 4"	60	Flying Geese sky
Background	B	7" x 7"	8	Half Square triangle
Background	C	7.5" x 7.5"	8	Quarter Square Triangle
Background	D	7" x 8"	8	Quarter circle - concave
Background	E	6.5" x 6.5"	4	
Background	F	3.5" x 14.5"	2	Horizontal Borders
Background	G	3.5" x 34.5"	2	Horizontal Borders
Background	H	3.5" x 72.5"	2	Vertical borders
Background	J	2.5" x 12.5"	14	Sashing
Background	K	2.5" x 54.5"	2	Sashing
Background	L	2.5" x 66"	1	Sashing

Pressing Tip: Pressing seams open reduces bulk at the points where several layers come together and makes it easier to match points when joining block units or blocks. To press open, gently pry the seams apart with your fingers and place a hot iron on the seam. Lift the iron and move it to a different part if the seams are long. Do not use a back-and-forth motion to move the iron. Just lift and drop. After first

pressing from the wrong side, turn the piece over and press the seam from the right side. Use steam or mist with water or a misting spray if desired – only when pressing from the right side.

Block Unit Construction

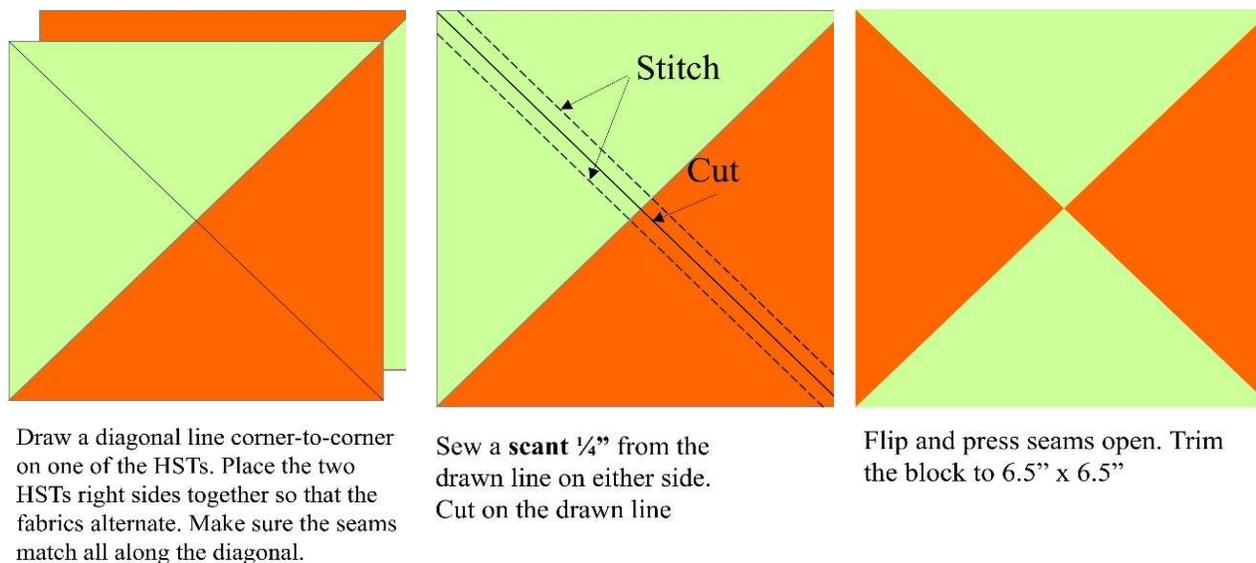
1. Half Square triangle (HST)



From one 7" x 7" (B) background square and one B focus square, make two HSTs using the two-at-a-time method shown above. Trim each HST to **6.5" x 6.5"**. Make **sixteen** HST units from eight 7" (B) background and eight 7" (B) focus squares.

2. Quarter Square triangle (QST)

From one 7.5" x 7.5" (C) background square and one C focus fabric square make two HST block units using the two-at-a-time method shown above. Do not trim the HST units.

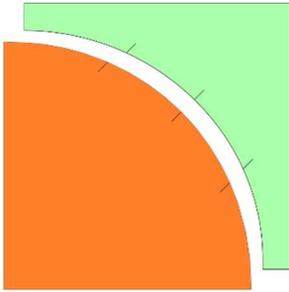


Trim each QST to **6.5" x 6.5"**. Make **sixteen** QST block units using eight background C squares and eight focus C squares.

3. Quarter Circle

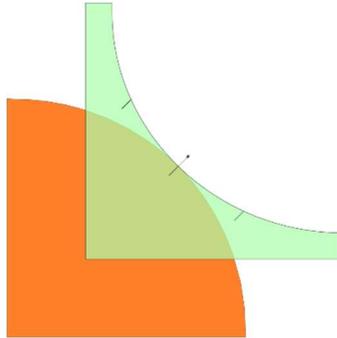
You will need one concave and one convex curved piece for one quarter circle block unit.

1.



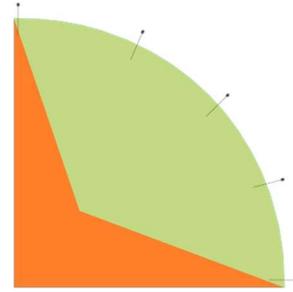
Fold each curve and finger press the center. Fold again and finger press at the halfway points between the center and each corner.

2.



Place the concave and convex pieces right sides together. Match the center finger-press marks and pin.

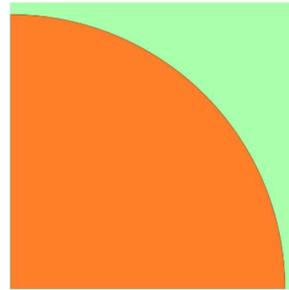
3.



Align the straight edges and pin. Gently match the curved edges and pin on the hallway marks.

4. Five pins are generally sufficient for this block size, but you can add more pins between these points to make sure the curved edges align perfectly.
5. Sew with a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam along the curve. **Tip:** Sew very slowly, removing the pins as your presser foot gets close to them, stopping frequently to make sure the curved edges are aligned.
6. Press seams open.

7.

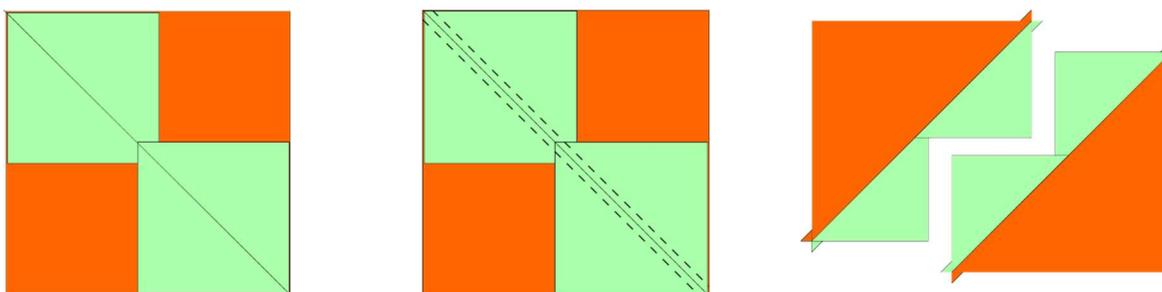


The resulting unit will be slightly larger than 6.5". Trim the block unit down to 6.5" x 6.5" making sure the curved seam is $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the edge.

7. Flying Geese

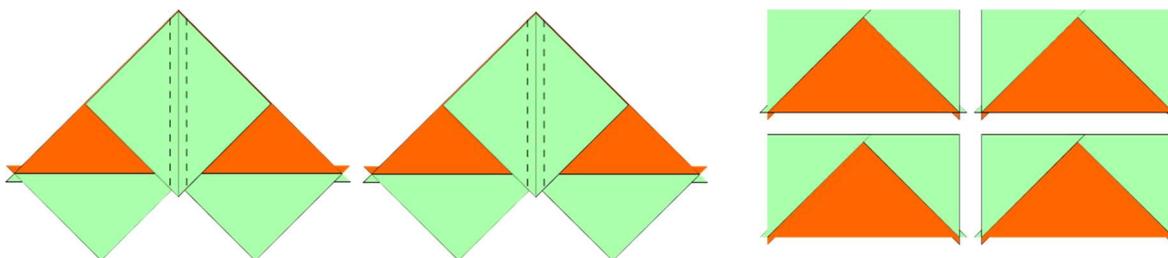
This is a no-waste, four-at-a-time flying geese construction method. If you are using a special ruler for constructing or trimming flying geese blocks, refer to the instructions that came with the ruler. The method here does not require a special ruler – just a ruler with $\frac{1}{4}$ " markings and at least one 45° line marked. If your ruler does not have a 45° line, you will need to draw one with a permanent marker.

One 7.5" x 7.5" (C) focus fabric square and four 4" x 4" (A) background squares will give you four flying geese units that are 3.5" x 6.5" (unfinished). The C square will make the "geese" and the A square will be the "sky".



- Draw a diagonal line corner to corner on all four A squares.
- Place two A squares at two corners of the C square as shown, right sides together.
- Nudge the A squares slightly – by one thread width - in from the edges.
- Sew a *scant* $\frac{1}{4}$ " away on both sides of the drawn line.

- Cut on the drawn line.
- Flip and press seams open.
- You will get two units as shown.



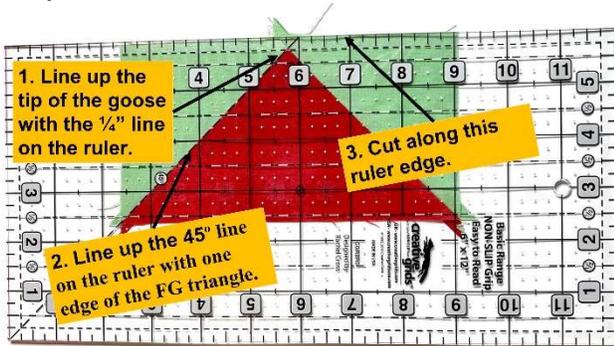
- Place an A square at the corner of each of the units from the previous step right sides together as shown.
- Nudge the A square slightly in from the edges.
- Sew a *scant* $\frac{1}{4}$ " away on both sides of the drawn line.

- Cut on the drawn line to make four flying geese units.
- Flip and press seams open.
- Trimming instructions follow.

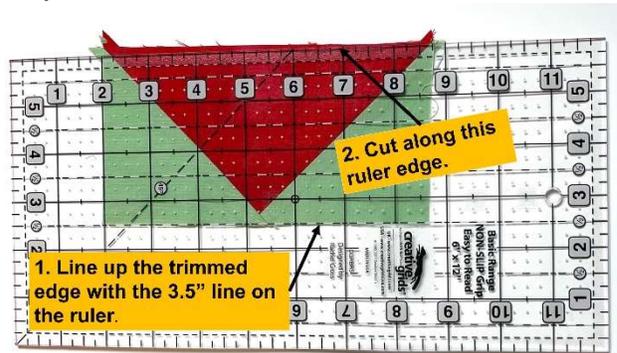
Using eight 7.5" focus squares and thirty-two 4" background squares, make eight sets of four-at-a-time flying geese block units for a total of thirty-two flying geese units.

See instructions below on how to trim your flying geese units so that they are the exact size, and you don't lose the points when sewing them together.

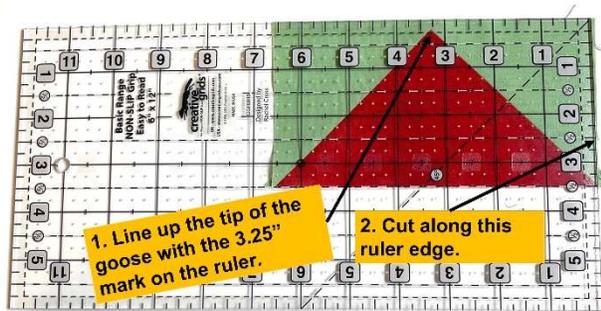
Step 1:



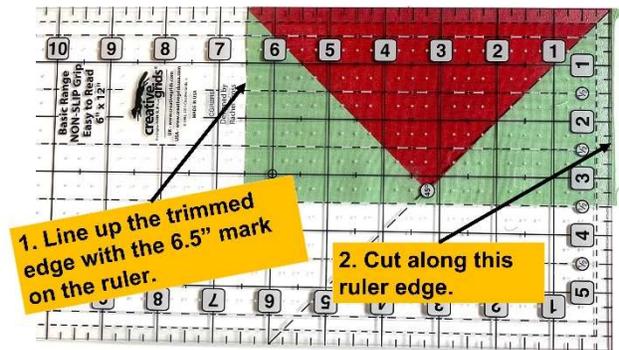
Step 2:



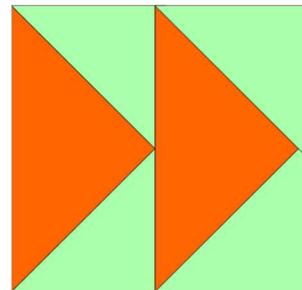
Step 3:



Step 4:



Sew two FG units together as shown to make sixteen flying geese pairs with the focus fabric.

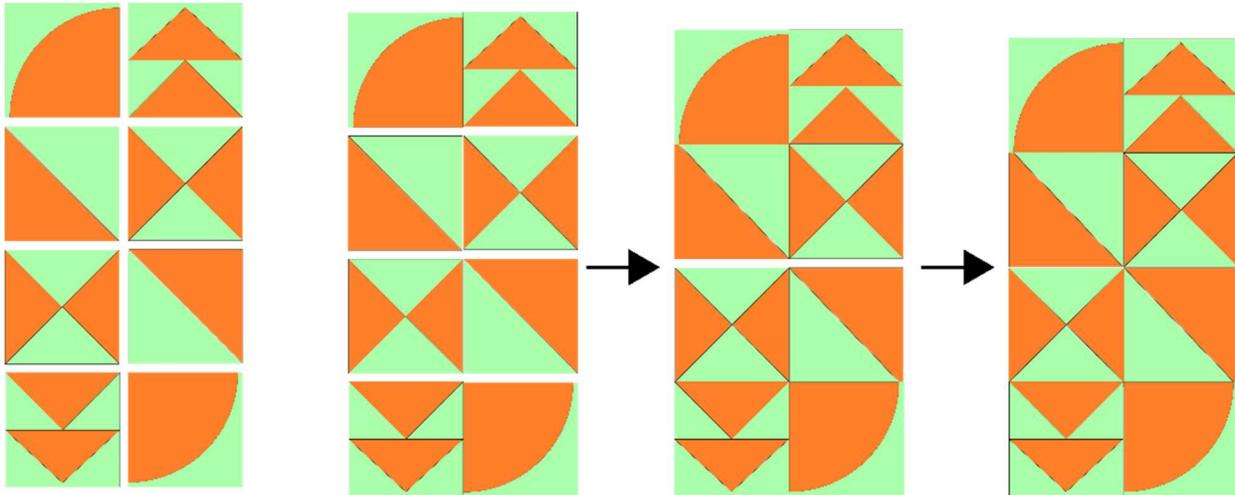


Using seven 7.5" **accent** fabric squares and twenty-eight 4" background squares, make seven sets of four-at-a-time flying geese block units for a total of twenty-eight flying geese units. Trim the FG units but **do not** sew them in pairs.

Block 1 Construction

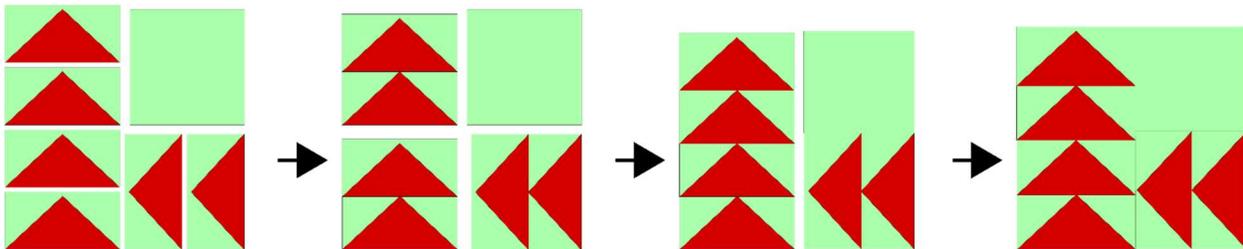
Layout the block units as shown. Each block will use two quarter circles, two HSTs, two QST and two flying geese pairs. You can use all units of the same color/print in one block, mix and match the colors/prints or group them in some other way.

Sew the block units in rows right sides together with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam and then sew the rows together. Press seams open. Use up all the block units made from the focus fabric and make **eight** Block 1s.



Block 2 Construction

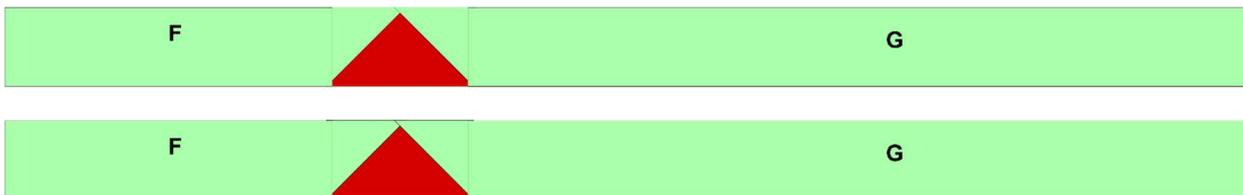
Each Block 2 will use six flying geese units made from the accent fabric and one 6.5" (E) background square.



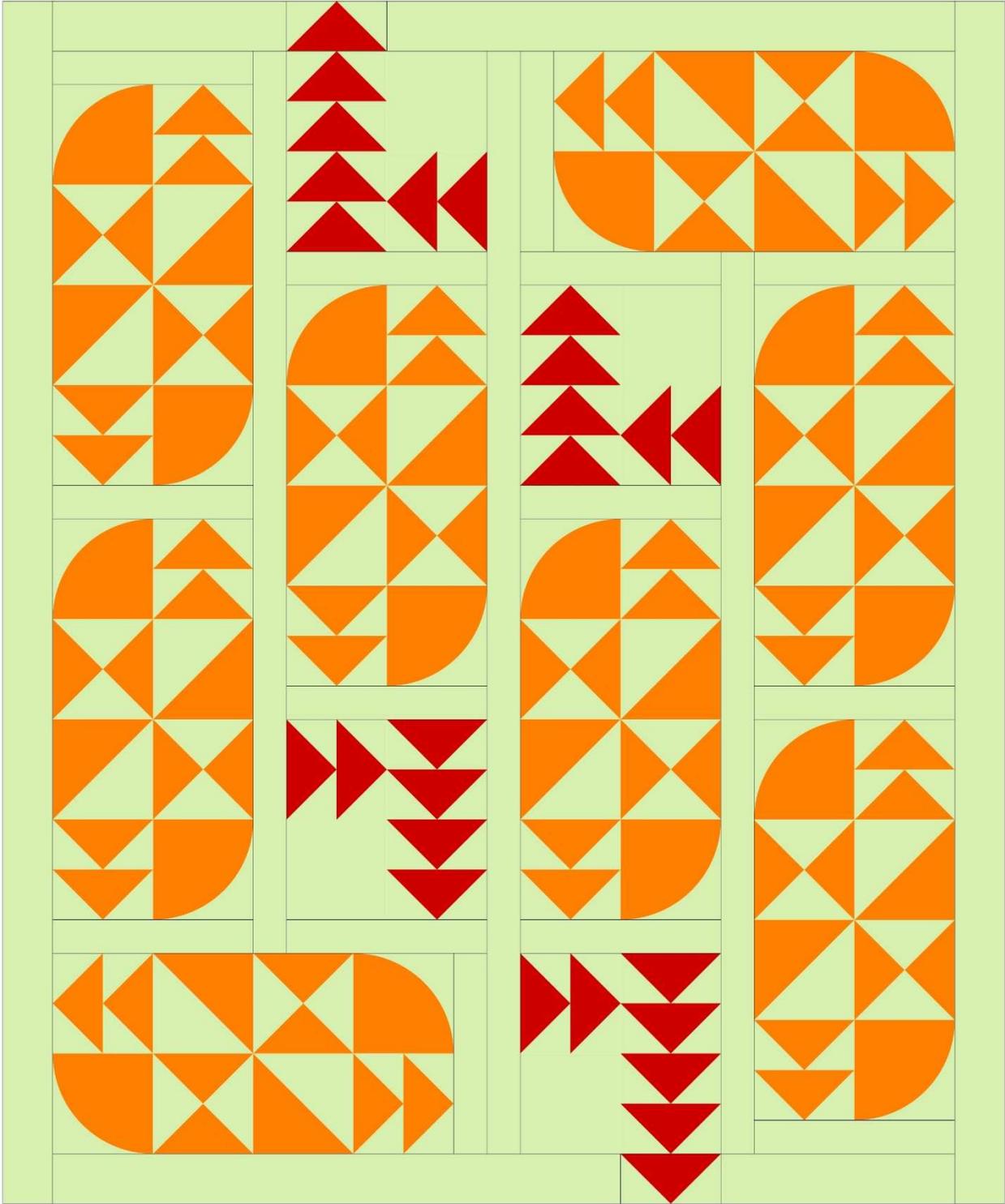
Using twenty-four flying geese units and four E squares, make four Block 2s.

Preparing the Borders

Sew a 3.5" x 14.5" (F) and a 3.5" x 34.5" (G) background strip to both sides of an accent fabric flying geese unit as shown. These will be used for the top and bottom borders. Make two.

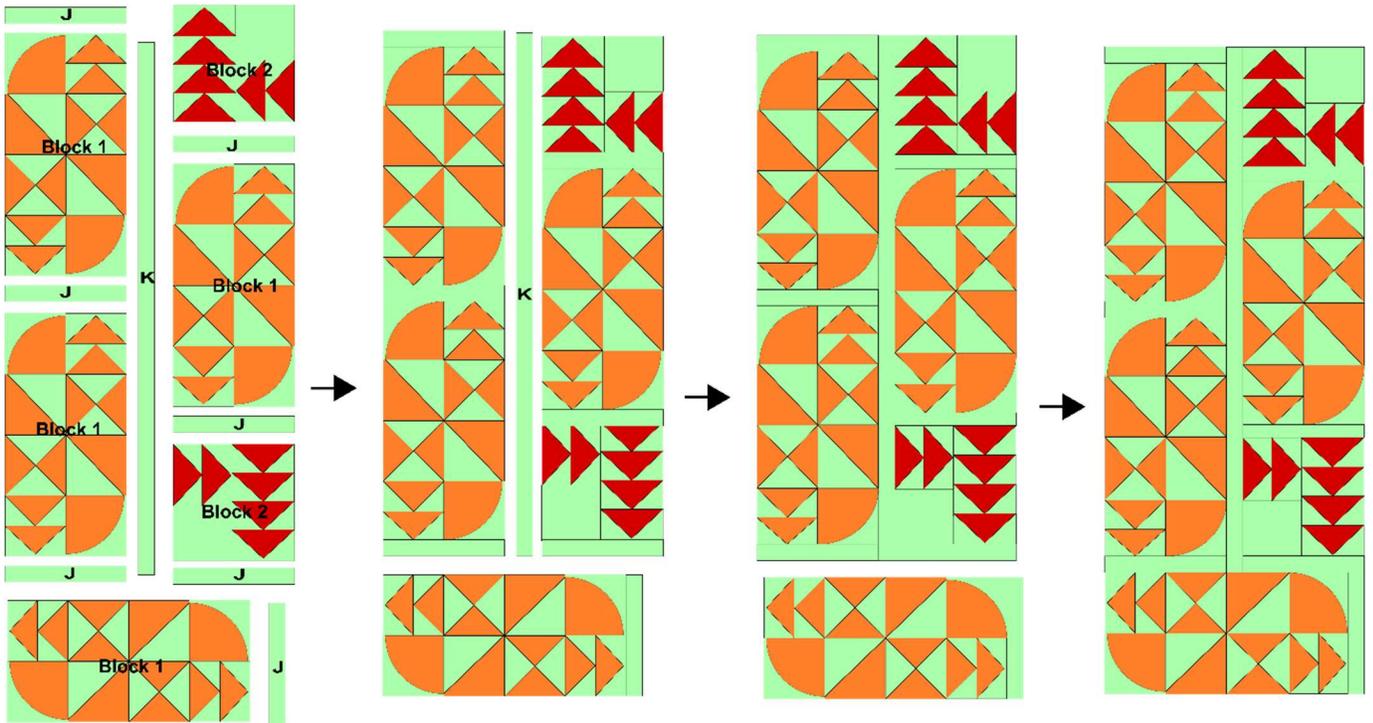


Quilt Top Layout

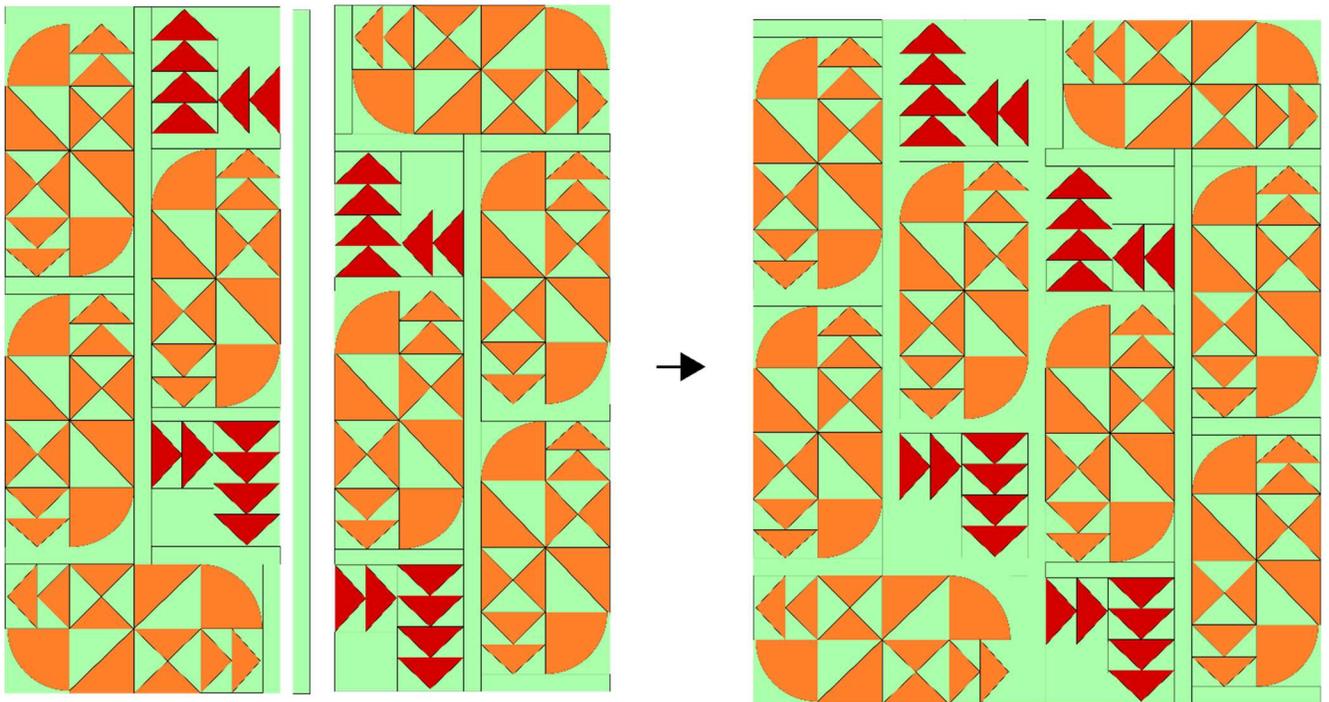


Quilt Top Construction

See figure below for constructing one half of the quilt top. Press seams open.

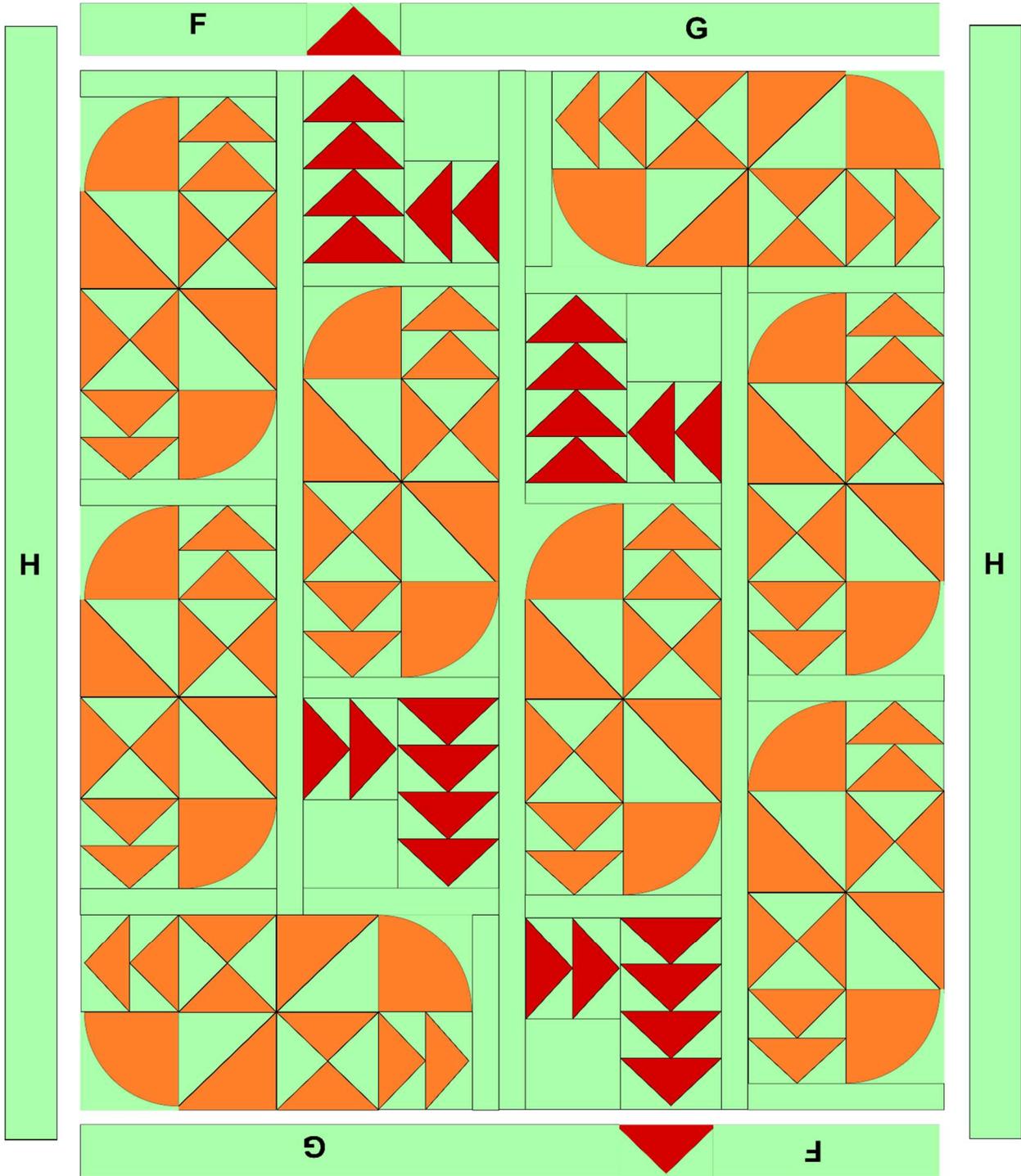


Make two halves and join them with a sashing strip in between.



Borders

First sew on horizontal borders making sure the flying geese on the borders line up with the flying geese on block 2. Add vertical borders.



Backing

You will need a piece of backing about 68" x 80". If you are using regular yardage, cut the 4 yards of fabric in half. Remove selvages and straighten the edges. Sew the two pieces together along the selvedge edge right sides together with a ½" seam allowance. Press seams open. Anytime you piece your backing fabric, it is good to use a ½" seam allowance and press the seams open.

Quilting

Baste the quilt top, the batting and the backing using your favorite method.

I quilted an all-over free-motion design with swirls, feathers, and flowers for most of the quilt using a 50 weight light green thread. For the red flying geese, however, I echoed the blocks and custom quilted inside each of them using a heavier red thread. I also quilted a few flying geese units in the background area connecting the two blocks of FGs.

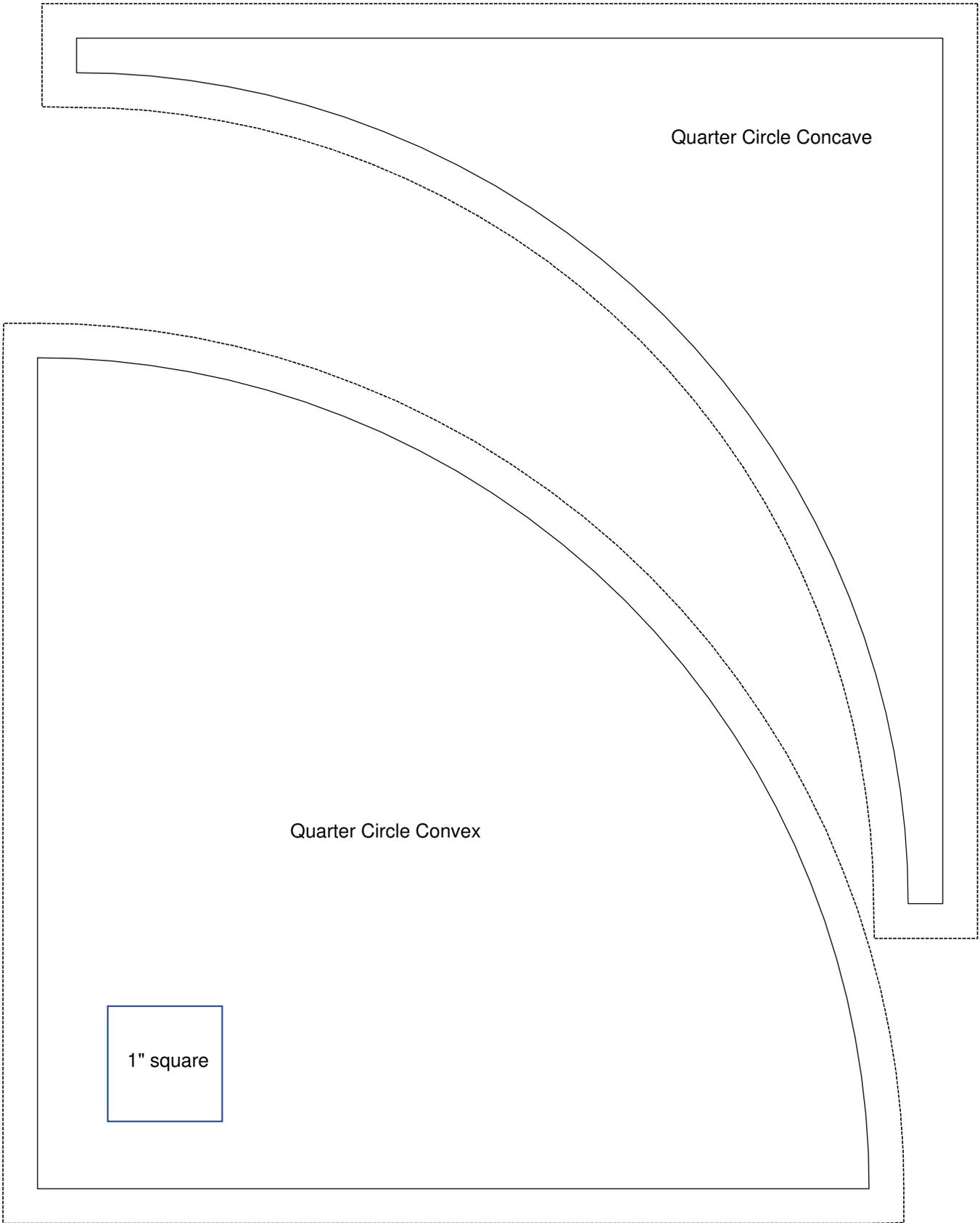


Finishing and Binding

Square up the quilt after quilting. You will need a total of about 280" of binding for this quilt. If using leftovers from the focus fabric, cut 2.5" wide strips and piece them together till you get about 280". If using yardage, cut seven 2.5" x WOF strips. Join them end to end with a 45° seam. Attach binding using your favorite method.

If you make this quilt, please share on social media using #dodgethegeesequilt #storiedquilts

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Quarter Circle Concave

Quarter Circle Convex

1" square