

Missouri Bicentennial Quilt Project

Block #2 -- Eastern Bluebird (state bird)

TECHNIQUES

- HST = Half-Square Triangles (see Feb pattern for detailed explanation)
- “Snowballing” a corner - This technique adds a little rounding to an area in your block.
- Sewing an accurate $\frac{1}{4}$ ” seam (very important!)

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

BACKGROUND (BG)

TWO 2.5” x 12.5” rectangles

ONE 2.5” x 8.5” rectangle

TWO 2.5” x 6.5” rectangles

ONE 2.5” x 2.5” square

ONE 1.5” x 1.5” square

FIVE 3” x 3” squares to make HST

FABRIC A - Large wing (main print fabric in pic)

ONE 2.5” x 4.5 rectangle

THREE 3” x 3” squares to make HST

FABRIC B - Head/rump (med blue in pic)

ONE 2.5” x 2.5” square

TWO 3” x 3” squares to make HST

FABRIC C - Tail feathers/secondary wing (dark blue in pic)

TWO 3” x 3” squares to make HST

FABRIC D - Breast (light brown in pic)

ONE 2.5” x 2.5” square

ONE 1.5” x 1.5” square

TWO 3” x 3” squares to make Half-Square Triangles

FABRIC E - Beak (dark brown in pic)

ONE 1.75” x 1.75” square



OPTIONAL EMBROIDERY:

Eastern Bluebird (on last page)

Trace on completed bird block, embroider as desired.



HELPFUL TIP #1

Cut a piece of cardboard or foam board into a 15” square and glue felt on top. Now you have a small design board that is great to use as you cut out the pieces for your blocks...lay pieces out on your design board as you cut...then easily transport your design board over to your sewing machine!

MAKING THE BEAK

FABRIC E - Take 1.75" x 1.75" (also known as 1 3/4" haha) dark brown (beak) square and press diagonally twice. Set aside until you are ready to sew the block together. After it is sewn into place, you can tack down the point of the beak if desired.

MAKING HALF-SQUARE TRIANGLES (HST)

Match these pairs of 3" squares and make half-square triangles. If you need a refresher, look at the pattern handout for the first block, Missouri Star. When HSTs are complete, be sure to **press and trim each HST to 2.5" square**.

FAB C - Tail feathers/secondary wing (dark blue in pic) + **BG** = you will use both HSTs

FAB C - Tail feathers/secondary wing (dark blue in pic) + **BG** = you will use both HSTs

FAB A - Large wing (main fab) + **FAB B** Head/rump (med blue) = you will use only one of the HSTs

FAB A - Large wing (main fab in pic) + **FAB D** Breast (light brown) = you will use only one of the

HSTs

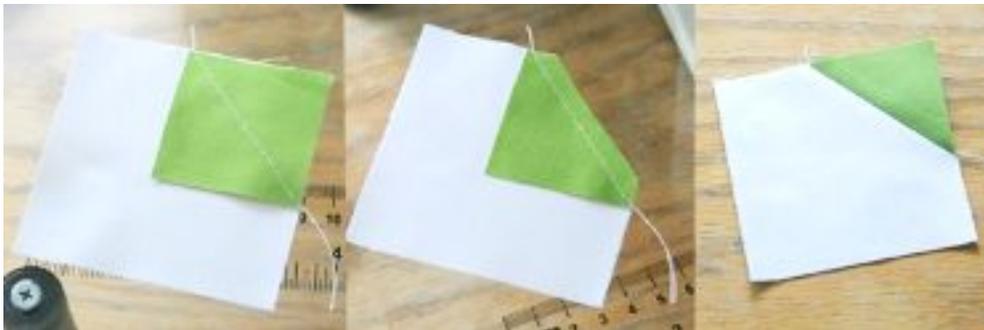
FAB A - Large wing (main fabric in pic) + **BG** = you will use only one of the HSTs

FAB B - Head/rump (med blue in pic) + **BG** = you will use only one of the HSTs

FAB D - Breast (light brown in pic) + **BG** = you will use only one of the HSTs

"SNOWBALLING" ONE OF THE CORNERS

(This is not an exact pic of what we are doing, but it should give you a rough idea of what we're talking about!)



Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of both 1.5" x 1.5" squares...you have already cut one square from the light brown (breast) fabric and one from the background fabric.

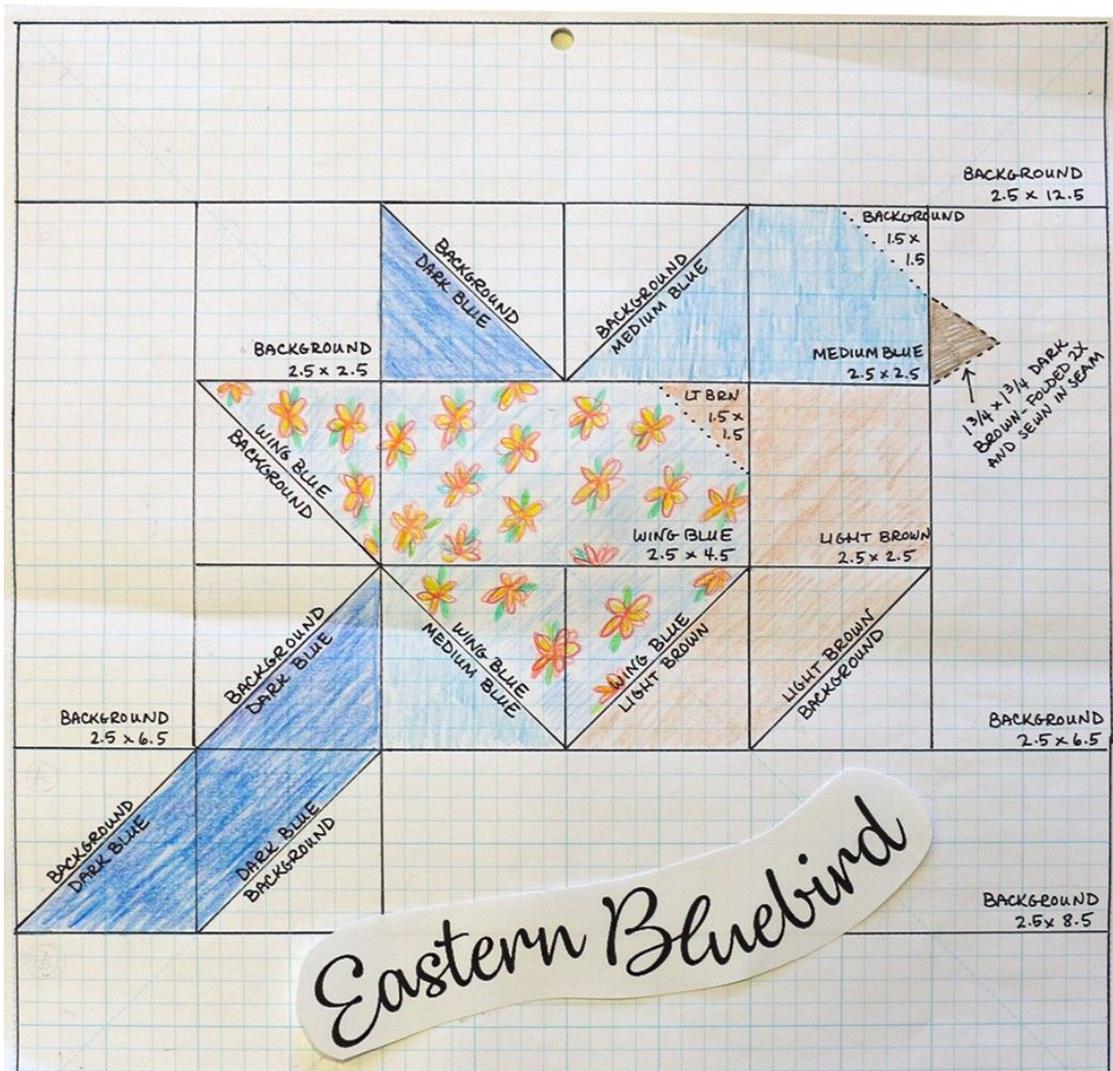
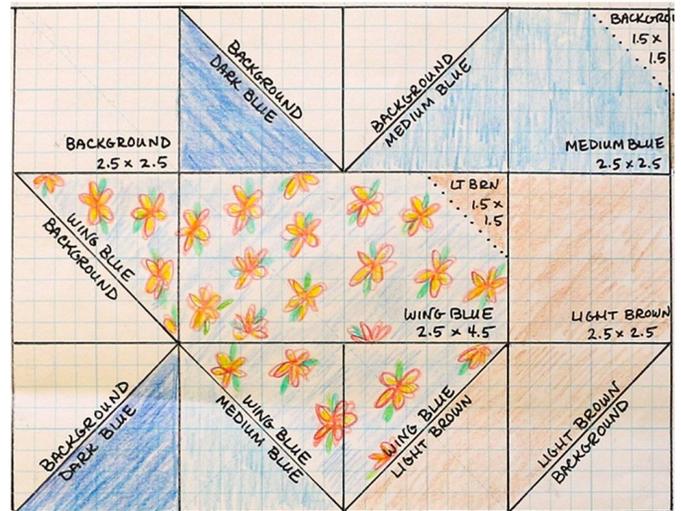


↑ Take 2.5" x 4.5" rectangle of main fabric (large wing) and lay it in the direction as shown above the red arrow...place the light brown (breast) 1.5" square in the upper right of that rectangle, right sides together. Sew **ON** the line you drew on the light brown (breast) piece (see pic). Trim off excess. Press back.

Take 2.5" x 2.5" square of medium blue (head and rump), place the background 1.5" square in the upper right of the square, right sides together. Sew ON the line you drew. Trim off excess. Press back.

BLOCK ASSEMBLY - Use 1/4" seam!

- Lay out ALL your pieces following the block diagram below. Hopefully you can easily see where to put all NINE of your HSTs!
- Sew this bird body portion of the block together first...a row at a time and then rows together to make this section →
- Now add both 2.5" x 6.5" side pieces and insert the beak in the right side seam at the same time...you may want to check the position of your beak before sewing to make sure it ends up in the place you want it to be!
- Add remaining block pieces.
- Press. Add bird eye later.

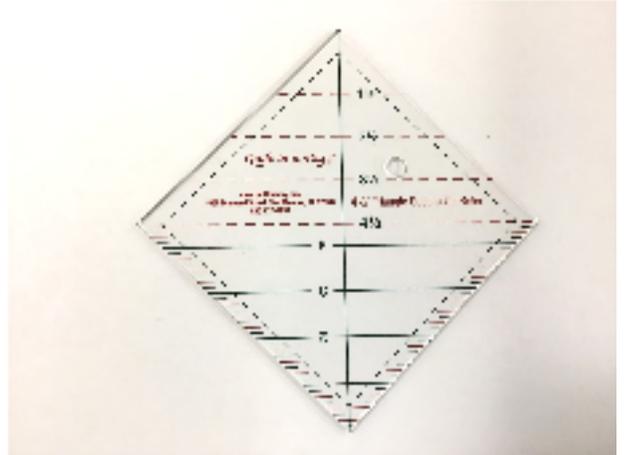


Eastern Bluebird

****HELPFUL TIP #2****

After you make a half-square triangle, you always need to square it up to your desired size.

Many years ago I was introduced to this particular tool (Quilt in a Day Triangle Square Up Ruler), and I love it! It comes in three sizes: 4 ½", 6 ½" and 9 ½". I ordered this one online, but I have also seen them in local stores. I like this tool because once you have sewn your HST and cut it apart and **BEFORE YOU PRESS IT OPEN**, you lay the ruler marking (with this bird block it would be the 2 ½" mark) on the sewing line and trim the two sides simultaneously. Then you open and press, and it is perfect!



Full disclosure...this is the only tool I have used for HST. [There are other tools on the market, and other fully acceptable ways to square up HSTs, so you DON'T need to purchase this tool.](#) LB

****HELPFUL TIP #3****

You will notice that the pattern drawing is on 12" graph paper. This is a handy item to have around if you plan on designing your own block now or in the future. You can sketch out a pattern and then determine the size of each piece by adding the seam allowance to determine cutting size.

OPTIONAL EMBROIDERY

Trace *Eastern Bluebird* in the lower right area of the completed block, then embroider as desired.

Eastern Bluebird