



“Disappearing” Technique

Michelle Young



Agenda

Introduction

What is the “disappearing” technique?

What this presentation won't do

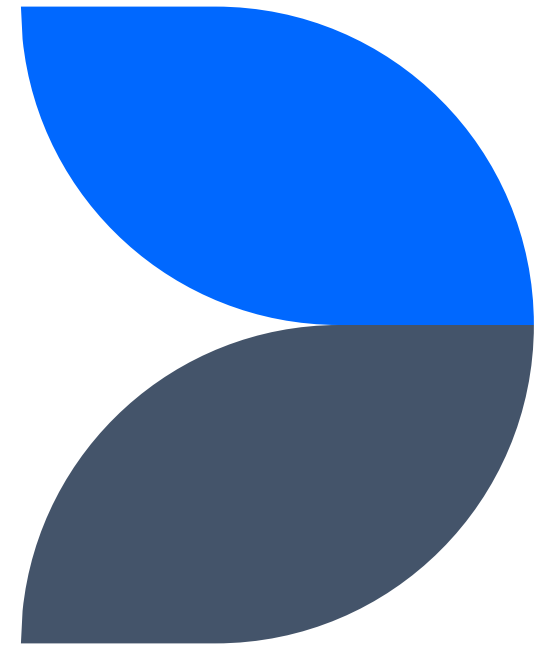
LOTS of examples

Hints

Summary

Who am I?

- I am Michelle Young. I am a member of the guild and I am originally from Ohio.
- I started sewing in my teens (mostly clothes), and made 3 very poor “quilts”, but could not afford proper materials. I started really quilting around 2018 because some friends took me fabric shopping with them.
- I joined the guild in 2019 before Covid put a quick stop to that.



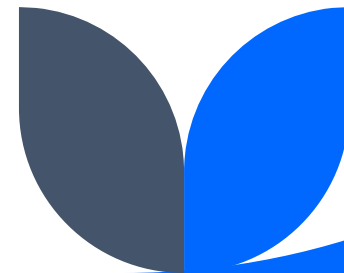
What is the “Disappearing” Technique?

Take a fairly ordinary quilt block (or two), make one or more cuts, rotate and/or move something, and sew it back together in the new configuration.

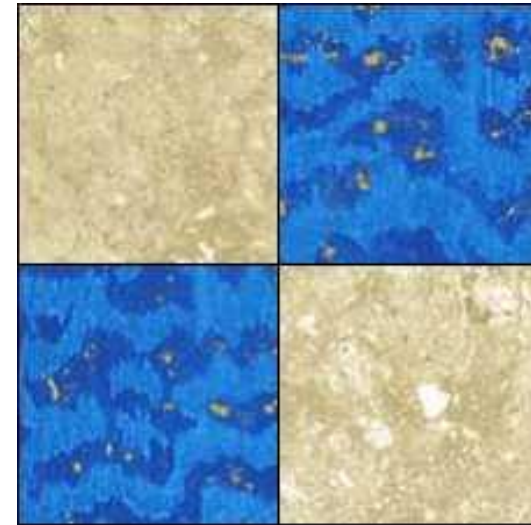
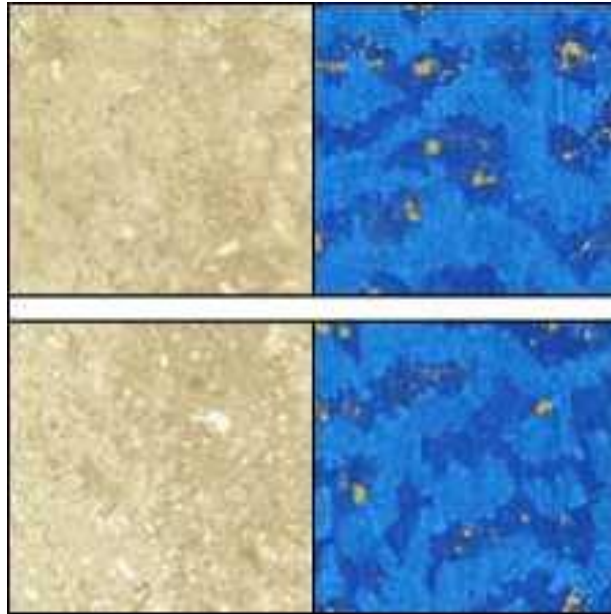
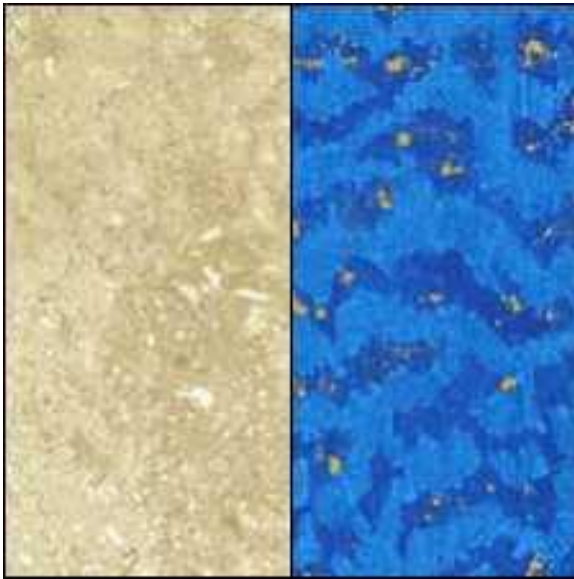
The more cuts, the more ways you can put the pieces back together by moving and/or rotating. This presentation only shows a sample of the possibilities.

What this presentation won't do

- It is not designed to be detailed directions. It is just examples of what you can do. Search the internet (especially YouTube) for “disappearing quilt blocks” for more detailed directions.
- Note that some of the seams might look like they line up in the drawings, but if the cuts cross angles, that might not be perfectly true after you add a quarter inch seam.



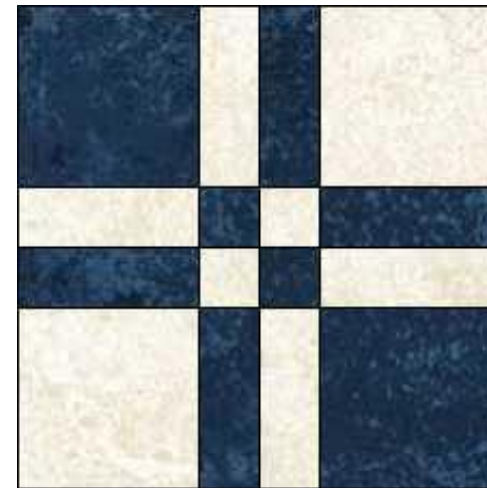
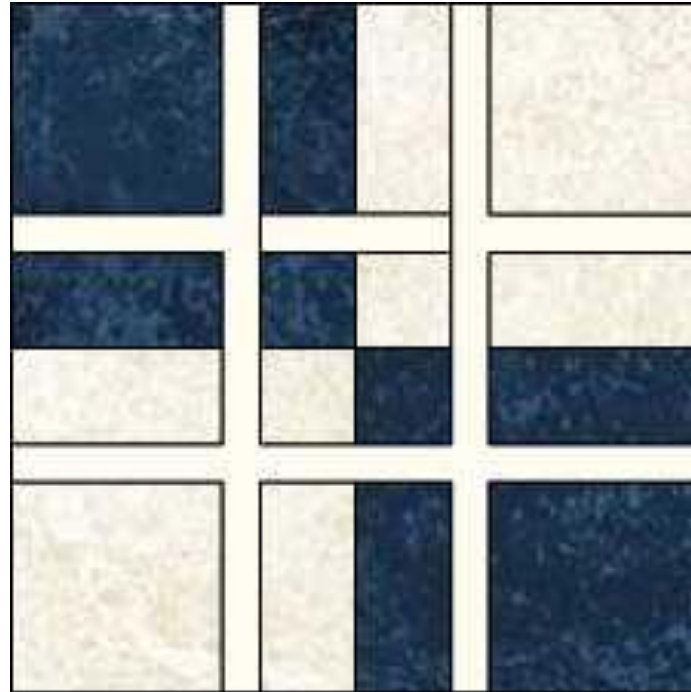
Extremely Simple Example



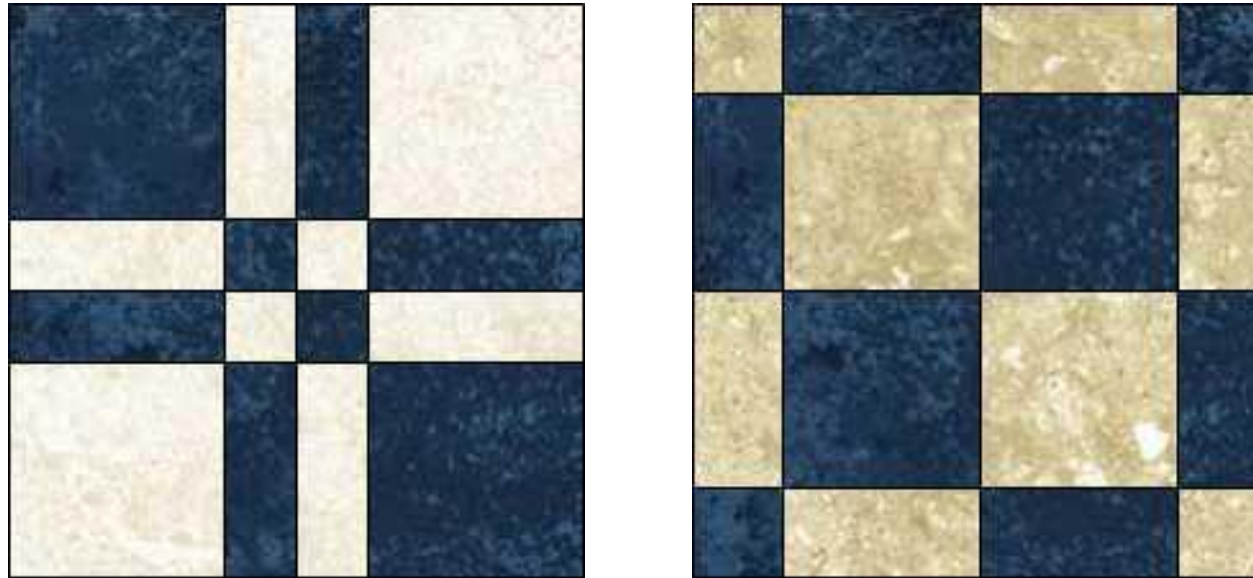
Disappearing Four Patch



Disappearing Four Patch

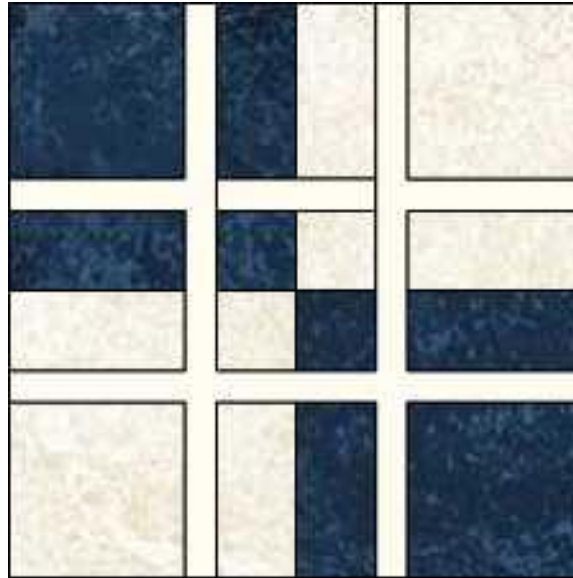


Change where the cut is made and this will change the look of the resulting block

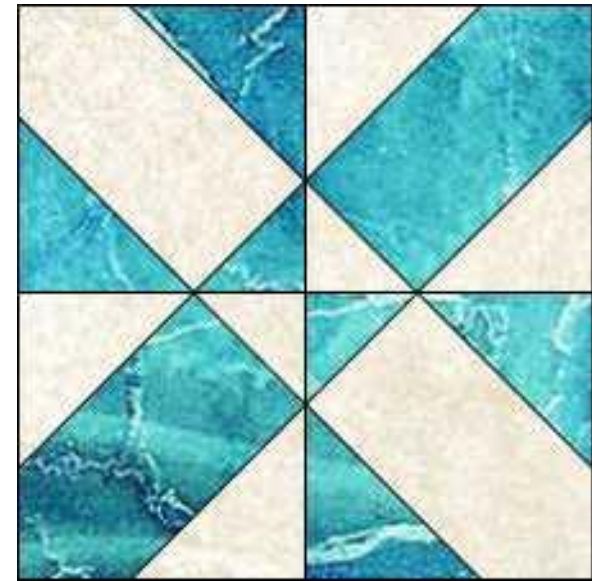
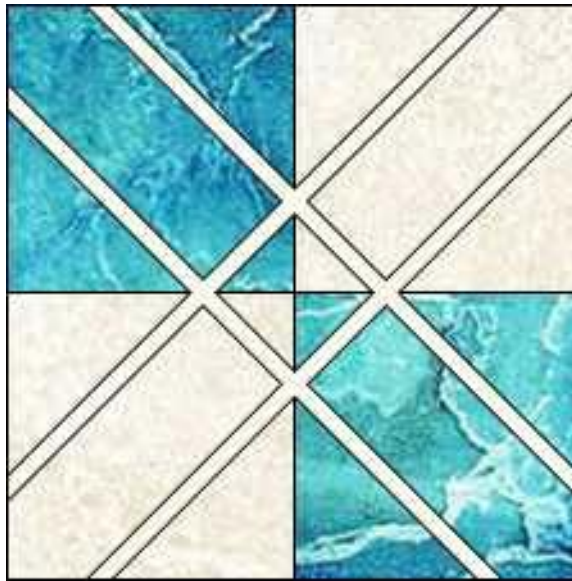
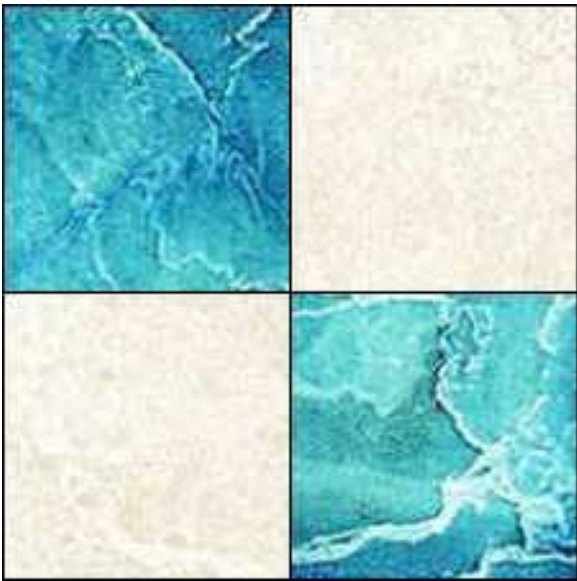


Moving the cuts farther out from the center creates a very different look.

Disappearing four patch – another option (must cut in thirds for this to work)



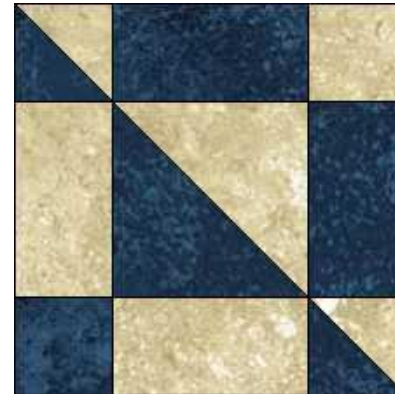
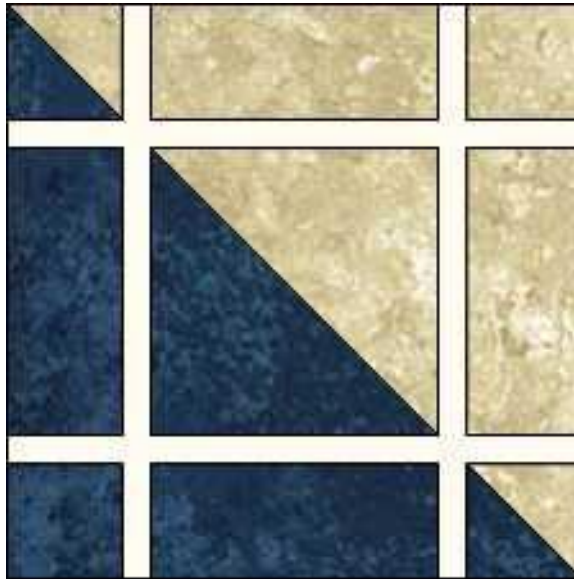
Four Patch with More Complex Cuts



Disappearing Half Square Triangle

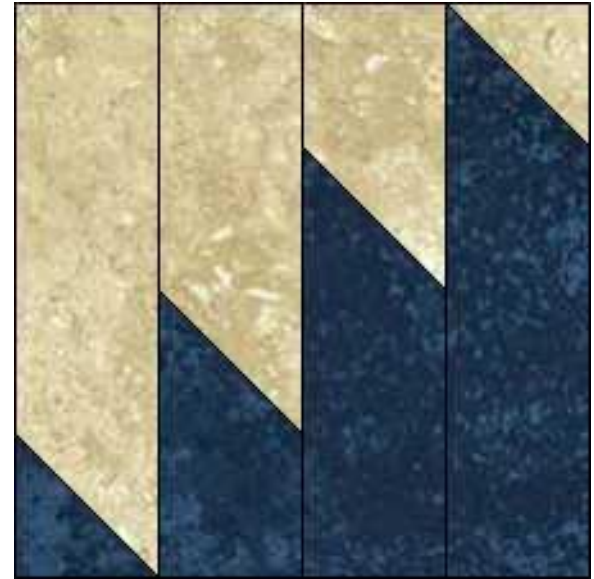
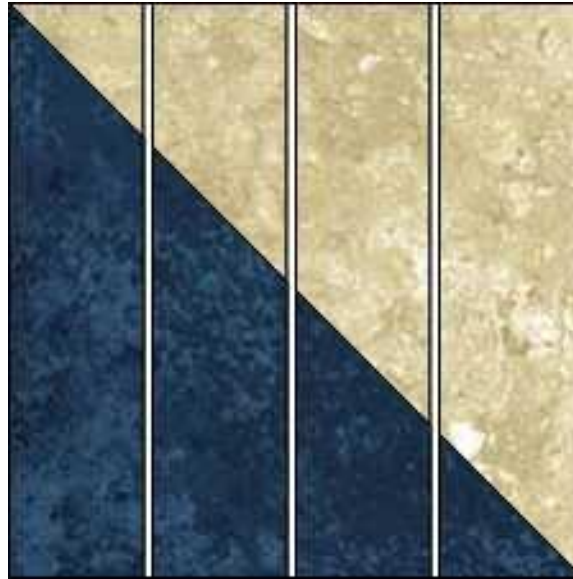


Half Square Triangle (HST) with 4 cuts around the center



The location of the cuts can change the look of the resulting block.

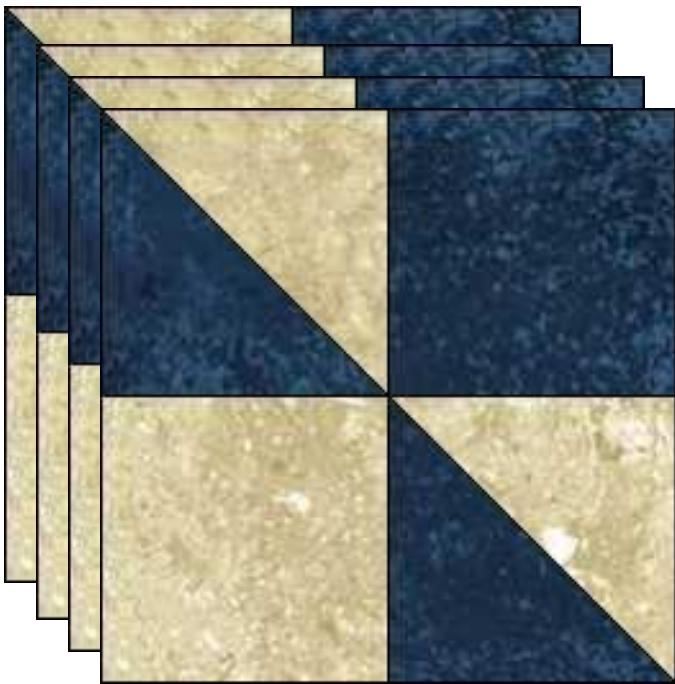
Half Square Triangle – cut into 4 rails and swap



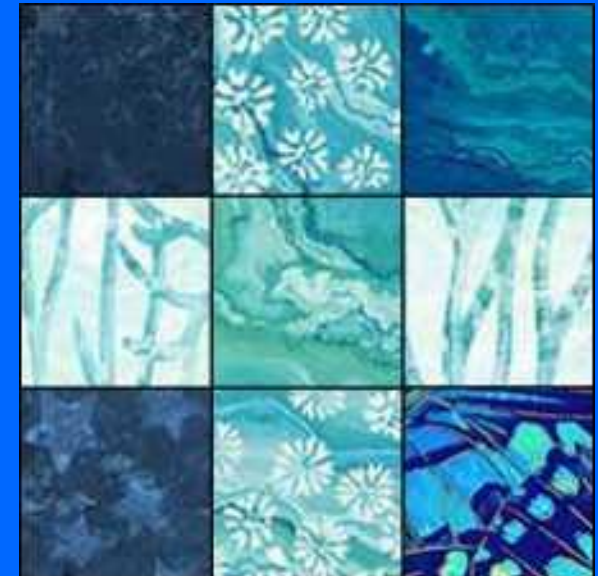
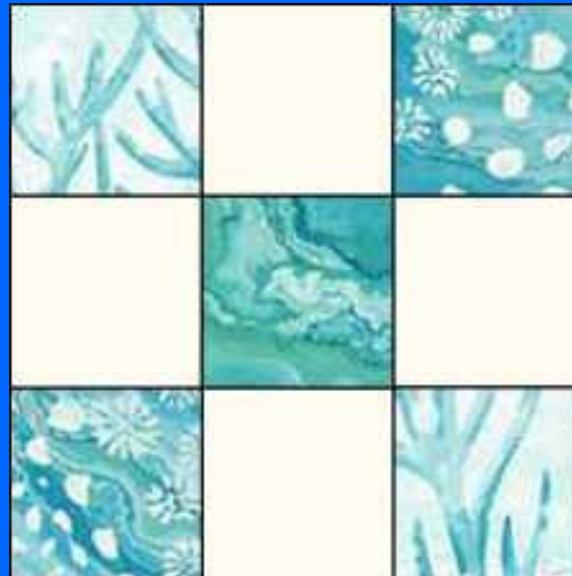
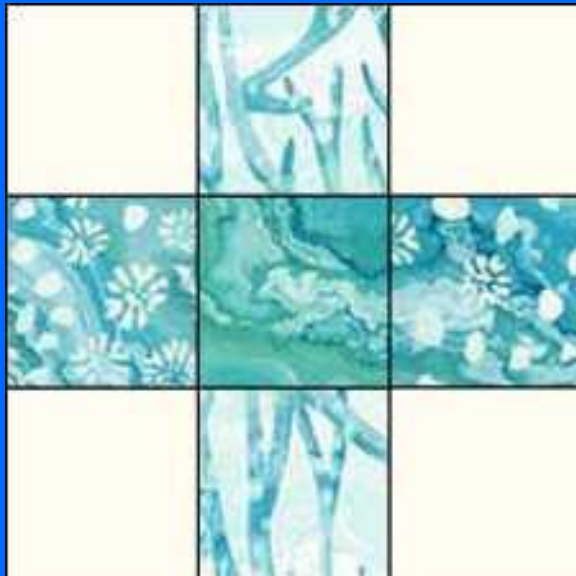
Half Square Triangle with two cuts...



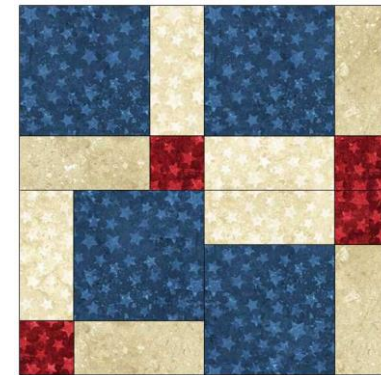
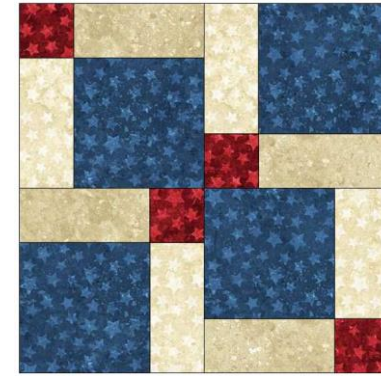
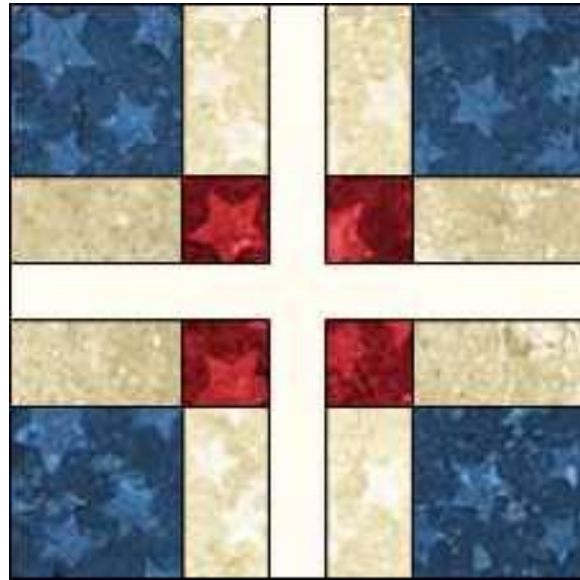
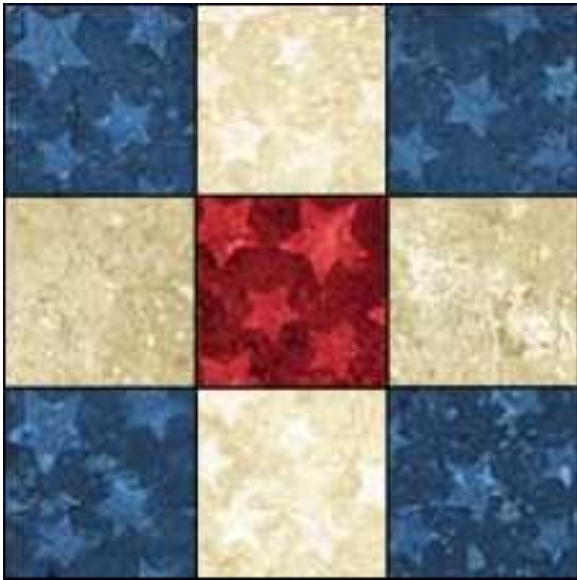
...and put 4 of these blocks together to give it a pinwheel effect



Disappearing Nine Patch



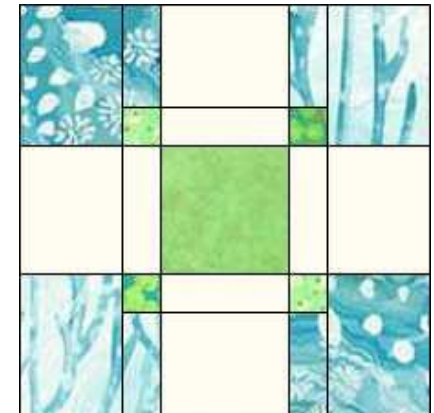
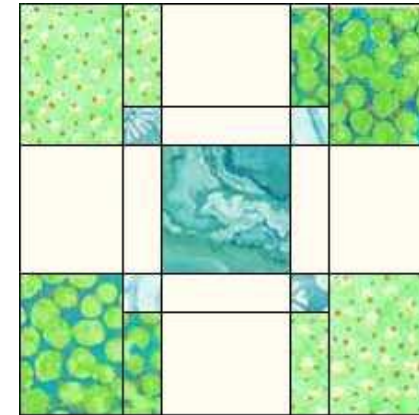
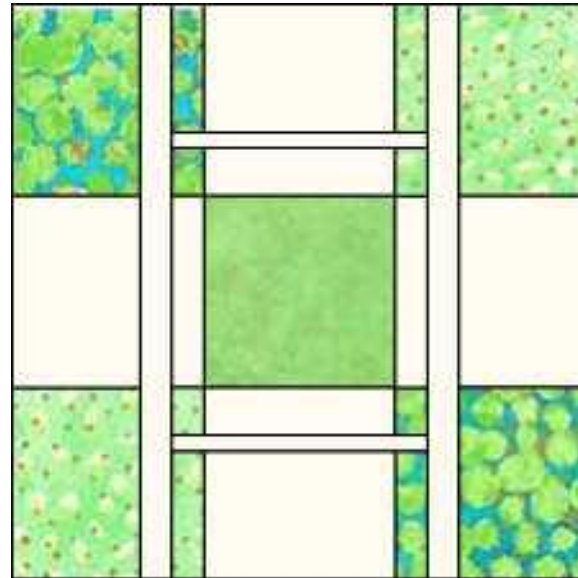
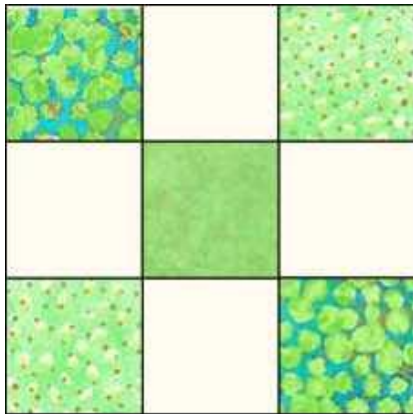
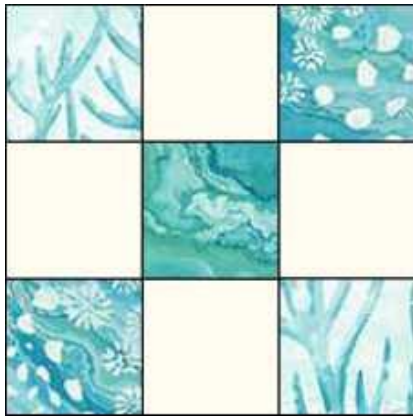
Nine Patch with two cuts – two different post layouts shown



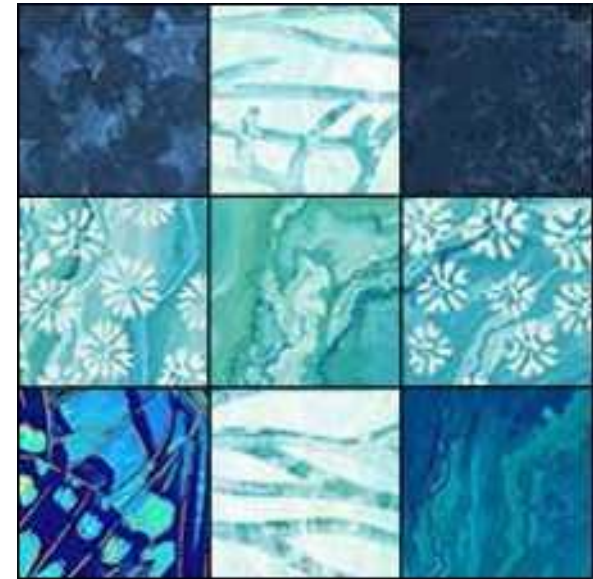
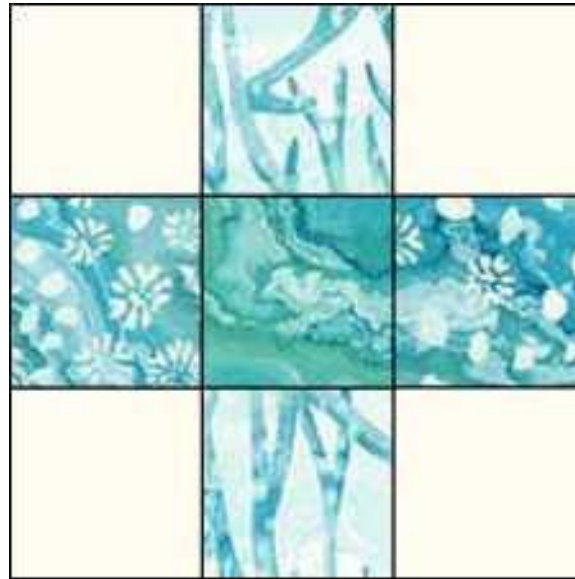
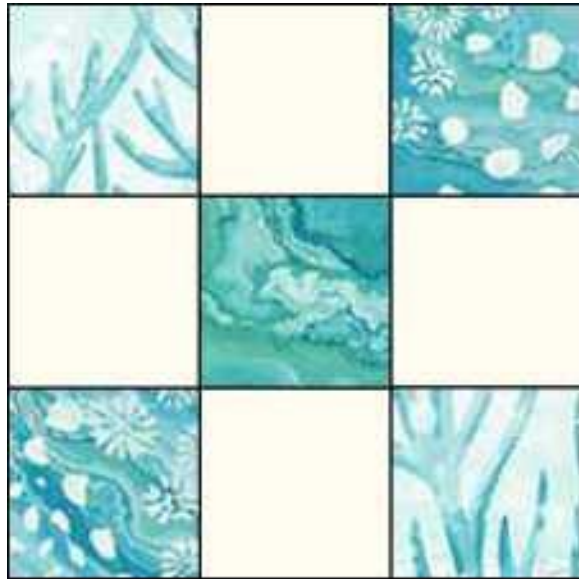
Sample from Julie-Ann Fortran



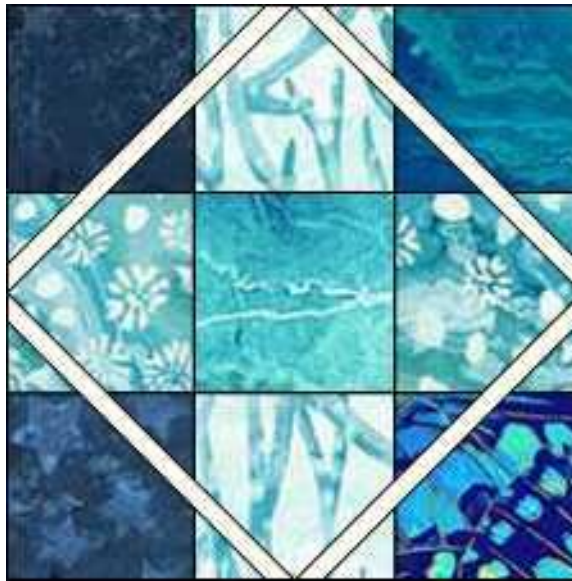
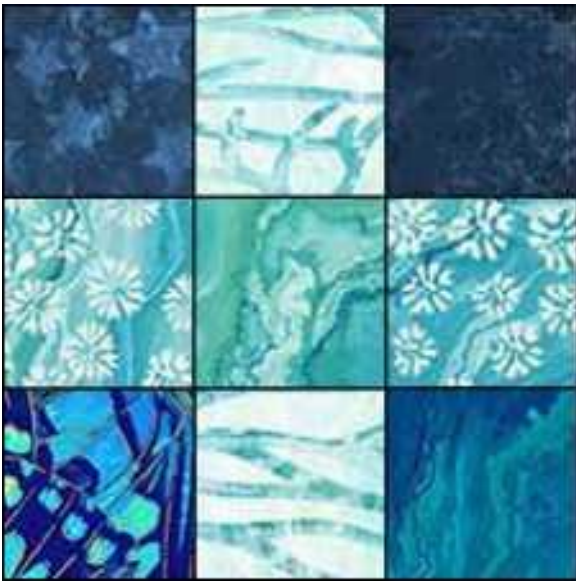
Nine Patch – cut off sides, pull them away, then cut top and bottom. Now switch them between blocks.



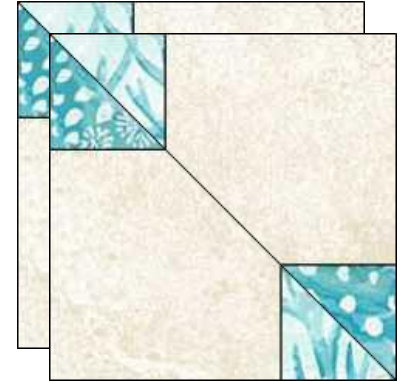
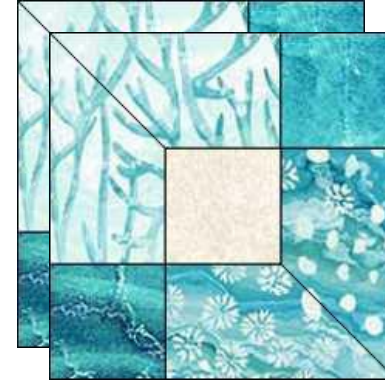
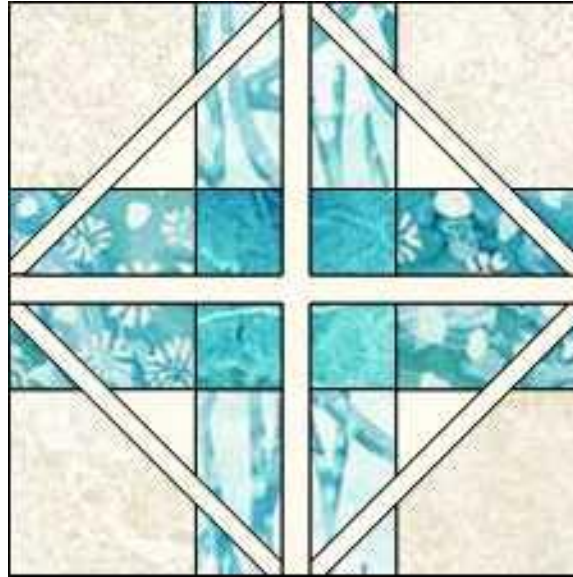
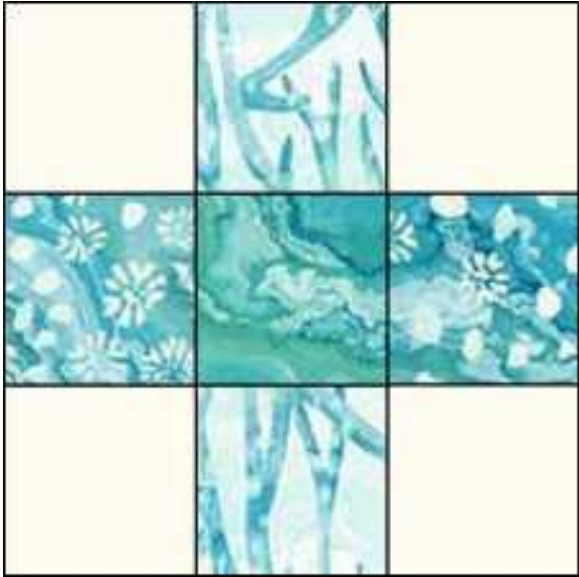
Changing the base block (darks/lights) can change the outcome



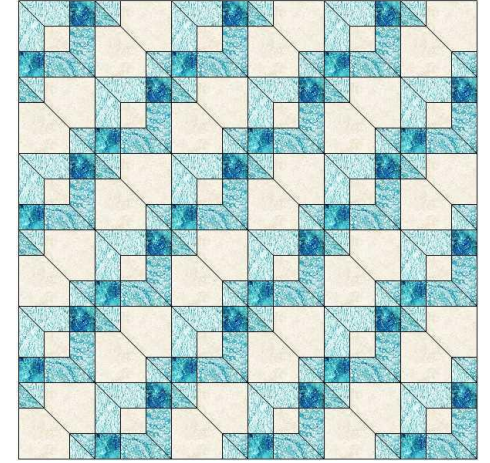
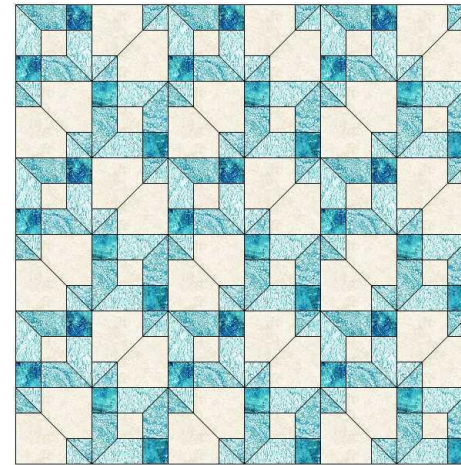
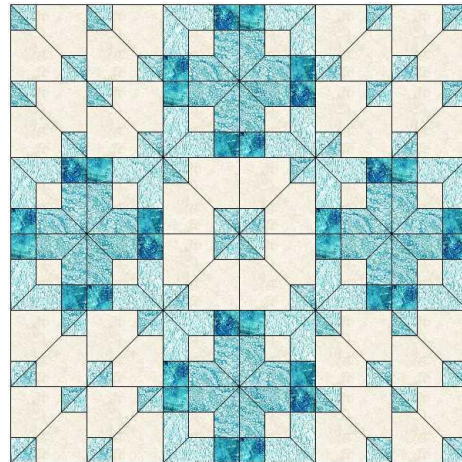
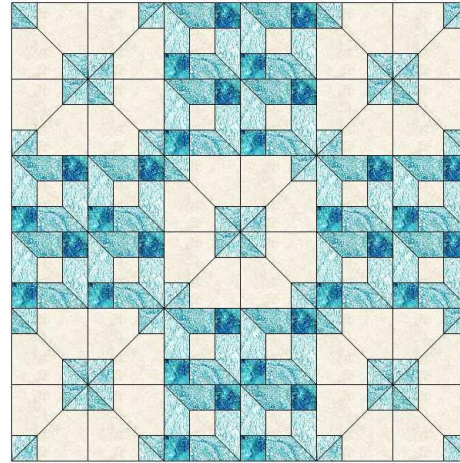
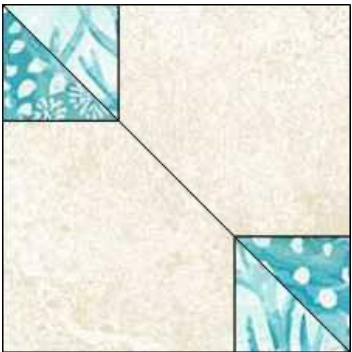
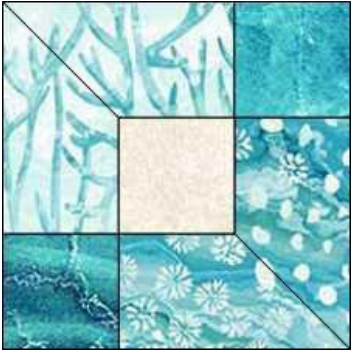
Nine Patch cut on the diagonals – rotate the corners one position



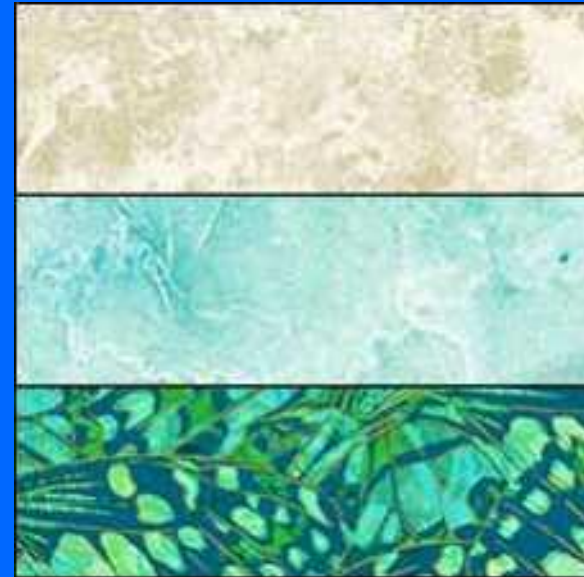
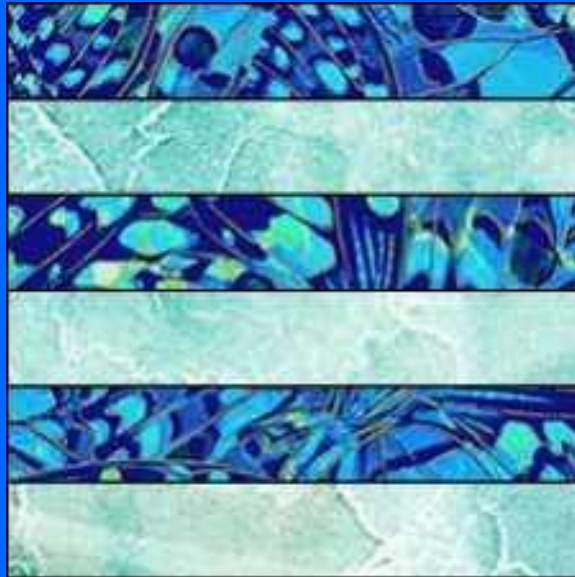
Nine Patch with more complex Cuts, and creating two different blocks



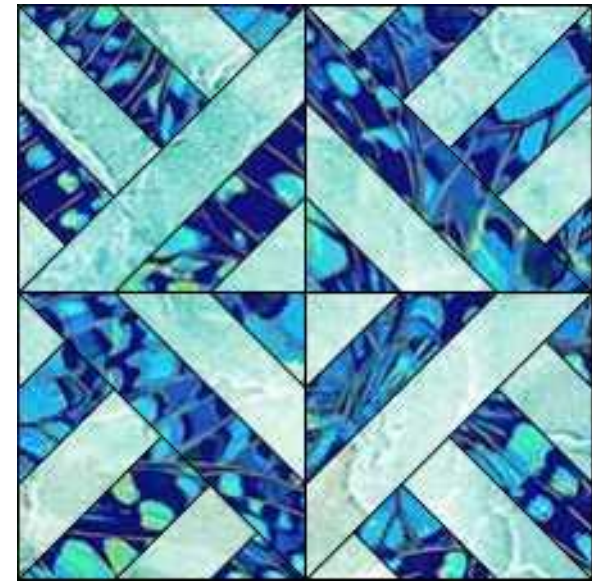
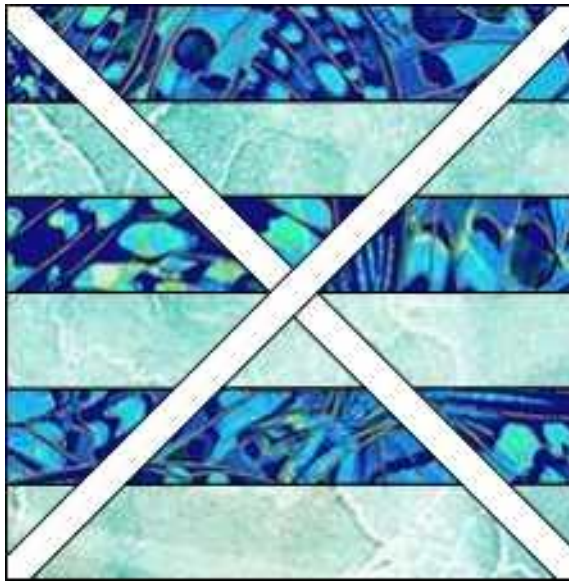
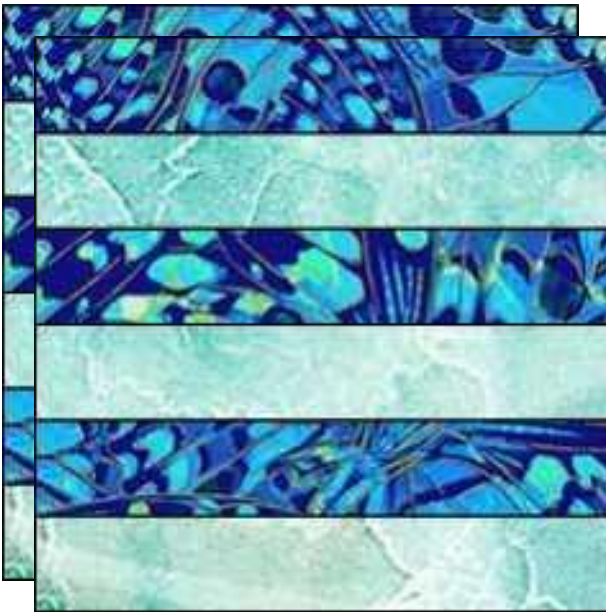
Some possible layouts using those two blocks



Disappearing Rail Fence

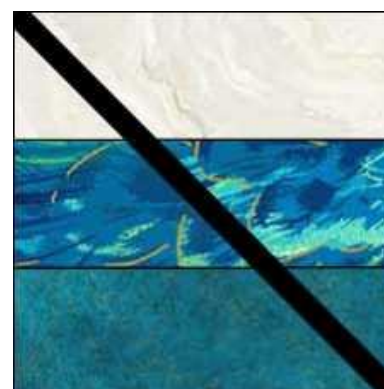
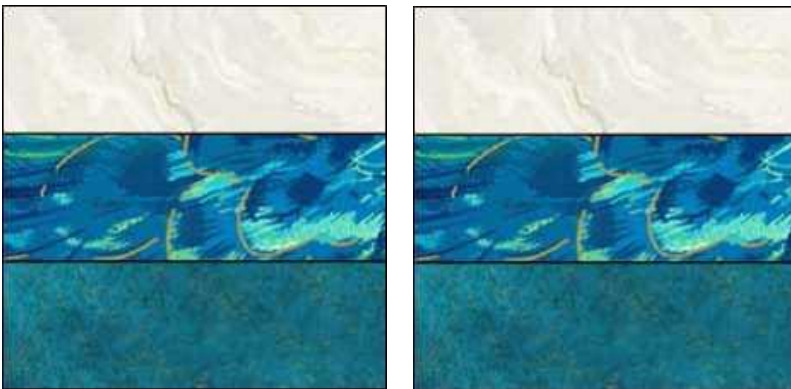
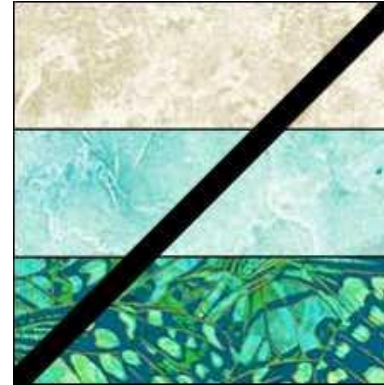
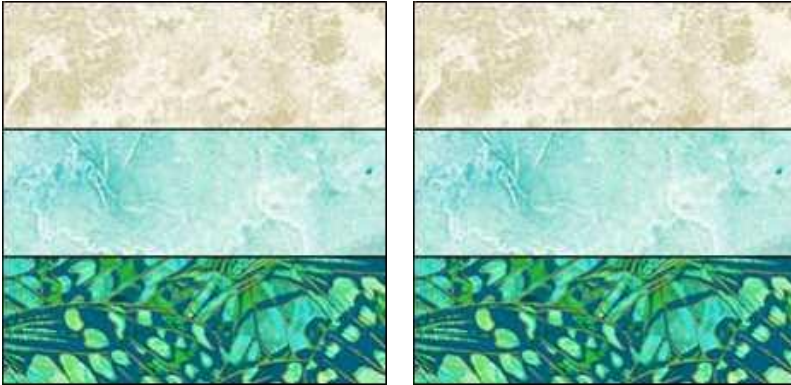


Six Rail Fence, cut like an “X” (need two)

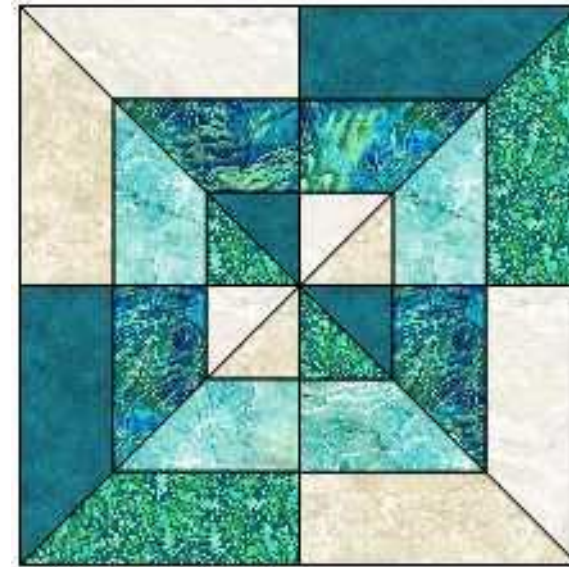
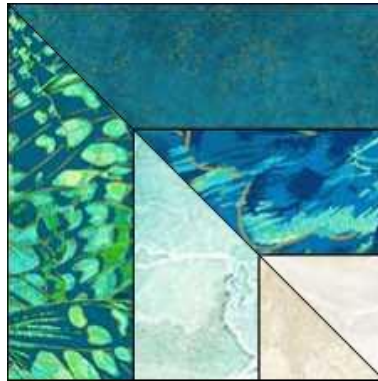
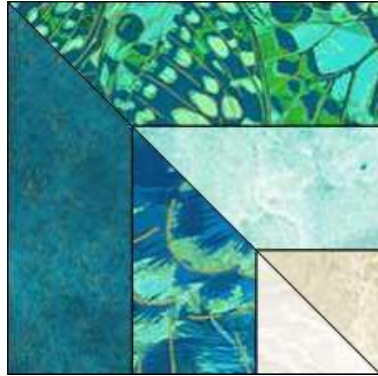
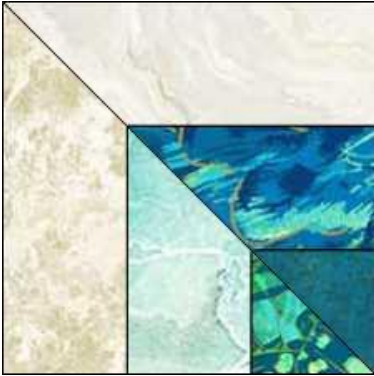


There are lots of different ways to put the pieces together. This is just one example.

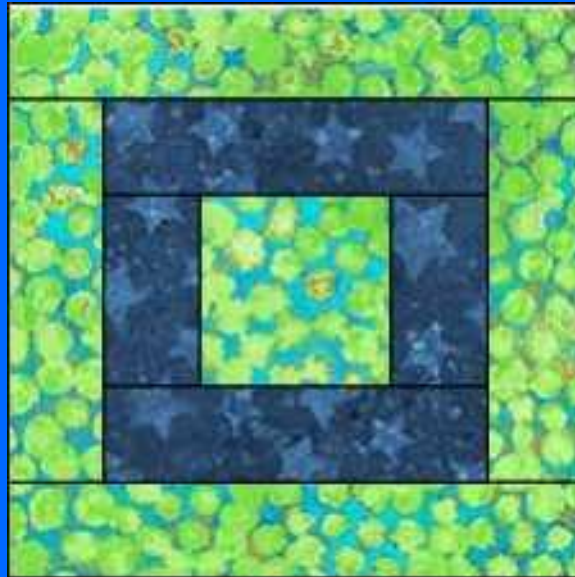
3 rail fence with light at top – need 4 squares total



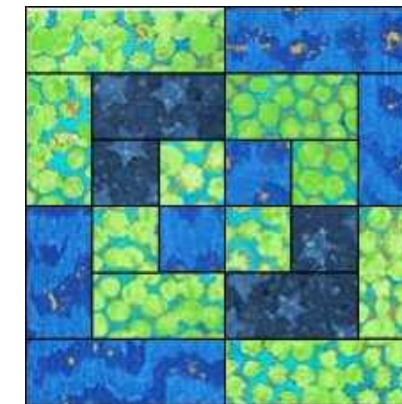
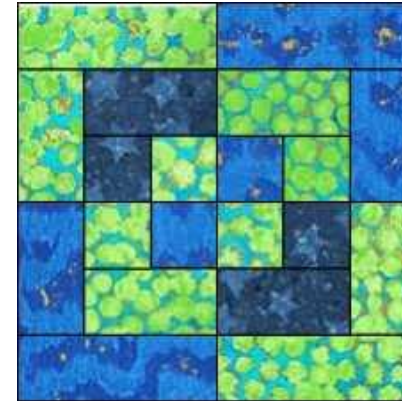
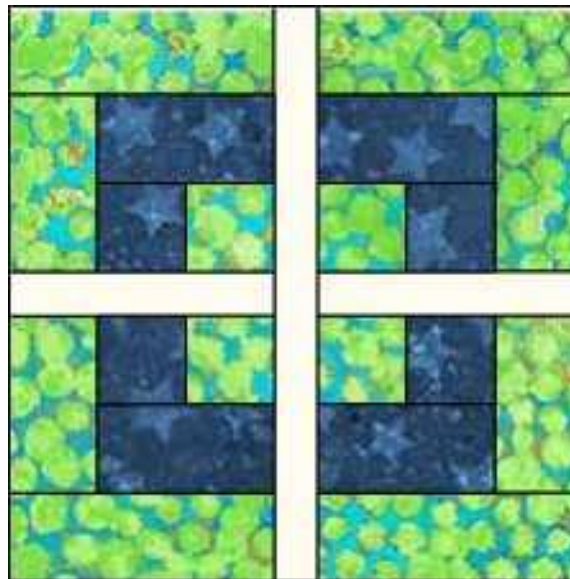
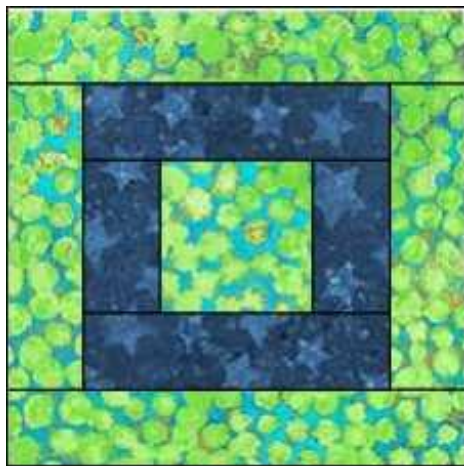
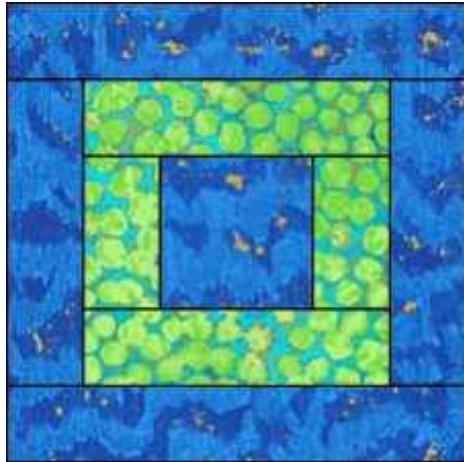
3 rail fence with light at top – put the pieces back together



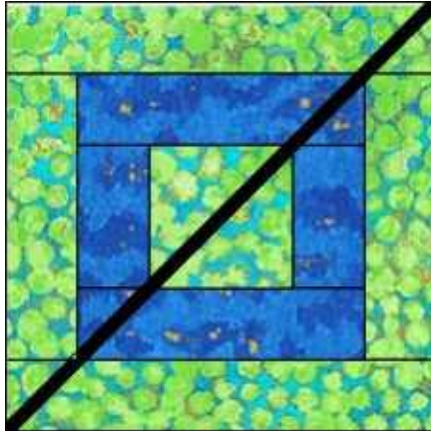
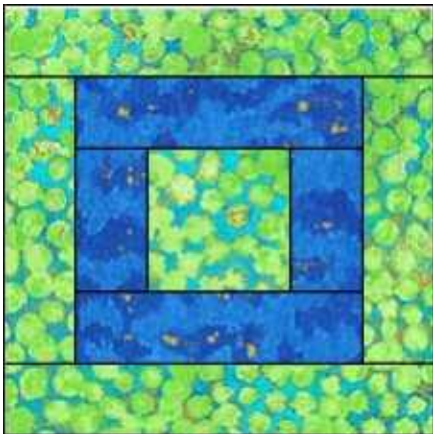
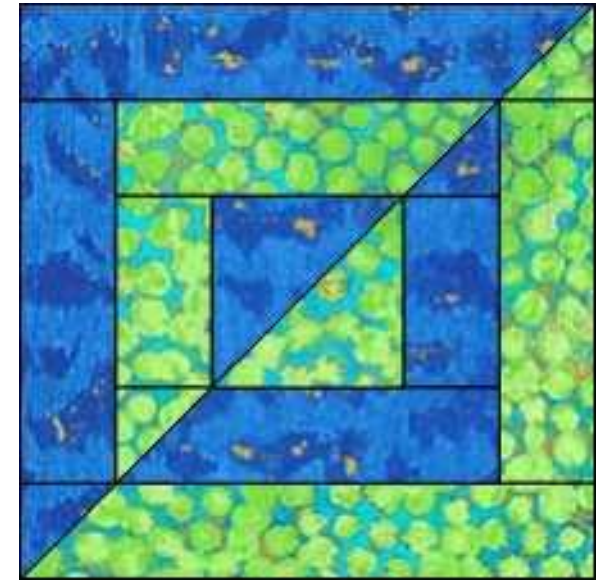
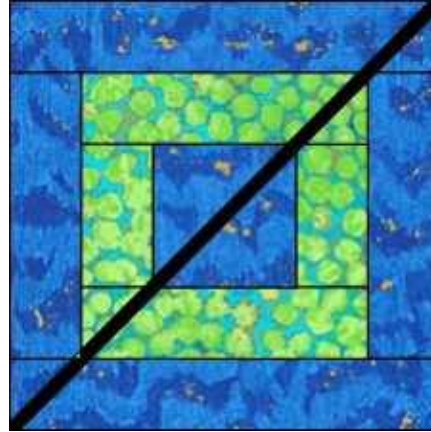
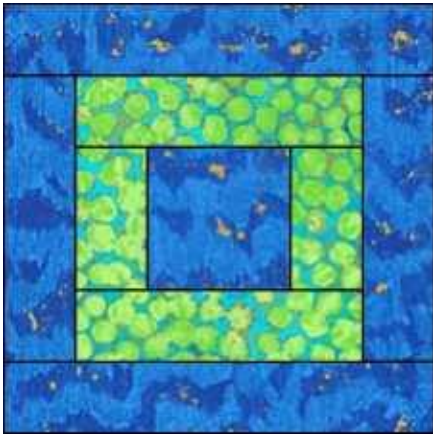
Disappearing Nested Square block



Nested Square Blocks



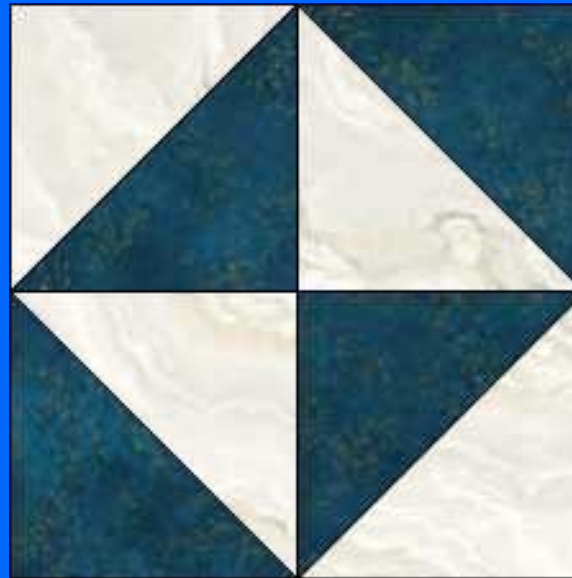
Nested Square Blocks -> Optical Illusion blocks



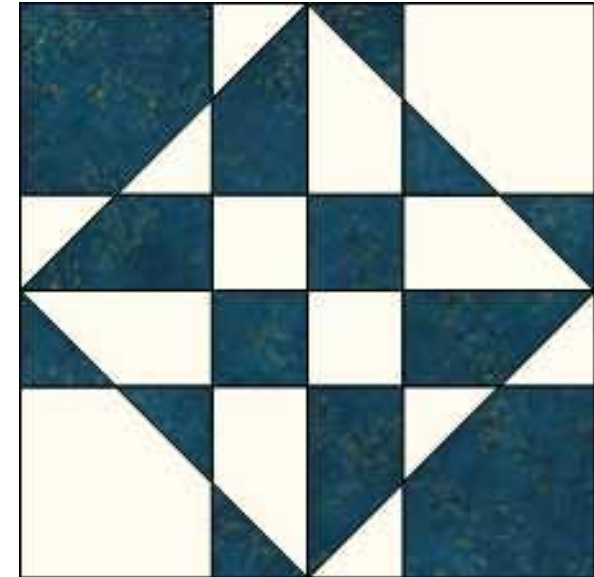
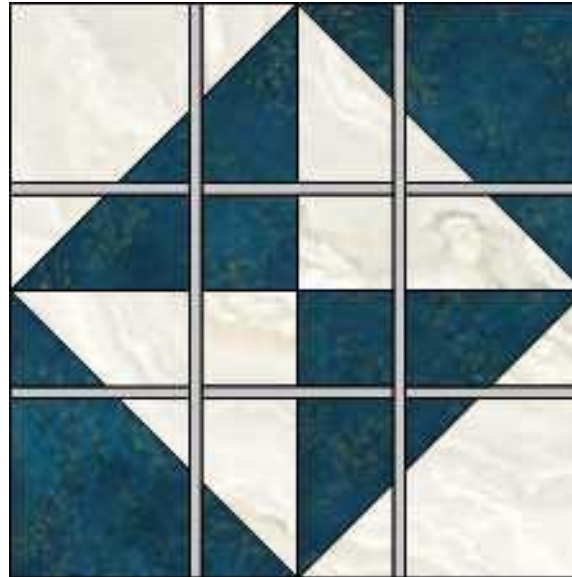
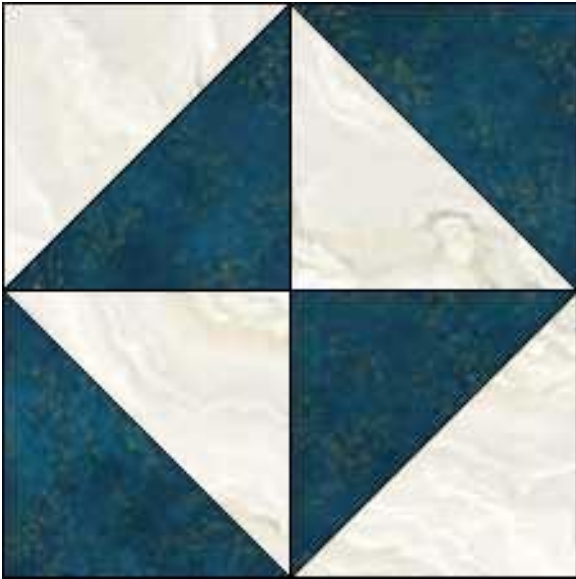
Linda London's Challenge Quilt – December 2023



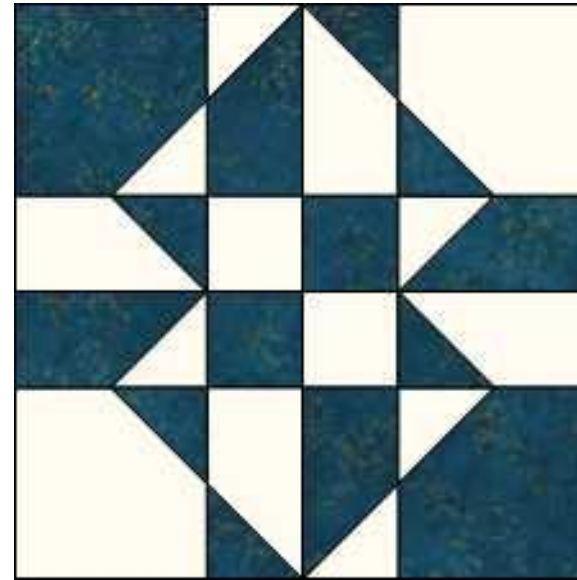
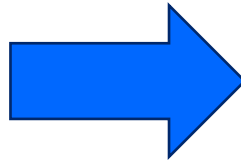
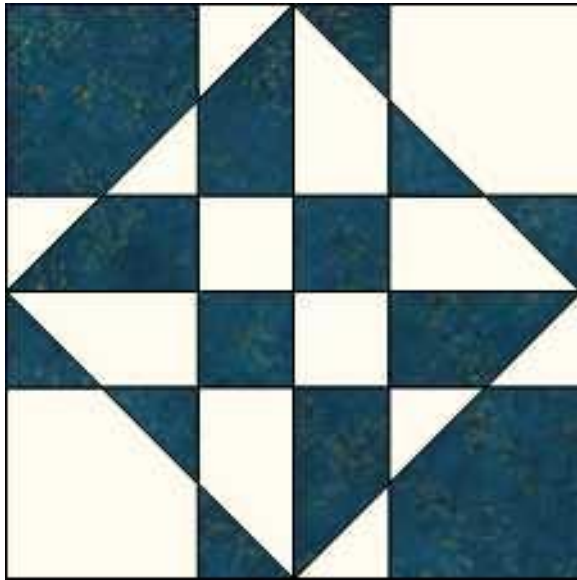
Disappearing Hourglass Block



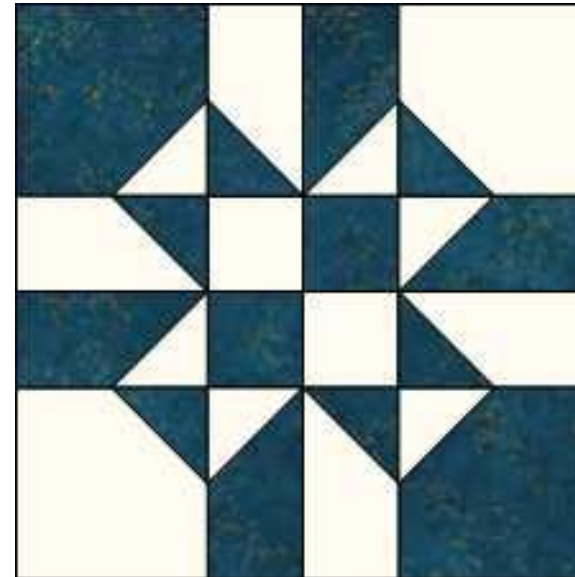
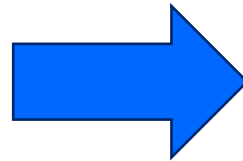
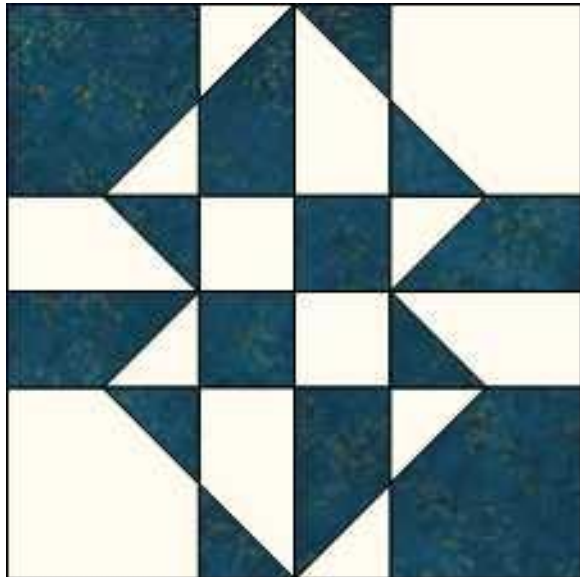
Hourglass – cut into thirds, then rotate center, and switch corners



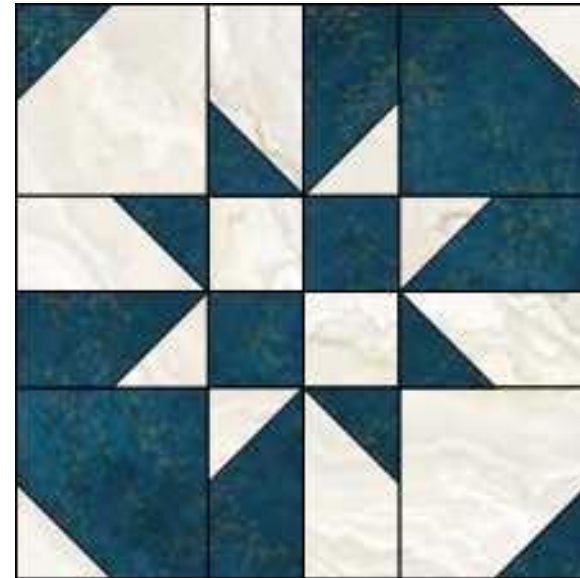
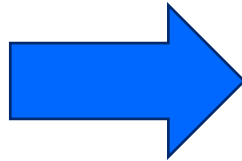
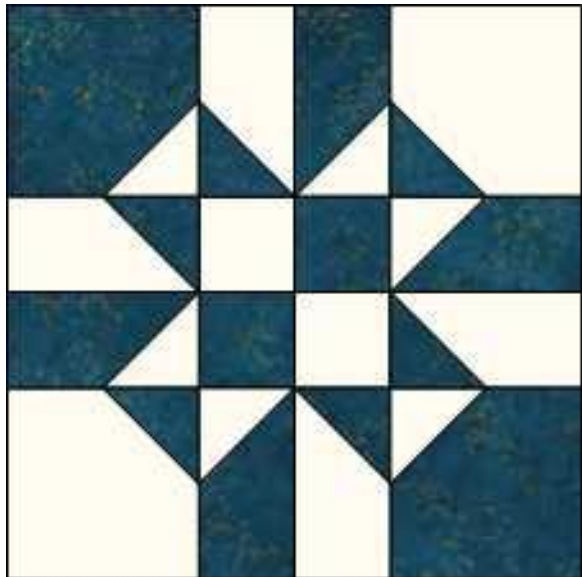
Hourglass – rotate the middle squares on each side to change the look



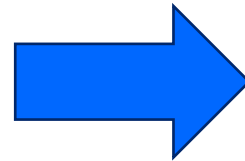
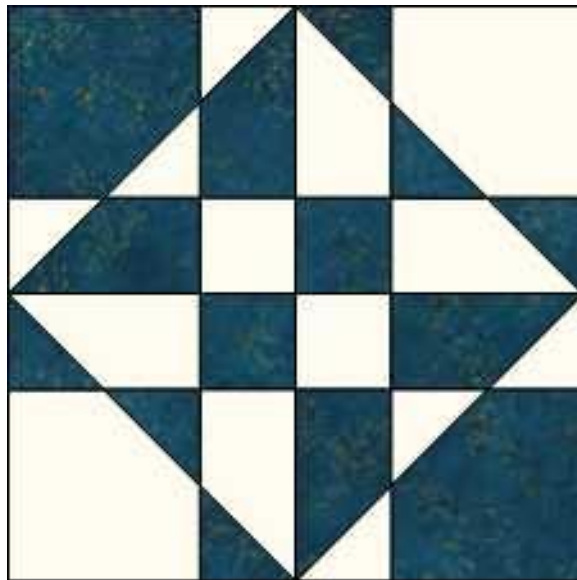
Hourglass – rotate the middle squares on the top and bottom



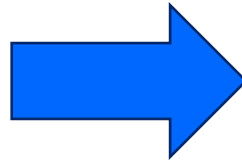
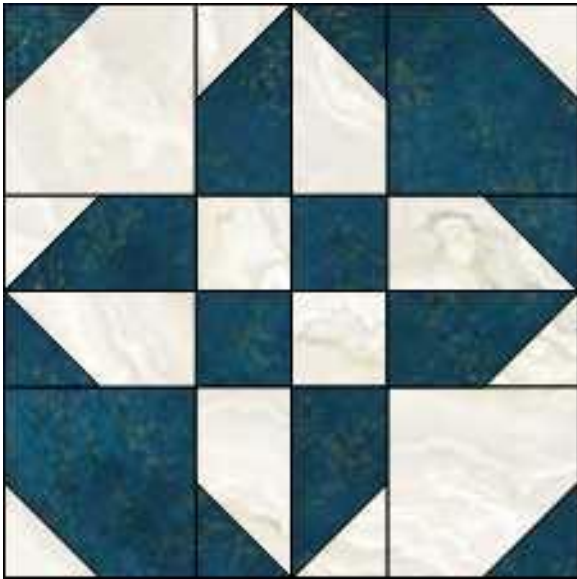
Hourglass – just swap and rotate the corners for a star



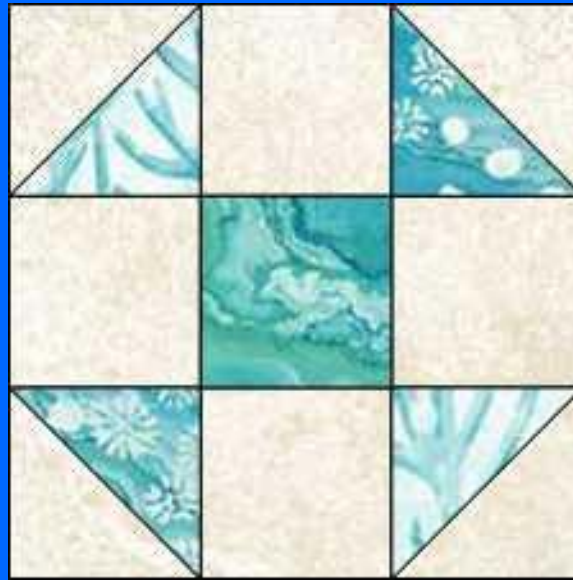
Hourglass – swap and rotate corner blocks for another look



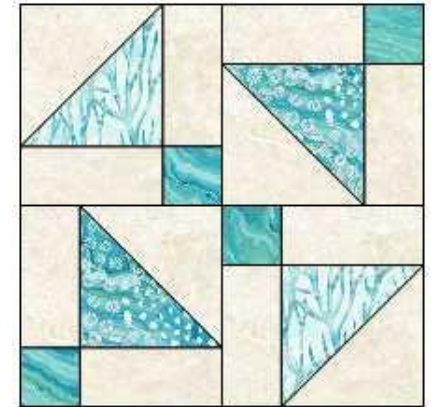
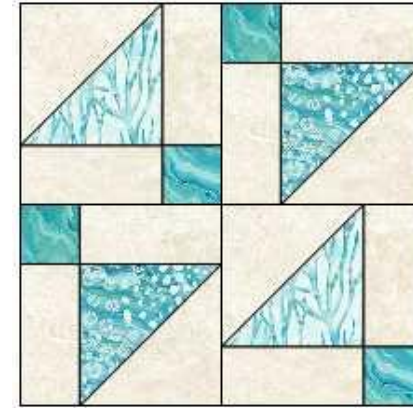
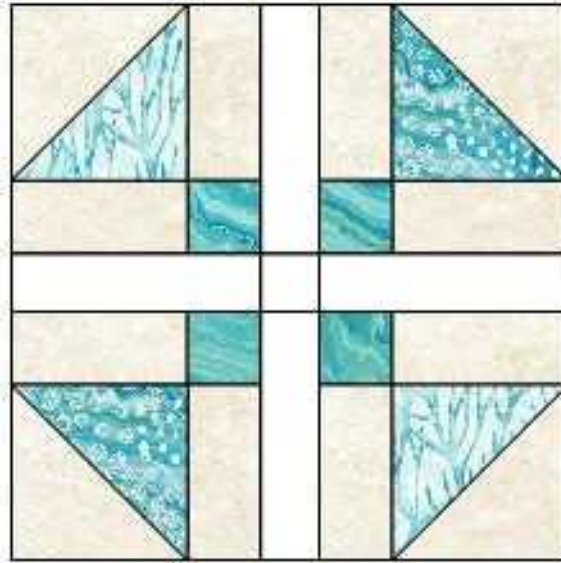
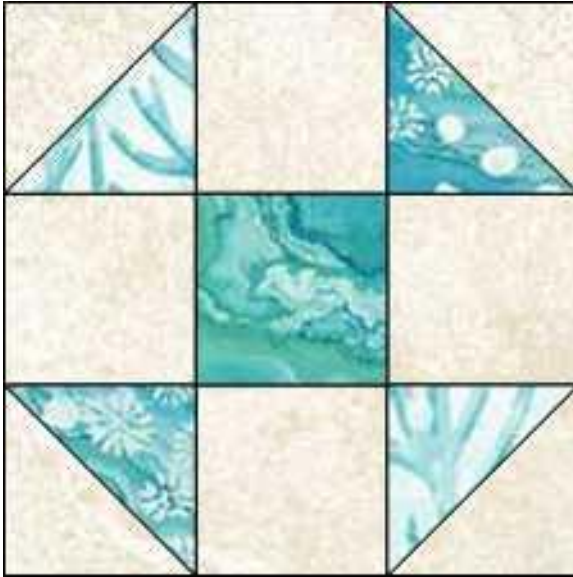
Hourglass – just rotate the center for yet another look



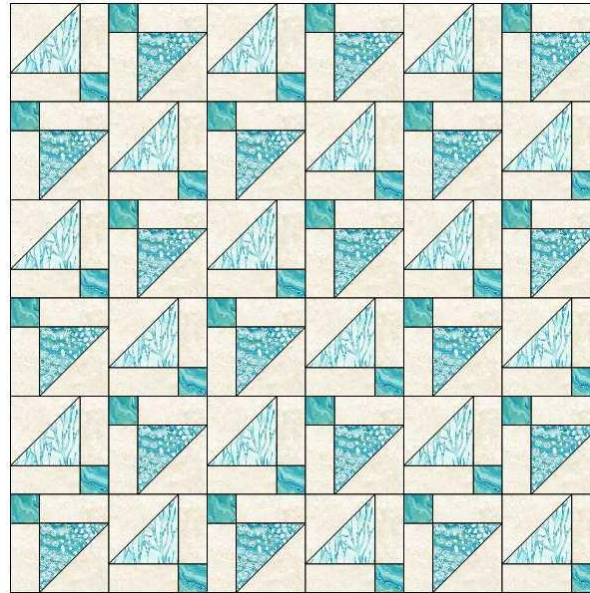
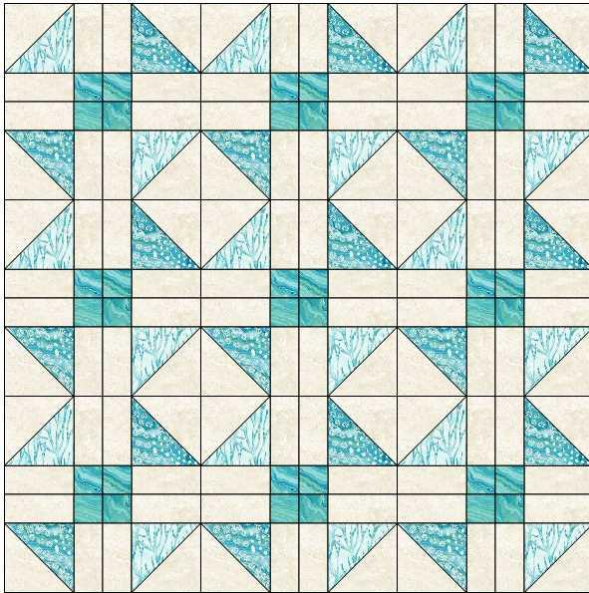
Disappearing Shoofly block



Shoofly block – several different block possibilities

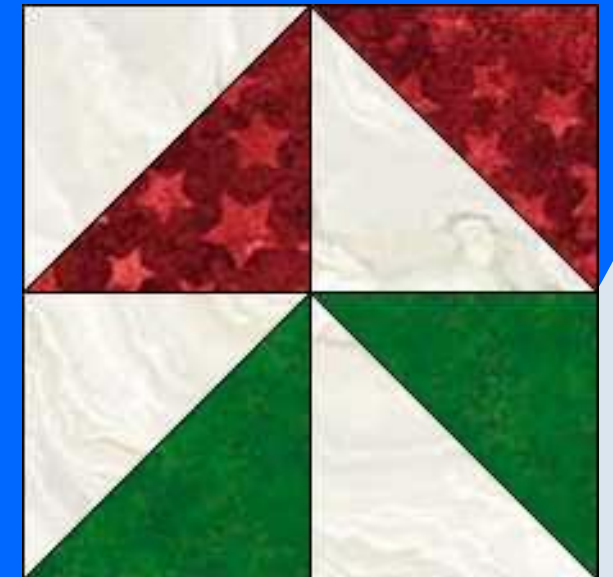
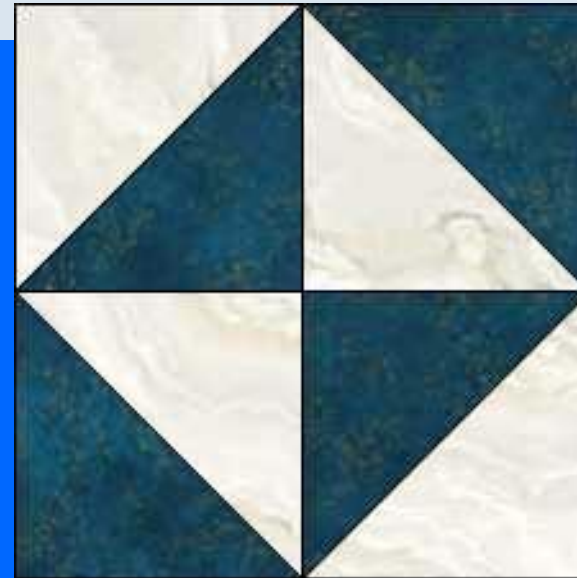


Shoofly – some quilt possibilities from those 4 pieces

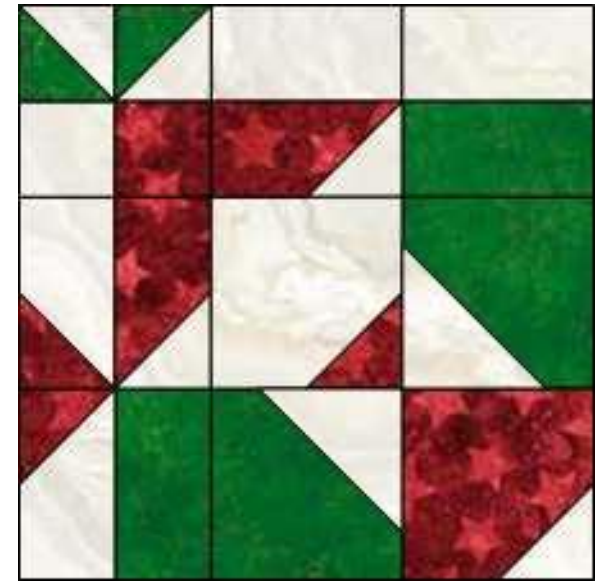
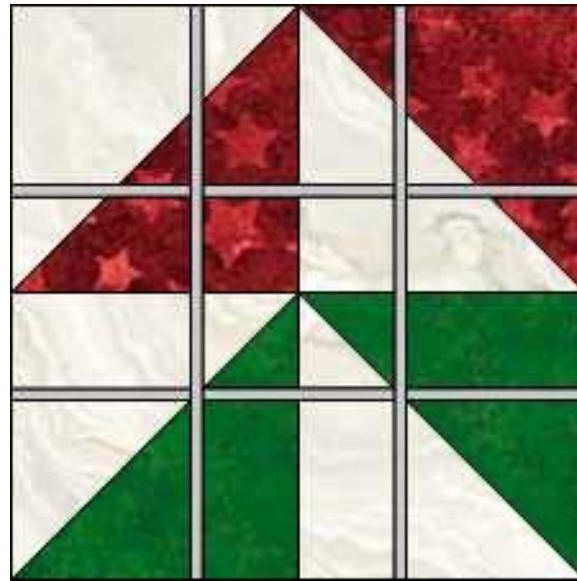
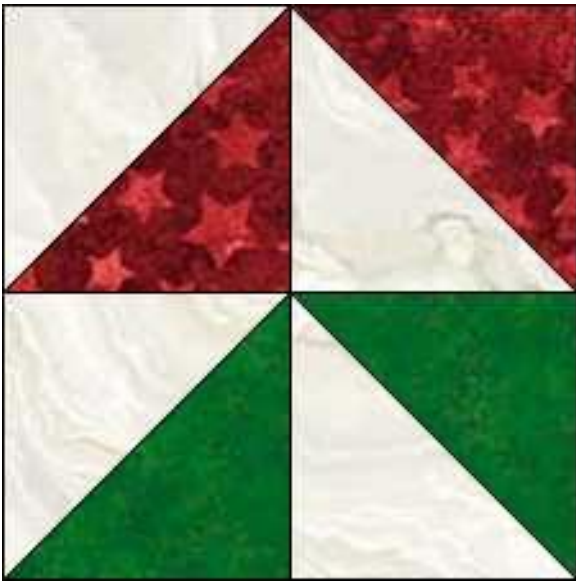


Disappearing Sawtooth (tree) block

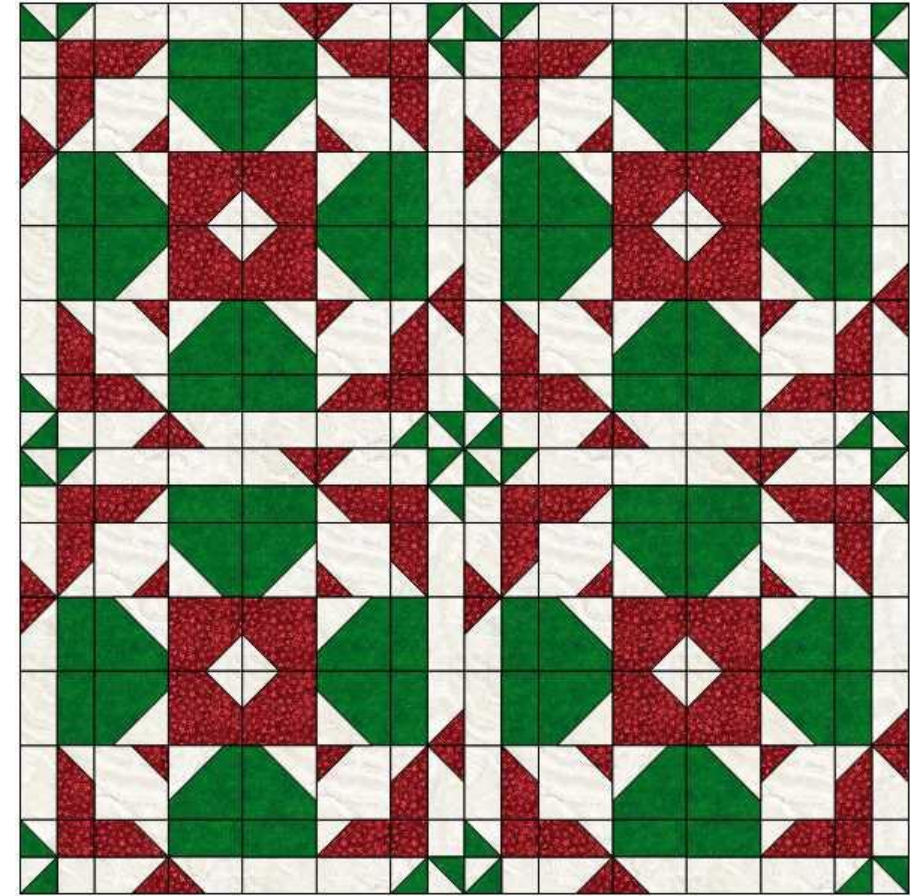
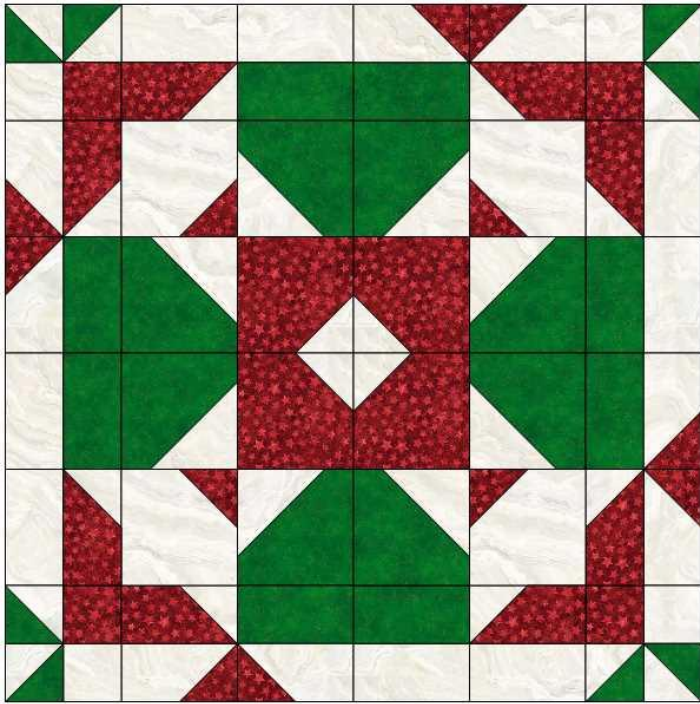
A student was trying to make an hourglass block, but they accidentally made this. They did the cuts before realizing the mistake.



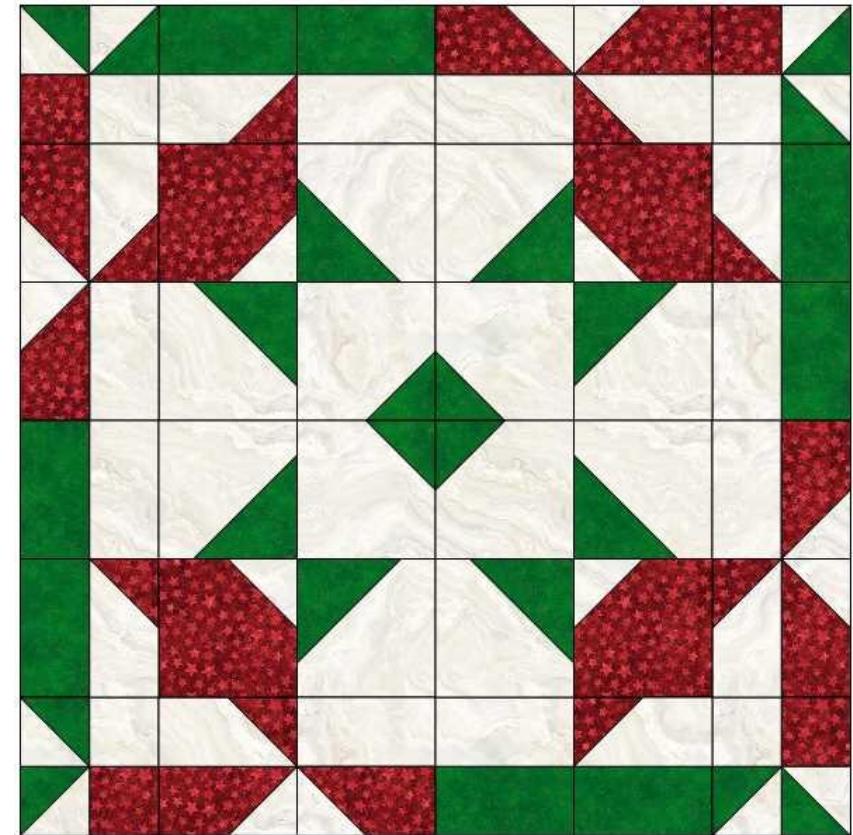
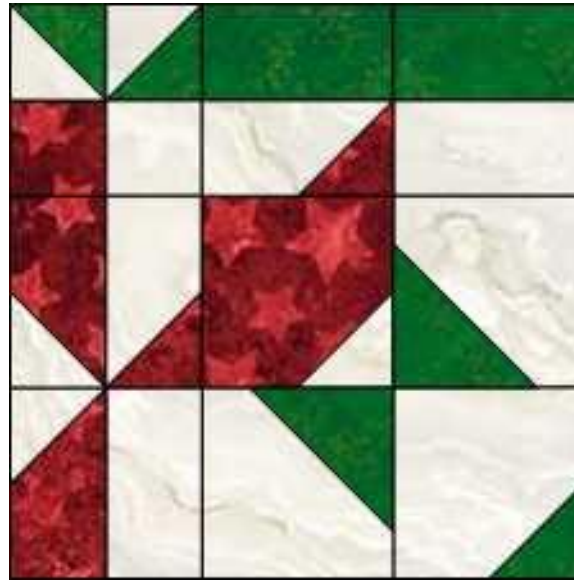
Sawtooth (tree) block – an accident



Sawtooth (tree) block – 4 per block, plus a sample quilt



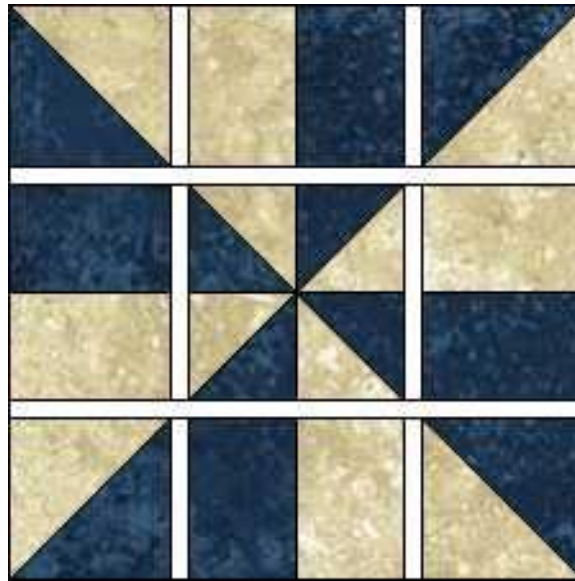
Sawtooth (tree) – if you reverse the light/dark, but repeat the same pattern, you get a very different result



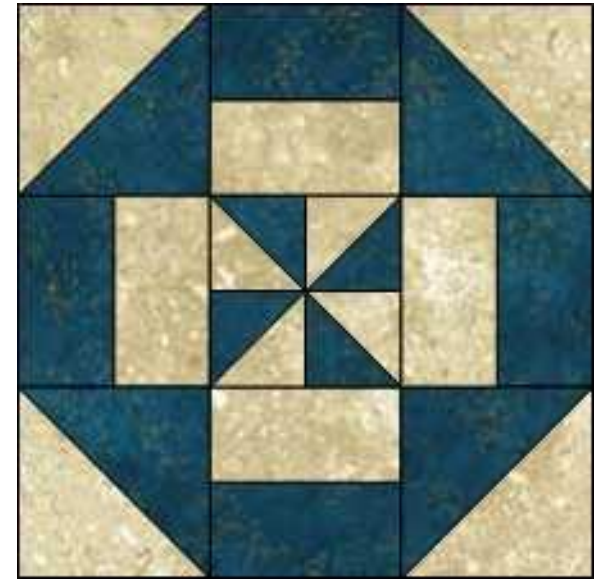
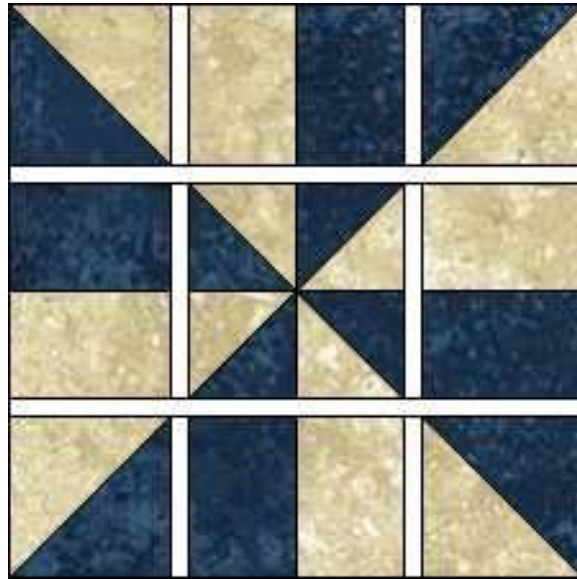
Disappearing Pinwheel



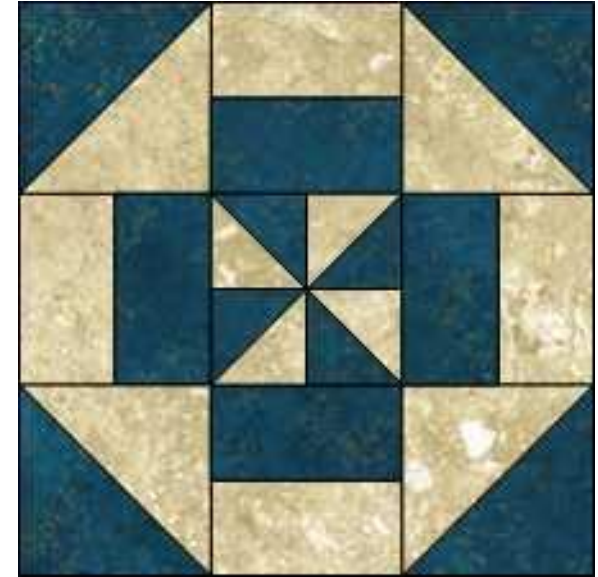
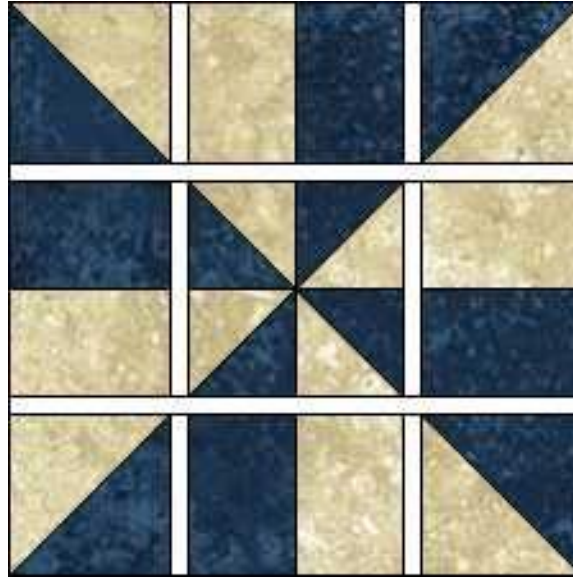
Pinwheel – four cuts from center for fancy friendship star



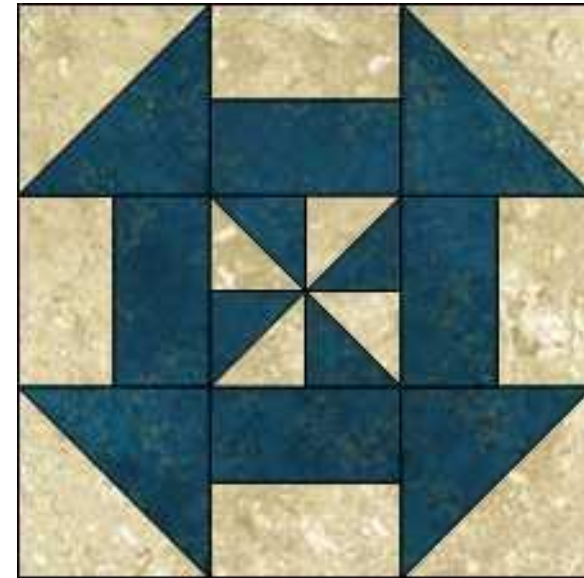
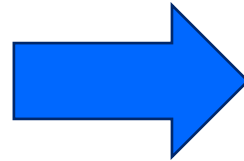
Pinwheel – same cuts, another option



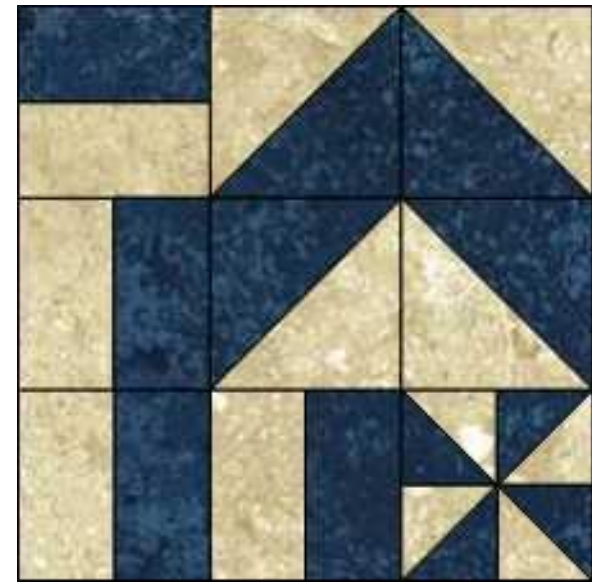
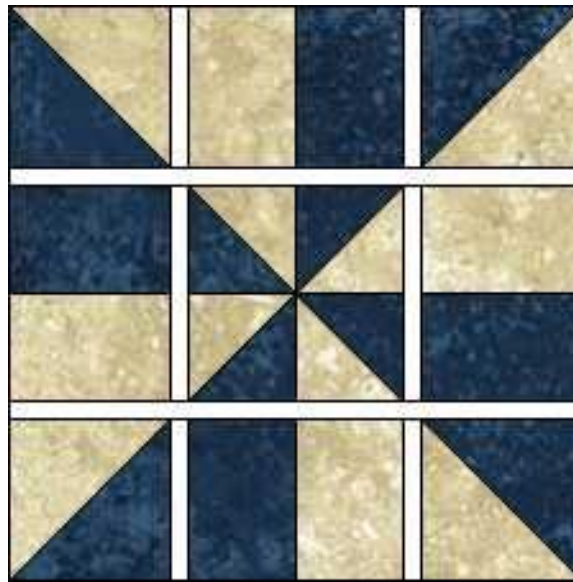
Pinwheel – same cuts, another option



Pinwheel – rotate the corner blocks for a churn and dash.



Pinwheel -> Celtic Square

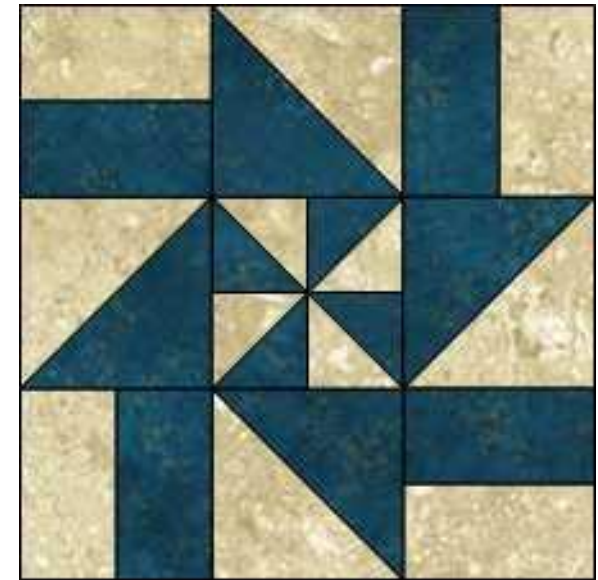
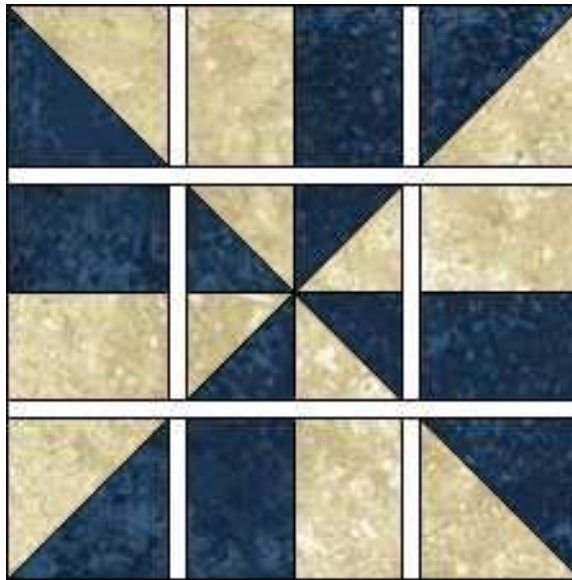


Putting four identical squares together

Create four of the previous block and rotate them to place the pinwheels together and create this new block!



Pinwheel -> reminds me of arrows



Hints

- When you are cutting, it is better to measure for your placement from the center out (instead of from the outer edge), especially if you have seams going in the same direction of the cut that you can use as a reference.
- Every cut will remove $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the size of the block ($\frac{1}{4}$ for each side)
- If the cuts are more complex, consider starting with a larger block(s).
- For blocks with complex placement, make the first block, then use it as a template for another block and stack the pieces for the next one over it.

Some Resources

- **Search “Disappearing quilt block”** and be amazed at the videos and pages. Some examples are:
- **Brita Nelson the Questioning Quilter**

<https://questioningquilter.com/2021/03/07/the-magic-of-disappearing-blocks/>

- YouTube – Teresa DownUnder

Summary

I hope you enjoyed this presentation of disappearing blocks and will be inspired to try something on your own.

Be sure to use the internet for some additional resources.



Thank you

Michelle Young