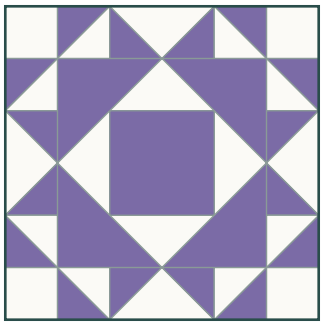
A QUILTPLAN BLOCK PATTERN

AN EFFECTIVE SQUARE

Three classic units in one two-color block.



41 pieces, 2 fabrics

An Effective Square brings three classic units together in one block: half-square triangles, Flying Geese and a square-in-a-square center. In two fabrics, the Main reads as a bold star with a framed square at its heart, and plain Background squares hold the corners.

SKILL Intermediate

SEAMS ¼" throughout

SIZES 9", 12", 15" and 18" finished



Cutting

Cut, for one block	9"	12"	15"	18"
① Background: cut 2 squares, for triangles Cut once corner to corner: round 1 of the center. A little big; it is trimmed.	3 3/8" sq	4 1/8" sq	4 7/8" sq	5½" sq
② Background: cut 4 squares, for triangles Half-square triangles, paired with Main squares the same size.	2½" sq	3" sq	3½" sq	4" sq
③ Background: cut 4 squares Corner squares.	2" sq	2½" sq	3" sq	3½" sq
④ Background: cut 4 rectangles Flying geese bodies. A little big; each goose is trimmed.	2¼" × 3¾"	2¾" × 4¾"	3¼" × 5¾"	3¾" × 6¾"
⑤ Main: cut 2 squares, for triangles Cut once corner to corner: round 2 of the center. A little big; it is trimmed.	4¼" sq	5¼" sq	6¼" sq	7¼" sq
⑥ Main: cut 1 square Center square.	3½" sq	4½" sq	5½" sq	6½" sq
⑦ Main: cut 4 squares, for triangles Half-square triangles, paired with Background squares the same size.	2½" sq	3" sq	3½" sq	4" sq
⑧ Main: cut 8 squares Flying geese corners, sewn on and flipped. A little big on purpose.	2¼" sq	2¾" sq	3¼" sq	3¾" sq

Fabric, for one block

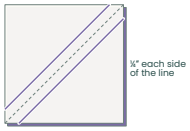
Buy at least	9"	12"	15"	18"
☐ Background	¼ yd	¼ yd	¼ yd	¼ yd
■ Main	¼ yd	¼ yd	¼ yd	¼ yd

Worked out the way QuiltPlan's shopping list does it: 42" of usable width, 15% for waste, rounded up to the quarter yard. For a whole quilt, place the block in the app and it totals every block for you.

Good to know

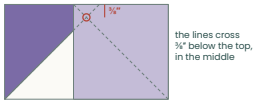
- If the Main center shows through the Background triangles of round 1, press those seams open instead.
- **Why these sizes?** At 9", 12", 15" and 18", a piece or two does not land on an eighth inch and is rounded to one; the steps say where to trim. At other sizes the app still works out the cutting for you.
- **Want a different size or a whole quilt?** An Effective Square is in QuiltPlan's block library. Place it on a quilt and the app gives you the cut list, the yardage and the shopping list for every block at once.

Sewing it



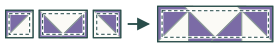
1 · Make 8 half-square triangles

Draw a line corner to corner on the back of each (2) square. Lay each on a (7) square, right sides together, sew a quarter inch either side of the line, cut on the line and press toward the Main. Four pairs make 8. Follow the Half-Square Triangles guide.



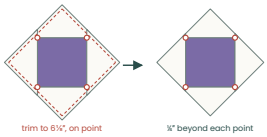
3 · Make 4 flying geese

Draw a line on the back of each (8) square. Lay one on an end of a (4) rectangle, the line from that end's bottom corner to the top edge, and sew a thread's width on the corner side. Trim a quarter inch past the stitching and press toward the Main. Do the other end slanting the other way: the lines cross 3/8" below the top.



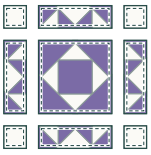
5 · Make 4 side units

Sew a half-square triangle to each end of a goose, turned so its Background half is against the goose and its Main half lies along the goose's wide base. Press toward the triangles.



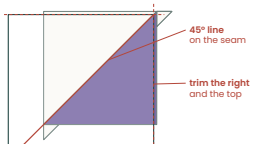
7 · Trim round 1, on point

Turn the unit so the Main square sits on point. Lay the ruler's quarter inch line on one of its corners, the 45 degree line along one of its seams, and trim. Do all four sides the same way. The unit measures about 4¾" for a 9" block, 6 1/8" for 12", 7 5/8" for 15" and 9" for 18".



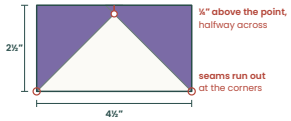
9 · Lay it out

Three rows: a (3) corner square, a side unit and a corner square; a side unit, the center and a side unit; then the first row again. Every goose points in toward the center.



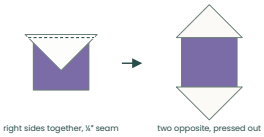
2 · Trim them

Lay a square ruler's 45 degree line on the seam, trim two sides, turn the unit, line the cut edges up and trim the other two. Each comes out the size of a (3) square, the seam running exactly into two opposite corners.



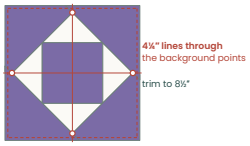
4 · Trim the geese

Trim about an eighth off every side, the ruler's quarter inch line through the point, never into it. Each goose comes out a quarter inch smaller than its (4) rectangle each way, the point a quarter inch below the top edge and each seam running out at a bottom corner. Follow the Flying Geese guide.



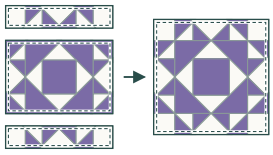
6 · The center, round 1

Crease the middle of each side of the (6) square and of each (1) triangle's long edge. Sew triangles to two opposite sides, creases matched, press toward the triangles and trim their tips level with the square. Add the other two. Follow the Economy Block guide.



8 · The center, round 2

Crease each (5) triangle's long edge and match it to a corner of the Main square. Sew with the center on top, press toward the triangles, trim the tips, then add the last two. Trim to 6½" for a 9" block, 8½" for 12", 10½" for 15" and 12½" for 18", the ruler's half-size lines through round one's points.



10 · Sew the rows, then the block

Sew each row, the side units on top in the middle row, pressing toward the side units so the seams nest. Join the rows with the outer row on top, so you can see where each goose's seams cross, and press toward the middle row. The block measures half an inch more than it will finish.

Background Main