

# ***Spinwheels***

Master half-square triangles

From ***Piecing the Piece O' Cake Way, Revised Second Edition***

By Becky Goldsmith and Linda Jenkins

This book was designed to be a teaching tool. The information on pp. 1–34 includes things that every quilter should know. Please do refer your students to this information and tell them as much as you can in class.

## **Class Description:**

Take charge and be the boss of triangles! This class focuses on making half-square triangles and sewing them together, matching the points perfectly. This class is suitable for any skill level. Beginners should be able to sew together at least four pinwheel blocks. Quilters with more experience could finish all of the half-square triangles and be well on their way to finishing the quilt.

## **Class Length:**

This can be taught as a 1-day class. If you are targeting beginners, it would be good to teach it in two sessions, focusing on accurate cutting in the first class.

## **Class Supply List:**

- Book: ***Piecing the Piece O' Cake Way, Revised Second Edition***
- Fabric, as listed on p. 68
- Rotary cutter, ruler, and mat. Ruler should be 6½" × 24½"
- Sewing machine in good working order
- Matching thread
- Scissors
- Design wall

It's a good idea to make a fabric-choosing date with your students before the day of the class. Beginners especially like to have help with this step. We recommend that fabric be washed and dried before using and that will give students time to do that.

## **Classroom Preparation:**

Each student needs room to cut. Cutting is an important part of this class, and it's hard to do on a tiny mat in a cramped space. They also need room to set up their sewing machine.

Each student needs access to design wall space. This will help to ensure that the half-square triangles are sewn together in the correct orientation. Once the sewing begins, students will need to iron. Two to three students could share an iron.

**Class Agenda:**

1. Teach how to cut strips accurately. Refer to pp. 35–37. Also refer to Using Rotary Tools, pp. 18–21.
2. If the class is moving along well, cut all of the strips described on p. 68. If you have students who are slower, cut fewer light and dark strips. Focus first on the pinwheel blocks.
3. Follow the instructions for Making Larger Half-Square Triangles, p. 62, and What To Do With The Leftovers, p. 63.
4. Follow the instructions to Make The Pinwheel Blocks, pp. 69–70. Refer to Sewing Half-Square Triangles Together, pp. 63–65.
5. Continue making half-square triangles and setting units together as shown on pp. 70–71 as time permits.
6. Discuss how to finish the quilt.