

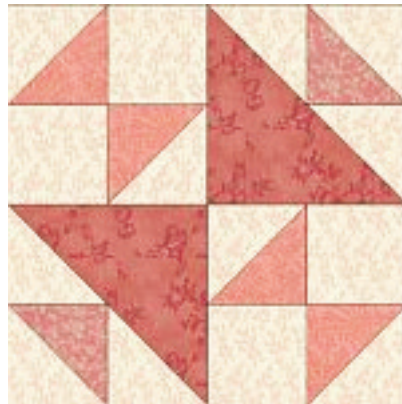


Block Name: Old Maid's Puzzle
(Or Hourglass or School Girl's Puzzle)

Skill level: Beginner (except 4" block)
Cutting method: rotary cutting

Fabrics: 4 colors
or 4 shades of
one color - light,
2 medium and dark

Cutting: use the
chart below for the
size block you need.



This is a traditional block design and may be used by anyone. The instructions, however, are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without permission.

Quantity to cut	4" block	8" block	12" block	16" block
Light color: 3	2" x 2"	3" x 3"	4" x 4"	5" x 5"
8	1.5" x 1.5"	2.5" x 2.5"	3.5" x 3.5"	4.5" x 4.5"
Medium A color: 2	2" x 2"	3" x 3"	4" x 4"	5" x 5"
Medium B color: 1	2" x 2"	3" x 3"	4" x 4"	5" x 5"
Dark color: 1	3" x 3"	5" x 5"	7" x 7"	9" x 9"

Block size refers to finished size.

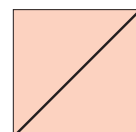
Constructing the Block

This block uses 6 half-square triangle (HST) units. Begin by making the HST's.

Making the Half-Square Triangle Units

Use the medium color squares and the largest light color squares to make these units (2", 3", etc.).

1. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of the light squares.

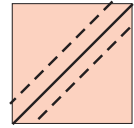




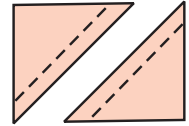
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Making HST's continued

2. Match light squares to the other squares of the same size, right sides together (RST). Sew 1/4" from each side of drawn line.

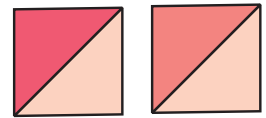


3. Cut the units in half on drawn diagonal line.



4. Press seams toward the medium color.

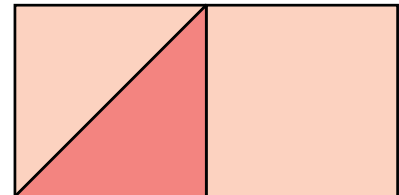
5. Trim each HST to same size as the smaller squares required for your block size: 4" - 1.5", 8" - 2.5", 12" - 3.5", 16" - 4.5".



Make 6 - color combinations will be different.

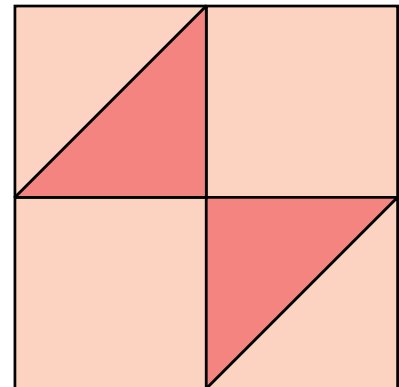
Making the Butterfly Unit

:1. Sew a light square to each HST unit on the medium A color. Press seams toward the light square.



Make 4.

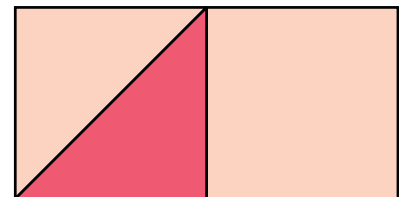
2. Sew the medium A units together to make two 4-patch butterfly units. Press seams either way.



Make 2.

Making the "Bird in the Air" Unit

:1. Sew a light square to each HST unit on the medium B color. Press seams toward the light square.



Make 2.



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Making the "Bird in the Air" Unit, continued

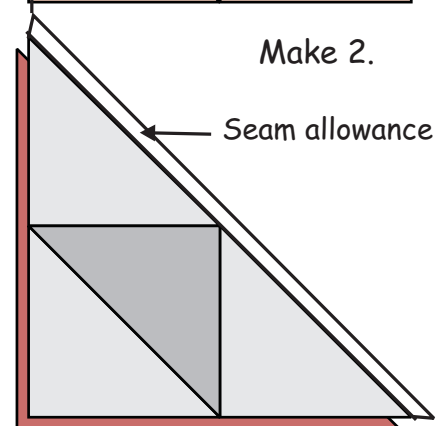
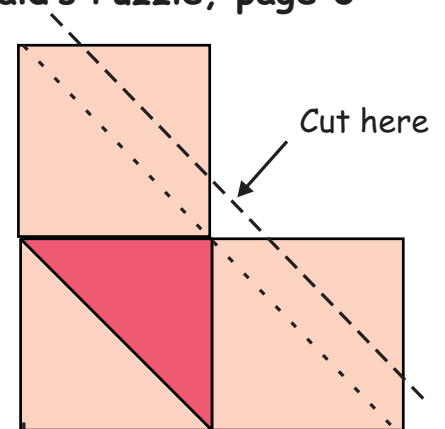
2. Sew a light square to each HST unit on the other side of the medium B color triangle. Press seams toward the light square.

3. Line up the 1/4-inch mark on your ruler (indicated by dotted line on illustration) with the outer corners of the light squares - the point of the medium color triangle should also be at the 1/4-inch mark. Cut off the excess "ears" of the two light squares to make a large triangle unit - on illustration, the dashed line indicates the edge of the ruler where you will cut.

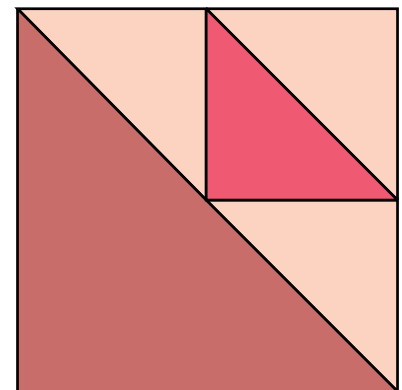
4. Cut the dark color triangle in half diagonally.

5. Place a pieced triangle unit on a dark triangle, right sides together. The dark triangle will be slightly larger than the pieced triangle unit. Align the diagonal edges and let the extra fall on the two straight edges. Sew 1/4-inch from diagonal edge. The point of the little triangle will look best if you stitch a needle's width away from it.

6. Press seam toward the dark triangle. Trim to correct size: 2.5" square for 4" block, 4.5" square for 8" block, 6.5" square for 12" block, 8.5" square for 16" block.



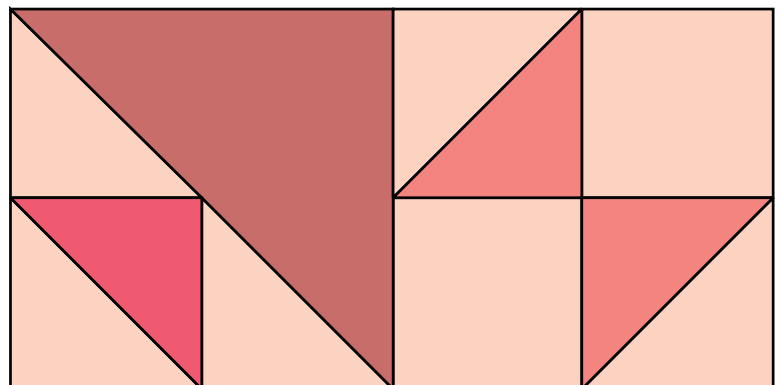
Make 2.



Assembling the Block

1. On a flat surface, lay out the units as you would like them to be in the finished block.

2. Sew a "butterfly" unit to each "bird in the air" unit. Press seams toward the dark triangle.

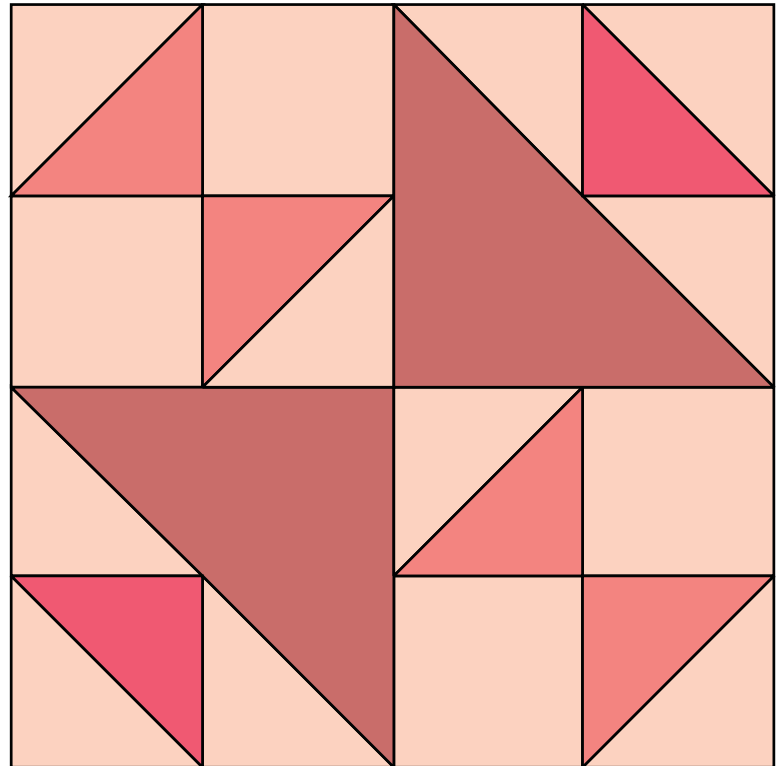




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Assembling the Block, continued

3. Sew the two half units together. Press seam either way. Press entire block and, if needed, trim edges to square it up.



Set with sashing and cornerstones.



Set without sashing.