



# The Whirling Plus

block tutorial

FABRI-QUILT NEW BLOCK BLOG HOP 2015

WWW.AVOCADOQUILTS.COM

## The Whirling Plus

by Josi Heron

This 12.5" finished block was made from 6 fat eights from Fabri-Quilt's [prairie cloth cotton solids](#), as part of the Fabri-Quilt New Block Blog Hop 2015. Fabri-Quilt sponsored the hop and provided the fabric as well!



Watermelon Summer Color Palette

### Watermelon Color Palette\*

Chartreuse, Turquoise, Coral, Aqua, Lapis Blue, White

\*the colors in this tutorial do not accurately match the palette above

### Block Construction:

This block consists of a color for the plus sign of Lapis Blue, two colors for the center pinwheel (Chartreuse and Turquoise), a White background with Aqua and Coral for the top and bottom large triangles. These large triangles will become large pinwheels throughout the complete quilt. I recommend prewashing this fabric in prior to piecing.

### Cutting:

#### Plus sign:

4 Lapis Blue pieces  
2.5" x 4.5"

4 Lapis Blue pieces  
2.5" x 2.5"

#### Center Pinwheel:

1 Chartreuse piece  
2.5" x 5"

3 Turquoise pieces  
2.5" x 5"

#### Background:

4 White pieces  
2.5" x 2.5"

2 White pieces  
3" x 8.5"

2 White pieces  
3" x 12.5"

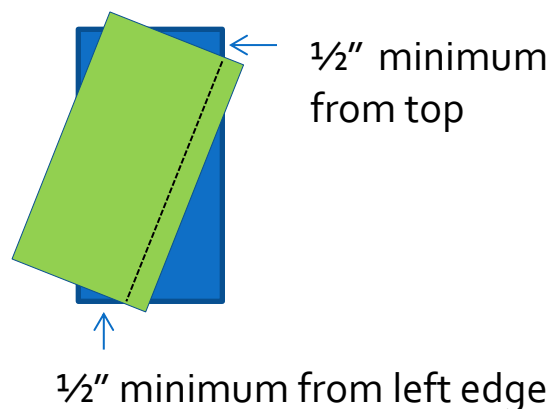
#### Large Triangles:

1 Coral piece 4" x 11"

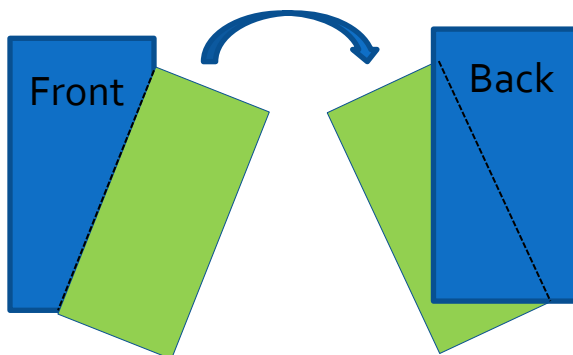
1 Aqua piece 4" x 11"

## Piecing Blocks:

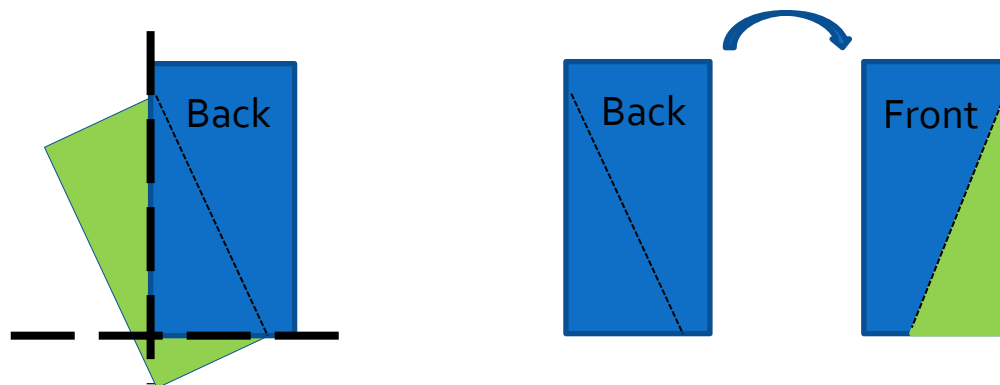
- 1) Begin with one of the lapis blue plus sign 2.5" x 4.5" pieces, and the chartreuse center pinwheel 2.5" x 5" piece. Place the chartreuse piece at an angle on top of the lapis blue piece as show here. Be careful to create an angle that is at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the top and left edges. The intention is to have a wonky pinwheel, so don't worry about a precise angle or measurement. Sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam as show by the dotted line.



- 2) Flip the center pinwheel piece and press towards the chartreuse. Your piece should look like this:

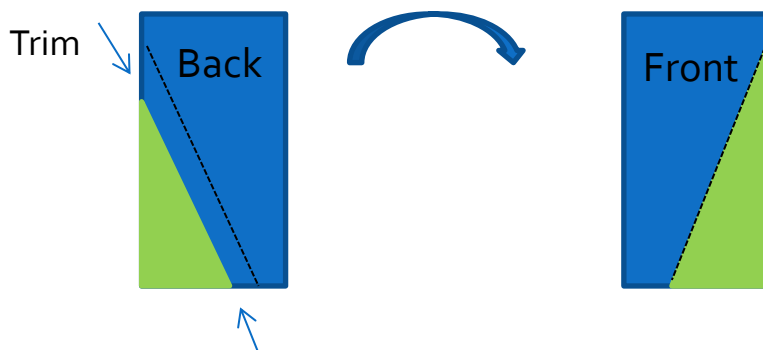


- 3) Next, from the back trim the pinwheel piece to the same size as the original background piece. The cutting lines are shown here with the thick dotted line.

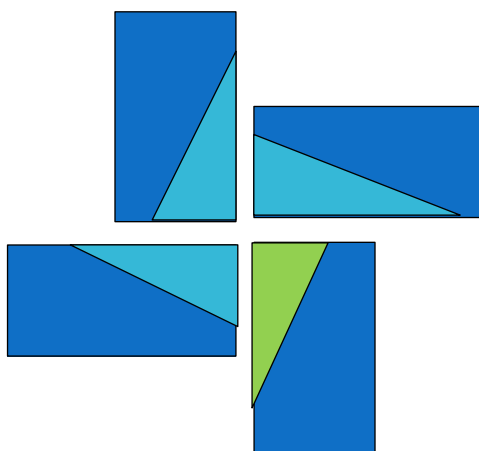


Cut along the blue edges

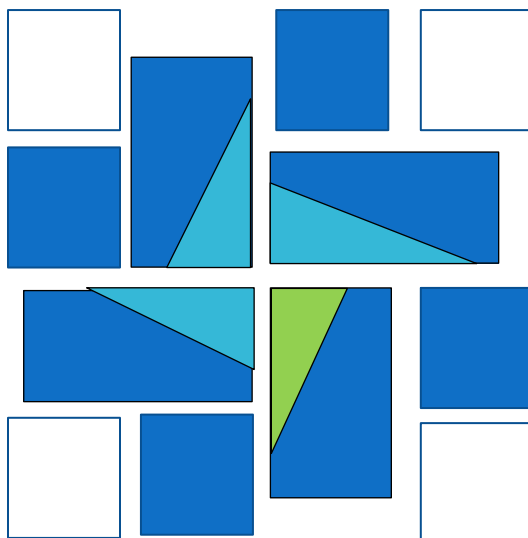
- 4) Now trim the excess lapis blue background piece  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from original seam. Take care to trim the intended color, leaving a chartreuse pinwheel blade with a lapis blue background.



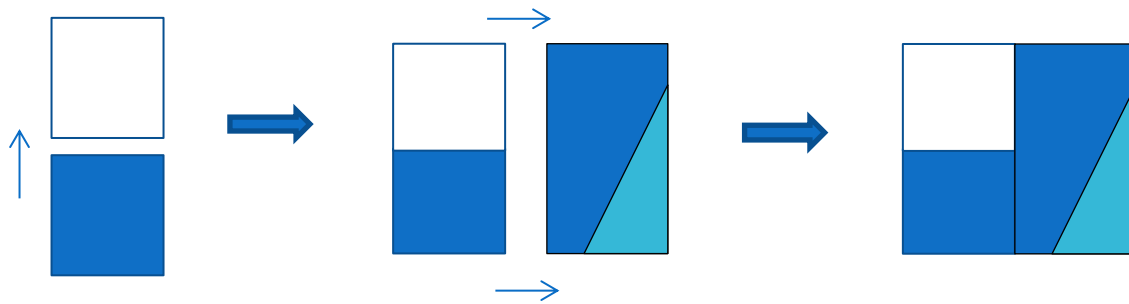
- 5) Make three more pinwheel blades switching to the turquoise 2.5" x 5" pieces. You will end up with four pieces like this to complete the center pinwheel. The pinwheel is intended to be wonky, so vary the angles to make narrow and wide pinwheel blades.
- 6) Arrange the pinwheel blades as shown below:



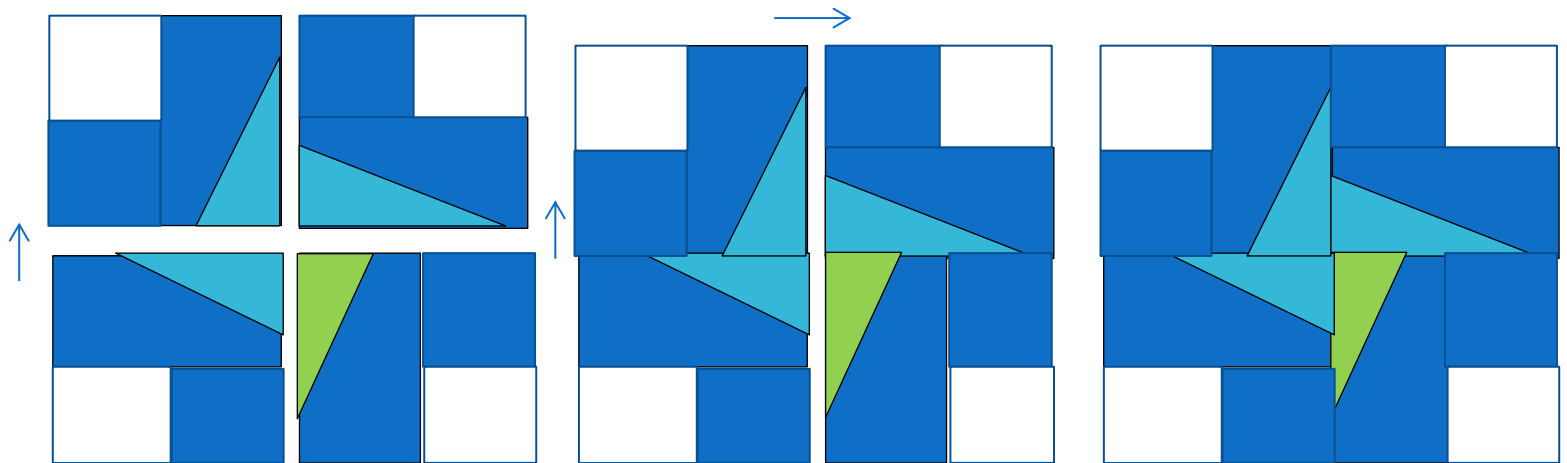
- 7) Add the 4 lapis blue and 4 white 2.5" squares to this arrangement as shown below:



- 8) Sew together a lapis square and a white square, press open. Attach this piece to the outside of a pinwheel blade rectangle as shown below:

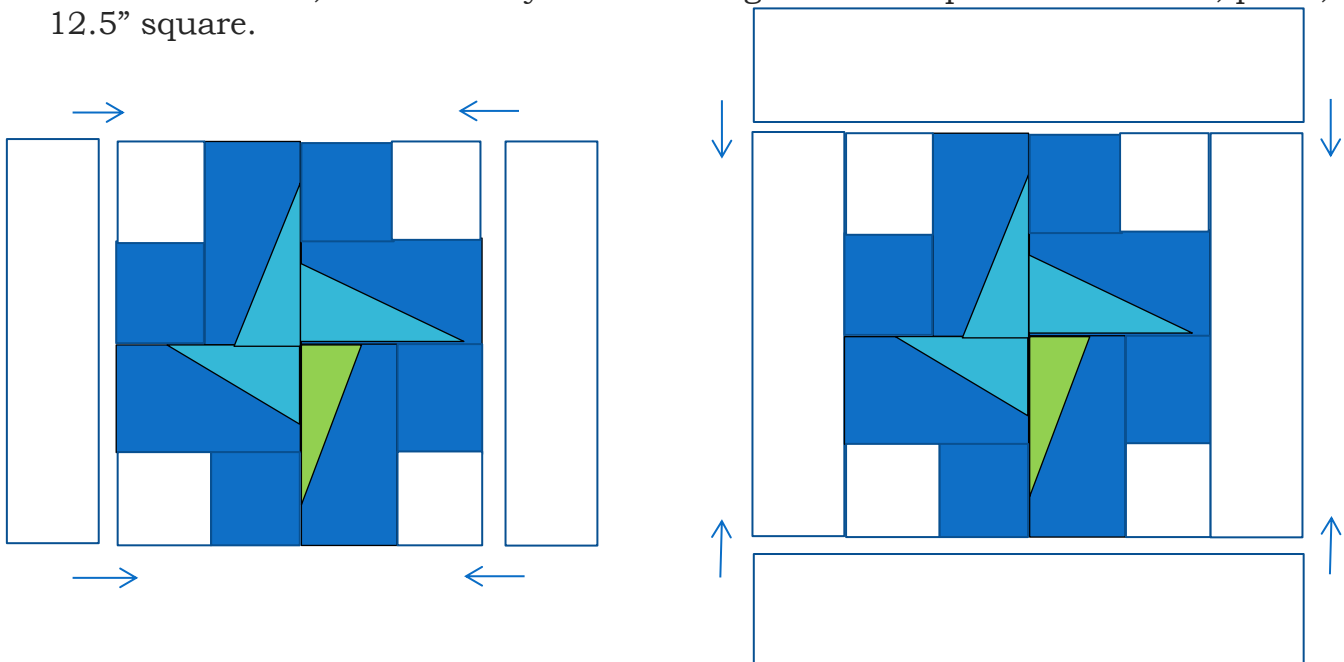


- 9) Continue with the other three blades until you have four complete blocks, pressing seams open. Sew the blocks together, first the left pieces together, and right pieces together, and then the two sides together as shown:



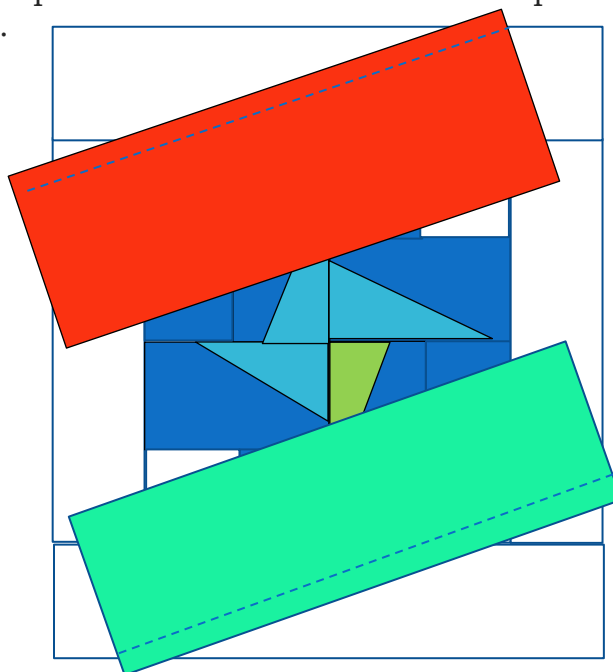
- 10) At this point, square up your plus sign block, to  $8\frac{1}{4}$ ".

- 11) Sew the two white  $3" \times 8.5"$  rectangles on to either side of the block, press, trim to  $8\frac{1}{4}" \times 12.5"$ . Next, sew the  $3"$  by  $12.5"$  rectangles to the top and the bottom, press, trim  $12.5"$  square.

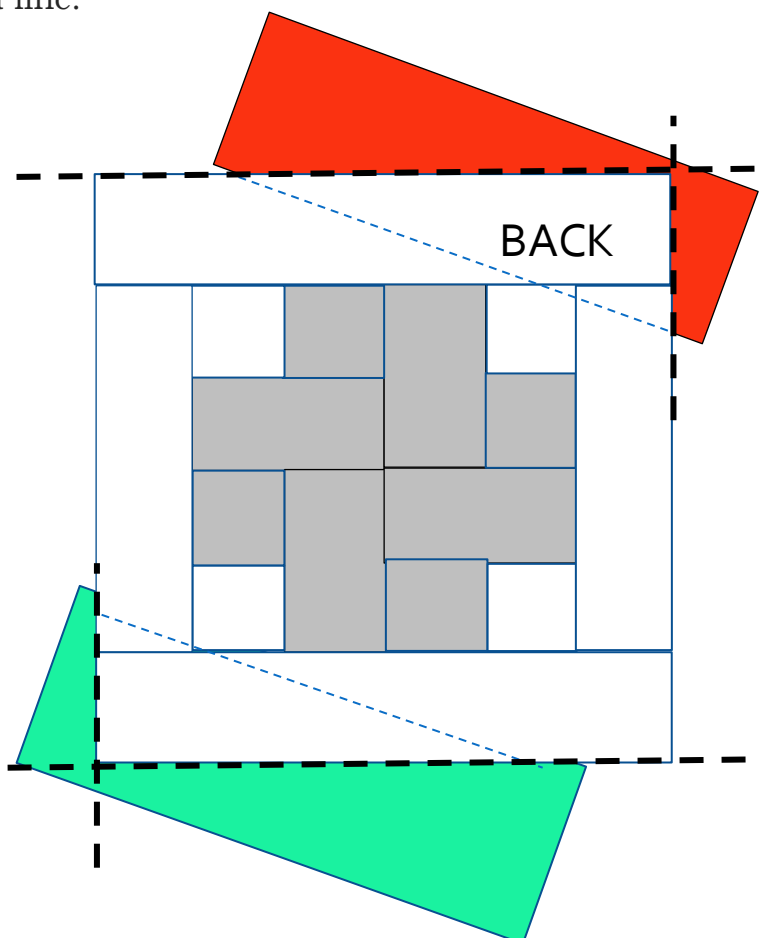


- 12) Add the large triangles in the coral and aqua colors with the same technique that we used for the smaller pinwheel blades.

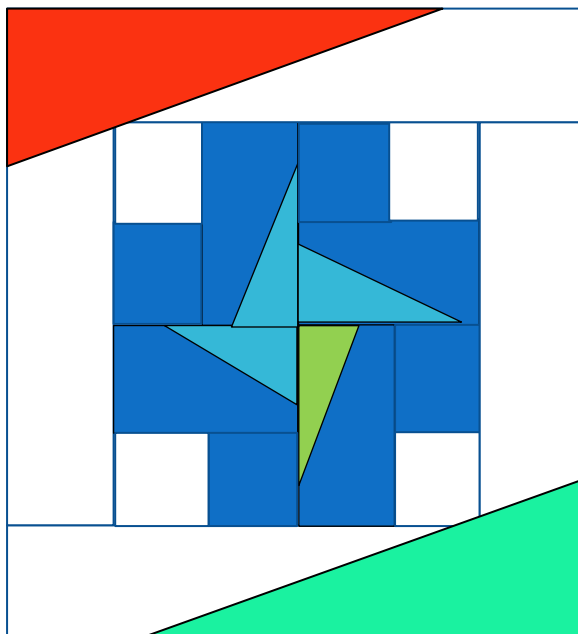
Lay the coral fabric on the top left corner of the block at an angle. Vary angle slope as desired. Sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Repeat with the aqua fabric on the bottom right. Flip and press both of these rectangles.



- 13) Turn the block over to the backside, trim the excess off of the coral and aqua fabric to make a 12.5" x 12.5" block. Cutting along the edges as shown here with the dark black dotted line.



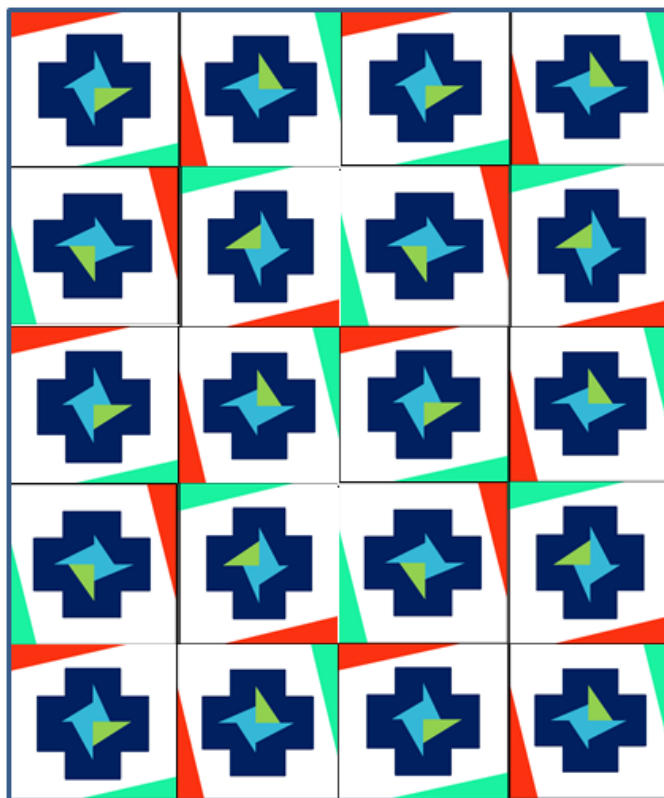
- 14) Flip the block to the right side. Lift the colored pinwheel blades and trim the extra white background fabric underneath to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the seam.



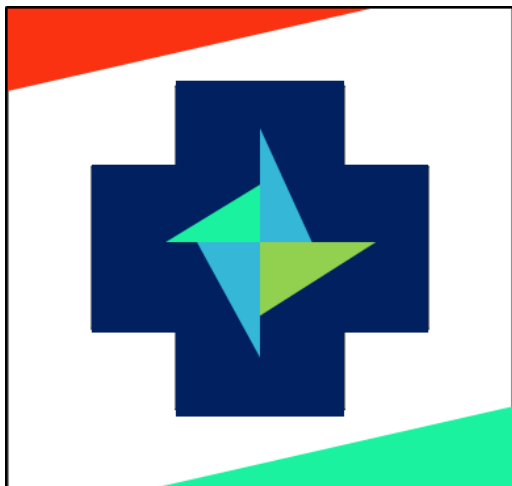
- 15) Trim block to 12.5" x 12.5". Congratulations on your block!!

## Quilt Design:

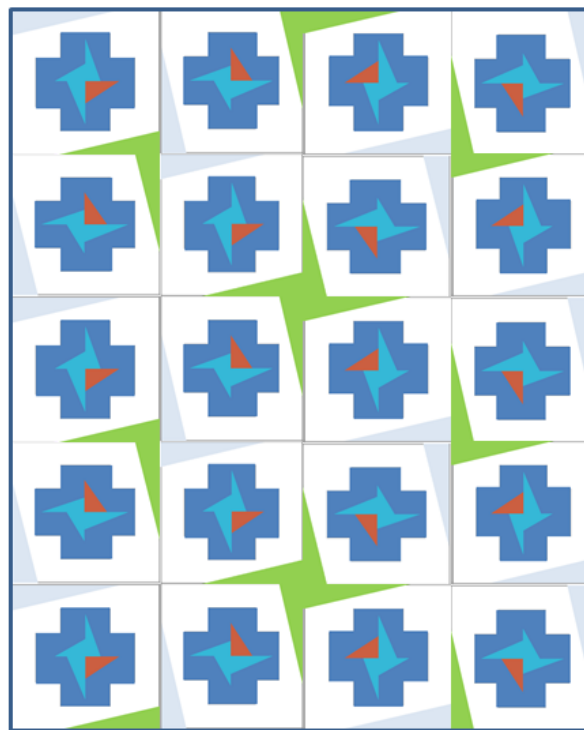
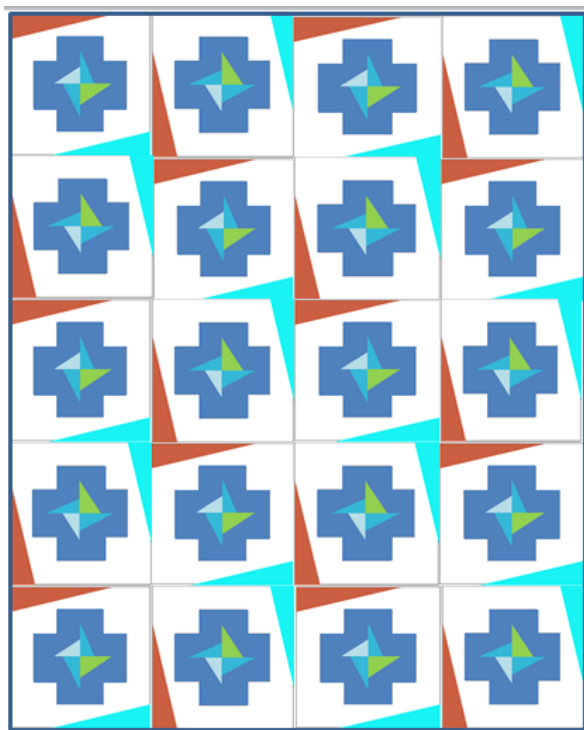
The Whirling Plus block is extremely versatile in color and pattern. It is stunning as a stand-alone block, yet when combined in a quilt there are many options. With the color scheme and placement used above a quilt with alternating blocks would look like this:



A fun option would be to vary the pinwheels colors like this:



For quilts that looks like this:



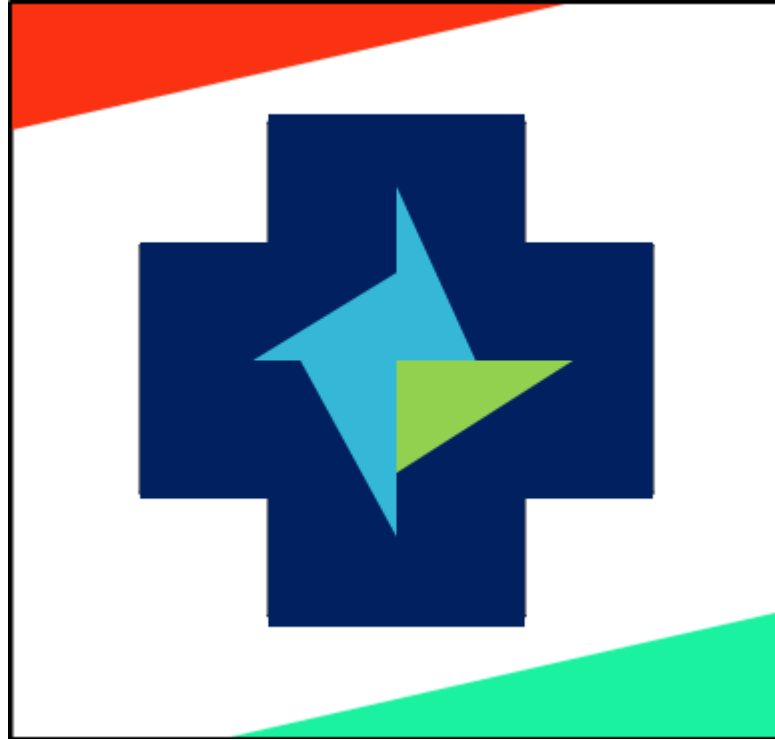
Good luck and happy sewing. If you make this pattern or your own version of it, I would love to see it, link up with me at [AvocadoQuilts.com](http://AvocadoQuilts.com). Always feel free to contact me anytime.

A special thanks to Fabri-Quilt for the donation of the amazing fabric, and to the hosts of the Fabri-Quilt New Block Blog Hop 2015, Yvonne @[QuiltingJetgirl](https://www.instagram.com/QuiltingJetgirl), Cheryl @[MeadowMistDesigns](https://www.instagram.com/MeadowMistDesigns), Stephanie @[LateNightQuilter](https://www.instagram.com/LateNightQuilter), and Terri Ann @[ChildlikeFascination](https://www.instagram.com/ChildlikeFascination)!

Cheers!

Josi

The  
Whirling  
Plus  
block  
tutorial



Josi Heron  
[www.avocadoquilts.com](http://www.avocadoquilts.com)