

Heading South A Flying Geese Quilt

Egyptian pyramids, Mayan temples and myriad European churches feature the iconic triangle. This ancient shape was quickly adopted by very early quilt makers as "flying geese": a triple triangle unit comprising a large center triangle with a background triangle on each side. These units initially were stacked vertically in bars or strip sets and were made in the late 1700s and seen frequently in the 1830s and 1840s.

This setting was a perfect way to showcase expensive imported fabrics like fancy floral chintz or a blue bird toile printed in England in 1790. The fabric depicts a pair of ducks so the quilt reads across: duck, duck, goose (a quilting sense of humor is not a new thing).

The simple flying geese three-triangle unit soon migrated into an attractive way to sash other pieced blocks or to add an interesting framing border around a quilt. From there, the geese evolved into pieced blocks; most commonly with four groups of geese flying in X or cross formations or even chasing around a square.



Pattern by Material Girl Quilts