



Dutchman Puzzle

The Dutchman’s Puzzle quilt block is a classic design that dates back to the late 1800s, making it one of the older traditional block patterns still widely used today. Its history is tied to early American patchwork quilting traditions and reflects both practical and symbolic aspects of life in that era.

Origins and Meaning

- The block’s name likely comes from American settlers of Dutch heritage or from admiration for the Dutch sailing tradition. The block resembles spinning windmill blades or sails, evoking both motion and the famous Dutch windmills. Early versions appeared under alternate titles such as *Spinning Windmill* or *Flying Dutchman*.

Pattern used with permission from Nancy’s Notions

<https://nancysnotions.com/category/quilting-101/free-quilt-blocks/>

Fabric Requirements	
Light/White	• (8) 3 ½” x 6 ½” rectangles “A”
Medium Color	• (16) 3 ½”x 3 ½” squares “B”
• Use any scrappy or solid for the medium color and white for the rectangles	

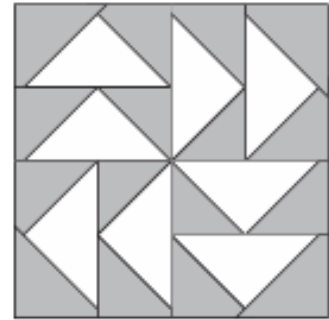
Sewing tips from Sandy and Sue (BOTM table chairs):

- Use scant ¼” seams
- Press to the dark side when making flying geese rectangles
- Size up blocks/rectangles after each step

Nancy's Notions

Free Quilt Block Pattern

Block 12: Dutchman Puzzle



Use one light and one medium fabric.

Instructions:

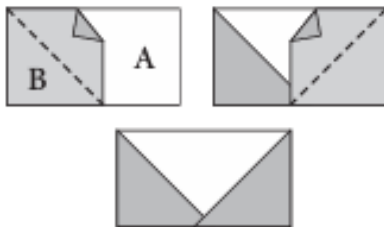
Read instructions before beginning the project. All seam allowances are 1/4" unless otherwise stated.

1. Cut fabrics:

- Eight rectangles 3 1/2" x 6 1/2" (light) – A
- Sixteen squares 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" (medium) - B

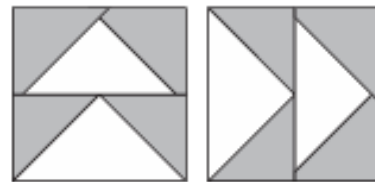
2. Create flying geese blocks:

- Draw a diagonal line, corner to corner, on the wrong side of two medium B squares. Layer one B square on one end of one light A rectangle, right sides together; pin in place. Stitch following the diagonal line across B square. Trim corner to a 1/4" seam allowance and press toward A. Repeat for opposite end of A, as shown below. Make eight flying geese blocks.



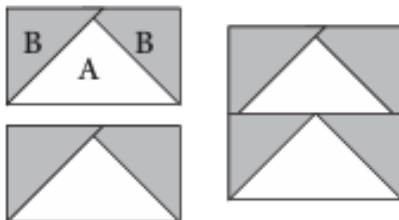
4. Create block:

- Layout flying geese squares, as shown. Sew into rows; press each row in opposite direction. Sew rows together (press seams open) to create the Dutchman Puzzle block measuring 12 1/2" square.



3. Create flying geese square:

- Sew two flying geese together; press seam to one side. Make four flying geese squares.



June 2026: Dutchman Puzzle

Due: August Meeting
12 ½" square unfinished