

Block Unit A: The Flying Geese Block Units

JANUARY 31, 2022FEBRUARY 1, 2022 / VANESSA VANTREASE

The Aunt Daisy's Quilt is made with block units and each month I will release a new block unit with instructions. The first block unit is Block Unit A. We will be making this quilt sewing ALL of the units required for the whole quilt and the number of units you make will depend on the finished quilt size you have chosen. Please refer to the previous post or the Facebook Page: Aunt Daisy's Quilt Along for the Sizes and Yardage charts. Please use the Facebook Page to ask questions and post pictures of your progress. Please remember quilters that we are all in different stages of learning from, "This is my very first quilt." to "I've been quilting for decades." But I'm a firm believer that there is no perfect, right or wrong way to make a quilt, it's whatever works for you and makes the most sense to you as long as you get the accurate size required. Let's be kind and helpful with each other!

So, I've probably chosen the hardest unit to kick off this quilt along. Why? I've chosen the blocks in order from using the largest pieces of material to the smallest and if you choose to use Method 1, these blocks begin with the largest fabric squares! In this Block Unit A, I've actually made directions for five different methods. There are so very many ways to make the Flying Geese Blocks, everything from Paper Piecing to specialty rulers from dozens of companies. If you have a ruler that works for you, use it. If you have a square up ruler that works great, use it. In the past, I have used the flying geese rulers from different companies, from European quilting magazines, from Quilt in a Day (my favorite) and the Accuquilt dies and they all work well and accurately. I'm going to demonstrate how to make the Flying Geese units without specialty rulers so that everyone may join in on the fun without the expense of specialty rulers. Please feel free to experiment and try some of the different methods and find the one that gives you the best results or use your own method/rulers.

*****PLEASE NOTE: Method 1 will always give you all of the cutting directions. For the alternative methods I have not made the cutting charts, it's mainly showing you how to make the blocks. I'll give the directions for one block but you will need to cut the number required. The cutting charts TELL YOU HOW MANY BLOCKS YOU NEED FOR EACH SIZE, but the cutting charts listing the**

size of strips and number of strips are ONLY for Method 1. I'll give you tips on what you need to cut but I have not had time to create cutting charts for all of the methods listed below.

Method 1 is my favorite because I get the most accurate blocks, but it does take more time trimming the blocks down to the appropriate size. Pro: Accurate blocks. Con: More time trimming blocks and a little waste of fabric.

Method 2 is a good way to make blocks and is quick, it is the Folded Corners Method. Pro: Pretty accurate blocks without all of the trimming. Con: There is wasted fabrics with the folded corner method so if I chose this method, I'd sew another seam and make small half square triangles (HST) with the waste to use in another project.

Method 3 is another favorite method of mine, it is the Traditional Method. Pro: No waste, quick to sew. Con: You must be careful to not pull on the fabric because you will be sewing on the bias.

Method 4 is probably one of the most popular methods used by quilters today; my friend Debbie uses this method; she loves it and gets extremely accurate blocks; I don't use this method because I always seem to get distorted blocks. Pro: No waste and it's a quick method that produces 4 geese blocks at once. Con: Accuracy is required to get the perfect size.

Method 5 is probably the easiest but my least favorite. This method uses half square triangles (HST). I simply do not like the seam up the middle of the center triangle. I make these starting with oversized squares and trim down to the correct size for accuracy. Pro: Easy and accurate. Con: Trimming and a center seam on the flying geese that adds extra bulk.

METHOD 1: Please note: First I will show you how to make one single block unit. The directions for cutting out all of units required for your quilt size are listed in the chart below. I recommend that before you cut out the blocks for an entire project that you cut enough for one block unit, sew it together and see if you are getting an accurate block and if you like the method.

Block Unit A – Flying Geese block unit 4 ½" x 4 ½" unfinished. (4" x 4" Finished size)

BC=Background color – MC=Main color

For every two Flying Geese Blocks – Unit A – Method 1 you will need the following:

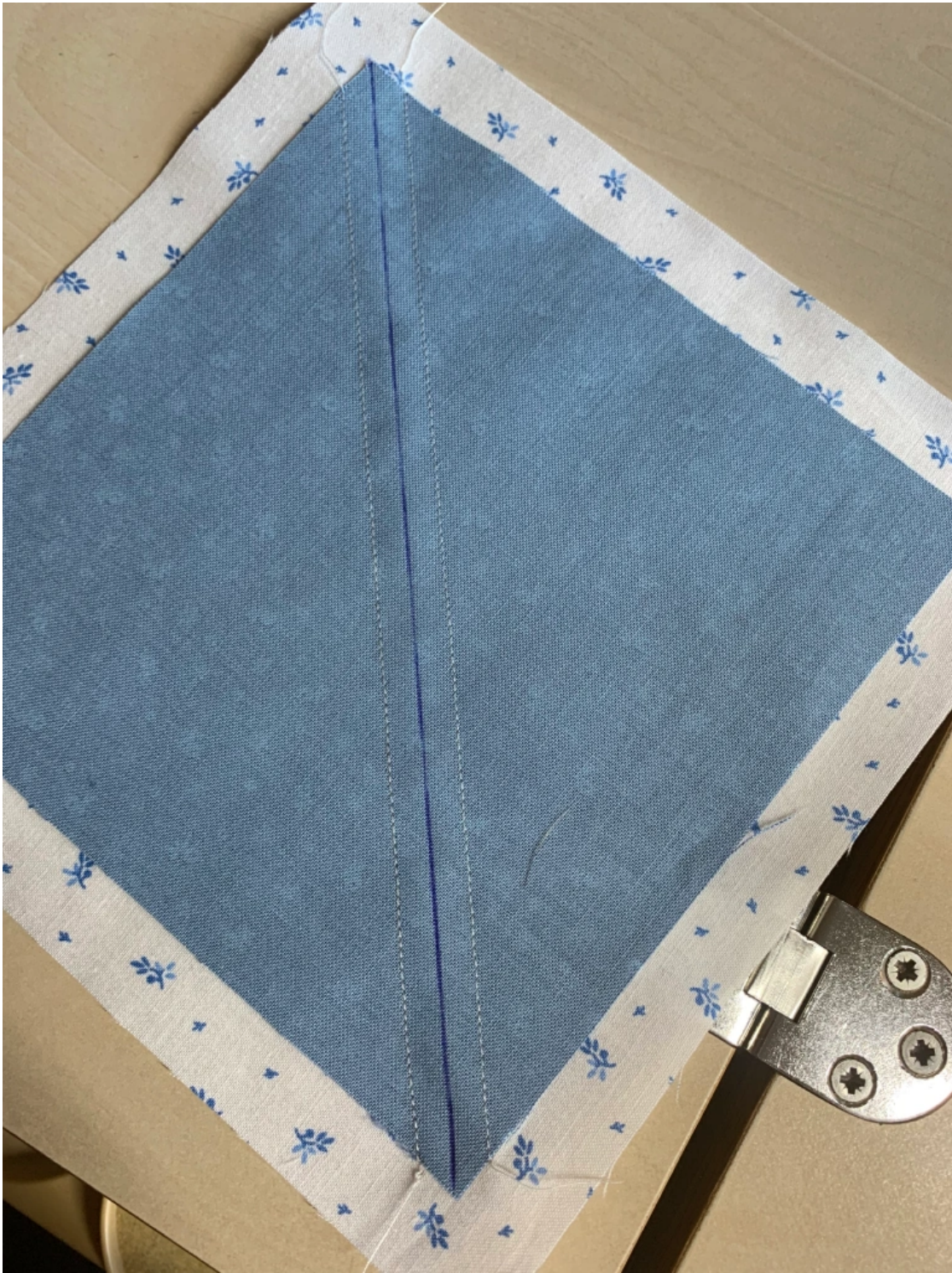
MC: Cut 1: 5 ¾" x 5 ¾" square

BC: Cut 1: 7" x 7" square

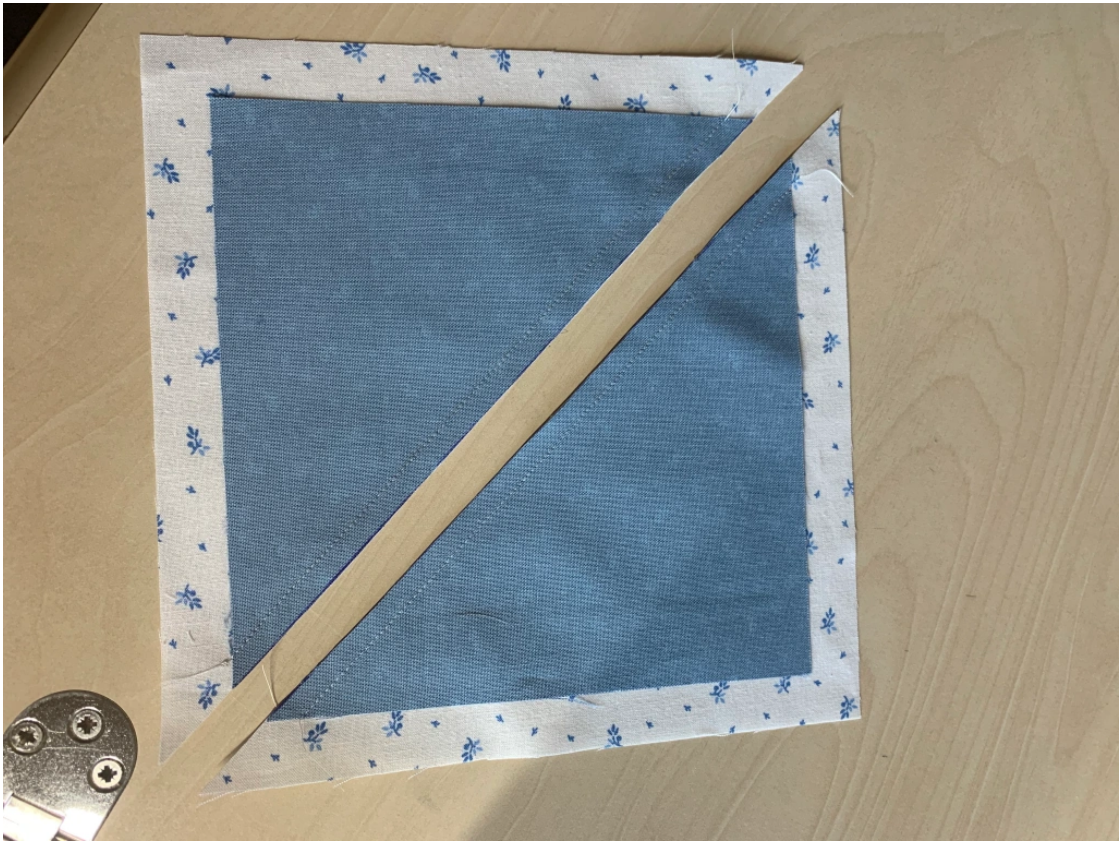
Directions: Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of the MC square. Center this square on the background square with right sides together.



Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the drawn line on each side.



Cut on the Drawn line and press toward background.





Spin one of the squares around and layer these back on top of each other with rights sides together. It will look strange as the center lines won't match; you are matching the unsewn corners as well as possible.



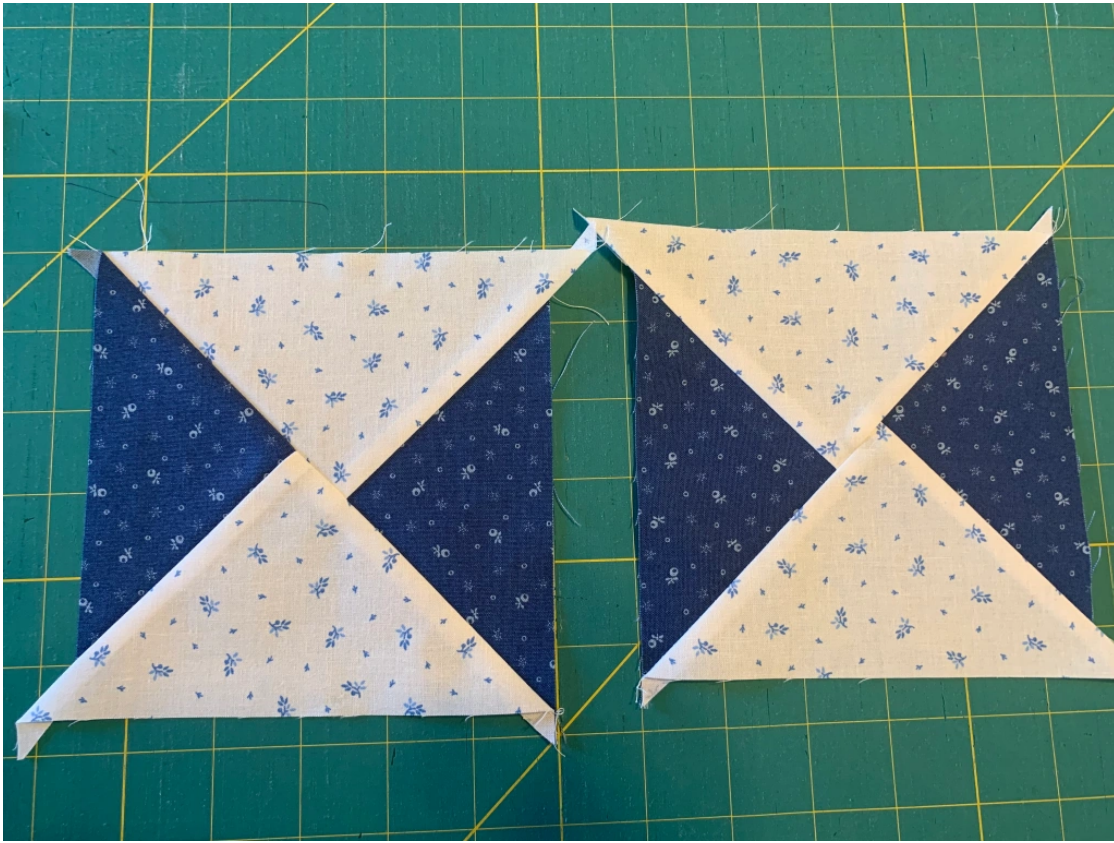
Now draw a line from the corner that doesn't have a seam to the opposite corner as shown below.



Again, stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the drawn line on each side. Cut on drawn line. Press toward one side.

It will look like the picture below. One section of the seam is pressed toward the MC, after you trim you will be able to press this small seam toward the BC.



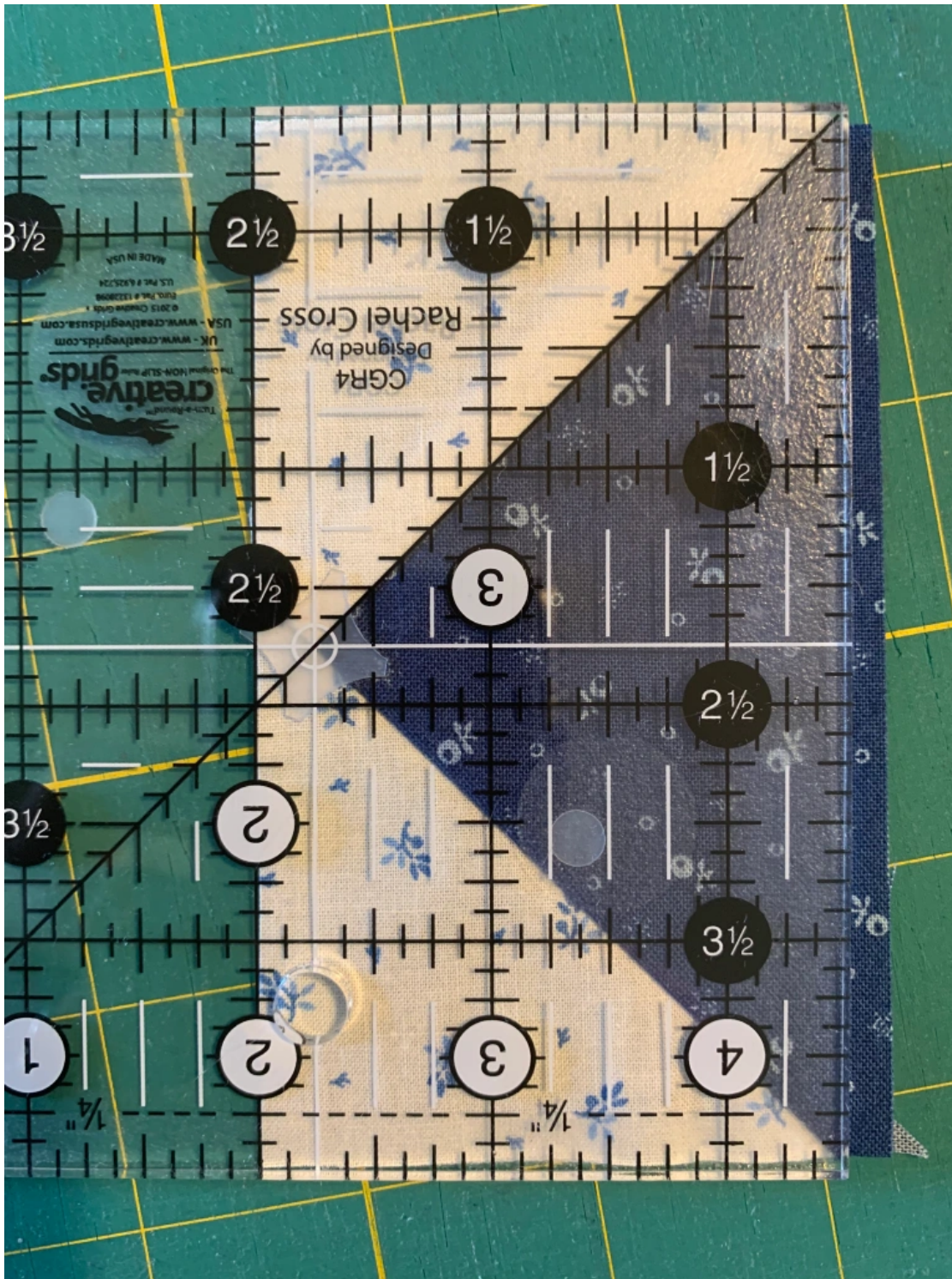


You will end up with two shapes like picture above.

Time to trim. I like to use a 4 1/2" square ruler with the diagonal lines marked on it for this part but you can use any ruler. I start at the point of the MC triangle, placing the point of the triangle on the 1/4" line. Trim the top.



If it helps you can put tape or post it notes on the lines you need to line up as in the picture below. I like to put the post it note paper just beyond the line I need to use so I can still see the line.



Then I trim the sides to $4 \frac{1}{2}$ " wide, centering the point on the $2 \frac{1}{4}$ " mark. You should end up with two units that are $2 \frac{1}{2}$ " x $4 \frac{1}{2}$ ".



Sew the two units together to make the double flying geese unit.

Make sure you sew just to the right of the intersecting stitch lines so you don't lose your points on the tip of the flying geese.



Repeat with the second set. You will have two complete flying geese units.



CUTTING DIRECTIONS:

King Size Quilt: Required 128 double flying geese units: 4 ½" x 4 ½" unfinished

MC: Cut 10 strips 5 ¾" x WOF – sub cut into 64: 5 ¾" x 5 ¾" squares.

BC: Cut 13 strips 7" x WOF – sub cut into 64: 7" x 7" squares.

Queen Size Quilt: Required 96 double flying geese units: 4 ½" x 4 ½" unfinished

MC: Cut 7 strips 5 3/4" x WOF – sub cut into 48: 5 3/4" x 5 3/4" squares.

BC: Cut 10 strips 7" x WOF – sub cut into 48: 7" x 7" squares

Double Size Quilt: Required 72 double flying geese units: 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" unfinished

MC: Cut 6 strips 5 3/4" x WOF – sub cut into 36: 5 3/4" x 5 3/4" squares.

BC: Cut 6 strips 7" x WOF – sub cut into 36: 7" x 7" squares

Twin Size Quilt: Required 48 double flying geese units: 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" unfinished

MC: Cut 4 strips 5 3/4" x WOF – sub cut into 24: 5 3/4" x 5 3/4" squares.

BC: Cut 4 strips 7" x WOF – sub cut into 24: 7" x 7" squares

Lap Size Quilt: Required 32 double flying geese units: 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" unfinished

MC: Cut 4 strips 5 3/4" x WOF – sub cut into 16: 5 3/4" x 5 3/4" squares.

BC: Cut 3 strips 7" x WOF – sub cut into 16: 7" x 7" squares

Pillow Front or Table Topper: Required 8 double flying geese units: 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" unfinished

MC: Cut 1 strips 5 3/4" x WOF – sub cut into 4: 5 3/4" x 5 3/4" squares.

BC: Cut 1 strips 7" x WOF – sub cut into 4: 7" x 7" squares

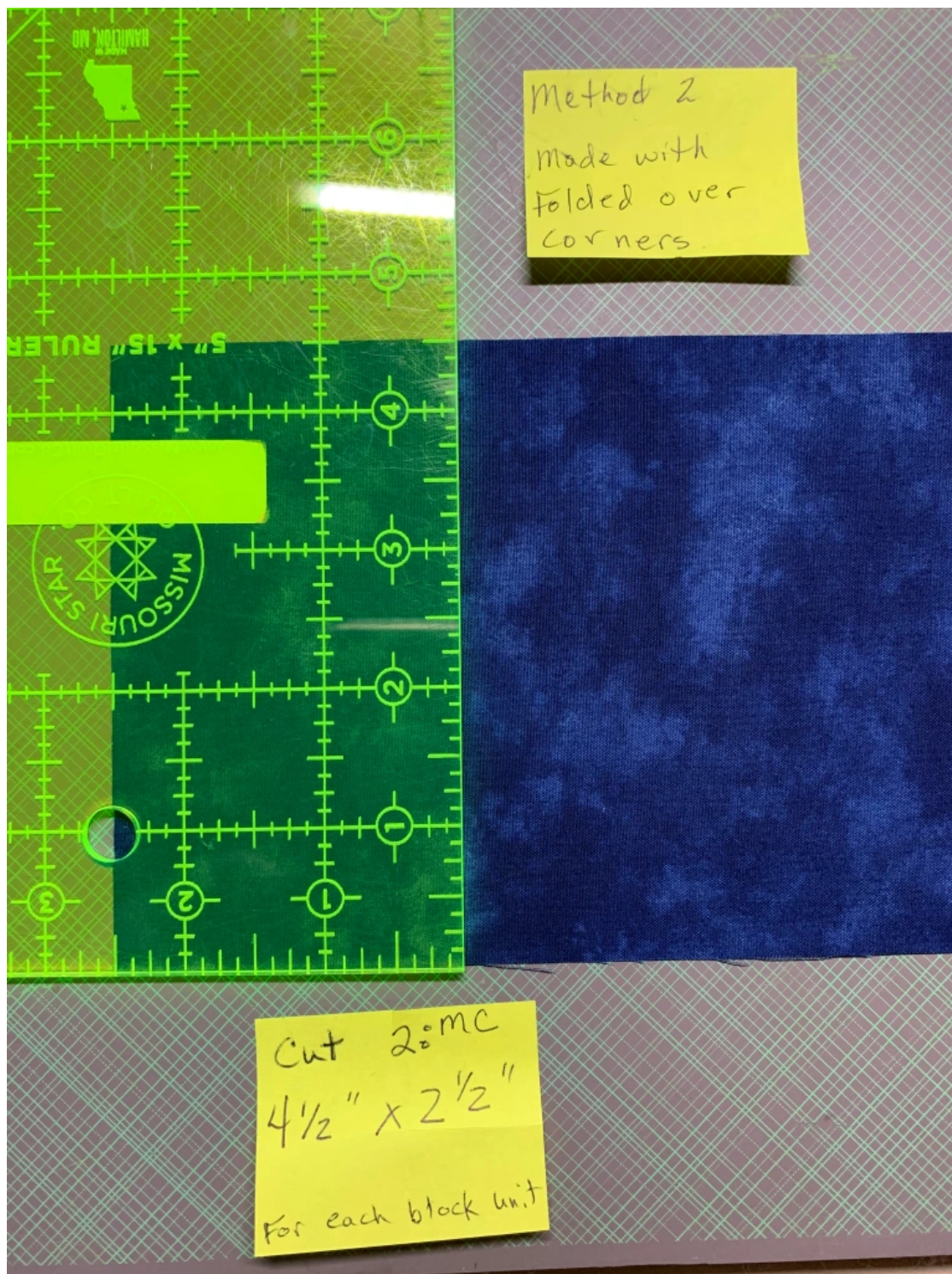
Method 2 – Block Unit A, Fold-over method. 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" unfinished. (4" x 4" Finished size)

This method uses rectangles and blocks.

For each block:

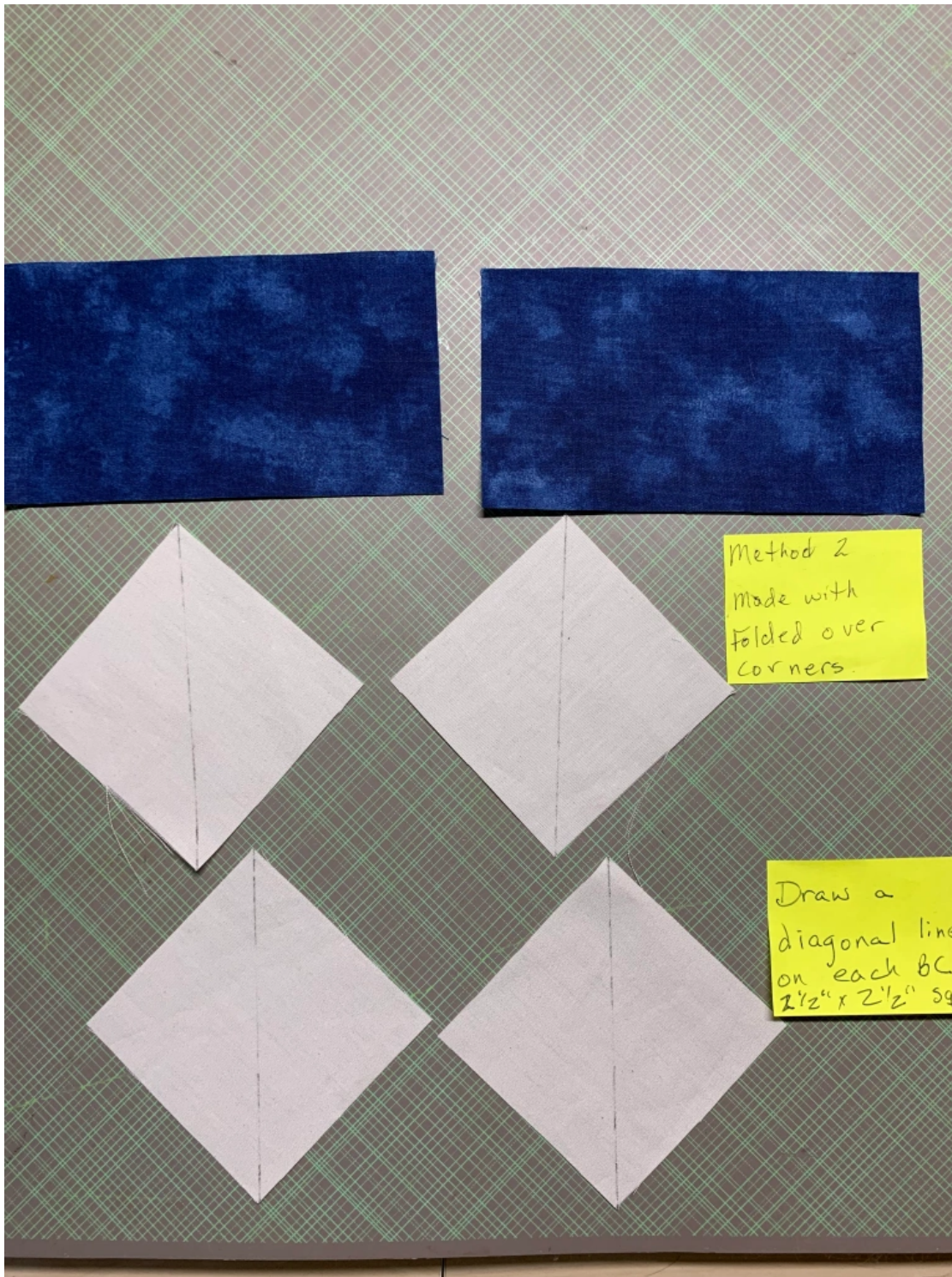
MC: Cut 2: 4 1/2" x 2 1/2" rectangles.

BC: Cut 4: $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares.



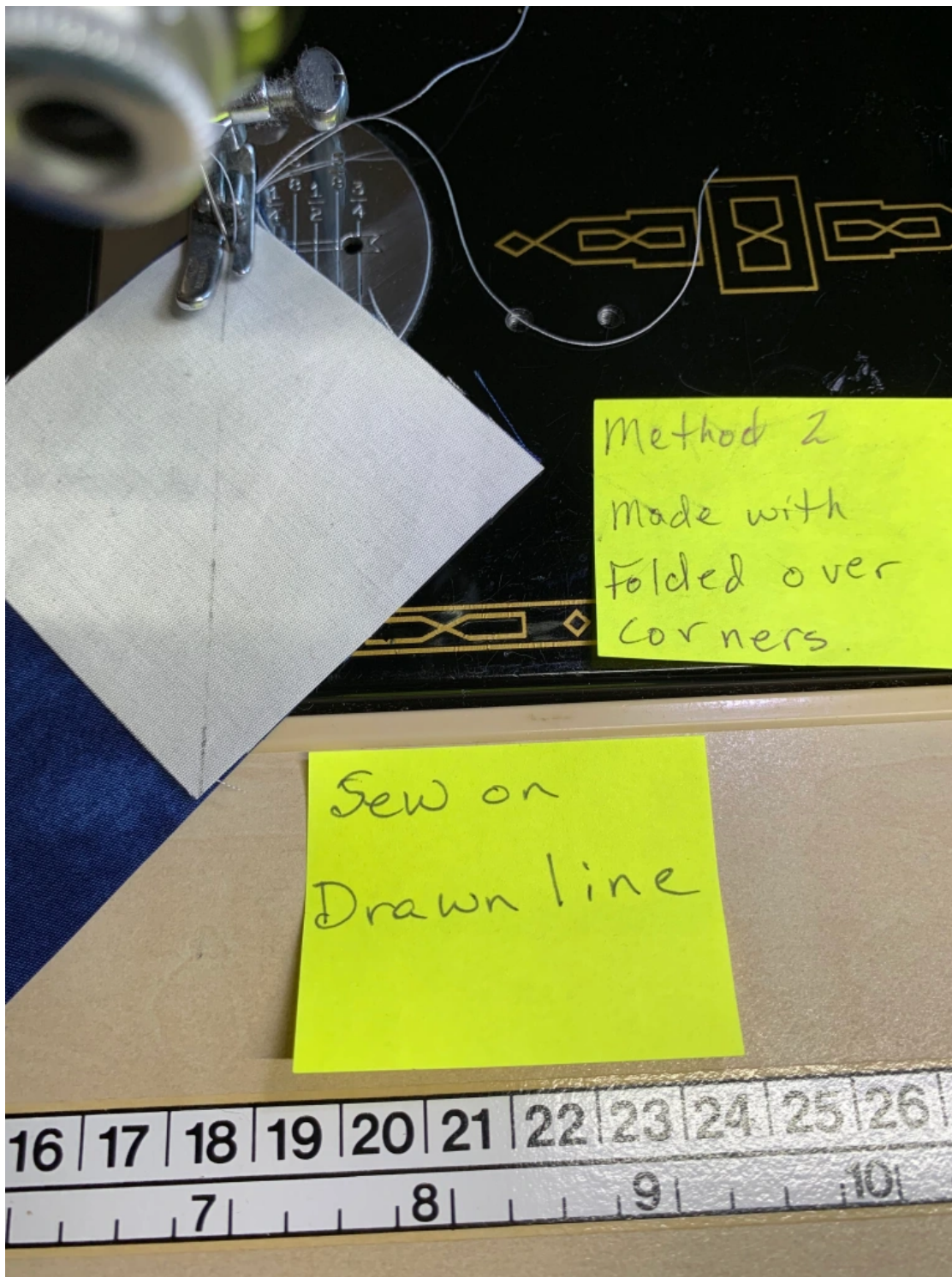
Method 2
Made with
folded over
corners.

Cut 4 ~~BC~~
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ " \times $2\frac{1}{2}$ "
for each unit.

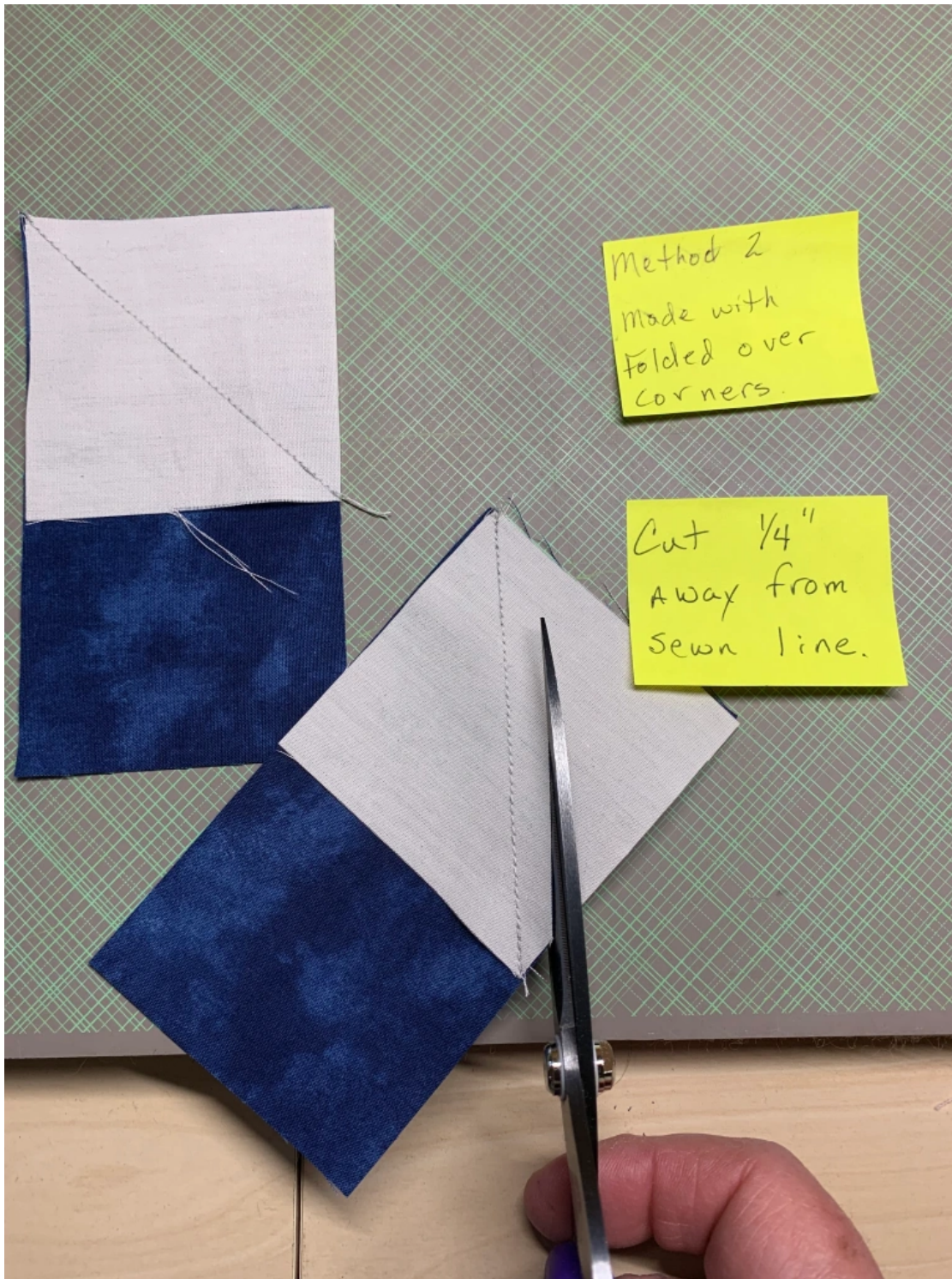


Draw a diagonal line on each BC square as shown above.

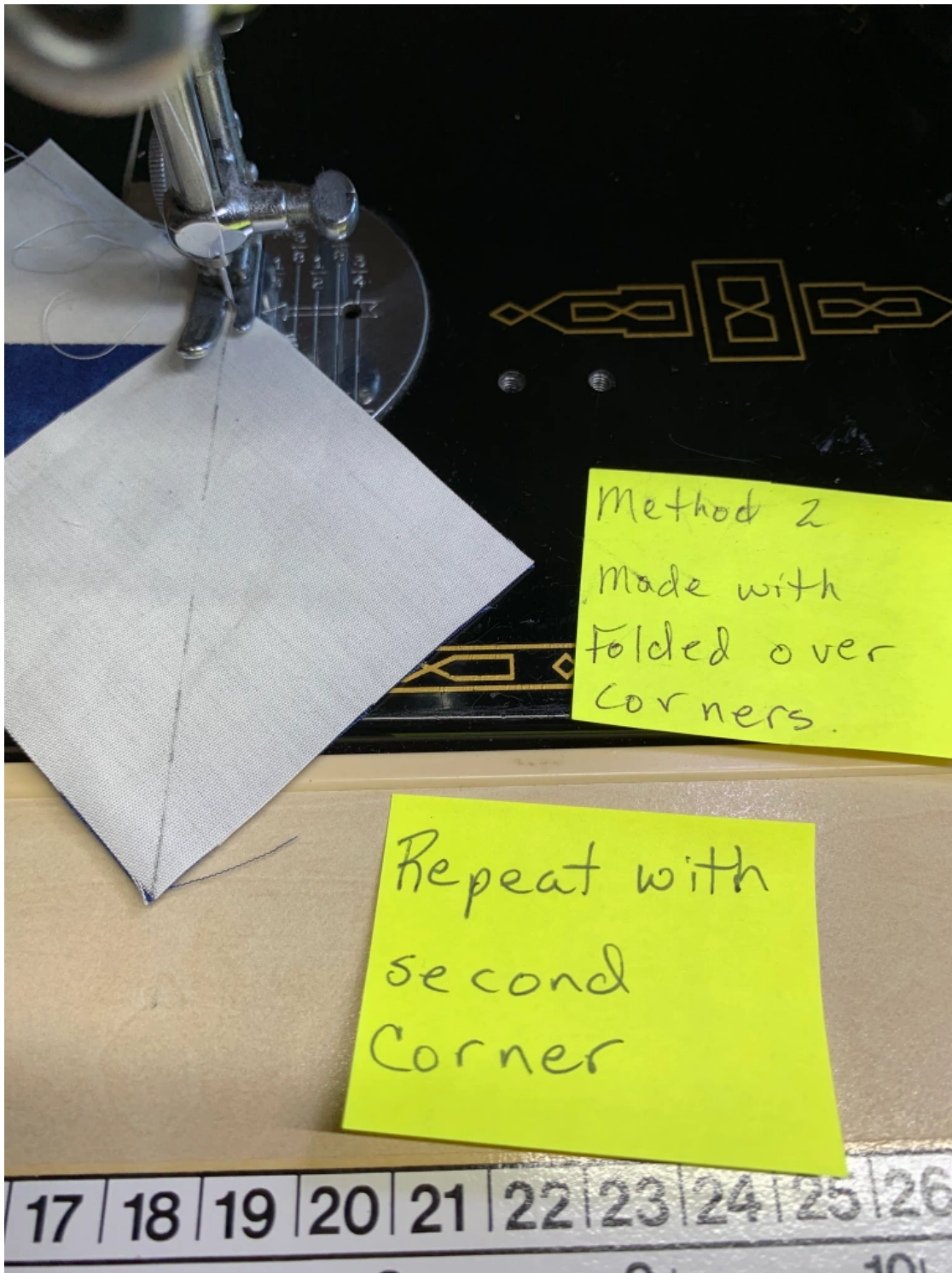
Lay one white square on the side of one rectangle and sew on the drawn line.



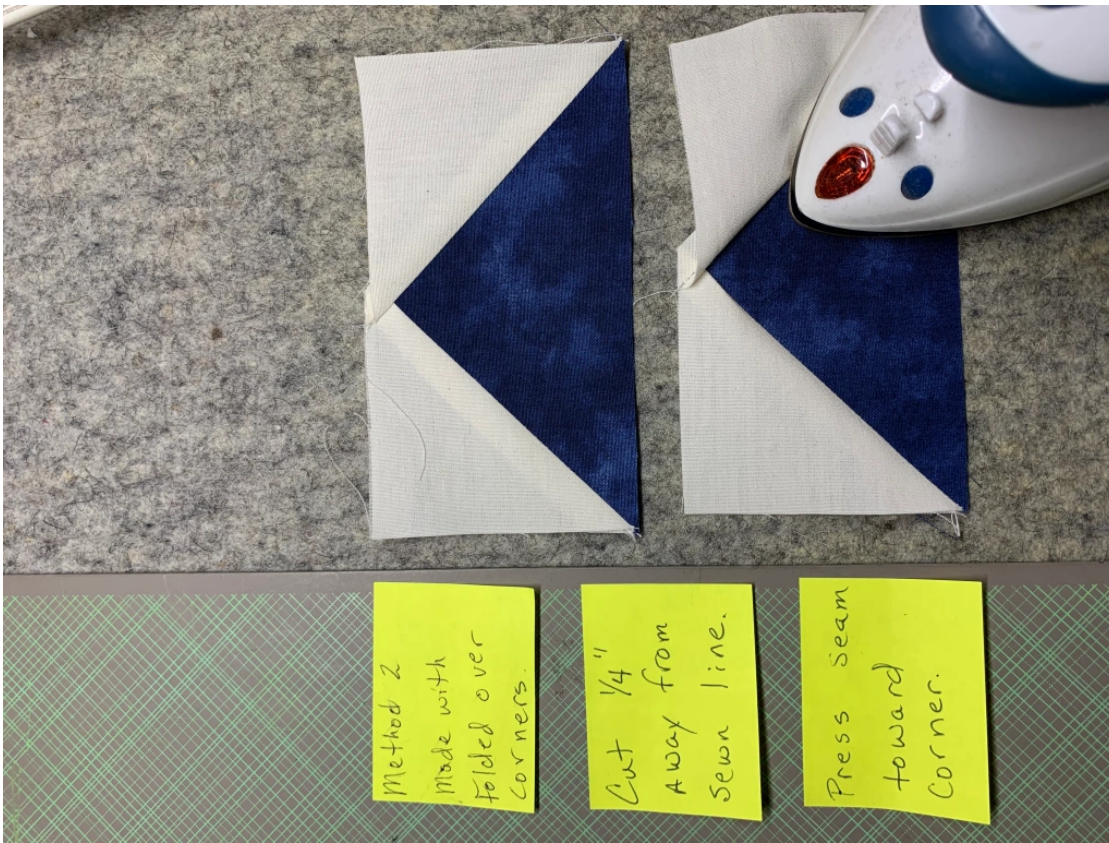
Next trim 1/4" away from the drawn line and press toward the BC.



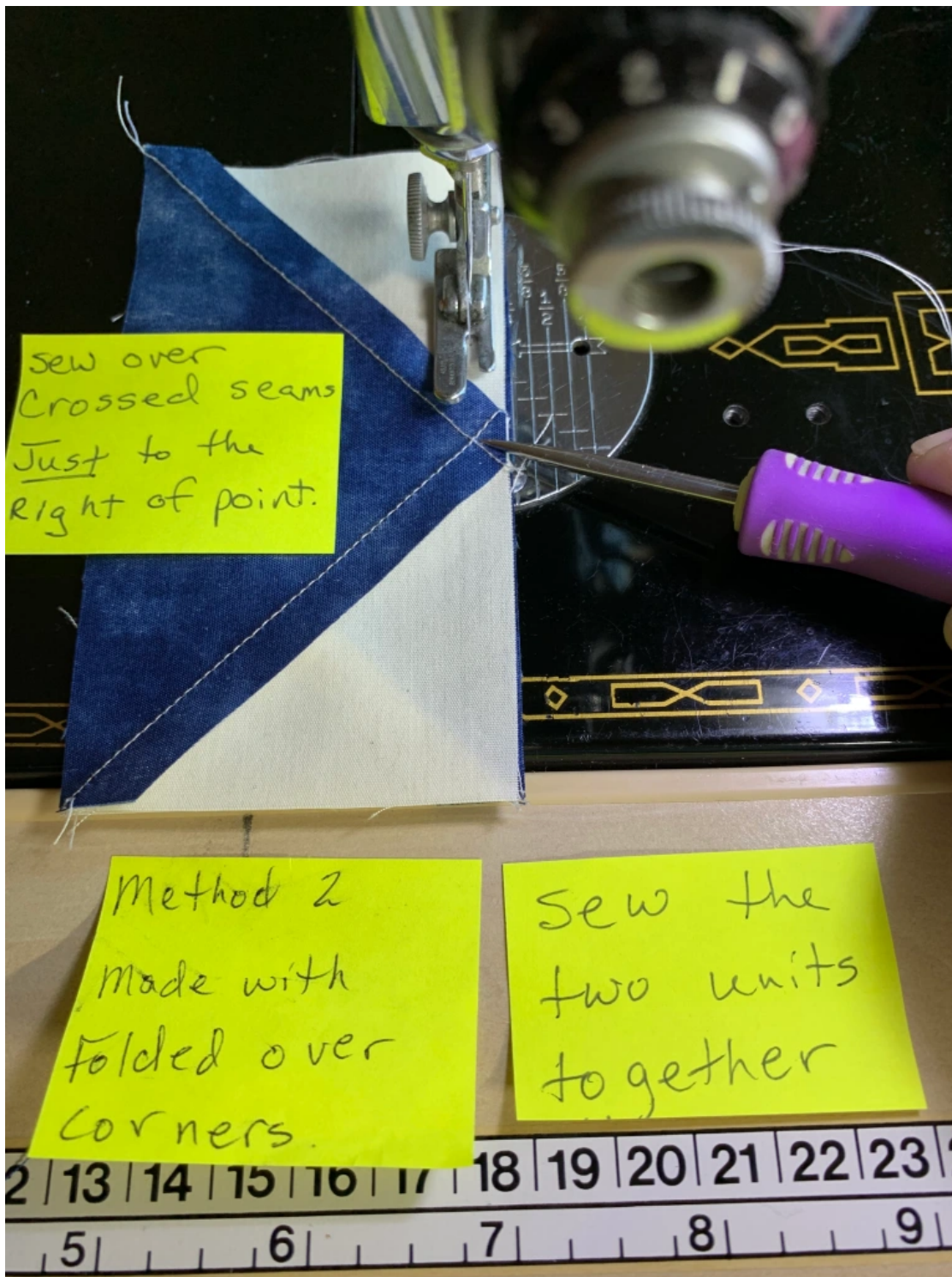
Repeat with the second square.



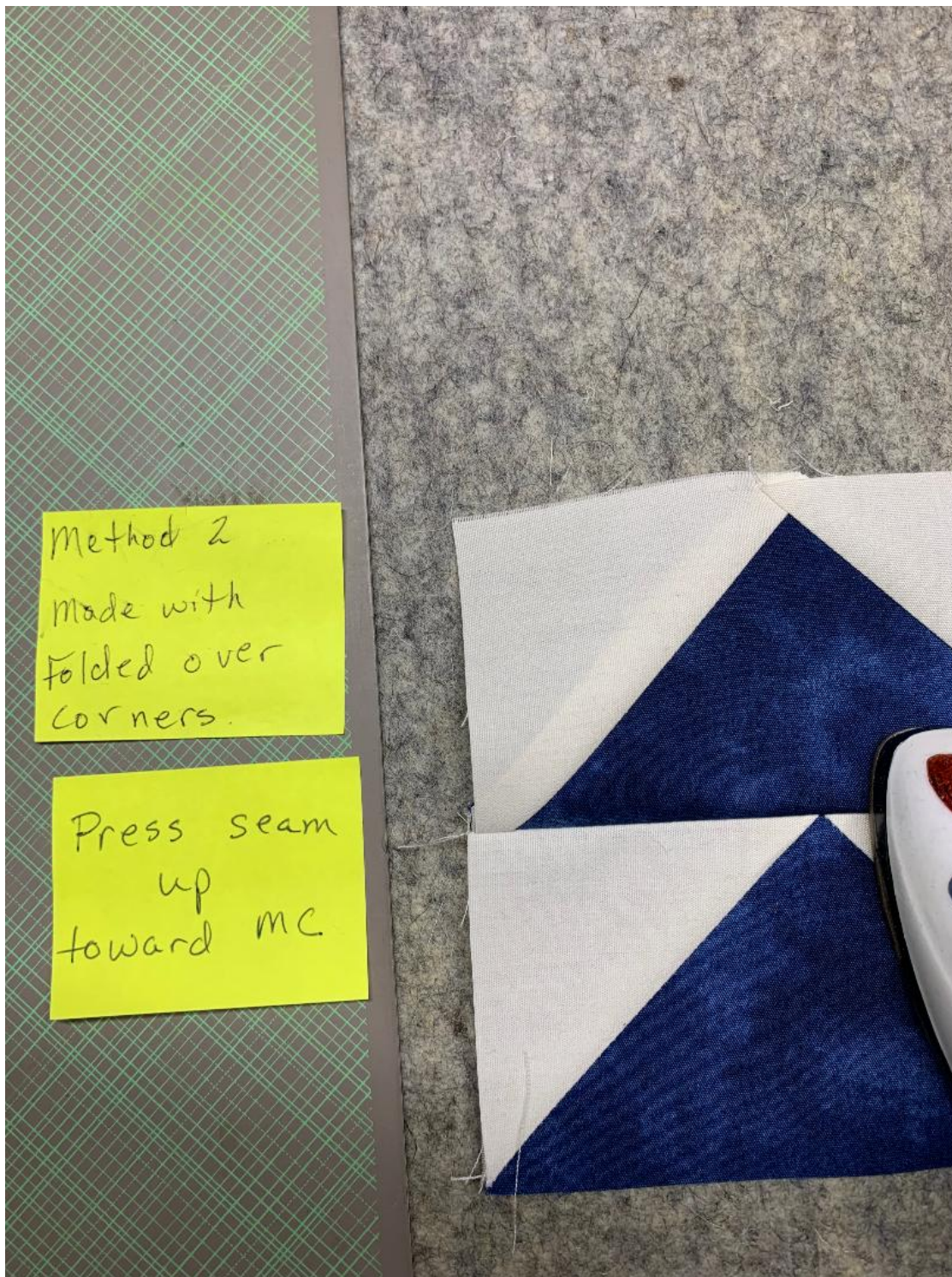
Trim and press toward BC.



Sew two flying geese units together, make sure you sew just to the right of the intersecting seams, so you don't lose your points.



Press up toward the top MC geese.



My tip for cutting instructions: Refer to Method 1 chart for the NUMBER of block units you will need for your size.

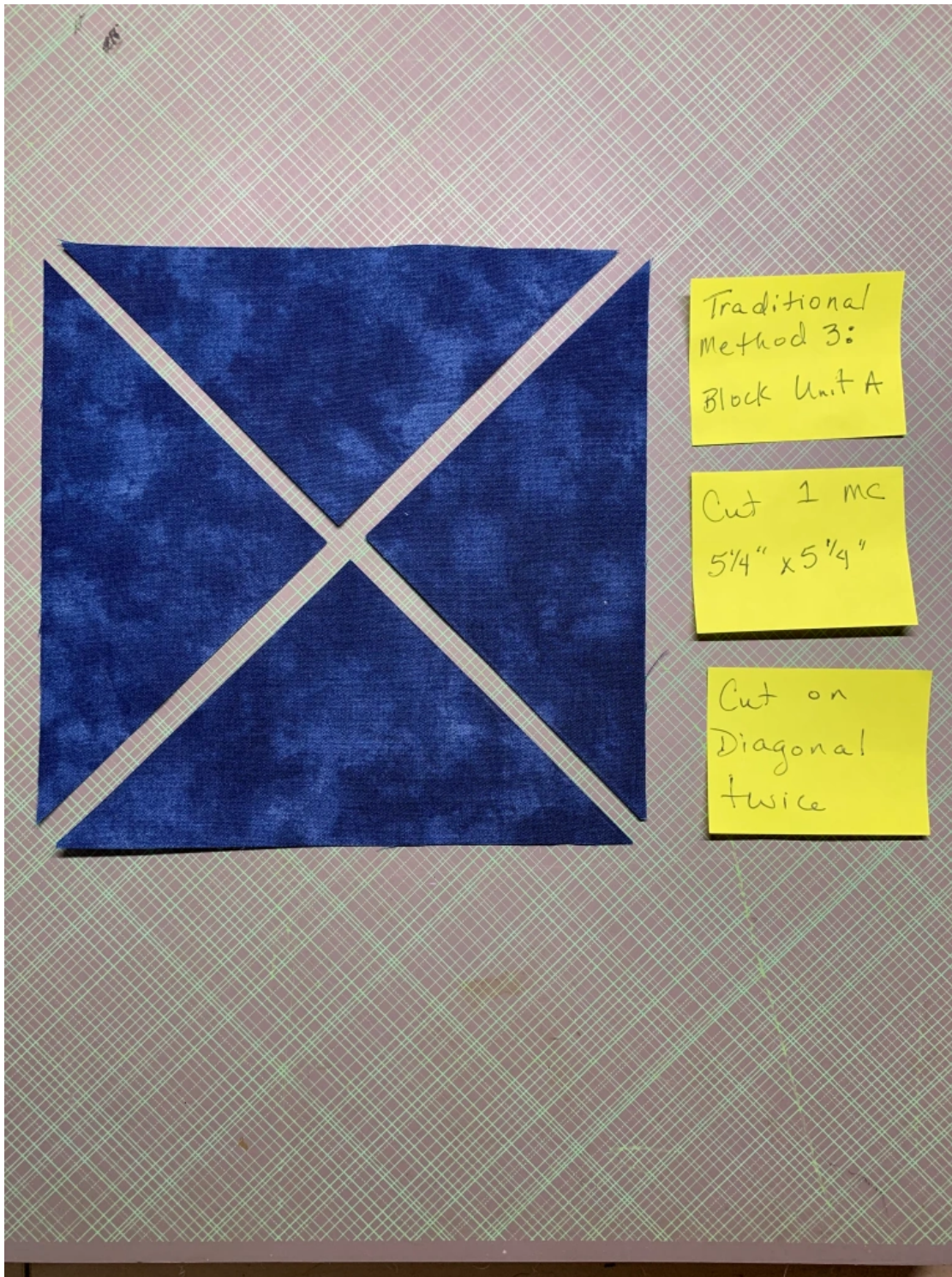
MC: cut 4 1/2" wide strips the width of the fabric and sub cut into the number of 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" rectangles times 2. You need two rectangles for each unit.

BC: Cut strips 2 1/2" wide the width of the fabric and sub cut into 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" squares. You will need four of these blocks for each unit.

Method 3: The Traditional Method for Flying Geese. Unfinished size 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" (4" x 4" finished).

This method uses the pieces cut ready to sew together. It is important when sewing the units with this method that you do not tug or pull on the fabric as you sew because you will be sewing on the diagonal or bias grain of fabric.

To begin this method. From MC cut one square 5 1/4" x 5 1/4". Then cut on the diagonal in both directions as shown below.

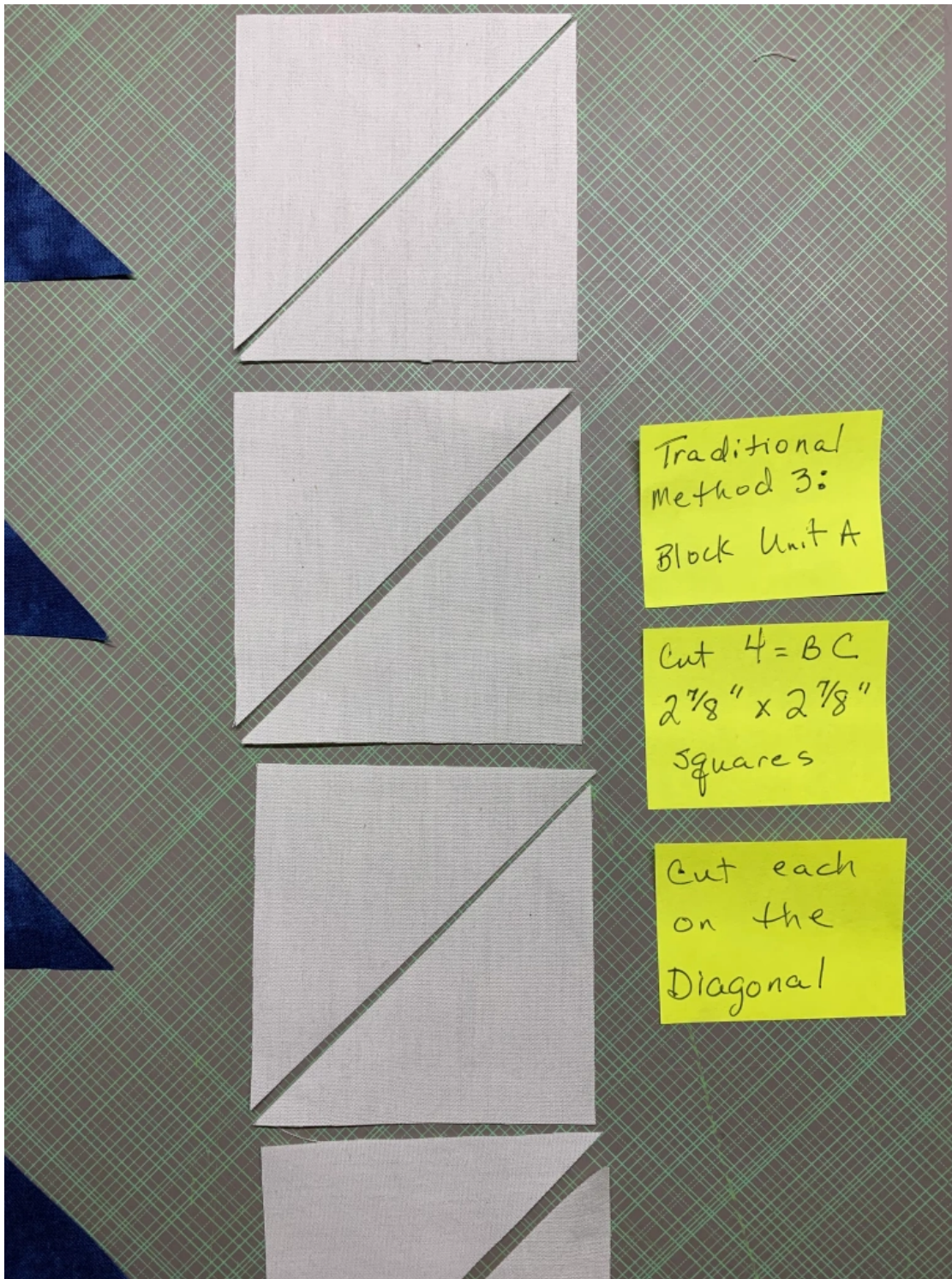


Traditional
Method 3:
Block Unit A

Cut 1 mc
5 1/4" x 5 1/4"

Cut on
Diagonal
twice

From BC: Cut 4 squares $2 \frac{7}{8}$ " x $2 \frac{7}{8}$ ". Cut each one on the diagonal.

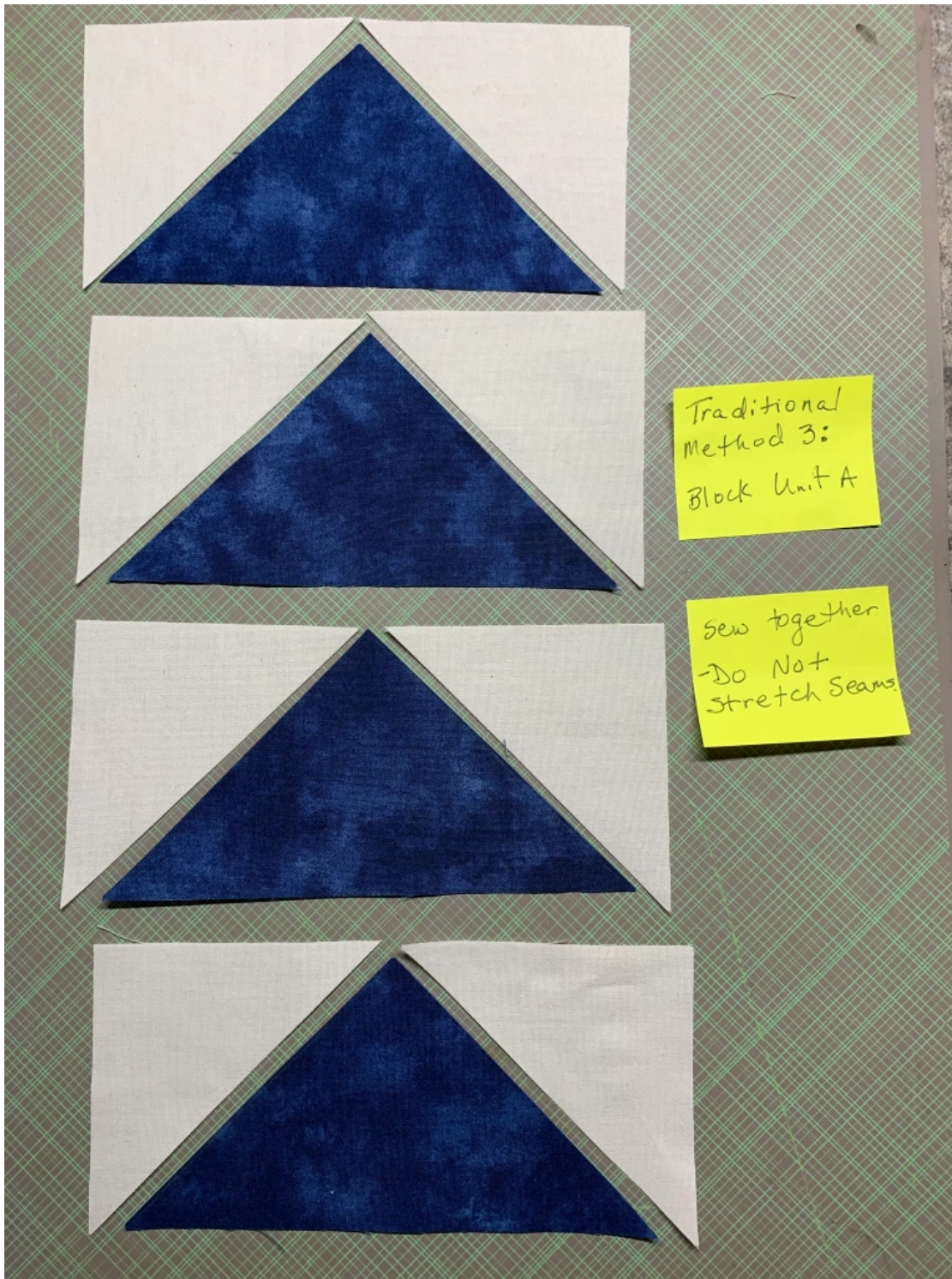


Traditional
Method 3:
Block Unit A

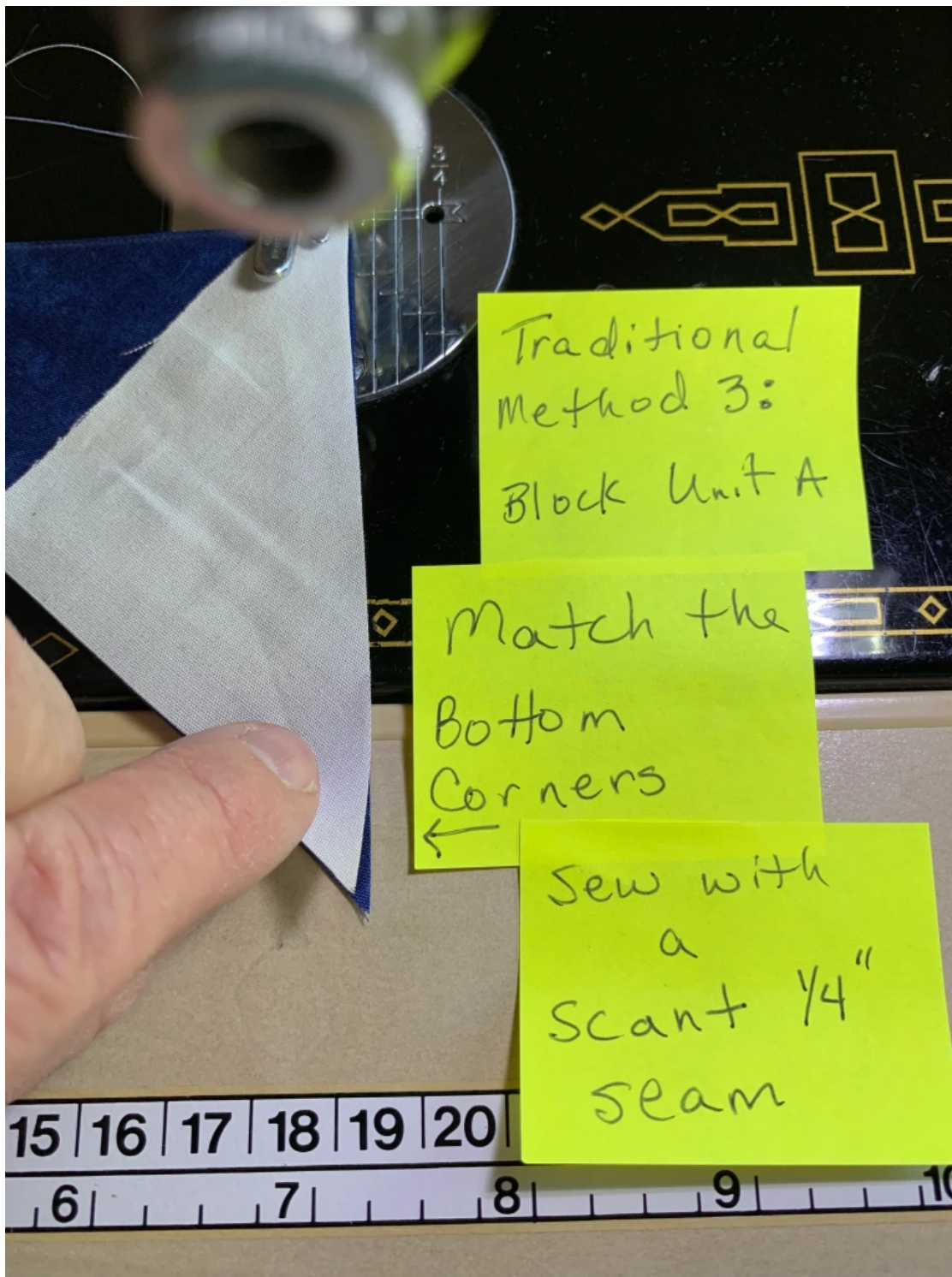
Cut 4 = BC
2 ⁷/₈" x 2 ⁷/₈"
Squares

Cut each
on the
Diagonal

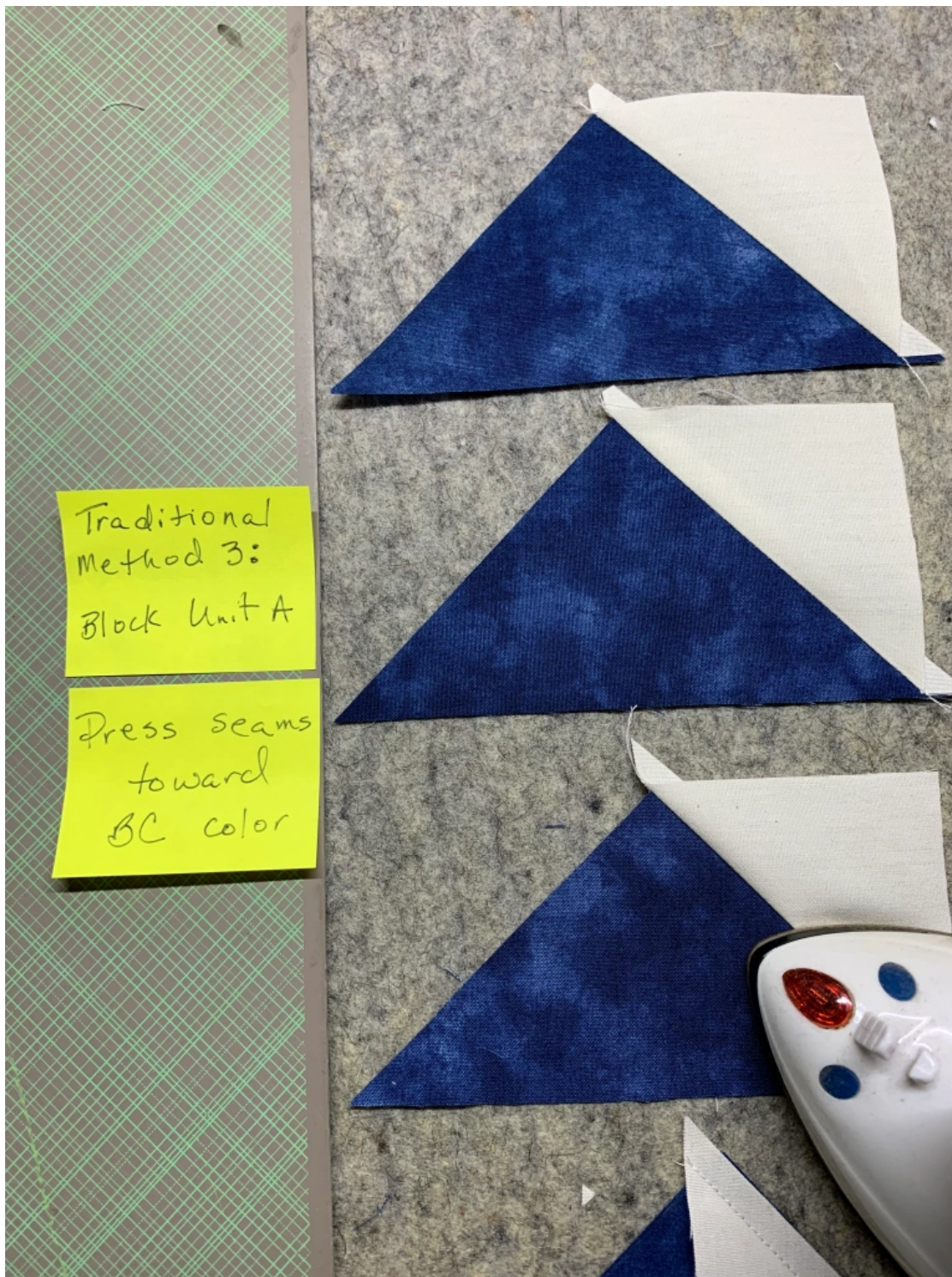
Lay out as pictured below:



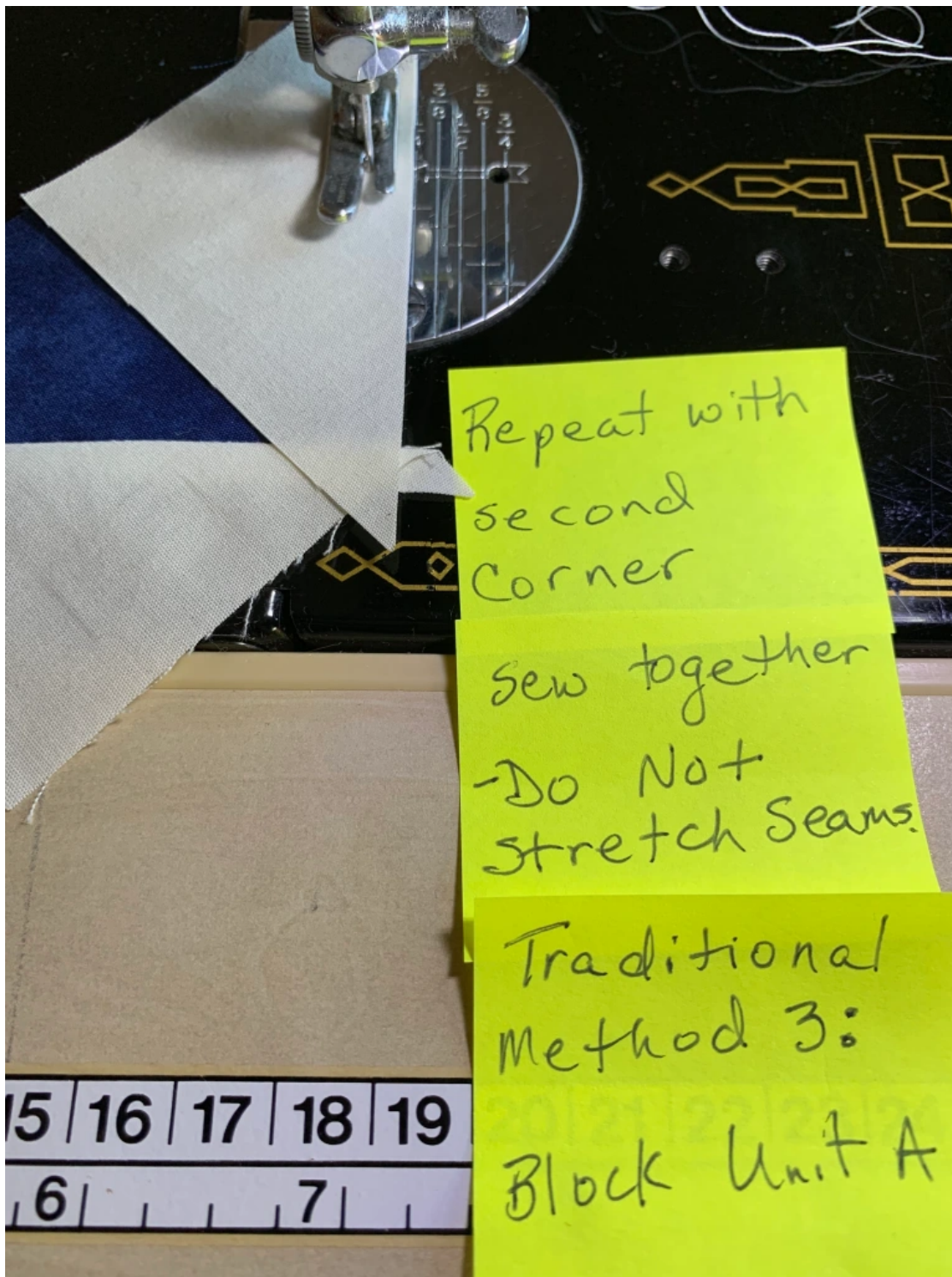
Sew one BC triangle to the MC triangle. Do not pull the seams, they stretch easily when sewing on the bias.



Press toward the BC.



Repeat with the opposite BC triangles.



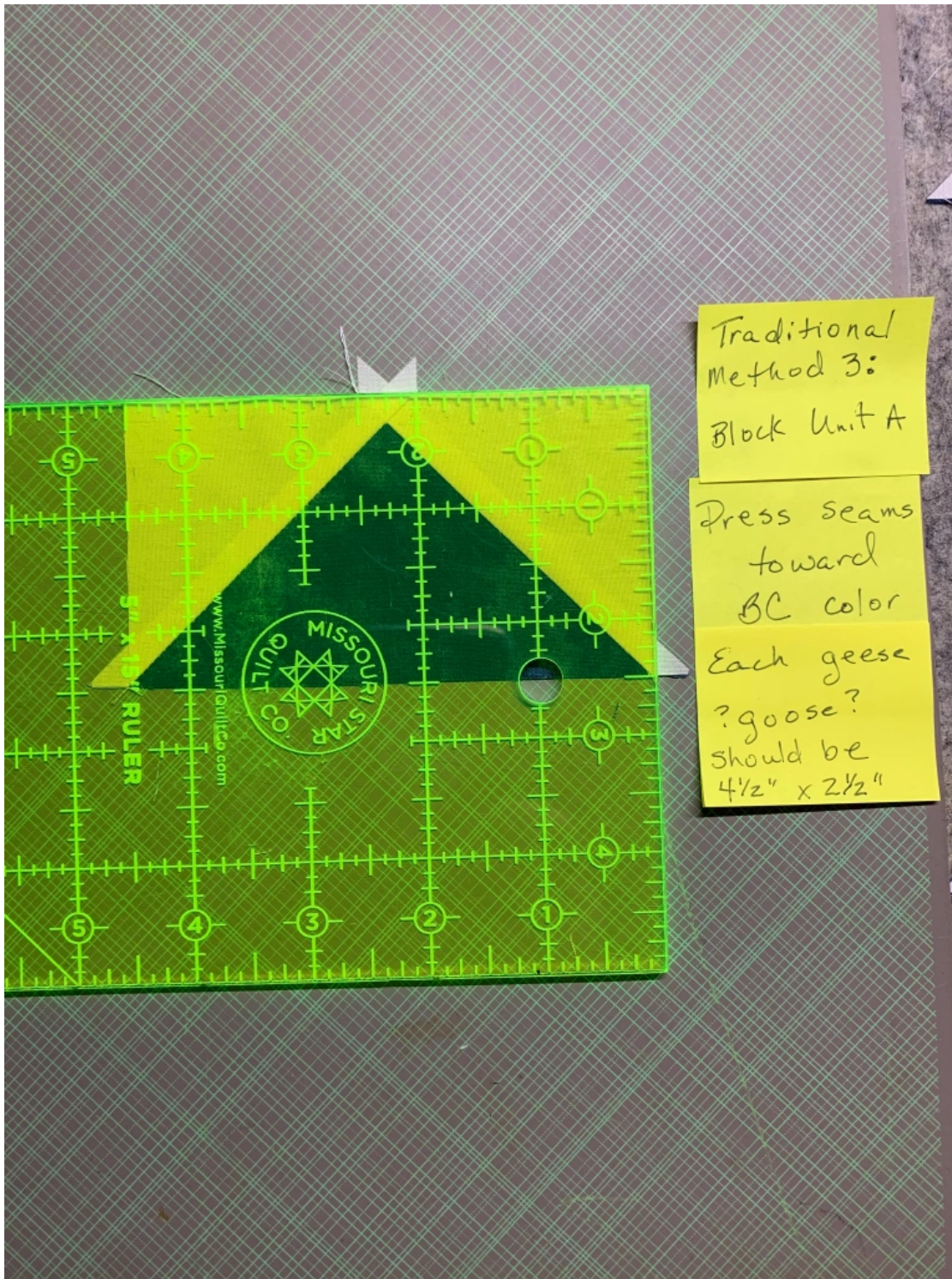
Press toward the BC.



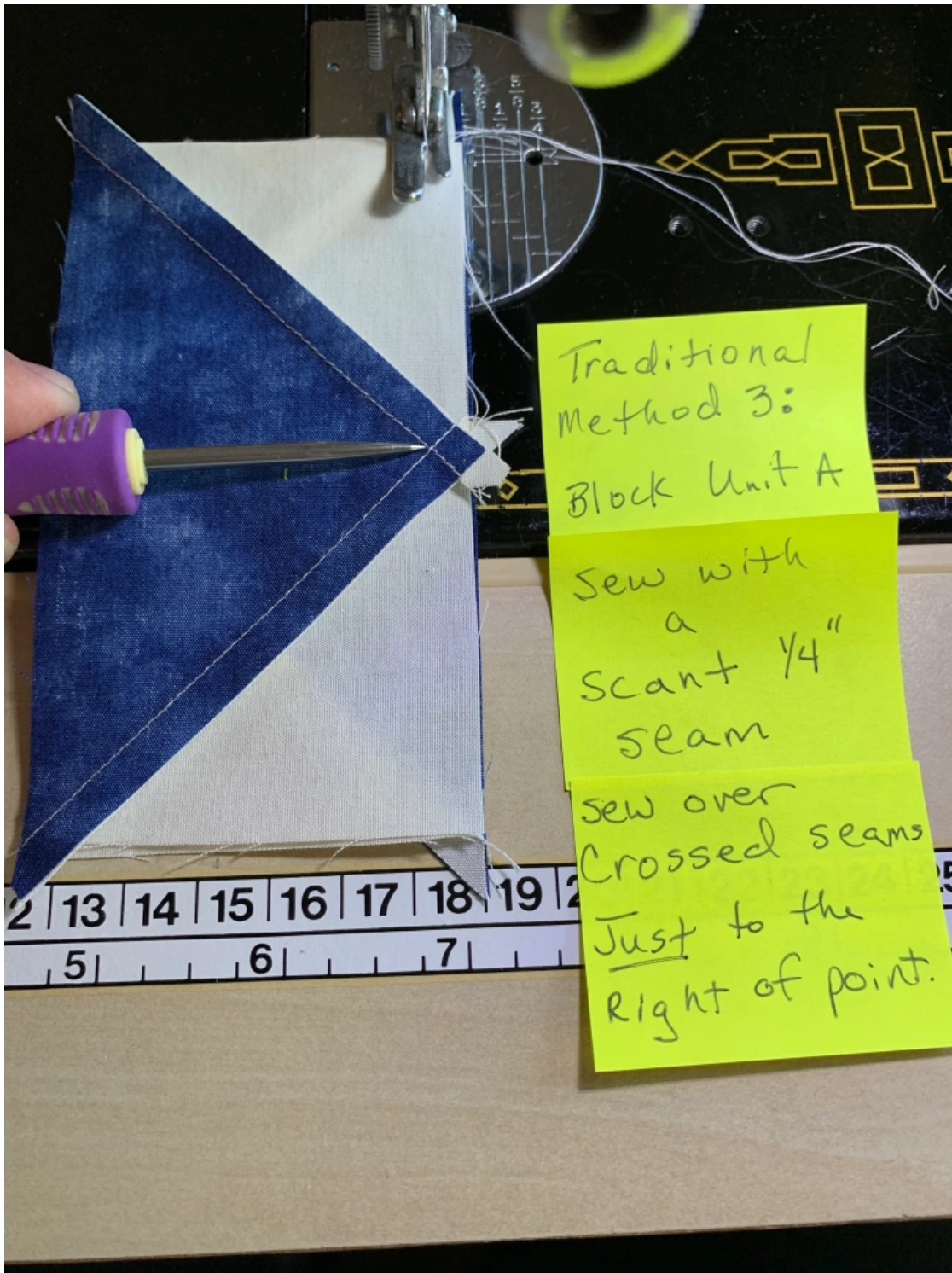
Traditional
Method 3:
Block Unit A

Press seams
toward
BC color

Trim if needed, each small unit should measure $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4\frac{1}{2}''$.



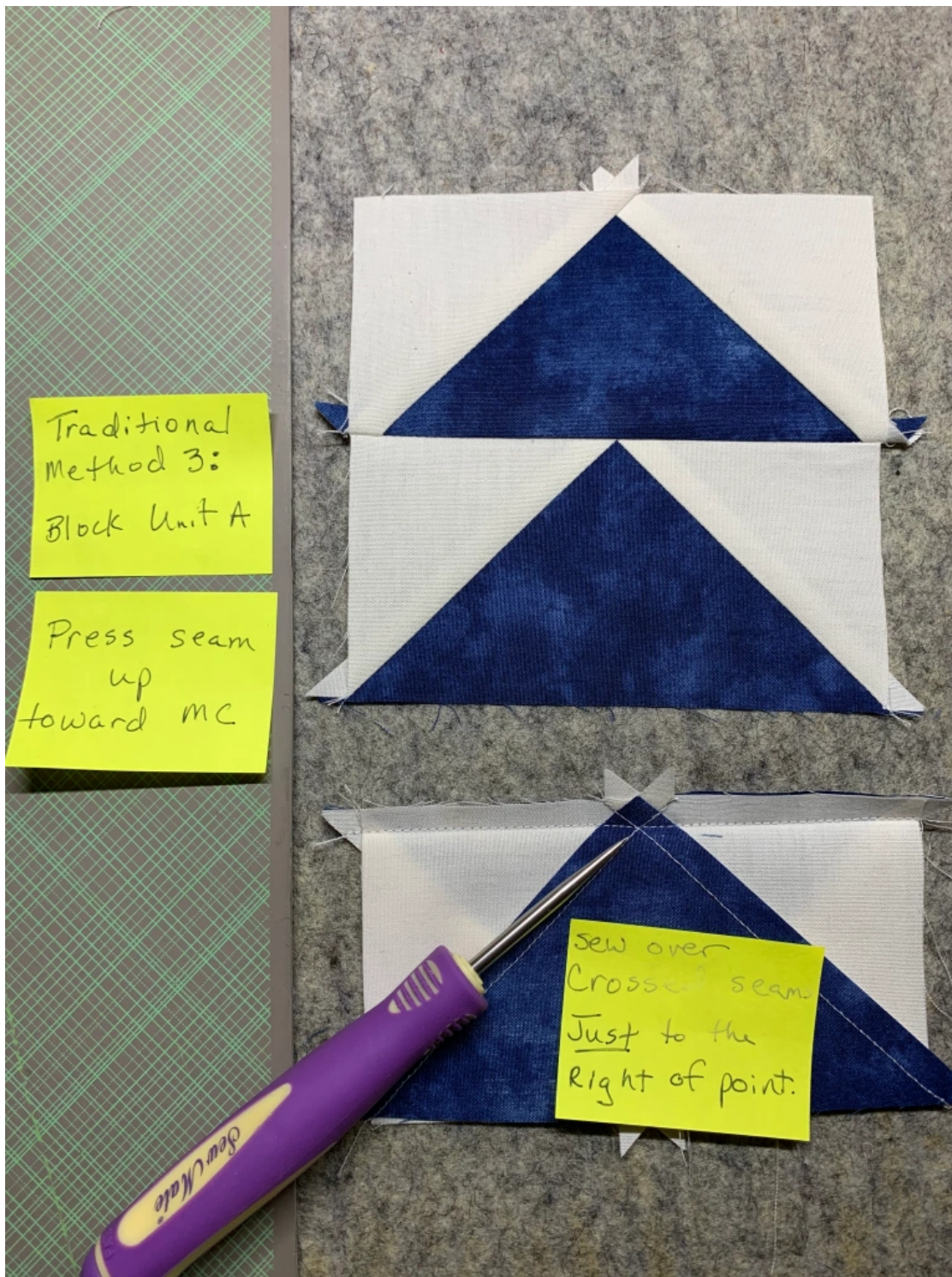
Sew two of the units together, make sure you sew just to the right of the intersecting seams, so you don't lose your tip.



Traditional
Method 3:
Block Unit A

Sew with
a
scant $\frac{1}{4}$ "
seam

sew over
crossed seams
Just to the
right of point.



Press toward the MC triangle. Trim dog ears if you want.

Cutting tips for this method:

MC: Cut strips 5 1/4" wide by the width of the fabric, then sub cut into 5 1/4" x 5 1/4" squares. Refer to the Method 1 Cutting Chart to determine how many squares you will need.

BC: Cut strips 2 7/8" wide the width of the fabric, then subcut into 2 7/8" x 2 7/8" squares.

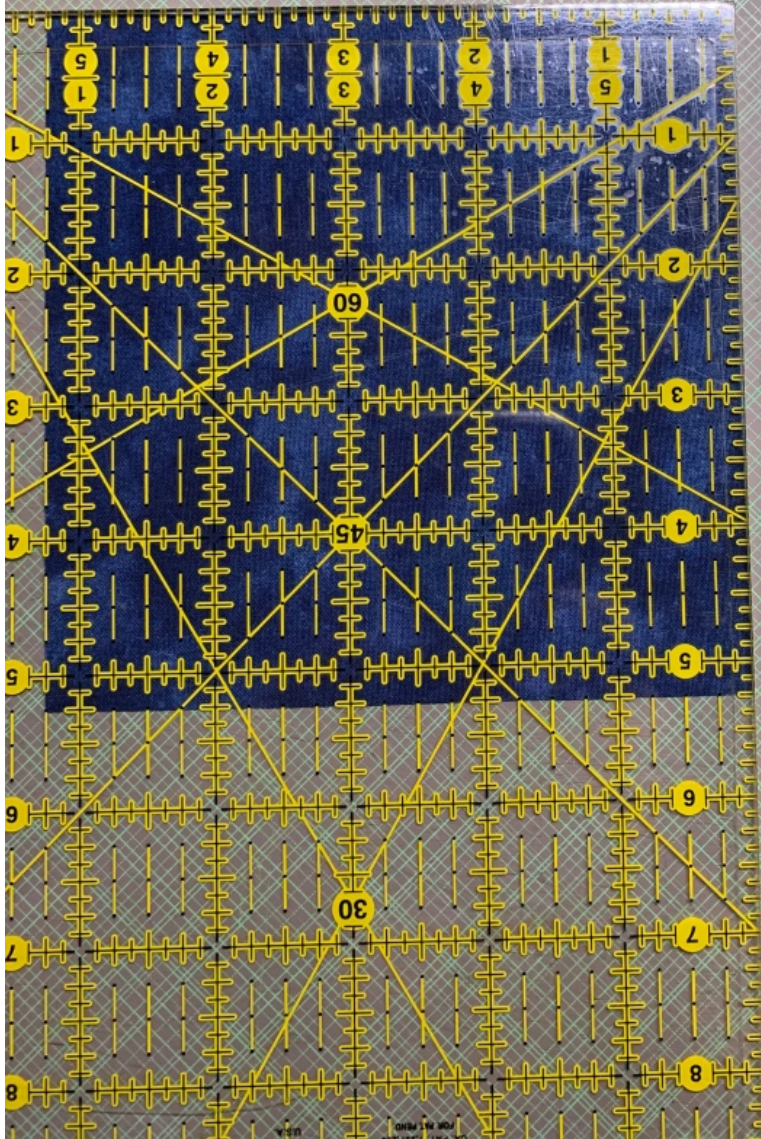
Method 4: Four at a Time Flying Geese. 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" unfinished (4" x 4" finished)

This is a very popular method with quilters today. It might seem odd the way the blocks look as you're sewing it but if you follow the pictures/steps it's quite easy. Use a scant 1/4" seam when sewing the blocks.

To begin:

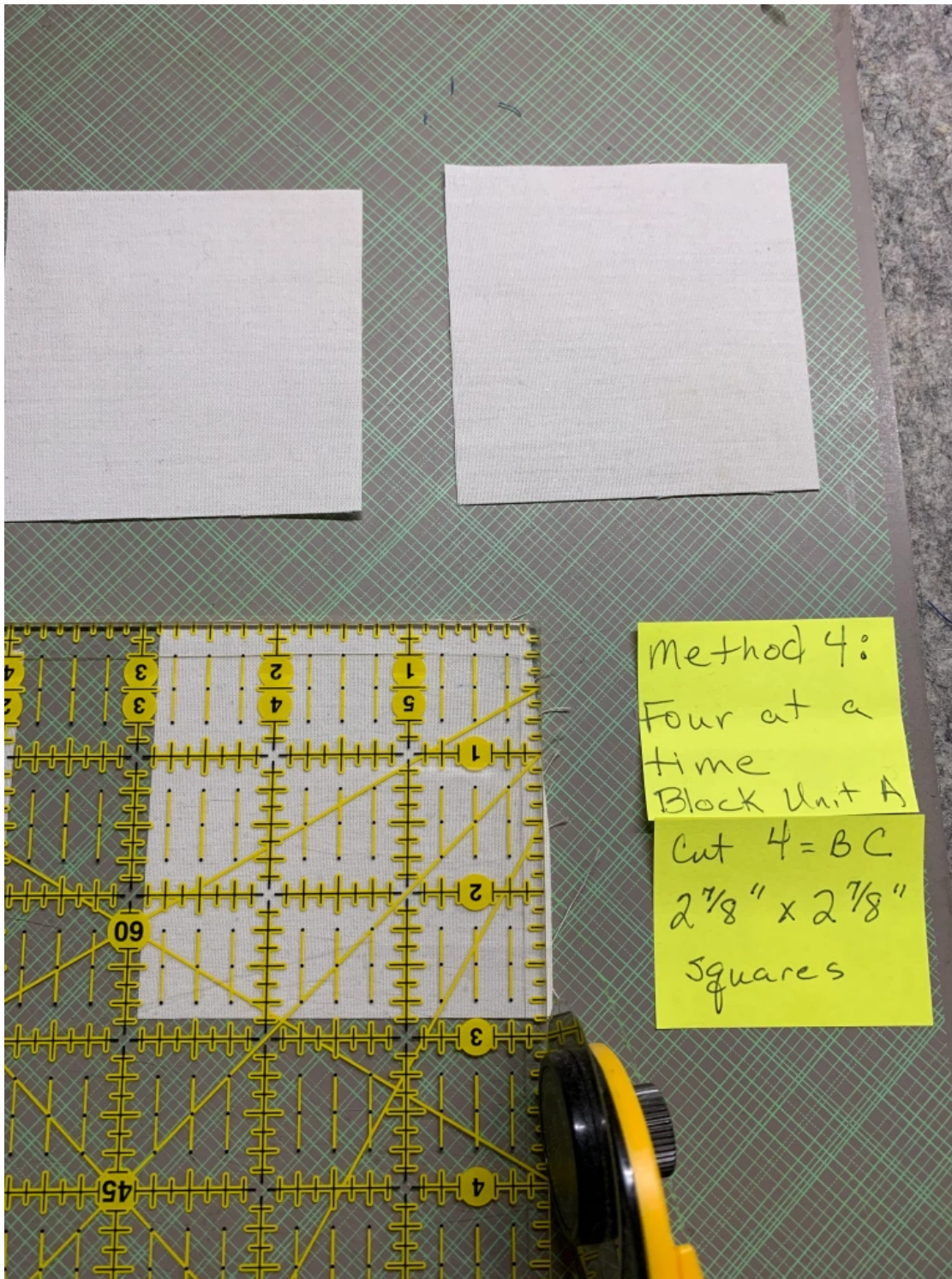
MC: Cut 1 square 5 1/4" x 5 1/4"

BC: Cut 2 squares 2 7/8" x 2 7/8"

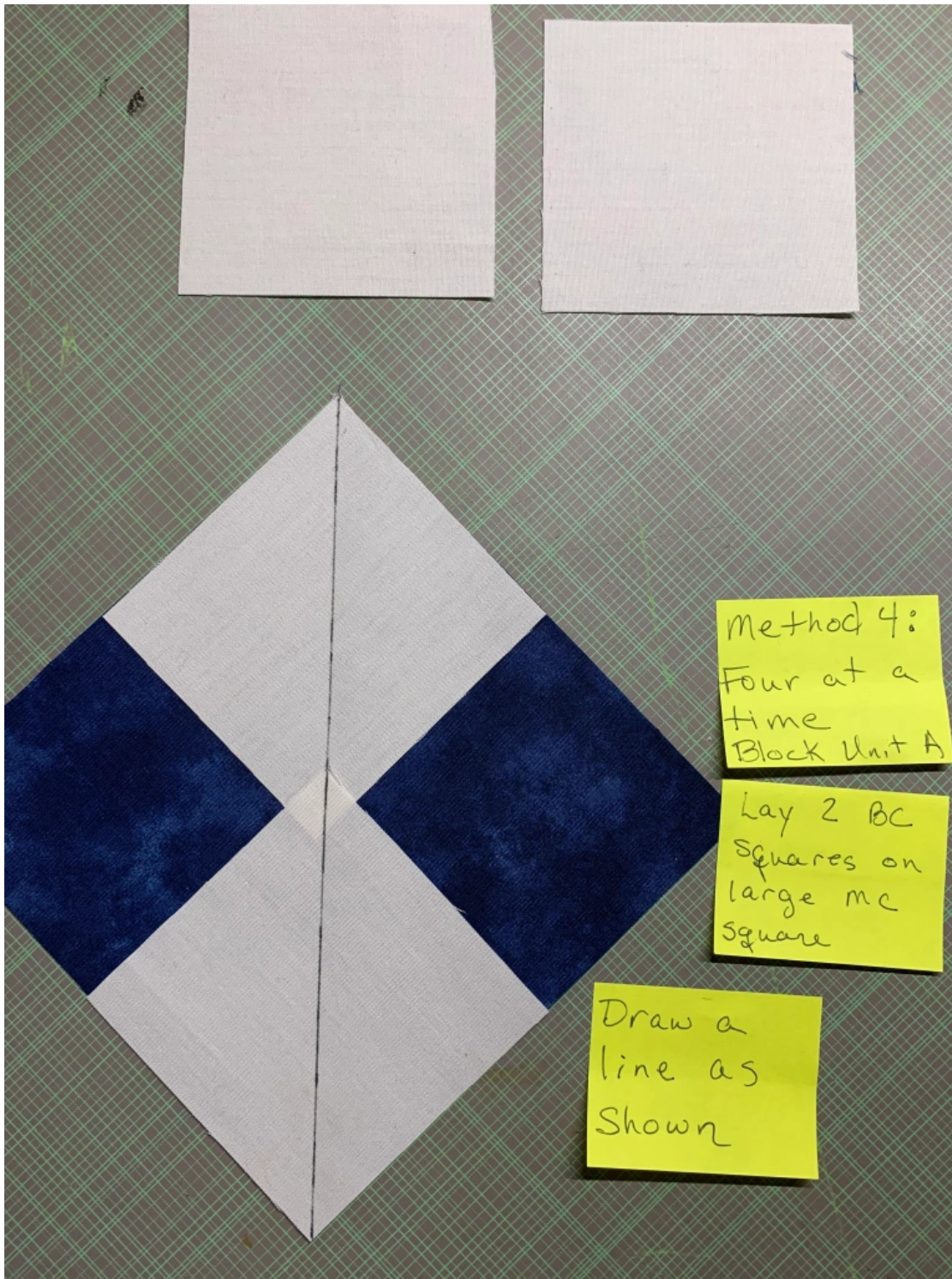


Method 4:
Four at a
time
Block Unit A

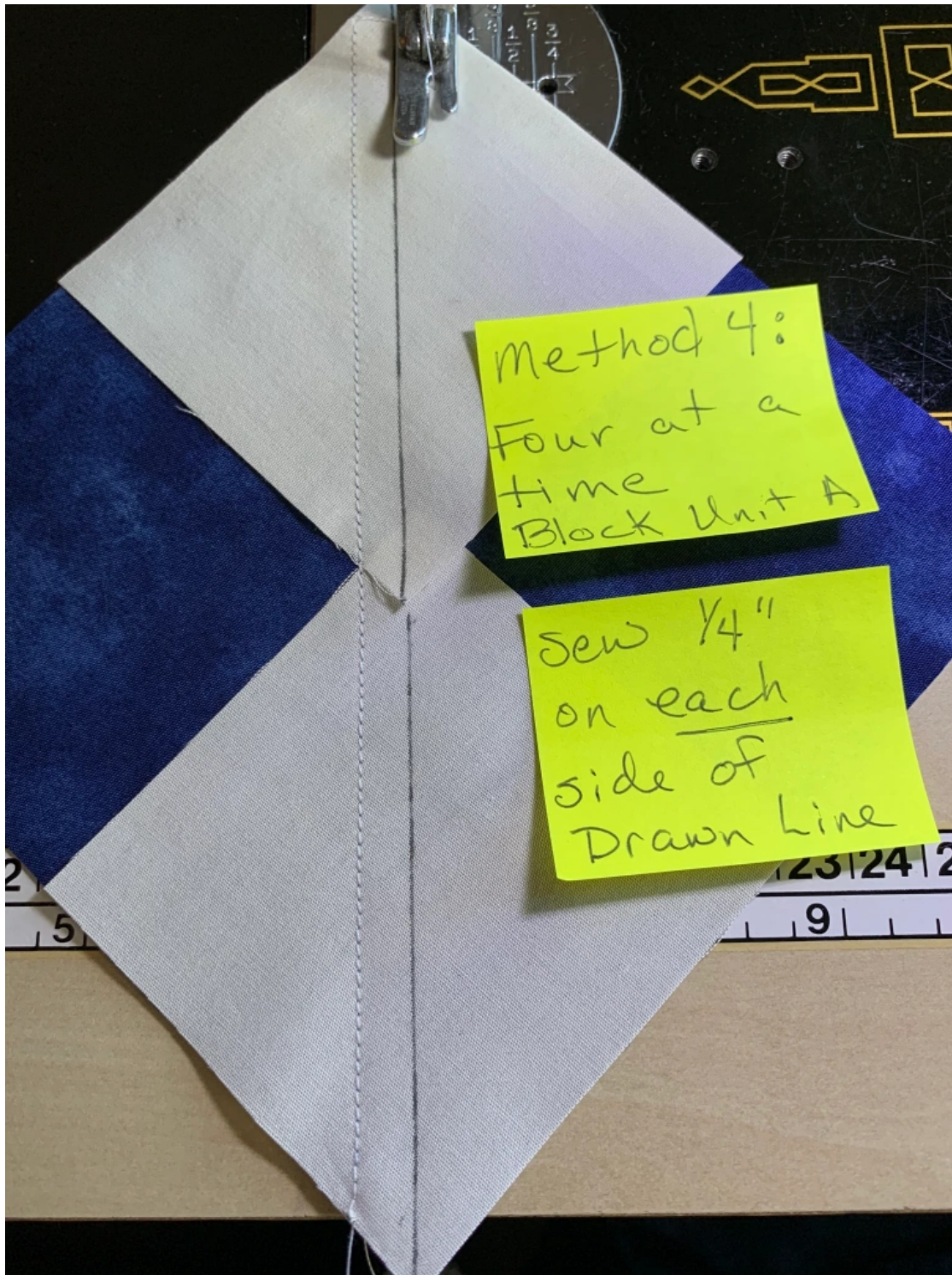
Cut 1 mc
5 1/4" x 5 1/4"



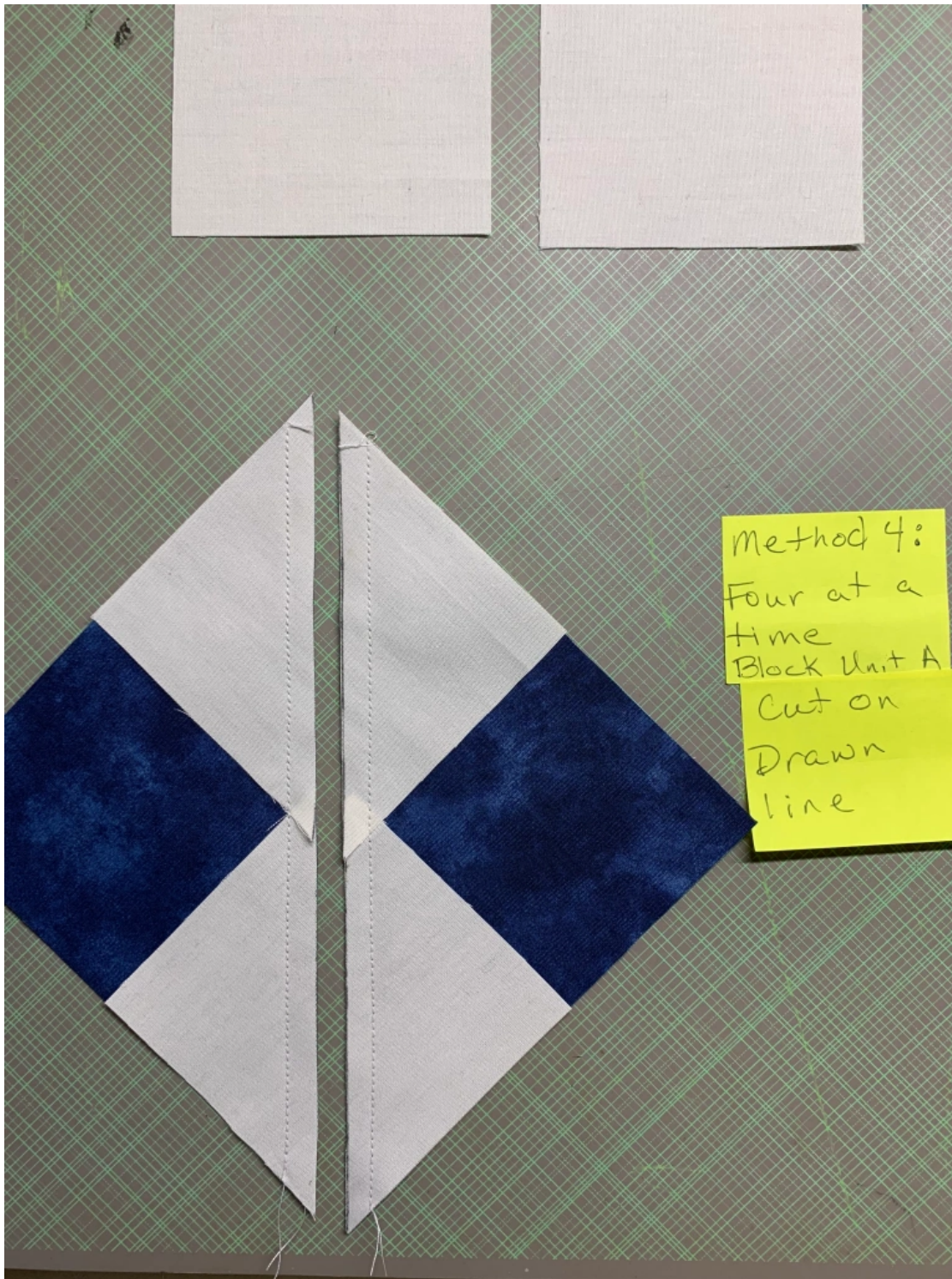
Draw a line on two of the BC squares and place them on opposite corners of the MC square with the marked line and tips of the BC squares overlapping as shown in the picture below.



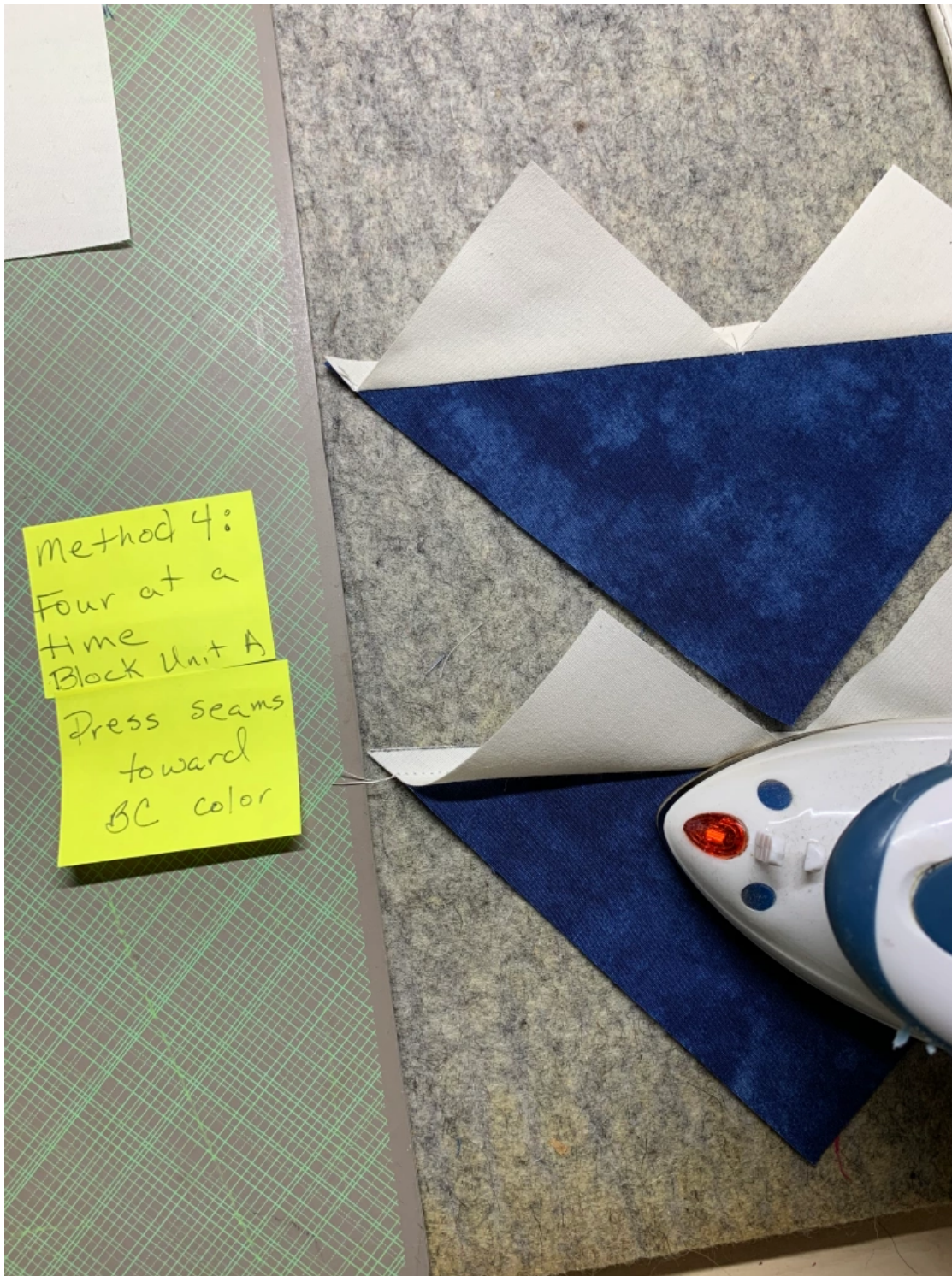
Sew 1/4" over from the drawn line on both sides of the line.



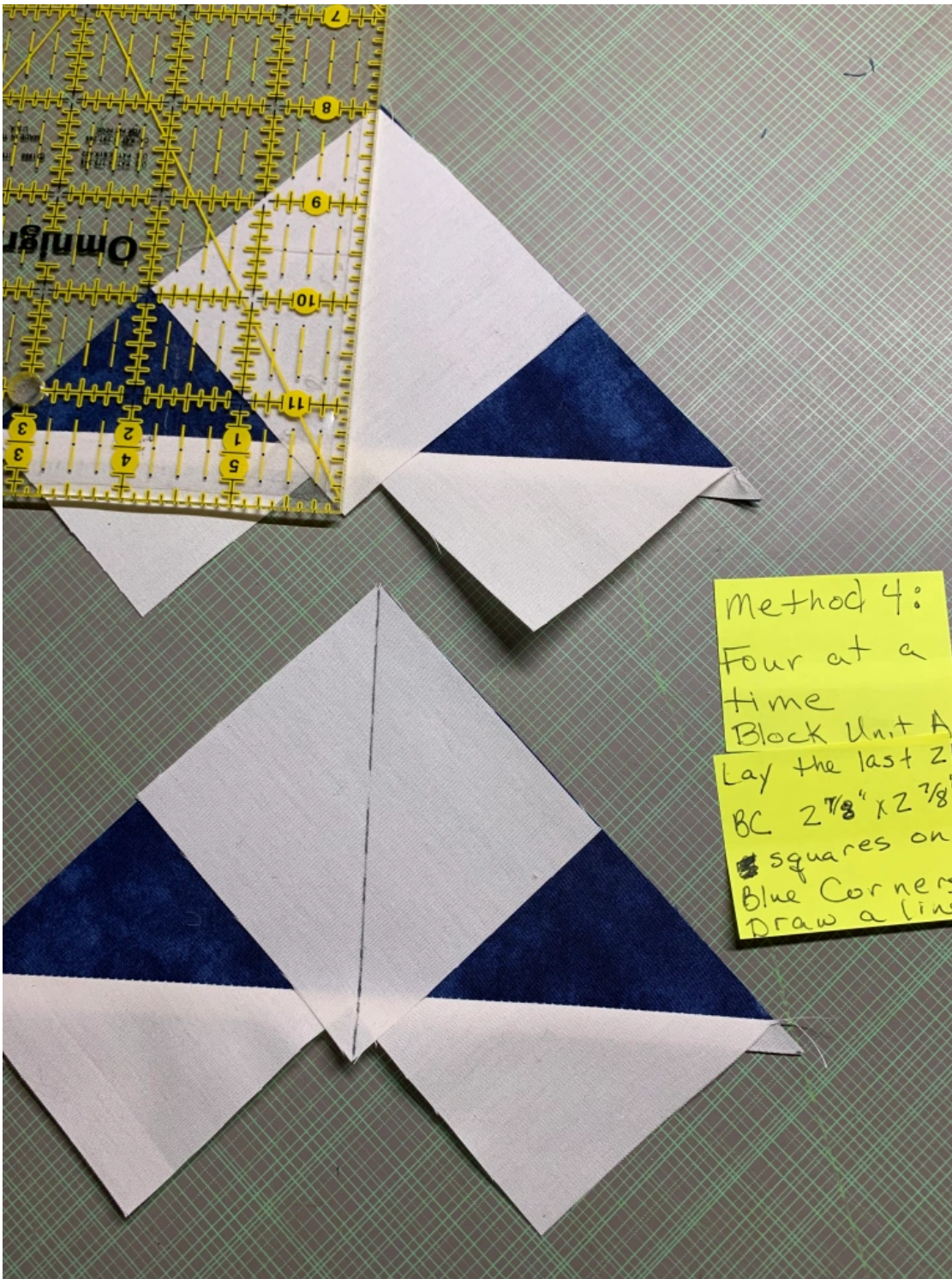
Cut on the drawn line.




Press seams toward the BC.



Now draw a line on the remaining two BC squares and place them on the previous sewn sections as shown in the picture below.

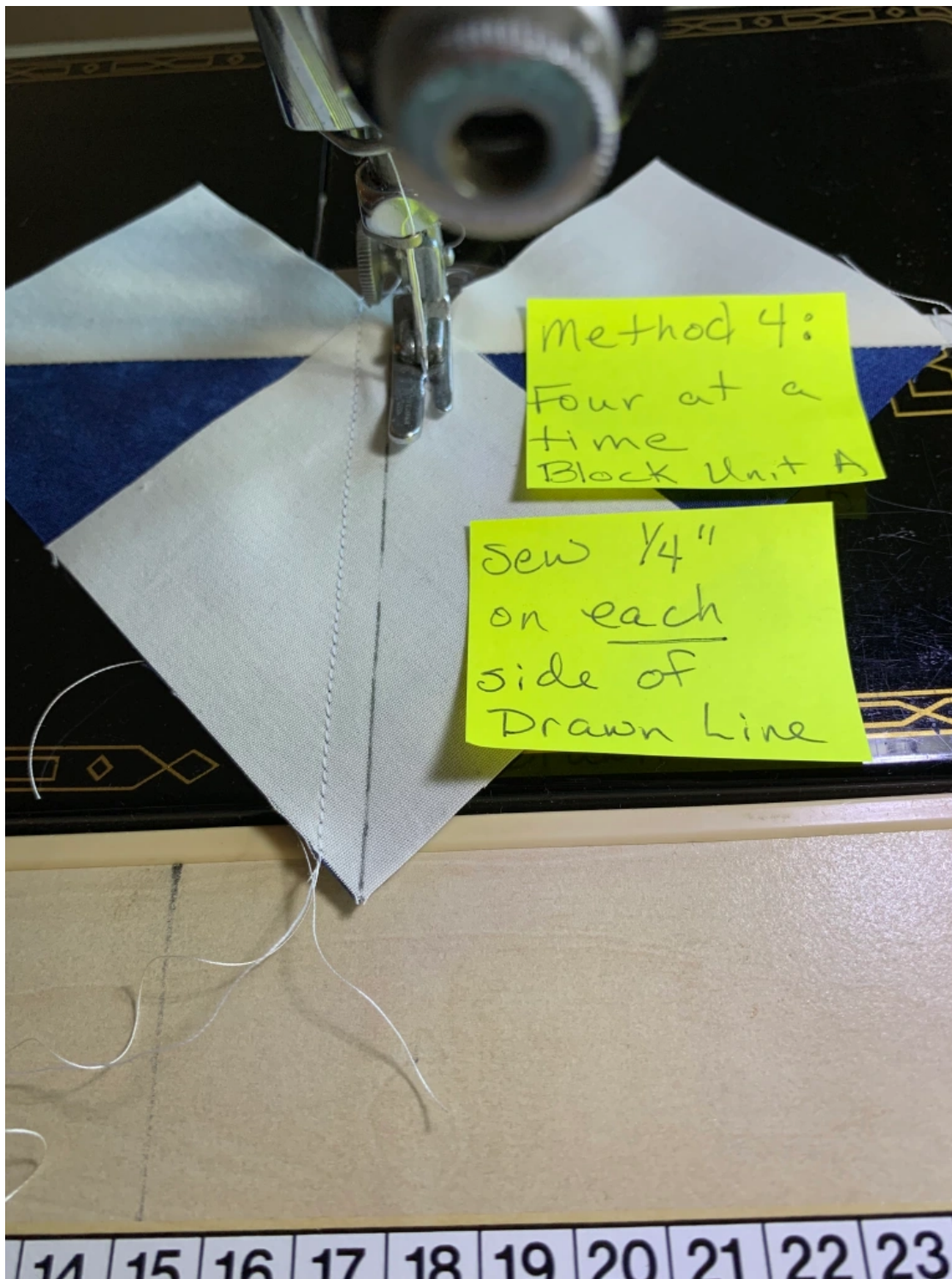


Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the drawn line on both sides of the line.

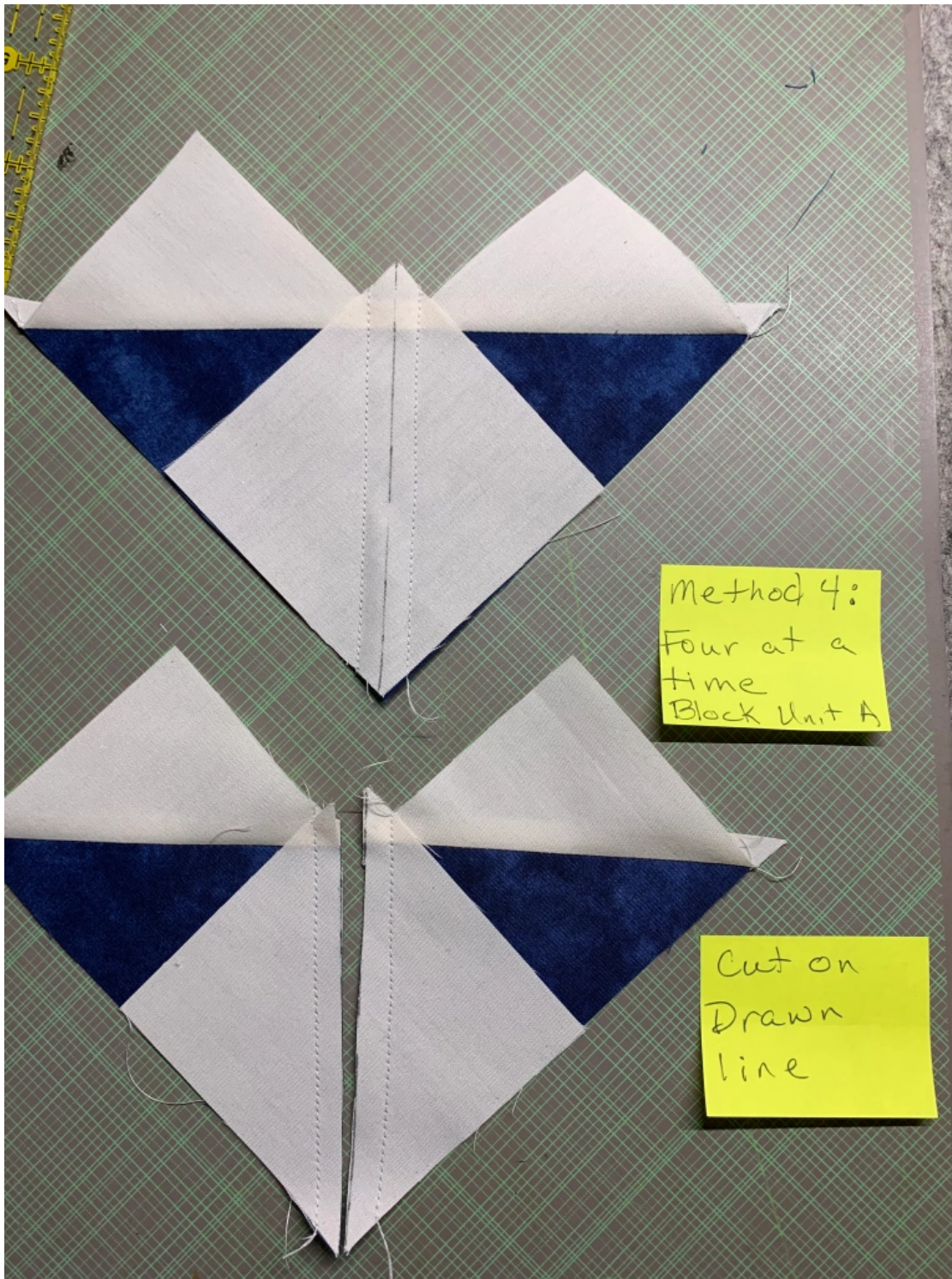


Method 4:
Four at a
time
Block Unit A

Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ "
on each
side of
Drawn Line



Cut on the drawn line.



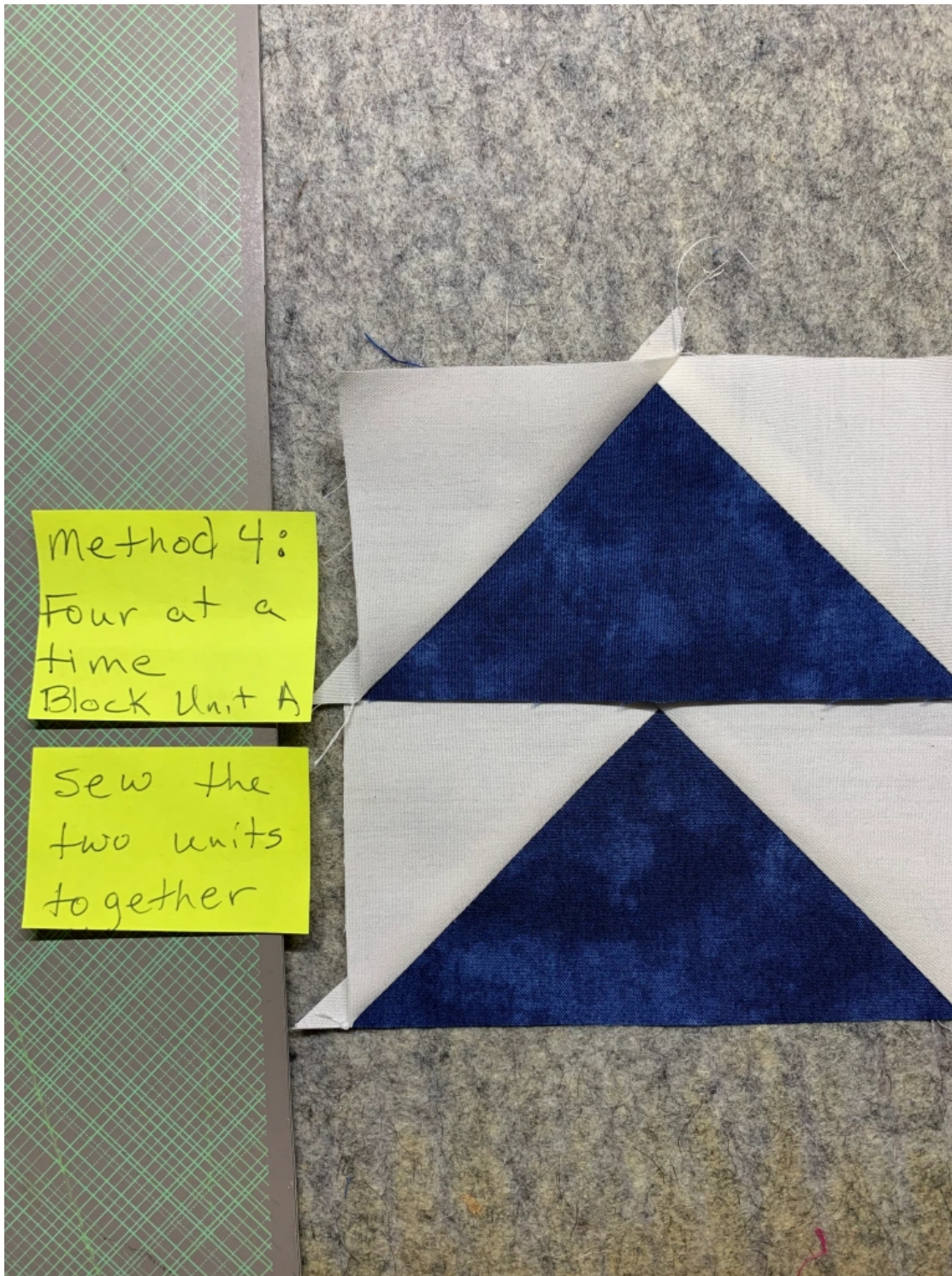
Press seams toward BC.



Method 4:
Four at a
time
Block Unit A

Press toward
BC color

Sew two units together making sure to sew to the right of the intersection of stitching so you don't lose your points.



Press seam toward the MC triangle.



You should have a unit that measures $4 \frac{1}{2}'' \times 4 \frac{1}{2}''$.

For cutting instructions: Refer to the chart for the number of blocks you will need.

MC: Cut strips $5 \frac{1}{4}''$ wide x width of fabric. Sub cut into $5 \frac{1}{4}'' \times 5 \frac{1}{4}''$ squares.

BC: Cut strips $2 \frac{7}{8}''$ wide x width of fabric. Sub cut into $2 \frac{7}{8}'' \times 2 \frac{7}{8}''$ squares.

Method 5: Half Square Triangles method for Flying Geese. 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" unfinished (4" x 4" finished)

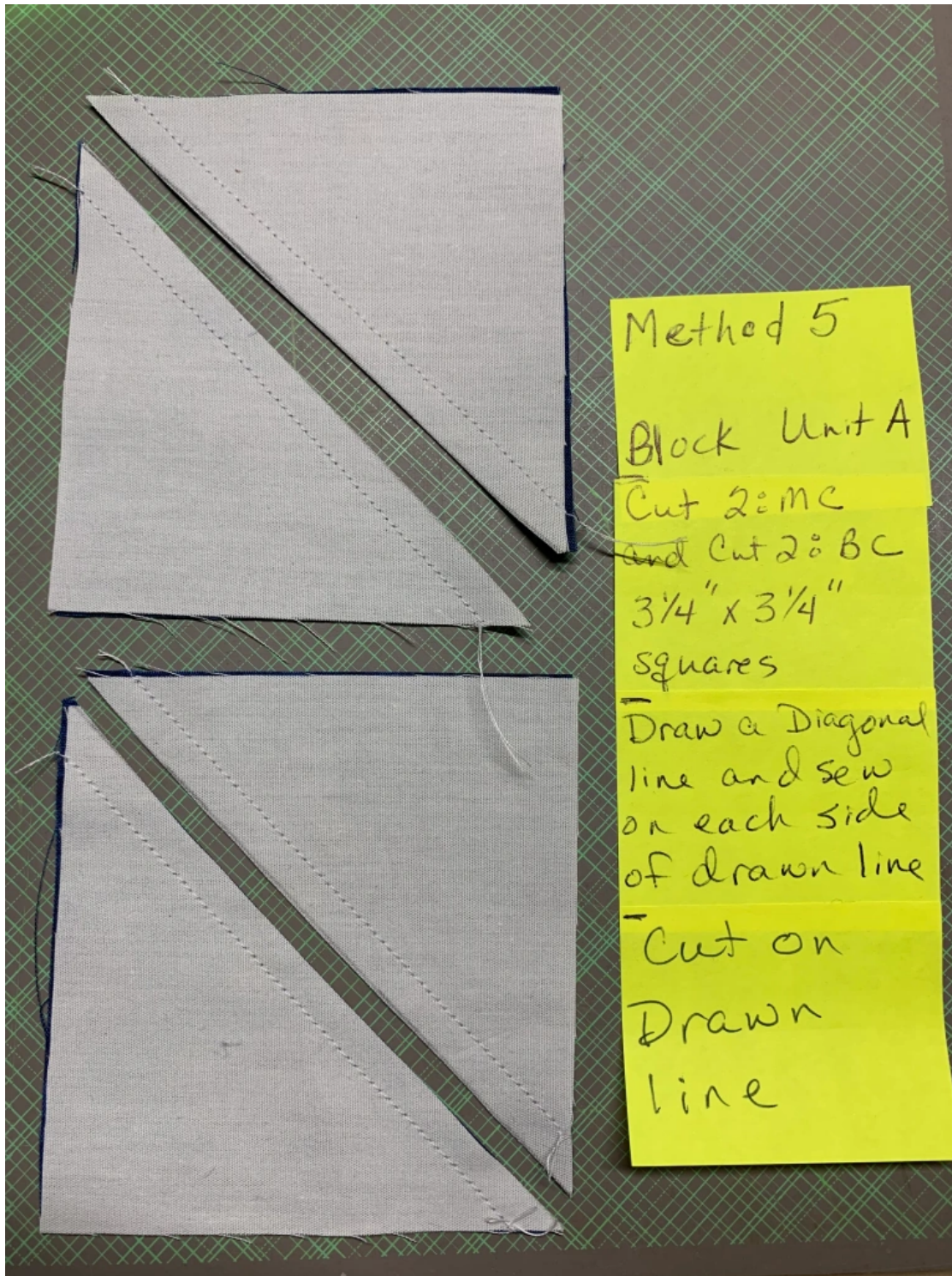
With this method you will be making oversized half square triangles (HST) and then trimming them down to 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" before sewing together to make the geese unit.

To begin:

MC: cut two – 3 1/4" x 3 1/4" squares.

BC: cut two – 3 1/4" x 3 1/4" squares.

Lay one BC and one MC together with right sides together. Draw a diagonal line on the back of the BC. Sew 1/4" on each side of the drawn line. Cut on the drawn line.



Method 5

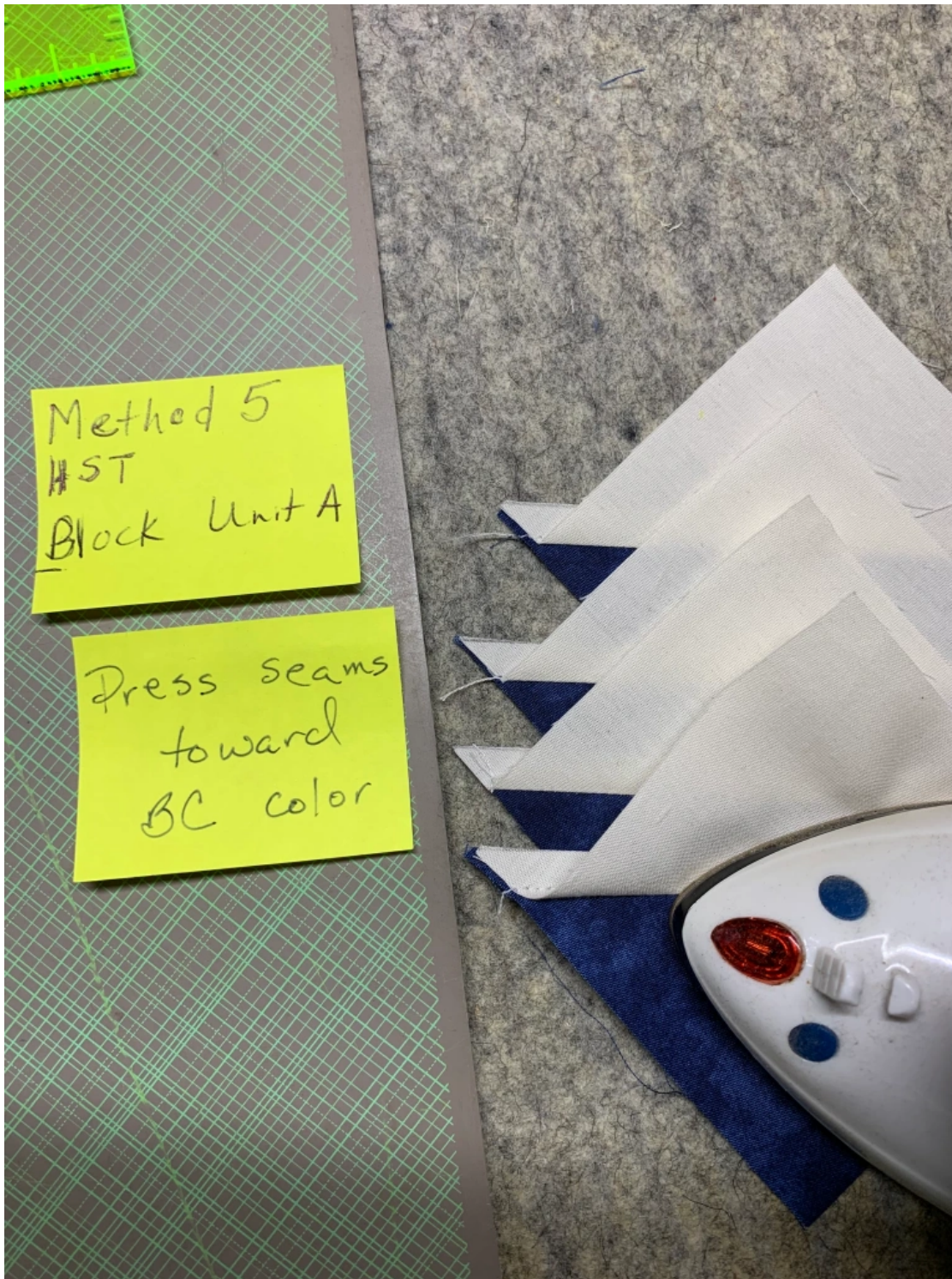
Block Unit A

Cut 2: MC
and Cut 2: BC
 $3\frac{1}{4}'' \times 3\frac{1}{4}''$
squares

Draw a Diagonal
line and sew
on each side
of drawn line

Cut on
Drawn
line

Press seam toward the BC.

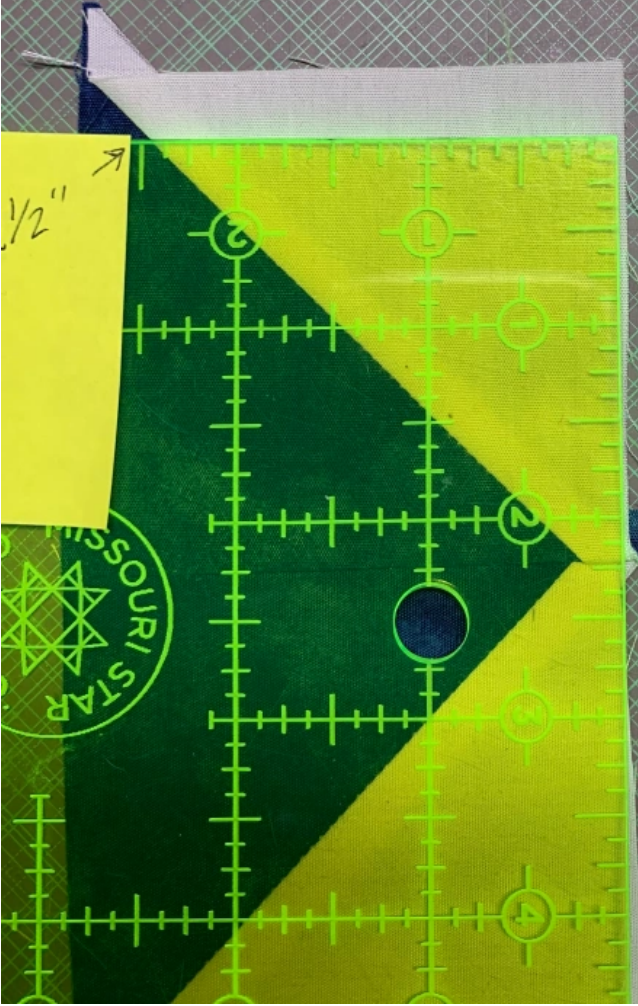


Sew two HST together. Press toward one side OR press seam open. Trim to $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Method 5
#5T
Block Unit A

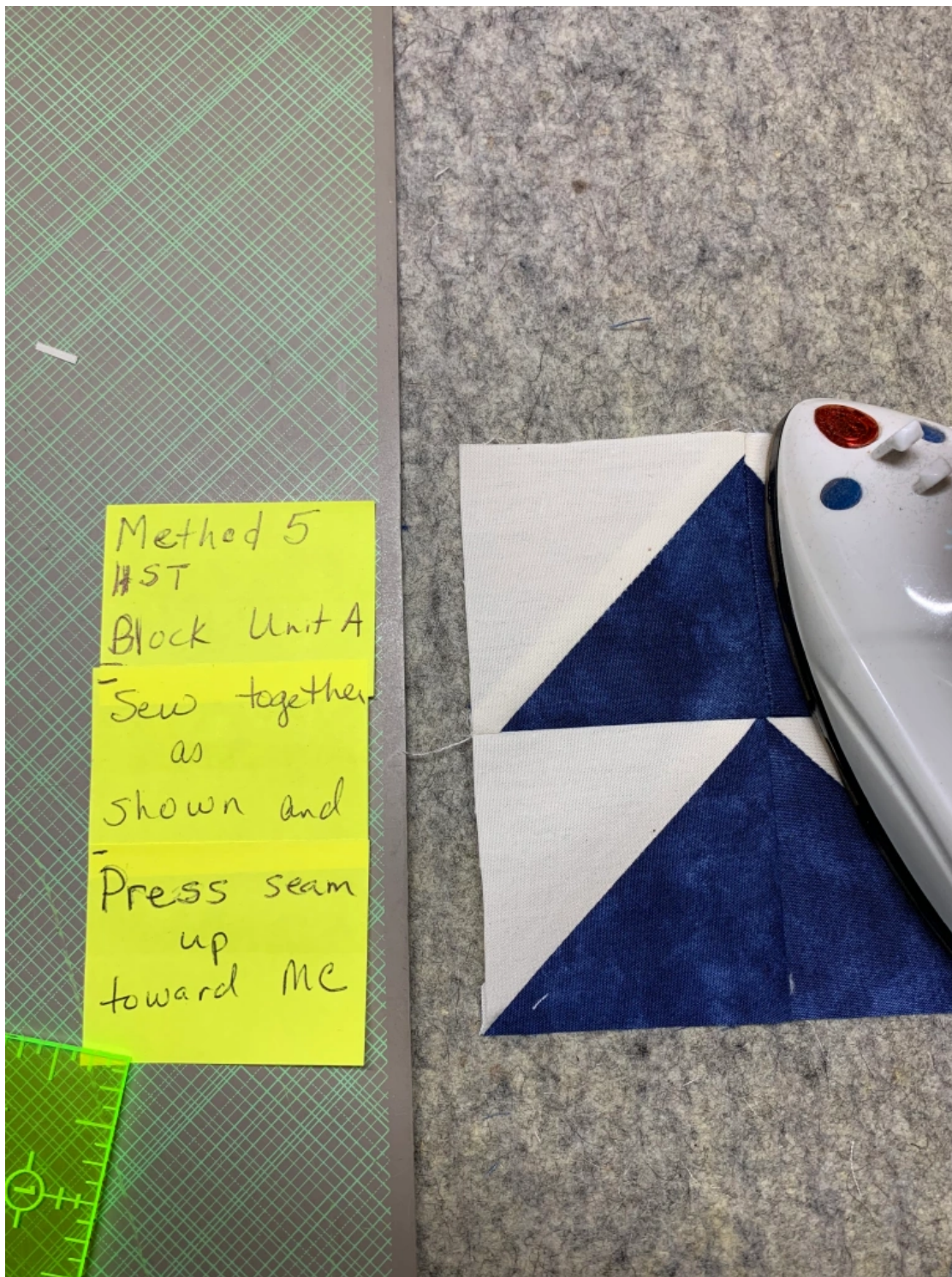
Trim each
geese? goose?
to $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$

← tip of mc
on $2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 2\frac{1}{4}''$





Sew two geese together, making sure to sew to the right of the intersecting seams so you don't lose your tips. Press the seam up toward the MC.



For cutting directions, refer to the Method 1 cutting chart for the number of units you will need BUT you will cut your MC and BC strips $3 \frac{1}{4}$ " wide the full width of the fabric. Sub cut into $3 \frac{1}{4}$ " x $3 \frac{1}{4}$ " squares.

Uncategorized

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