Louisiana Pinwheels Quilt Block Pattern

Louisiana Pinwheels is a quilt block pattern that's most often called simply 'Louisiana.' But it's most definitely a pinwheel design, so it makes sense to me to add that description.

In the example, the pinwheel shapes (created from Flying Geese) are purple backed with a light neutral gray. A darker gray completes, the look, and is used in the rectangles placed on the outer edges of the quilt block.

Do choose fabrics that suit your own tastes, either when sewing in a theme or creating lots of varied blocks to make a scrap quilt.

Pinwheel Blocks finish at 12" square.

Cutting for One 12" x 12" Louisiana Pinwheel Quilt Block

We'll assemble Flying Geese using the no-waste method. Alter cutting to use another technique -- geese finish at 3" x 6"

Purple (peaked area of geese)
(1) 7-1/4" x 7-1/4" square

Light Gray (geese end triangles)
(4) 3-7/8" x 3-7/8" squares

Darker Gray (outer rectangles)
(4) 3-1/2" x 6-1/2" rectangles
Make the Flying Geese Pinwheels

Refer to my No Waste Flying Geese tutorial if you haven't used this method. I've talked with lots of quilters, beginning to experienced, who are hesitant to try the technique, but don't be. It's easy and it's accurate, and as the name says -- there's no waste involved (versus another quick piecing method where triangles are lopped off after sewing squares to the ends of rectangles).

That second method is indeed a good choice for scrap quilts.

1. Draw a diagonal line from one corner to the opposite corner of each 3-7/8" square reserved for Flying Geese.
2. Using the tutorial linked above, sew the small squares to the larger square (you'll work with two small squares at a time -- just follow the instructions and step by step illustrations).
3. When complete, you should have four Flying Geese that measure 3-1/2" x 6-1/2". Figure 1.

Assemble the Quilt Block

1. Find the 3-1/2" x 6-1/2" darker gray rectangles. Figure 2.
2. Sew a 3-1/2" x 6-1/2" rectangle to the top of a Flying Geese as shown in Figure 3 -- the geese should 'point' at the rectangle. Press seam allowance towards the plain rectangle.
3. Repeat, making a total of four Figure 3 units.
4. Arrange the four Figure 3 units into two rows as shown, Figure 4.
5. Sew the units in each row together. Press seam allowances towards the geese.
6. Join the rows and press seam allowance either way. You could wait to press the final seam, until you know how blocks will be joined. At that point, it might be possible to press seam allowances in adjoining rows in opposite directions.

7. The quilt block should measure 12-1/2" x 12-1/2".

Option

Cutting for One 6" x 6" Louisiana Pinwheel Quilt Block

Flying Geese finish at 1-1/2" x 3"

Purple (peaked area of geese)
(1) 4-1/4" x 4-1/4" square

Light Gray (geese end triangles)
(4) 2-3/8" x 2-3/8" squares

Darker Gray (outer rectangles)
(4) 2" x 3-1/2" rectangles