

History of Broken Dishes

- **Early American Roots:** While often found in Pennsylvania Dutch homes, the pattern has roots in the late 18th century, with some sources tracing it as far back as the 1780s or 1790s.
- **Symbolism:** The pattern is believed to represent the broken dishes and difficult lives of women moving westward, or simply represent the recycling of fabric scraps.
- **Underground Railroad:** It has been cited as a quilt block used as a secret, non-verbal signal for slaves escaping via the Underground Railroad, often signifying a need to pack up or look for broken items.
- **Naming Variations:** Over the centuries, this classic pattern has been called by several names, including Old Tippecanoe, Pinwheels, Hour Glass, Whirlpool, Yankee Puzzle, Kings Crown, Friendship Star and Lemoyne Star.

Design and Construction:

<https://beechtreelanehandmade.com/2017/01/26/make-eight-half-square-triangles-at-a-time->

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. **Mark:** On the wrong side of the lighter fabric square, draw two diagonal lines from corner to corner to form an 'X'.
2. **Pin and Sew:** Place squares right sides together. Sew away from *both* sides of both diagonal lines (4 seams total).
3. **Cut:** Using a rotary cutter, make four cuts:
 1. Cut down the center vertically.
 2. Cut down the center horizontally.
 3. Cut along both diagonal lines.
4. **Press and Trim:** Press the 8 triangles open and trim each block to the required unfinished size.

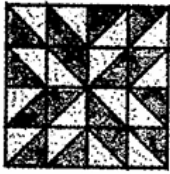
Cut starting squares for at $5\frac{3}{4}$ " for a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " square. (You could begin with a 6" sq. and trim blocks to $2\frac{1}{2}$ ")

You will need 2 white squares and 2 of black squares. I prefer a solid but if it reads solid it should be fine. This will yield the 16 HST needed to complete the block.

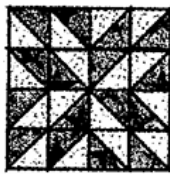
Arrange blocks into the 1st. King's Crown formation with dark center and light edge blocks.

If you should be the lucky winner, a think a pop of color would add interest to the quilt top, I will include a few colorful blocks.

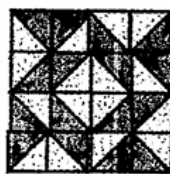
Chart 1 - Sampler Blocks



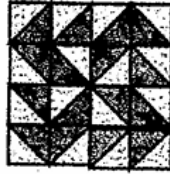
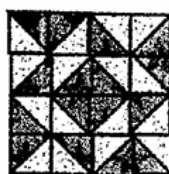
Lemoyne Star



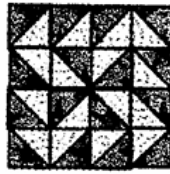
Whirlpool



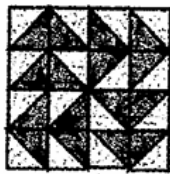
Broken Dishes



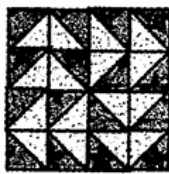
Yankee Puzzle



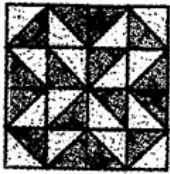
Dutchman's Puzzle



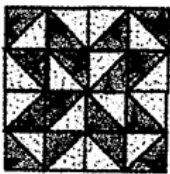
Pinwheels



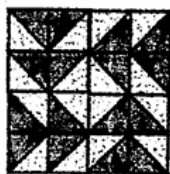
Rolling Star



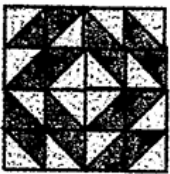
Friendship Star



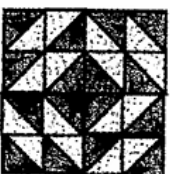
Right And Left



Wind Blown Square



Kings Crown



Variable Star

