

PROJECT: Shiny Baubles
Fusible ornament appliqué and metallic embellishments
combine in a merry and bright tree skirt.

DESIGNER: Sharon Wastenev of Something Stitched (somethingstitched.com)



Finished tree skirt: 40" diameter

MATERIALS

- ❑ 1¼ yards mottled cream (foundation circle)
- ❑ 2—18×21" pieces (fat quarters) assorted blue prints (appliqués, yo-yos, binding)
- ❑ 18×21" piece (fat quarter) each hot pink, lime green, red, purple, and aqua prints (appliqués, yo-yos, binding)
- ❑ 2⅔ yards backing fabric
- ❑ 48" square batting
- ❑ Lightweight iron-on fusible web
- ❑ 22"-long string
- ❑ Pencil or marking tool
- ❑ Pushpin
- ❑ Hand-quilting thread
- ❑ 1 yard ½"-wide metallic trim
- ❑ 2 yards metallic rickrack

Yardages and cutting instructions are based on 42" of usable fabric width.

Measurements include ¼" seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Press seams in directions indicated by arrows on diagrams. If no direction is specified, press seam toward darker fabric.

CUT FABRICS

Cut pieces in the following order.

Patterns are on *pages 5–8*. To make templates of Circle Cutout Pattern for tree skirt center and patterns C–F for yo-yos, see “Make and Use Templates” on *page 9*. Be sure to transfer lines marked on Circle Cutout Pattern to template; the lines are placement guidelines.

To use fusible web for appliquing pieces A and B, complete the following steps.

- 1) Lay fusible web, paper side up, over patterns A and B. Use a pencil to trace each pattern the

number of times indicated in cutting instructions, leaving ½" between tracings. Cut out each fusible-web shape roughly ¼" outside traced lines.

- 2) Following manufacturer’s instructions, press each fusible-web shape onto wrong side of designated fabric; let cool. Cut out fabric shapes on drawn lines. Peel off paper backings.

From mottled cream, cut:

- 1—42" square

From assorted blue prints, cut:

- 1—9" square, cutting it into 2½"-wide bias binding strips
- 3 *each* of patterns A and B
- 2 *each* of patterns C, E, and F
- 4 of Pattern D

From hot pink print, cut:

- 1—9" square, cutting it into 2½"-wide bias binding strips
- 1 *each* of patterns A, B, C, and E
- 3 of Pattern D

From lime green print, cut:

- 1—9" square, cutting it into 2½"-wide bias binding strips
- 4 of Pattern C
- 3 of Pattern D
- 1 of Pattern E
- 2 of Pattern F

From red print, cut:

- 1—9" square, cutting it into 2½"-wide bias binding strips
- 1 *each* of patterns A, B, and F
- 2 *each* of patterns C and D

From purple print, cut:

- 1—9" square, cutting it into 2½"-wide bias binding strips
- 2 *each* of patterns A, E, and F
- 1 of Pattern B
- 3 *each* of patterns C and D

From aqua print, cut:

- 1—9" square, cutting it into 2½"-wide bias binding strips
- 1 *each* of patterns A, D, and F
- 2 *each* of patterns B and E
- 4 of Pattern C

PREPARE FOUNDATION CIRCLE

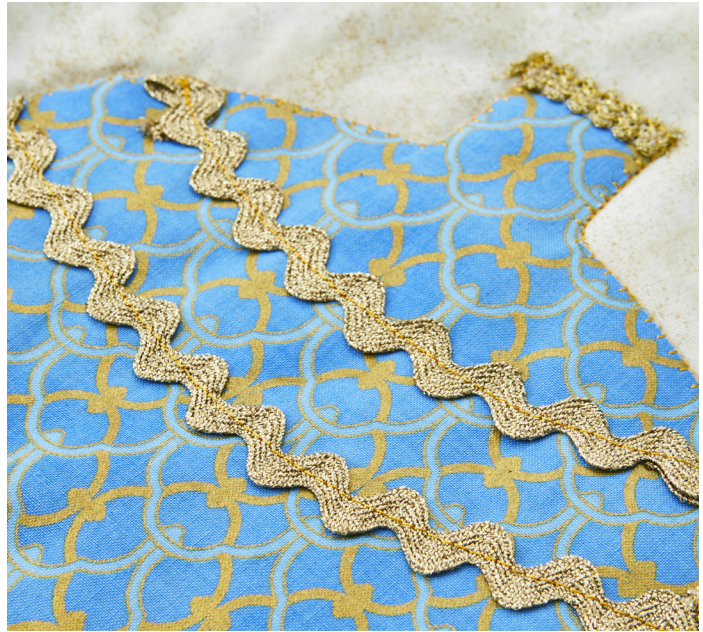
- 1) Referring to **Diagram 1**, fold mottled cream 42" square in half vertically and horizontally to make a 21" square. Fold on diagonal to form triangle; press to make creases for appliqué placement.
- 2) Tie one end of the 22"-long string to a pencil. Referring to **Diagram 2**, use a pushpin to anchor opposite end of string to point of triangle. Make sure distance from point of triangle to tip of pencil is 20". Rotate pencil to draw arc. Cut on drawn line and unfold to make a circle.
- 3) Center circle cutout template on Step 2 circle, using crease lines and lines on template for placement. Trace around circle for tree skirt center and remove template to make foundation circle, but do not cut out center yet (**Diagram 3**).

APPLIQUÉ TREE SKIRT

- 1) Thread a needle with hand-quilting thread and tie a knot about 4" from one end. Holding a lime green print C circle with wrong side up, turn edge a scant ¼" toward center. Make evenly spaced ¼"-long running stitches through both layers, near folded edge, stitching completely around circle (**Diagram 4**); do not cut or knot thread. Gently pull thread ends to gather folded edge; flatten gathered circle with your hands. Knot and trim thread, burying thread ends inside gathers, to make a C yo-yo. Repeat with remaining circles to make 16 C, 16 D, eight E, and eight F yo-yos total.
- 2) Referring to **Appliqué Placement Diagram**, arrange A and B ornament appliqués at a slight angle, and two C yo-yos, two D yo-yos, one E yo-yo, and one F yo-yo in a vertical row on a segment

of foundation circle. Pin yo-yos in place. Following manufacturer's instructions, fuse A and B appliqué pieces in place.

- 3) Referring to photo, *right*, cut metallic trim to lengths to fit across top of A and B ornament appliqué; sew in place. Cut one or two lengths of metallic rickrack to fit across center of A ornament appliqué; sew in place.
- 4) Using thread to match each appliqué, machine-blanket-stitch around edges. Hand-stitch yo-yos in place.
- 5) Repeat steps 2–4 with remaining segments of foundation circle to make appliquéd tree skirt.



FINISH TREE SKIRT

- 1) Layer appliquéd tree skirt, batting, and backing; baste.
- 2) Quilt as desired. Designer Sharon Wastenev machine-quilted around each ornament and then stitched decorative bows around the outer edge and around the marked tree skirt center.
- 3) Trim batting and backing even with rounded outer edges of tree skirt top.
- 4) Referring to **Diagram 5**, carefully cut along one crease up to marked circle for tree skirt center. Cut out center circle on marked line.
- 5) Using diagonal seams, sew together enough assorted print 2½"-wide bias strips to total 180" in length for pieced binding strip. Bind with pieced binding strip.

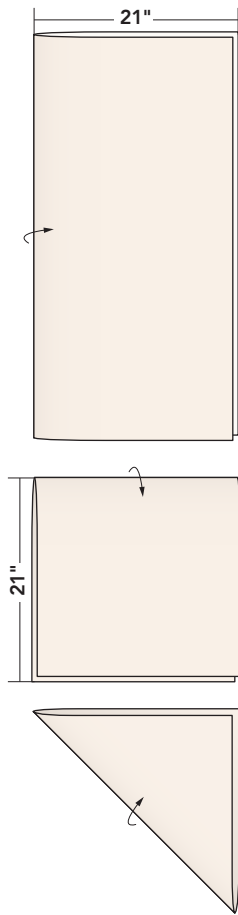


DIAGRAM 1

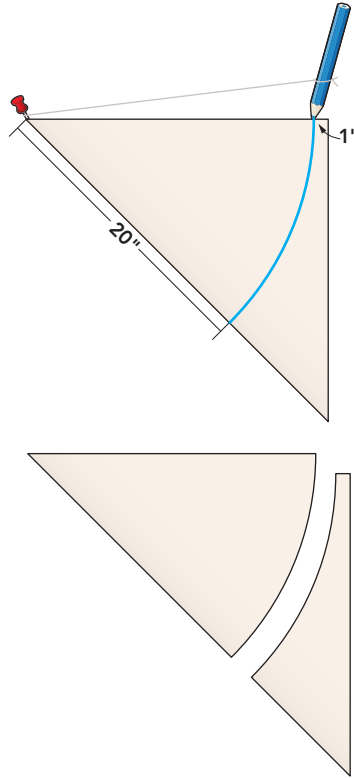


DIAGRAM 2

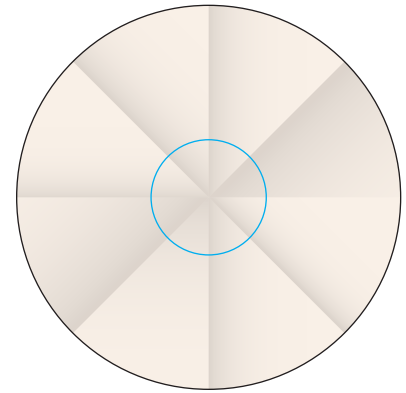


DIAGRAM 3

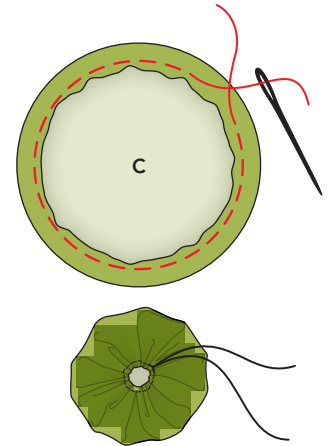
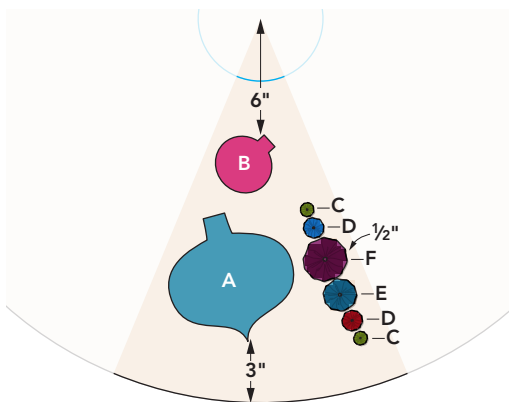


DIAGRAM 4



APPLIQUÉ PLACEMENT DIAGRAM

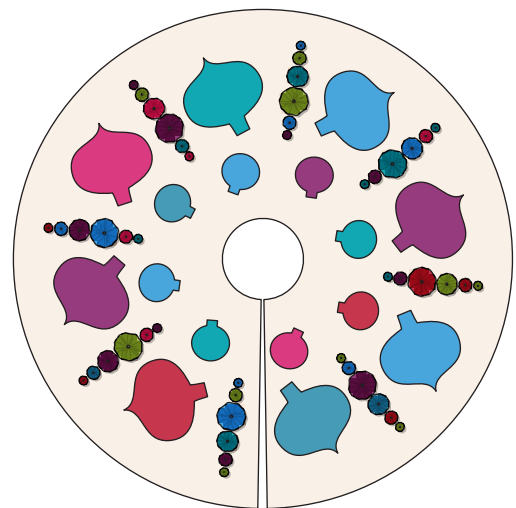
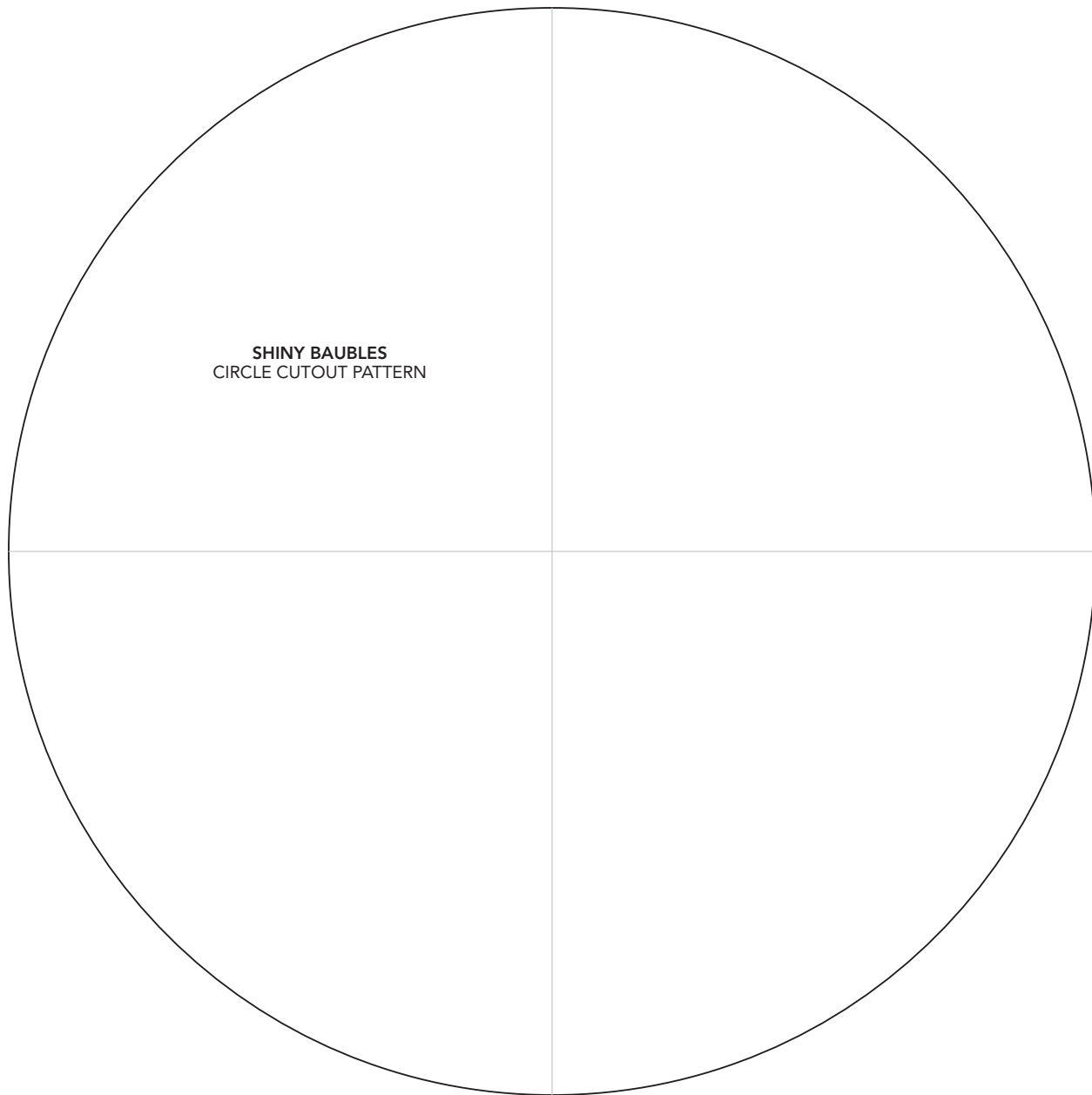
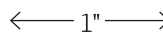


DIAGRAM 5

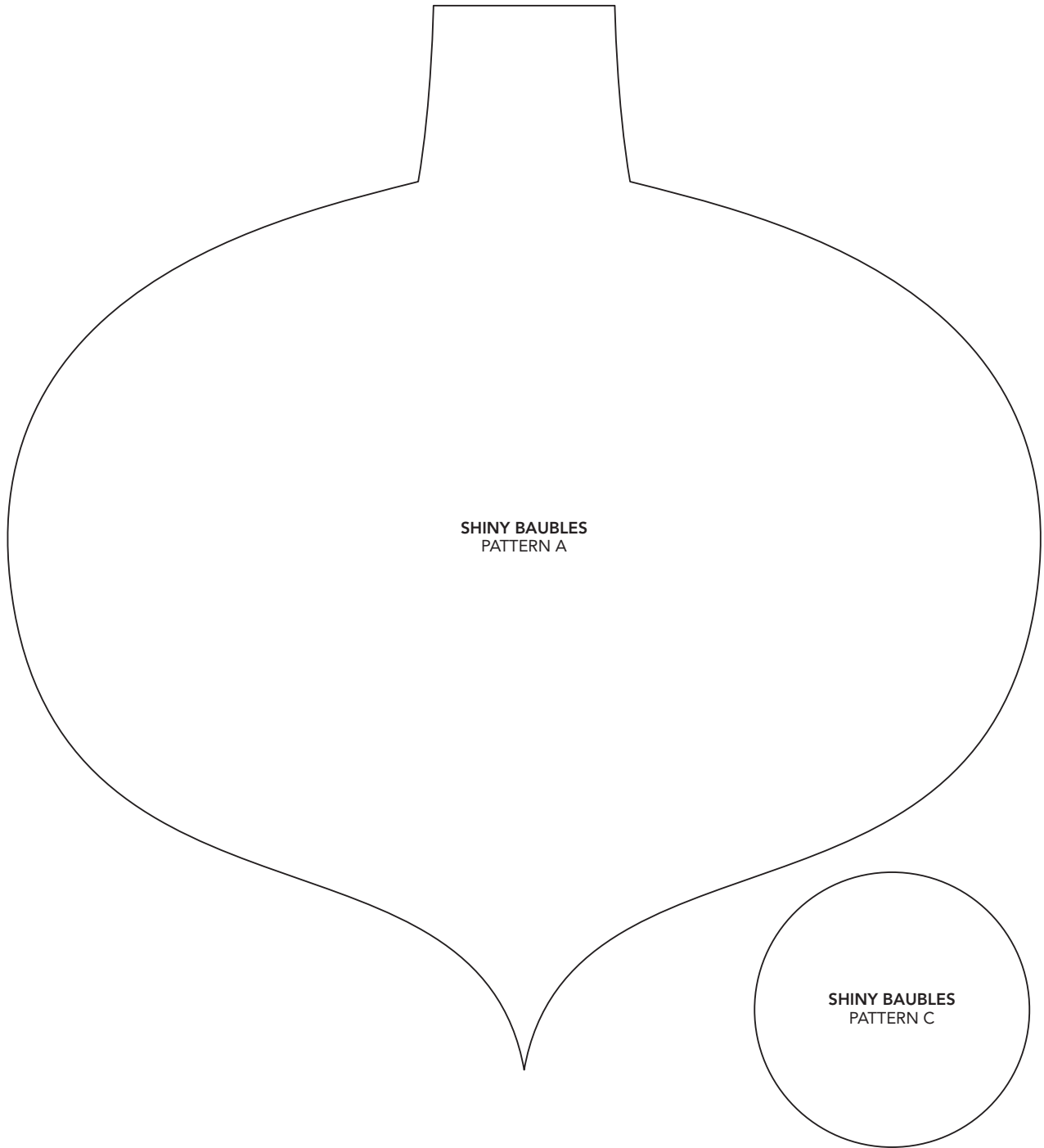


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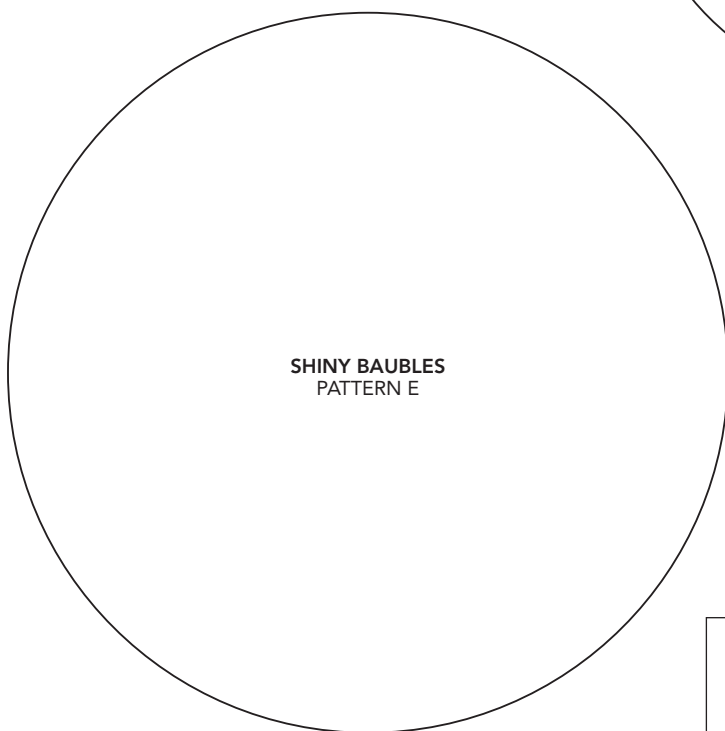


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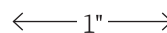
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MAKE TEMPLATES

A template is a pattern made from extra-sturdy material so you can trace around it many times without wearing away the edges. Acrylic templates for many common shapes are available at quilt shops. Or you can make your own by duplicating printed patterns on template plastic.

To make permanent templates, purchase easy-to-cut template plastic, available at quilt shops and crafts supply stores. Lay the plastic over a printed pattern. Trace the pattern onto the plastic using a ruler and a permanent marker to ensure straight lines, accurate corners, and permanency.

For hand piecing and appliqué, make templates the exact size finished pieces will be (without seam allowances). For piecing, this means tracing the patterns' dashed lines.

For machine piecing, make templates that include seam allowances by tracing the patterns' solid and dashed lines onto the template plastic.

For easy reference, mark each template with its letter designation, grain line (if noted on the pattern), and block name. Cut out the traced shapes on their outside lines. Verify each template's shape and size by placing it over its printed pattern. Templates must be accurate; errors, however small, will compound many times as you assemble a quilt. To check templates' accuracy, make a test block before cutting the fabric pieces for an entire quilt.

USE TEMPLATES

To mark on fabric, use a pencil, white dressmaker's pencil, chalk, or a special fabric marker that makes a thin, accurate line. Do not use a ballpoint or ink pen; it may bleed if washed. Test all marking tools on a fabric scrap before using them.

To make pieces for hand piecing or appliqué, place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the previous tracing (**Diagram 1**), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a $\frac{3}{16}$ " seam allowance.

Because templates used to make pieces for machine piecing have seam allowances included, you can use common tracing lines for efficient cutting. Place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template without a space between it and the previous tracing (**Diagram 2**); trace again and repeat. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut pieces out, cutting precisely on the drawn lines.

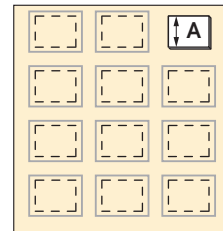


DIAGRAM 1

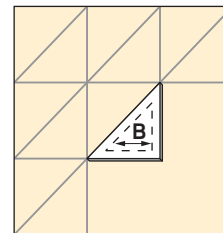


DIAGRAM 2