

## PROJECT: Patriotic Pinwheel Pillow

A patriotic color palette gives a pillow a summery vibe.

**INSPIRED BY:** *Color Wheels* from designer Vicki Ruebel ([orchidow/quilts.com](http://orchidow/quilts.com))

**PROJECT TESTER:** Diane Tomlinson



FABRICS are from the Bandana Ballad collection by Michael Miller Fabrics ([michaelmillerfabrics.com](http://michaelmillerfabrics.com)).

**FINISHED PILLOW: 20" square**  
**FINISHED BLOCK: 15" square**

### MATERIALS

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

- 1/4 yard *each* red print, white print, and dark blue print (pillow top)
- 1/2 yard *each* light blue print and solid navy (pillow top, pillow back)
- 24"-square batting
- 24"-square muslin
- 20"-square pillow form
- Lightweight tracing paper or other foundation material of your choice

### CUT FABRICS

Cut pieces in the following order.

The patterns are on *page 4*. To make templates of patterns, see *Make & Use Templates, page 6*.

#### From red print, cut:

- 8-3" squares
- 8-2 1/4 x 6 1/2" rectangles

#### From white print, cut:

- 8-3x5" rectangles
- 4 of Large Triangle Pattern
- 4 of Small Triangle Pattern

#### From light blue print, cut:

- 2-12 1/4 x 20 1/2" rectangles
- 8-4x5" rectangles

#### From dark blue print, cut:

- 8-2 1/2 x 7 1/2" rectangles

#### From solid navy, cut:

- 2-3x15 1/2" strips
- 2-3x20 1/2" strips

### FOUNDATION-PIECE UNITS

Foundation patterns are on *pages 4 and 5*.

To foundation-piece, stitch fabric pieces to a foundation paper with the marked side of the paper facing up and the fabric pieces layered underneath. The resulting pieced unit is a mirror image of the foundation paper. For step-by-step instructions, see *Foundation Piecing, page 7*.

**1** Use a pencil to trace each foundation pattern onto lightweight tracing paper (or other foundation material of your choice) four times, tracing all lines and numbers. Cut out each traced foundation pattern roughly 1/4" outside dashed lines to make four of foundation paper A and four of foundation paper B.

**2** Gather one foundation paper A, one red print 3" square (position A1), one white print 3x5" rectangle (position A2), one light blue print 4x5" rectangle (position A3), one red print 2 1/4 x 6 1/2" rectangle (position A4), and one dark blue print 2 1/2 x 7 1/2" rectangle (position A5). Working in numerical order, foundation-piece Unit A (**Diagram 1**). Repeat to make four A units total.

**3** Gather one foundation paper B, one red print 3" square (position B1), one white print 3x5" rectangle (position B2), one light blue print 4x5" rectangle (position B3), one red print 2 1/4 x 6 1/2" rectangle (position B4), and one dark blue print 2 1/2 x 7 1/2" rectangle (position B5). Working in numerical order, foundation-piece Unit B (**Diagram 2**). Repeat to make four B units total.

### ASSEMBLE PILLOW TOP

Measurements include 1/4" 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.

**1** Referring to **Diagram 3**, sew together a Unit A and a Unit B. Join a white print large triangle to upper left-hand corner and a white print small triangle to bottom right-hand corner to make block unit. The unit should be 8" square including seam allowances. Repeat to make four total block units.

**2** Referring to **Diagram 4**, sew block units together in pairs. Join pairs to make pillow top center. The pillow top center should be 15 1/2" square including seam allowances.

**3** Referring to **Pillow Top Assembly Diagram**, sew solid navy 3x15 1/2" strips to opposite edges of pillow top center. Join solid blue 3x20 1/2" strips to remaining edges to make the pillow top. The pillow top should be 20 1/2" square including seam allowances.

### FINISH PILLOW

**1** Layer pillow top, batting, and muslin squares; baste. Quilt as desired.

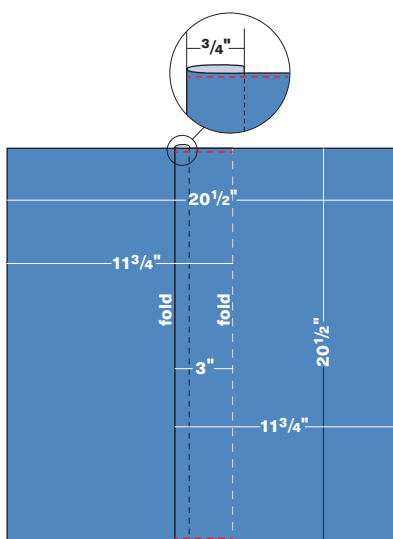
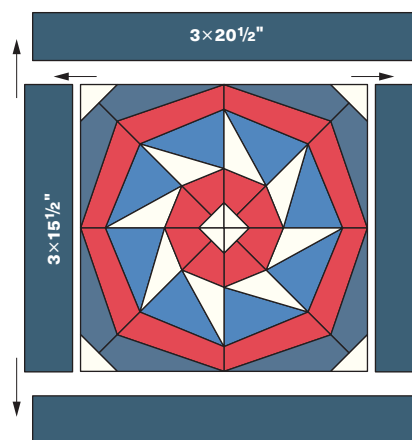
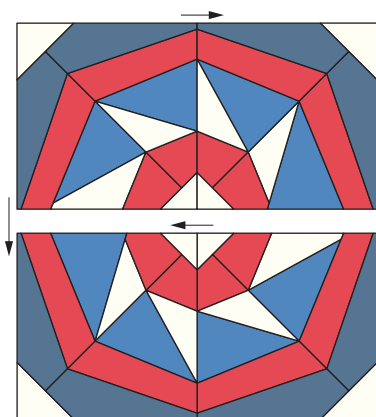
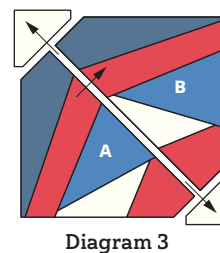
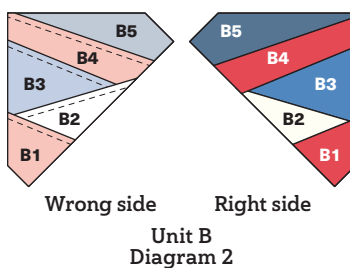
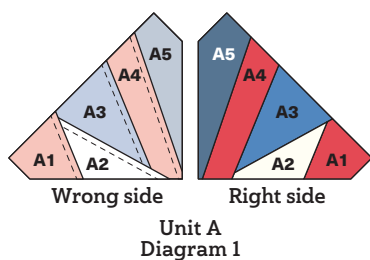
**2** Trim batting and muslin even with pillow top edges.

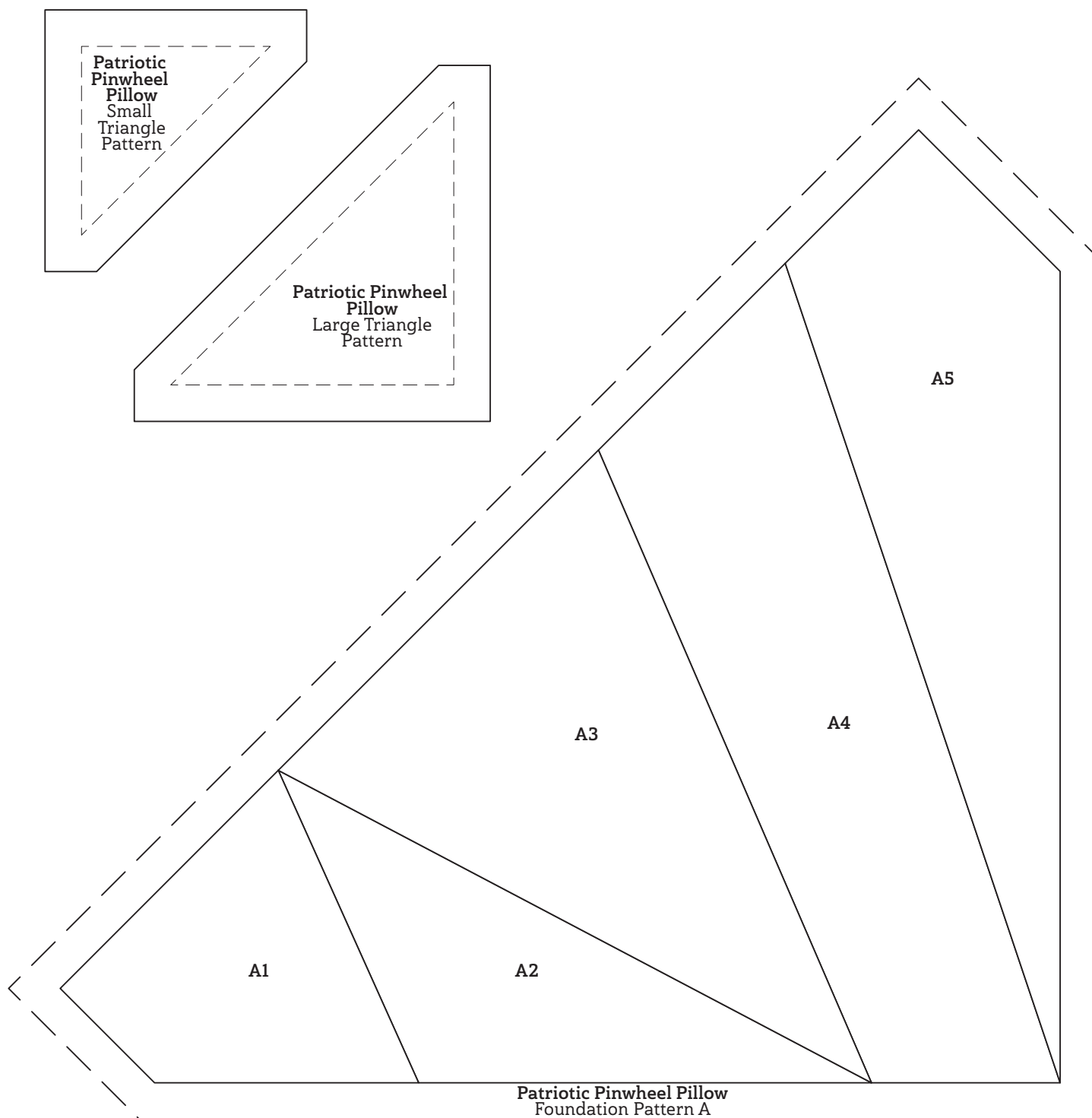
**3** Turn one long edge of each light blue print 12 1/4 x 20 1/2" rectangle under 1/4"; press. Turn under 1/4" again and stitch in place to make hemmed pillow back pieces. Each hemmed pillow back piece should be 11 3/4 x 20 1/2" including seam allowances.

**4** Referring to **Pillow Back Assembly Diagram**, overlap hemmed edges of pillow back pieces by 3" to make a 20 1/2" square. Stitch across overlaps to make pillow back.

**5** Layer pillow top and pillow back with right sides together. Stitch 1/4" from outer edges to make pillow cover. Turn right side out through opening in pillow back; press.

**6** Insert pillow form in pillow cover to complete the pillow.





**Patriotic Pinwheel Pillow  
Foundation Pattern A**

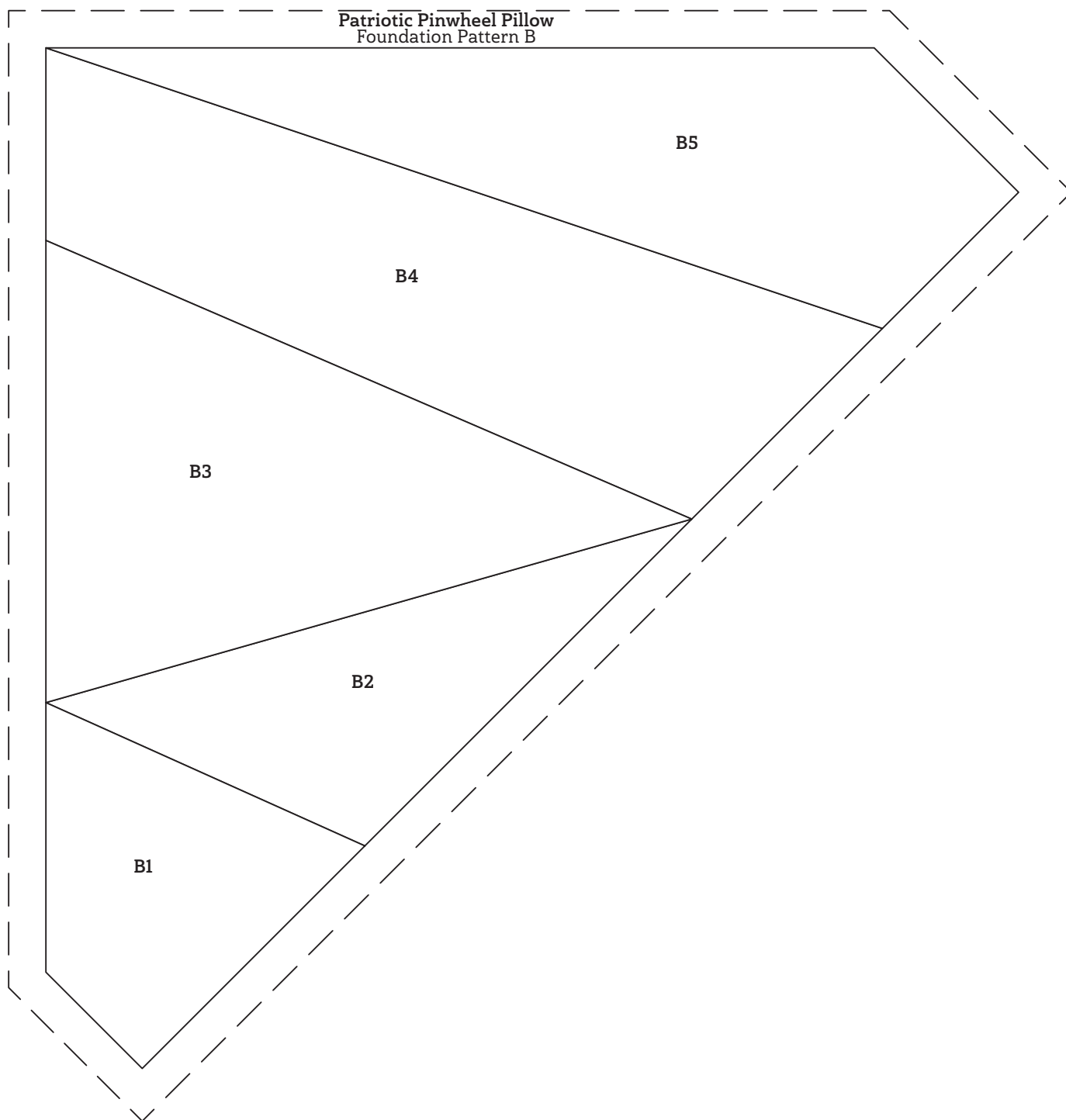
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measure 1".

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**\* NOTE:**

When printing a download-  
able pdf, set Page Scaling  
preference to NONE to print  
patterns at 100%.  
Do NOT "Shrink to Fit"  
or "Fit to Printable Area."





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**\* NOTE:**

When printing a  
downloadable PDF, set Page  
Scaling preference to None  
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not use Shrink to Fit or Fit to  
Printable Area.

### 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.

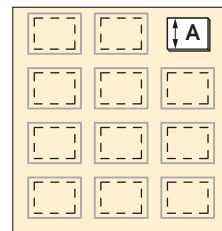


DIAGRAM 1

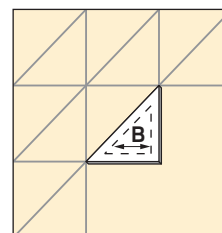


DIAGRAM 2

## FOUNDATION PIECING

To precisely piece intricate blocks or units, you can sew together fabric pieces on a paper pattern or foundation. Some quilters find this technique (also called paper piecing) to be freeing because precise cutting isn't required and grain line direction doesn't matter. However, it requires you to think about piecing in a different way.

To foundation-piece, you stitch fabric pieces to a foundation paper with the marked side of the paper facing up and the fabric pieces layered under the paper. The resulting pieced unit will be a mirror image of the foundation paper.

**Diagrams 8-12**, which show the right and wrong sides of a unit as it is being constructed, illustrate the process.

To make a foundation paper, trace desired pattern onto tracing paper or the foundation material of your choice, including all lines, numbers, and dots. Repeat to make the desired number of foundation papers. Cut out the traced foundation papers roughly  $\frac{1}{4}$ " outside the dashed outer lines.

Roughly cut out fabric pieces that are at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ " larger on all sides than the area they will cover on the foundation paper. (For this example, green and pink rectangles were cut to cover triangles on foundation paper.)

With right sides together, layer the green position 1 rectangle atop the pink position 2 rectangle; align a pair of long edges.

Place a foundation paper, marked side up, atop the layered rectangles, positioning the paper so the aligned rectangle edges are  $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the stitching line between positions 1 and 2 and at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the foundation paper outer stitching line (**Diagram 8**).

To check placement, pin on the line between positions 1 and 2. Flip the pink rectangle open. Make sure the rectangles completely cover positions 1 and 2 and extend at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " into adjacent positions. If they don't, reposition and recheck until they do.

Working with marked side of foundation paper up, use a small stitch length (1.5 millimeters) to sew on the stitching line through all layers, extending stitching past the beginning and end of the line by a few stitches (**Diagram 9**).

Turn stitched layers over so the foundation paper is on the bottom. Press pink rectangle open. Referring to **Diagram 10**, trim green rectangle (but not the foundation paper) to about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond next stitching lines (the line between positions 1 and 3 and the line between positions 1 and 4). Roughly trim pink rectangle to the foundation paper edge. (You will trim it later on the dashed lines when you trim the entire unit.)

With right sides together, align a pink position 3 rectangle with the long trimmed edge of green piece. Turn stitched layers over so the foundation paper is on top. Sew on the stitching line (**Diagram 11**). Turn stitched layers over so foundation paper is on the bottom. Press pink rectangle open. Roughly trim pink rectangle to the foundation paper edge.

In same manner, add a pink position 4 triangle. Trim all fabric layers and foundation paper on the outer dashed lines to complete a foundation-pieced unit (**Diagram 12**). Remove foundation paper with tweezers or the blunt edge of a seam ripper.

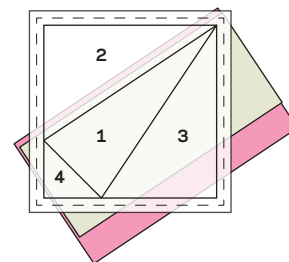


Diagram 8

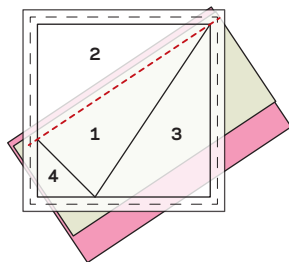


Diagram 9

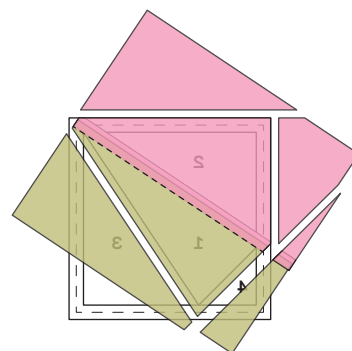


Diagram 10

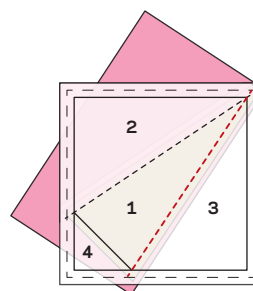


Diagram 11

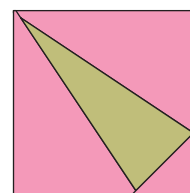


Diagram 12