

Project: Merry and Bright Tree Skirt

# SCRAP LAB

Do you like to make the most of everything? If so, embrace our challenge to create something special from a specific set of materials.

DESIGNER: JESSIE ZEIGLER (THREADEDQUILTING.COM)



Holiday decorations don't always have to be made in traditional colors. Try a different color palette for modern flair.

## Project: Merry and Bright Tree Skirt

### Materials

- 36 precut 8" hexagons or 10" squares assorted batiks (tree skirt top)
- ½ yard solid black (binding)
- 2⅔" yards backing fabric
- 47×50" batting

Finished tree skirt: 39¾×42½"

Measurements include ¼" seam allowances.

Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

### Cut Fabrics

If you are using 10" squares instead of precut hexagons, you will need to cut hexagons from the squares.

The two-part Hexagon Pattern is on pages 7 and 8. To make a template of pattern, see "Make and Use Templates" on page 9.

#### From each assorted batik 10" square, cut:

- 1 of Hexagon Pattern

#### From solid black, cut:

- 200" total 2½"-wide bias binding strips

### Assemble Tree Skirt Top

1. Referring to Cutting Diagram, page 4, use a rotary cutter and acrylic ruler to cut a hexagon diagonally in an X to make a set of two triangles and two diamonds. Repeat with remaining hexagons to make 36 sets total.
2. Referring to Diagram 1, page 4, trim ¼" from two adjacent edges of each diamond.
3. Referring to Quilt Assembly Diagram, page 6, lay out diamond and triangle pieces in 14 diagonal rows on a design

wall. Designer Jessie Zeigler used pairs of triangles from one set and pairs of diamonds from a different set to form two-color hexagons.

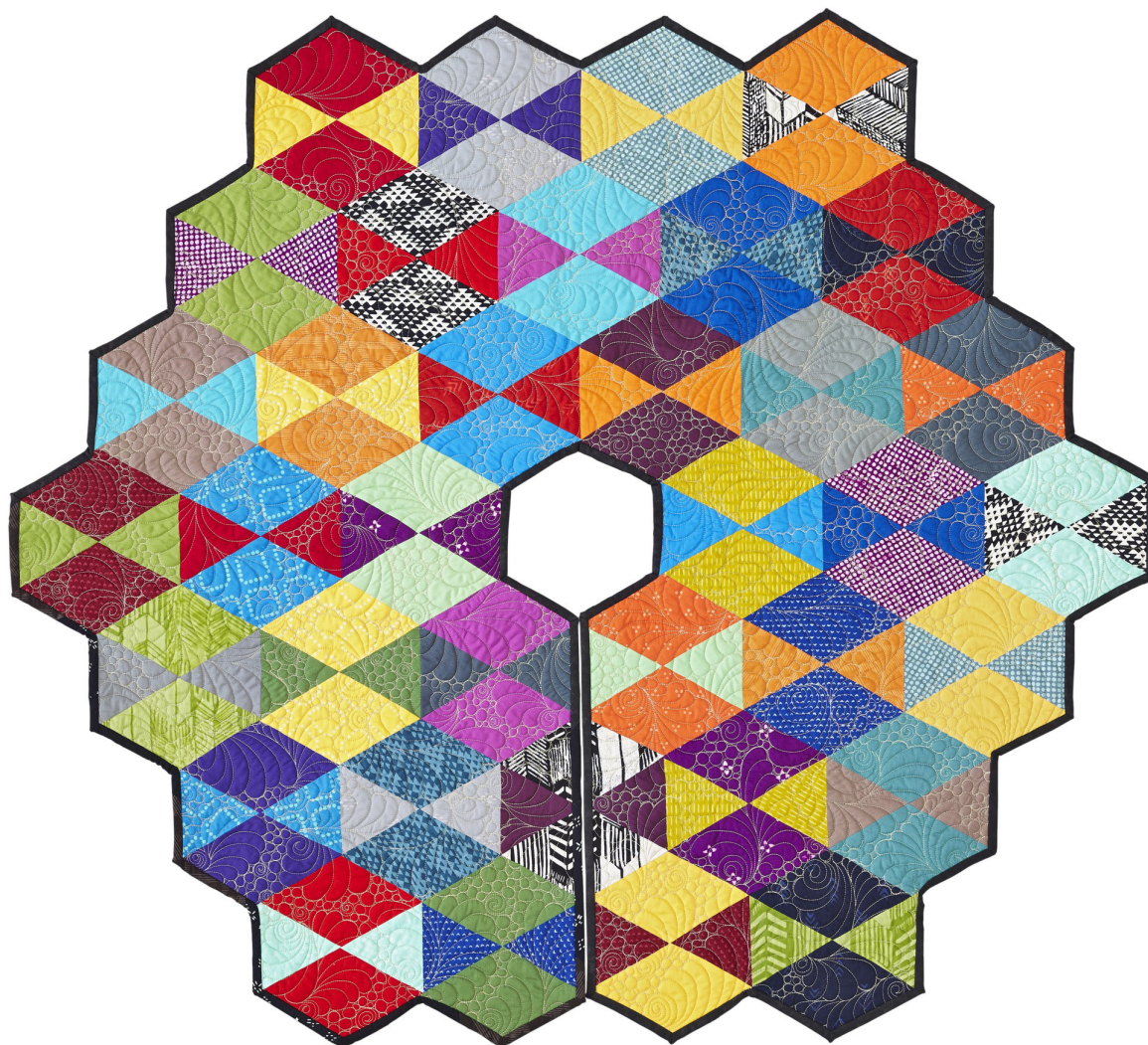
4. Referring to Diagram 2, page 4, sew together a yellow batik triangle and a red batik diamond to make row 1. Press seam open. Return row 1 to design wall.
5. Referring to Quilt Assembly Diagram, page 6, and Diagram 3, page 4, sew together row 2 pieces. Press seams open. Return row 2 to design wall.
6. Referring to Quilt Assembly Diagram, sew together pieces to make rows 3-14, returning each row to design wall after assembly. Rows 7 and 8 are composed of two halves that will form the tree skirt center circle.
7. Join the 14 rows, sewing the two row 7 halves to row 6 and the two row 8 halves to row 9, to make the tree skirt top. The tree skirt top should be 39¾×42½" including seam allowances.

4. Bind tree skirt edges, including center and opening, using solid black bias binding strips to complete tree skirt.

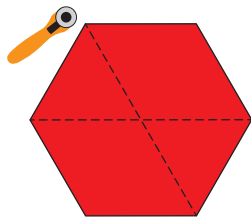
### Finish Tree Skirt

1. Referring to Diagram 4, page 5, layer tree skirt top, batting, and backing; baste.
2. Quilt as desired. Jessie machine-quilted an overall feather and pebble design across the tree skirt top.
3. Trim away excess batting and backing. Referring to Diagram 5, page 5, use a ruler and pencil to draw a line from bottom point of center hexagon to bottom edge of tree skirt. Cut along drawn line to make tree skirt opening.

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CUTTING DIAGRAM

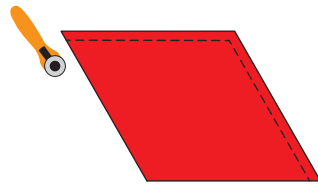


DIAGRAM 1

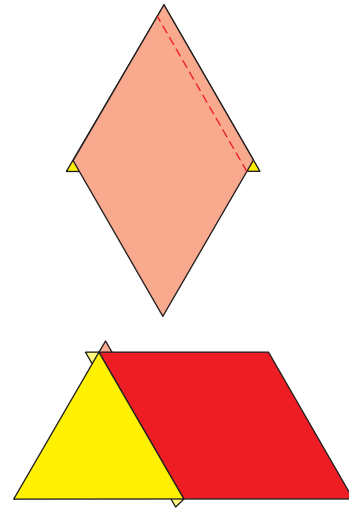


DIAGRAM 2

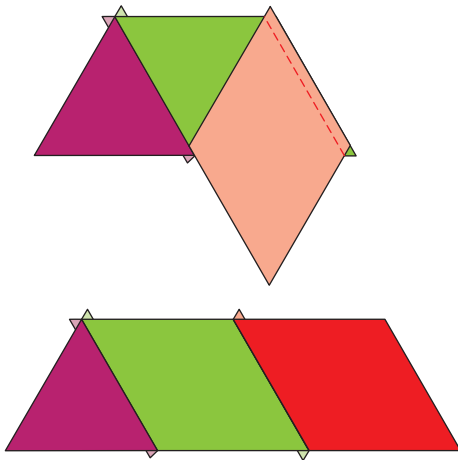


DIAGRAM 3

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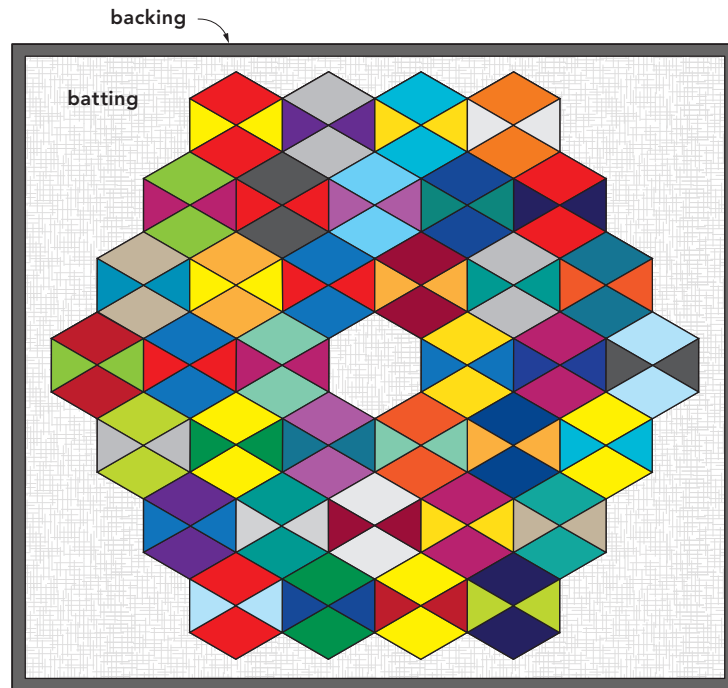


DIAGRAM 4

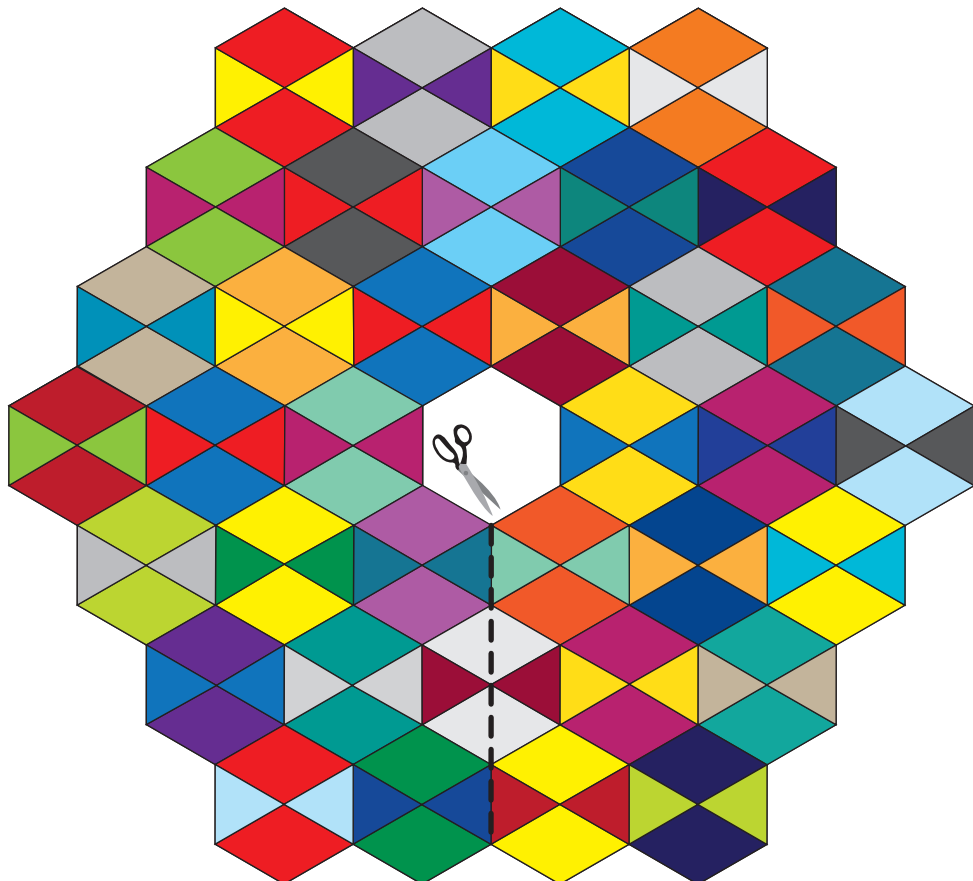


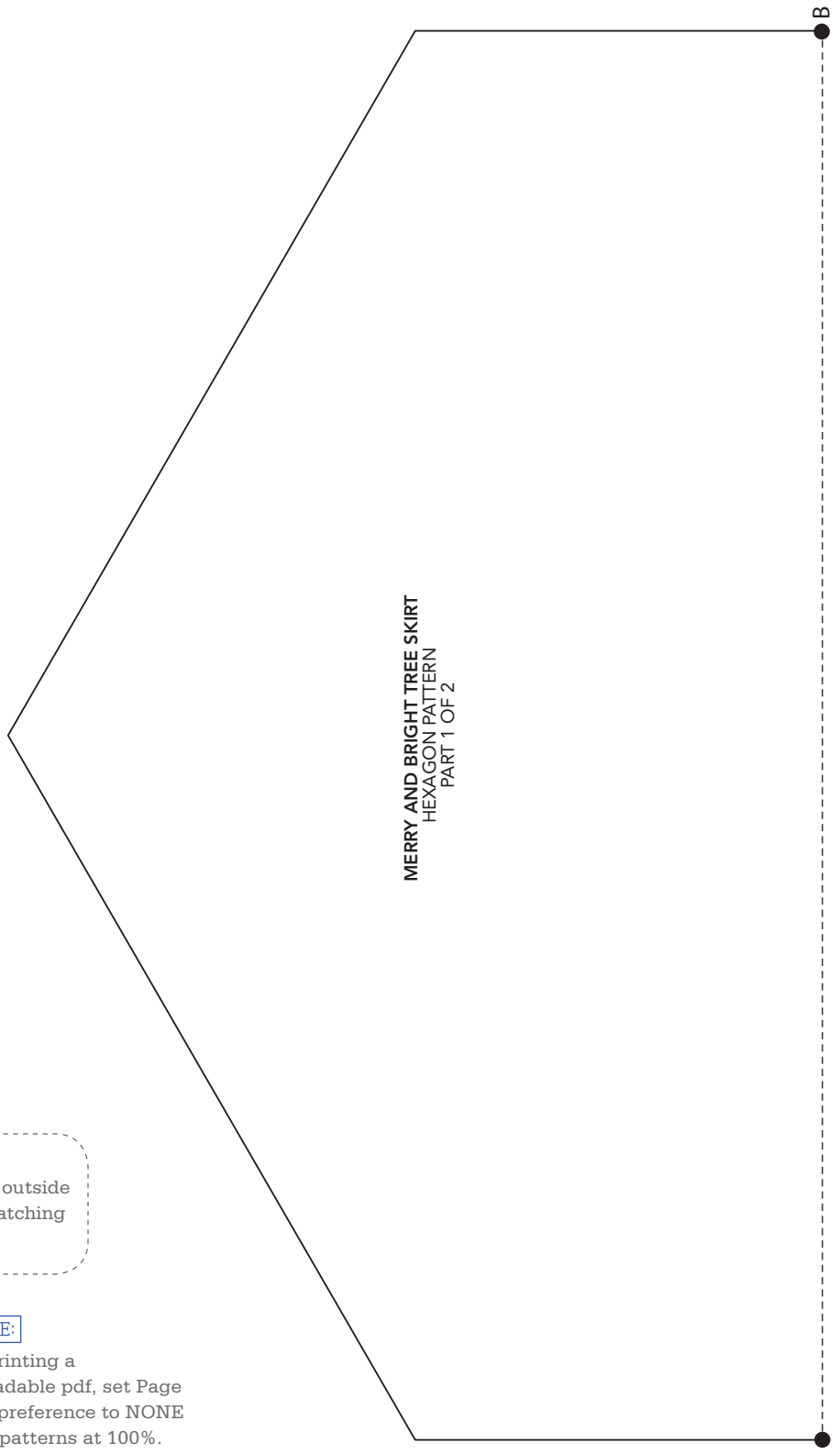
DIAGRAM 5

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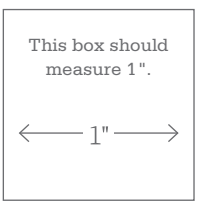


QUILT ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

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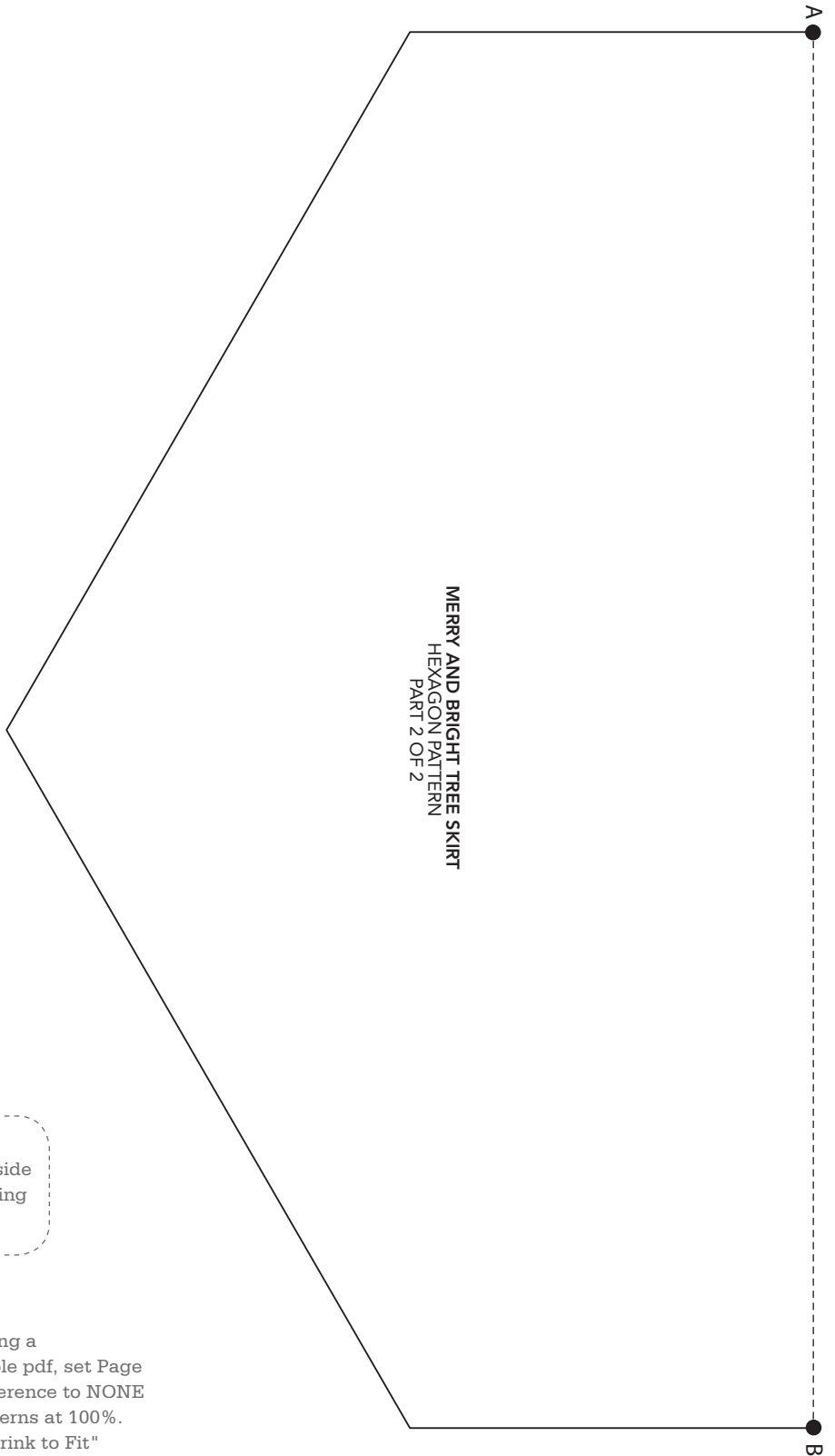


To make an entire pattern, cut out partial patterns on outside lines and tape together, matching dots and letters.

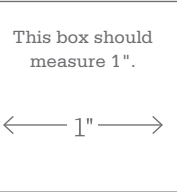


**\* NOTE:** When printing a downloadable pdf, set Page Scaling preference to NONE to print patterns at 100%. Do NOT "Shrink to Fit" or "Fit to Printable Area."

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## Make and Use Templates

### 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.

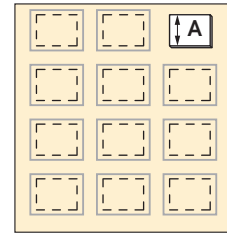


DIAGRAM 1

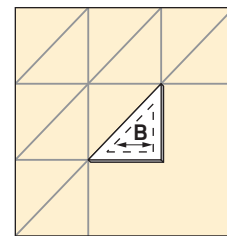


DIAGRAM 2