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**PROJECT: Pyramid Pincushion**

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Foundation-piece tiny triangles into a pincushion that has geometric appeal.

INSPIRED BY: *Tiny Triangles* from designer Giuseppe Ribaudo  
PROJECT TESTER: Jody Sanders



**FABRICS** are from the Hot Medley collection by Cherrywood Hand Dyed Fabrics ([cherrywoodfabrics.com](http://cherrywoodfabrics.com)).

## PROJECT: Pyramid Pincushion

**FINISHED PINCUSHION:**  
4" square

### MATERIALS

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

- Scrap of orange print
- 2x5" piece pink print
- 3x7" piece dark orange print
- 12" square dark pink print
- 5"-square cotton batting
- Lightweight tracing paper or other foundation material of your choice
- Hand-sewing needle, such as a between
- Perle cotton: variegated orange
- Crushed walnut shells or polyester fiberfill

### CUT FABRICS

Cut pieces in the following order.

**From orange print, cut:**

- 1-1/2" square

**From pink print, cut:**

- 3-1/2" squares

**From dark orange print, cut:**

- 3-2" squares

**From dark pink print, cut:**

- 1-4 1/2 x 6 1/2" rectangle
- 1-4 1/2" square
- 1-3 1/2 x 5 1/2" rectangle
- 1-2 1/2 x 4" rectangle

### FOUNDATION-PIECE PINCUSHION TOP

The Foundation Pattern is on *page 4*.

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 5*.

**1.** Use a pencil to trace the Foundation Pattern onto lightweight tracing paper (or foundation material of your choice) once, tracing all lines and numbers. Cut out traced foundation pattern roughly 1/4" outside dotted lines to make a foundation paper.

**2.** Gather foundation paper, orange print 1 1/2" square (position 1), pink print 1 1/2" squares (positions 2-4), dark orange print 2" squares (positions 5-7), and dark pink print 2 1/2 x 4", 3 1/2 x 5 1/2", and 4 1/2 x 6 1/2" rectangles (positions 8-10). Working in numerical order, foundation-piece pincushion top (**Diagram 1**). The pieced top should be 4 1/2" square including seam allowances.

### FINISH PINCUSHION

**1.** Remove foundation paper with tweezers or the blunt edge of a seam ripper.

**2.** Layer pincushion top, wrong side down, atop batting 5" square; smooth to eliminate any puckers (**Diagram 2**).

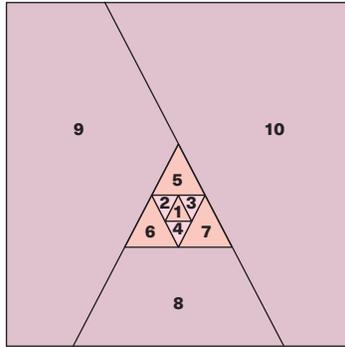
**3.** Referring to **Diagram 3** and **Running Stitch Diagram**, use a hand-sewing needle and perle cotton to make evenly spaced running stitches 1/2" from triangle edges. Trim batting even with pincushion edges.

**4.** Layer pincushion top and dark pink 4 1/2" square with right sides together (**Diagram 4**). Sew together, leaving a 2" opening in one edge for turning, to make a pincushion cover.

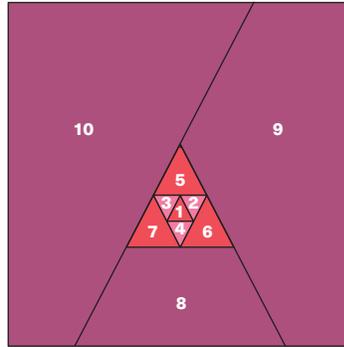
**5.** Turn right side out. Fill cover with walnut shells or fiberfill. Slip-stitch opening closed to finish pincushion.

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Wrong side



Right side

Diagram 1

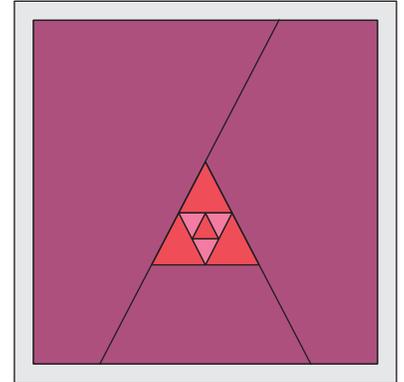


Diagram 2

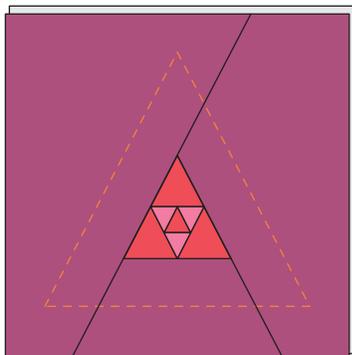


Diagram 3

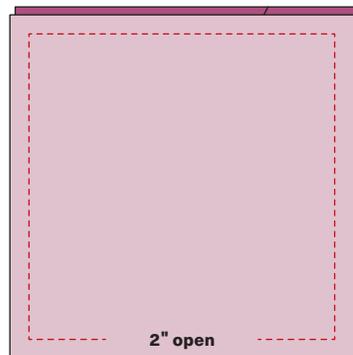
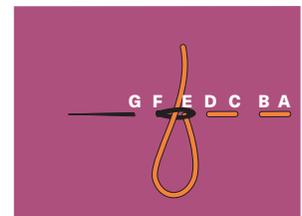


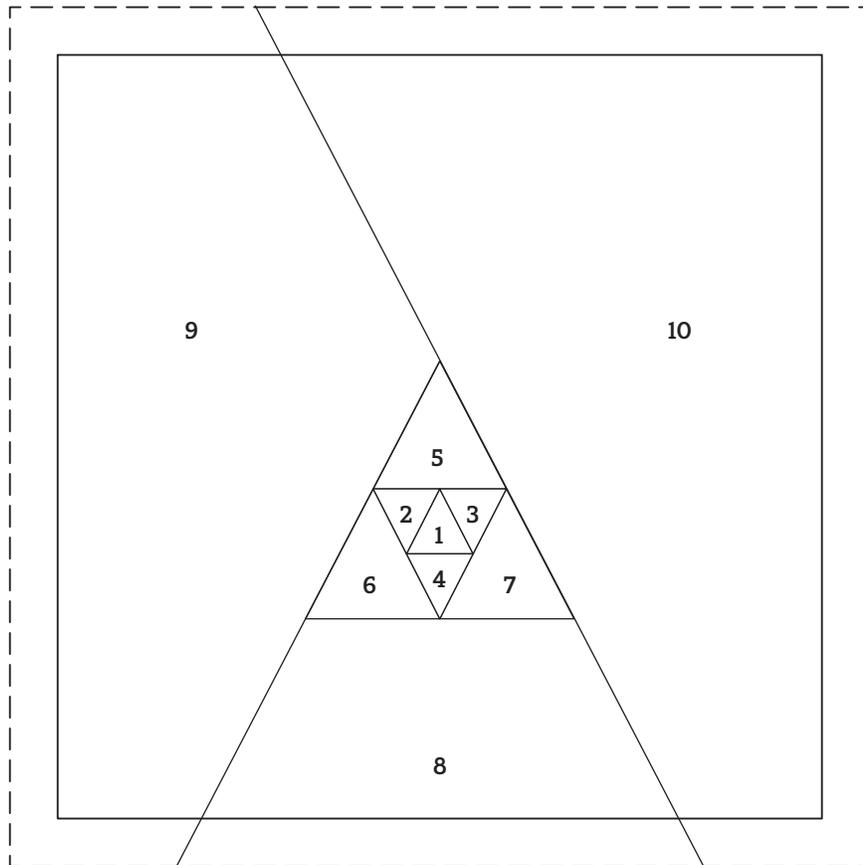
Diagram 4



Running Stitch Diagram

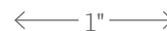
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Pyramid Pincushion  
Foundation Pattern

This box should  
measure 1".



**\* NOTE:**

When printing a  
downloadable PDF, set Page  
Scaling preference to None  
to print patterns at 100%. Do  
not use Shrink to Fit or Fit to  
Printable Area.

## FOUNDATION PIECING

### FOUNDATION PIECING

To make precisely pieced 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 underneath. The resulting pieced unit will be a mirror image of the foundation paper. To illustrate the process, diagrams 8-12, show the right and wrong sides of a unit as it is being constructed.

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 1**).

To check placement, pin on the line between positions 1 and 2, then 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 2**).

Turn stitched layers over so the foundation paper is on the bottom. Press pink rectangle open. Referring to **Diagram 3**, trim green rectangle (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 4**). 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 5**). Remove foundation paper with tweezers or the blunt edge of a seam ripper.

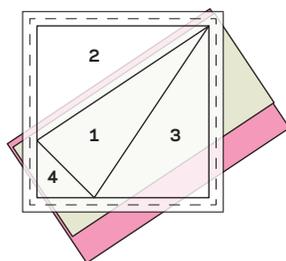


Diagram 1

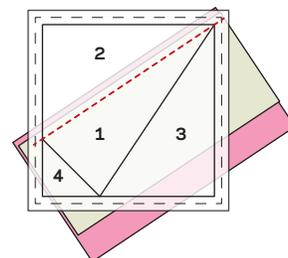


Diagram 2

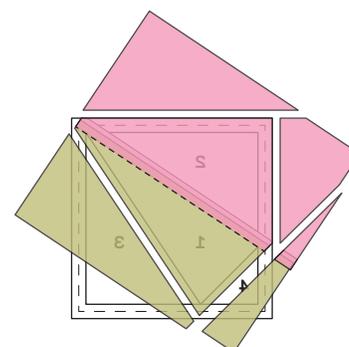


Diagram 3

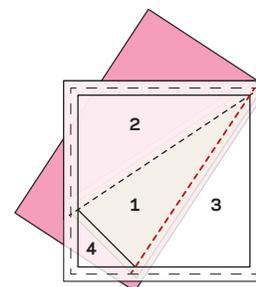


Diagram 4

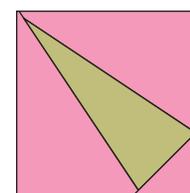


Diagram 5