

Project: Snow Crystals

DESIGNER: GAIL KESSLER



Capture the feeling of winter in a striking wall hanging.

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Materials

- $\frac{7}{8}$ yard of white print for blocks
- 1 yard of navy print for blocks and binding
- $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of royal blue batik for blocks
- $\frac{5}{8}$ yard of dark blue print for blocks
- $\frac{5}{8}$ yard of blue print for blocks
- $\frac{5}{8}$ yard of light blue batik for blocks
- $\frac{2}{3}$ yard of light blue print for blocks
- $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of blue metallic print for blocks
- $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of turquoise print for blocks
- $2\frac{5}{8}$ yards of backing fabric
- 46" square of quilt batting

Finished quilt top: 40" square

Finished blocks: 8" square

Quantities specified for 44/45"-wide, 100% cotton fabrics.

All measurements include a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Cut the Fabrics

To make the best use of your fabrics, cut the pieces in the order that follows.

The patterns are on page 9. To make templates of the patterns, follow the instructions in Make and Use Templates on page 11. Be sure to transfer the dots marked on the patterns to the templates, then to the fabric pieces. The dots are the matching points and are needed to set in seams.

From white print, cut:

- 32— $2\frac{7}{8}$ " squares, cutting each in half diagonally for a total of 64 triangles

From navy print, cut:

- 5— $2\frac{1}{2} \times 42"$ binding strips
- 32— $2\frac{7}{8}$ " squares, cutting each in half diagonally for a total of 64 triangles

From royal blue batik, cut:

- 64 of Pattern A

From dark blue print, cut:

- 64 of Pattern A

From blue print, cut:

- 64 of Pattern A

From light blue batik, cut:

- 64 of Pattern A

placement of the diagonal seam).

Sew the pieces together from dot to dot to make a half-unit. Press the seam allowance toward the A piece.

5. Referring to **Diagram 5**, align the diagonal edges of the royal blue batik A piece and the dark blue print A piece. Sew the pieces together beginning where the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances intersect and moving outward. Press the seam allowance in one direction.

6. In the same manner, add the blue print A piece and the light blue batik A piece to the half-unit to make one windowpane unit (**Diagram 6**). Press all seam allowances toward the A pieces.

7. Repeat steps 3 through 6 to make a total of 64 windowpane units.

8. Referring to **Diagram 7**, sew together four windowpane units in pairs, noting the placement of the triangle-squares. Join the pairs to make a windowpane block. Press the seam allowances in one direction. The pieced windowpane block should measure $8\frac{1}{2}$ " square, including the seam allowances. Repeat to make a total of 16 windowpane blocks.

Assemble Star Half-Units

Because the star blocks are foundation-pieced, the fabric pieces used to make them are cut larger than necessary—at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger on all sides than the areas of the foundation paper they will cover. Cutting generous fabric pieces will reduce the chance of

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assembly errors. You'll trim the pieces to the correct size after stitching them to the foundation papers. When cutting fabrics, don't worry about grain lines; the foundation papers will stabilize the fabric pieces. **Note:** When foundation piecing, you'll sew from the wrong side of the star unit, so the finished unit will be the mirror-image of the foundation paper.

- 1.** The foundation patterns are on page 10. With a pencil, trace foundation patterns B and C 36 times each onto lightweight tracing paper, tracing all lines and numbers. Cut out the tracings on the dotted lines for a total of 72 foundation papers.
- 2.** With the fabric wrong side up, cut a light blue print piece at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger on all sides than Pattern B foundation paper areas No. 1 and 3 and a royal blue batik piece at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger on all sides than Pattern B foundation paper area No. 2 (Diagram 8).
- 3.** With right sides together, place the light blue print No. 1 piece atop the royal blue batik piece, aligning the edges that border the first stitching line. Put the Pattern B foundation paper on top of the light blue print No. 1 piece so the light blue piece is under area No. 1. The aligned edges of the fabric pieces should be a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the first stitching line (Diagram 9). With the foundation paper on top, sew on the first stitching line through all layers.
- 4.** Trim the fabric seam allowance to a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " if necessary. Press the fabric pieces open, pressing the seam allowance toward

the royal blue piece. Trim both pieces even with the edges of the foundation paper (Diagram 10).

- 5.** With right sides together, position the light blue No. 3 piece under the royal blue piece with the right edge $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the second stitching line. Sew on the second stitching line (Diagram 11).
 - 6.** Trim the fabric seam allowance, if needed. Press the pieces open, pressing the seam allowance toward the second light blue piece. Trim the second light blue piece even with the edges of the foundation paper. With the blunt edge of a seam ripper, remove the foundation paper to complete one light blue B star half-unit (Diagram 12).
 - 7.** Repeat steps 2 through 6 to make a total of 18 light blue B star half-units.
 - 8.** Repeat steps 2 through 6, using the blue metallic print for foundation paper areas No. 1 and 3 and the light blue print for foundation paper area No. 2, to make a total of 18 blue metallic B star half-units.
 - 9.** Referring to steps 2 through 6 and Diagram 13, sew the turquoise print and white print to a Pattern C foundation paper to make a total of 18 turquoise C star half-units.
 - 10.** Referring to steps 2 through 6 and Diagram 14, sew the white print and navy print to a Pattern C foundation paper to make a total of 18 white C star half-units.
- Assemble Star Blocks**
- 1.** Using patterns B and C as a guide, mark the matching points on all light blue and blue metallic B star half-units and turquoise and white C star half-units.
 - 2.** Align the matching points of one turquoise C star half-unit with one light blue B star half-unit. Sew together the pieces, starting and stopping at the dots (Diagram 15). Finger-press the seam allowance toward the turquoise half-unit.
 - 3.** Bring the adjacent short edge of the turquoise half-unit down and align it with the short edge of the light blue half-unit (Diagram 16). Stitch from the matching point at the inside seam to the outside edge. Backstitch to secure the ends of the seam.
 - 4.** Sew together the remaining short edges of the light blue and turquoise star half-units to complete a light blue star unit (Diagram 17). Press the seam allowance toward the light blue star half-unit.
 - 5.** Repeat steps 2 through 4 to make a total of 18 light blue star units.
 - 6.** Referring to steps 2 through 4 and using the white C star half-units and blue metallic B star half-units, make a total of 18 blue metallic star units.
 - 7.** Referring to Diagram 18, sew together two light blue star units and two blue metallic star units in pairs. Press the seam allowances in opposite directions. Join the pairs to make a star block. Press the seam allowances in one direction. The pieced star block should

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measure 8½" square, including the seam allowances. Repeat to make a total of nine star blocks.

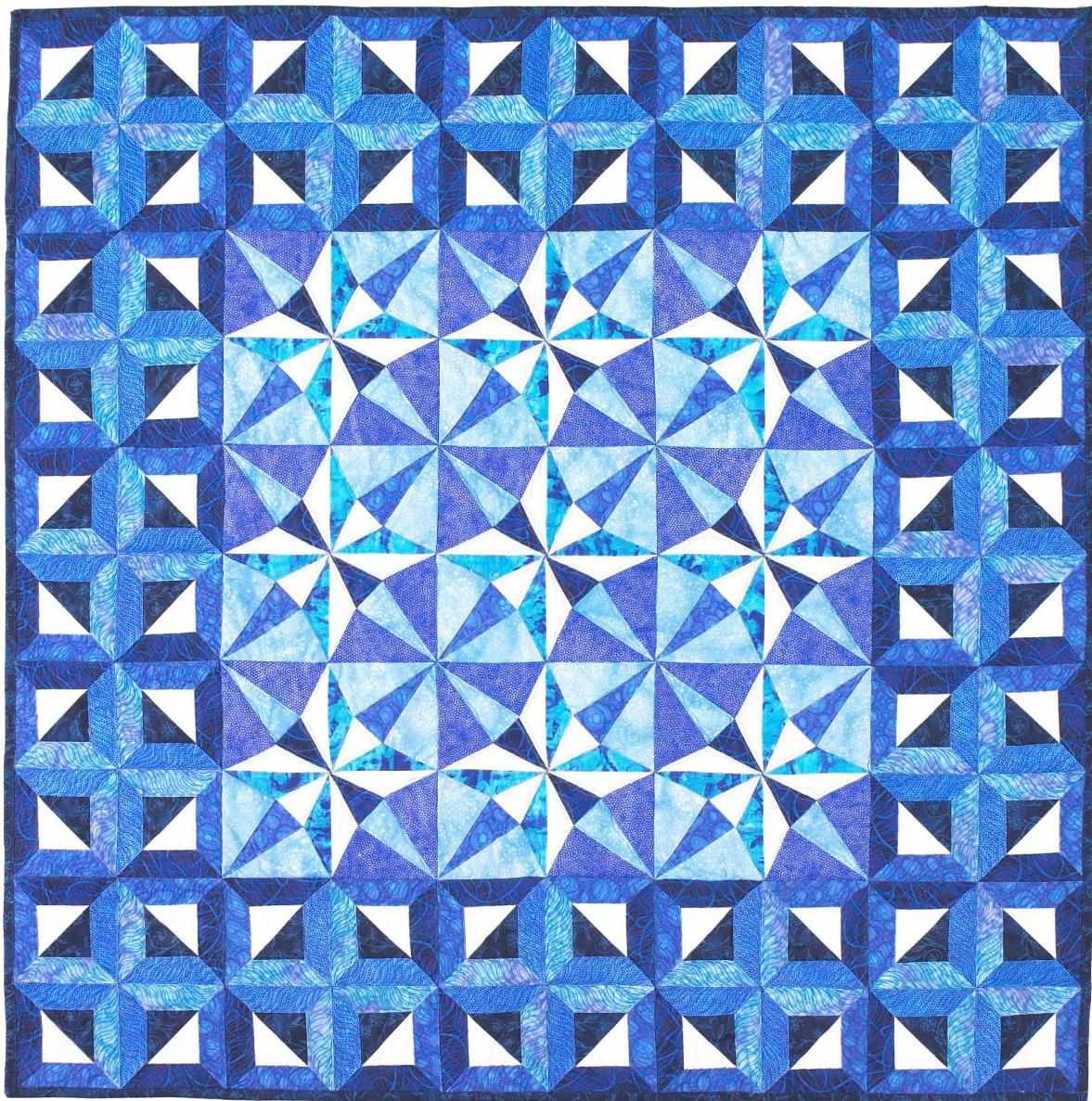
Assemble the Quilt Top

- 1.** Referring to the [Quilt Assembly Diagram](#) for placement, lay out the 16 windowpane blocks and the nine star blocks in five horizontal rows.
- 2.** Sew together the blocks in each row. Press the seam allowances in one direction, alternating the direction with each row. Then join the rows to complete the quilt top. Press the seam allowances in one direction.

Complete Quilt

- 1.** Layer the quilt top, batting, and backing.
- 2.** Quilt as desired. Machine-quilter Barbara Pershing quilted a feather pattern in the borders of the windowpane blocks and a wavy-lined outline in each star point.
- 3.** Use the navy print 2½x42" strips to bind the quilt.

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Diagram 1

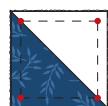


Diagram 2

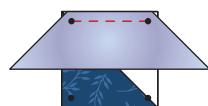


Diagram 3

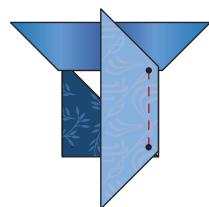


Diagram 4

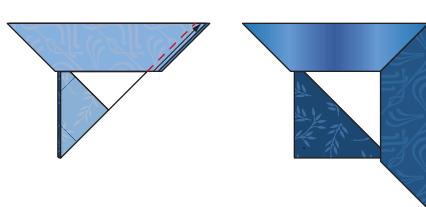


Diagram 5

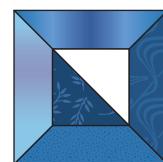


Diagram 6

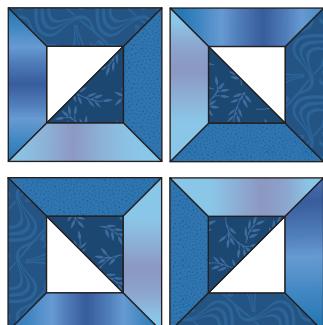


Diagram 7

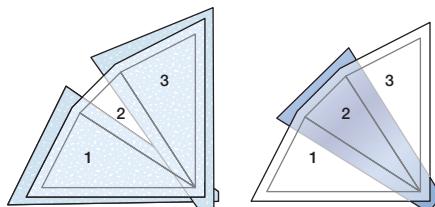


Diagram 8

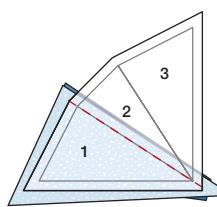


Diagram 9

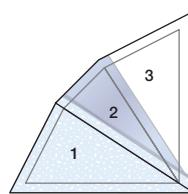


Diagram 10

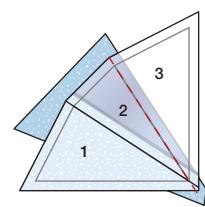


Diagram 11

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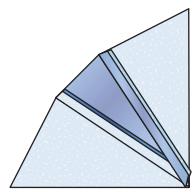


Diagram 12

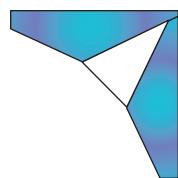


Diagram 13

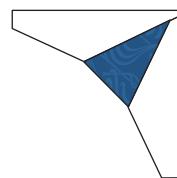


Diagram 14

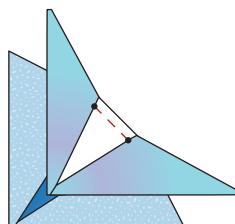


Diagram 15

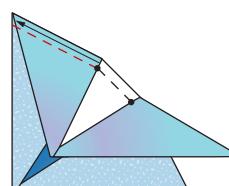


Diagram 16

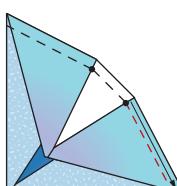


Diagram 17

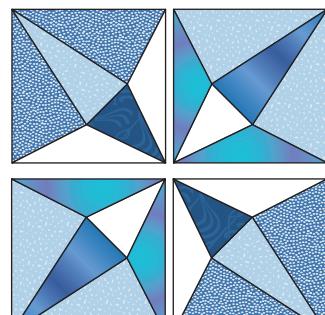
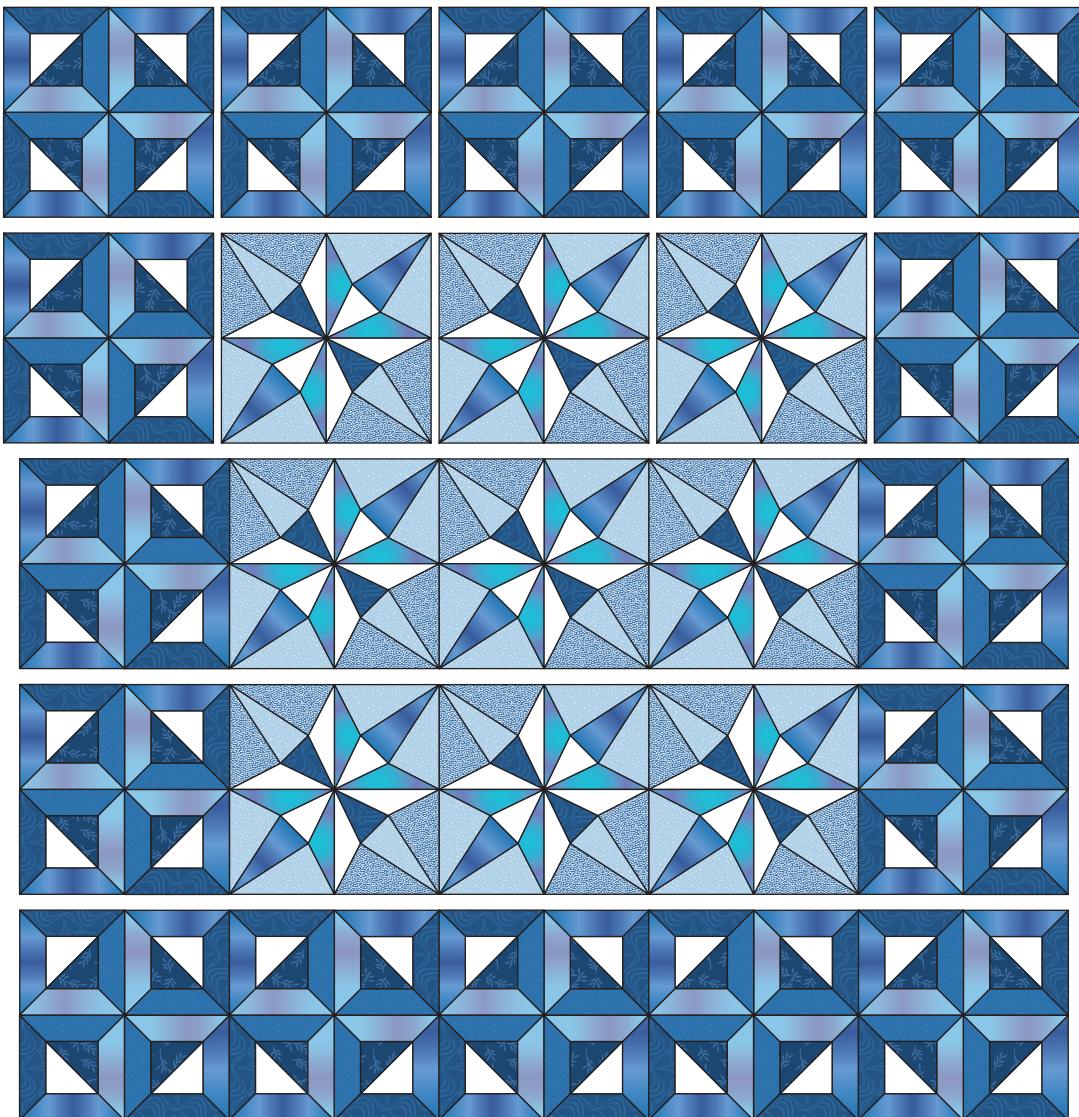


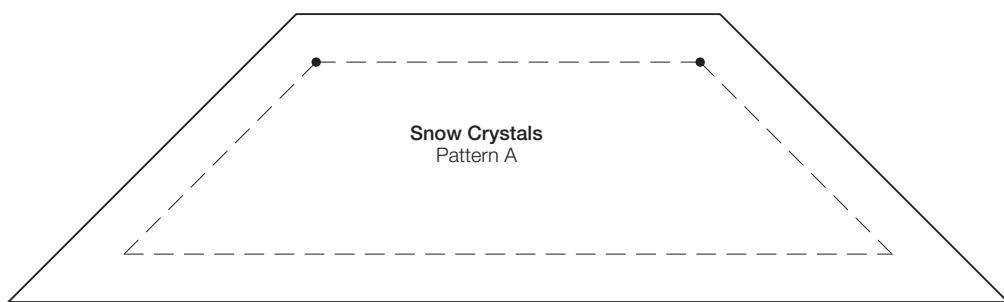
Diagram 18

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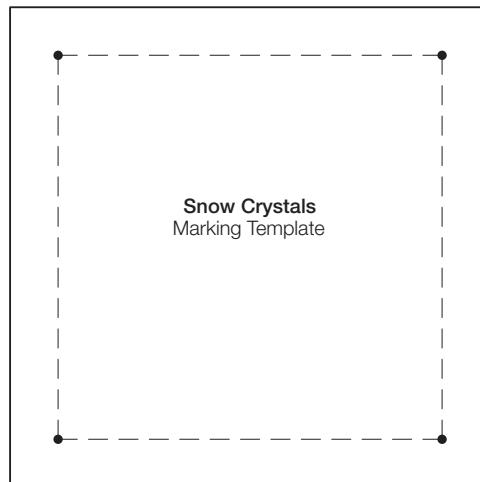


Quilt Assembly Diagram

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Pattern A

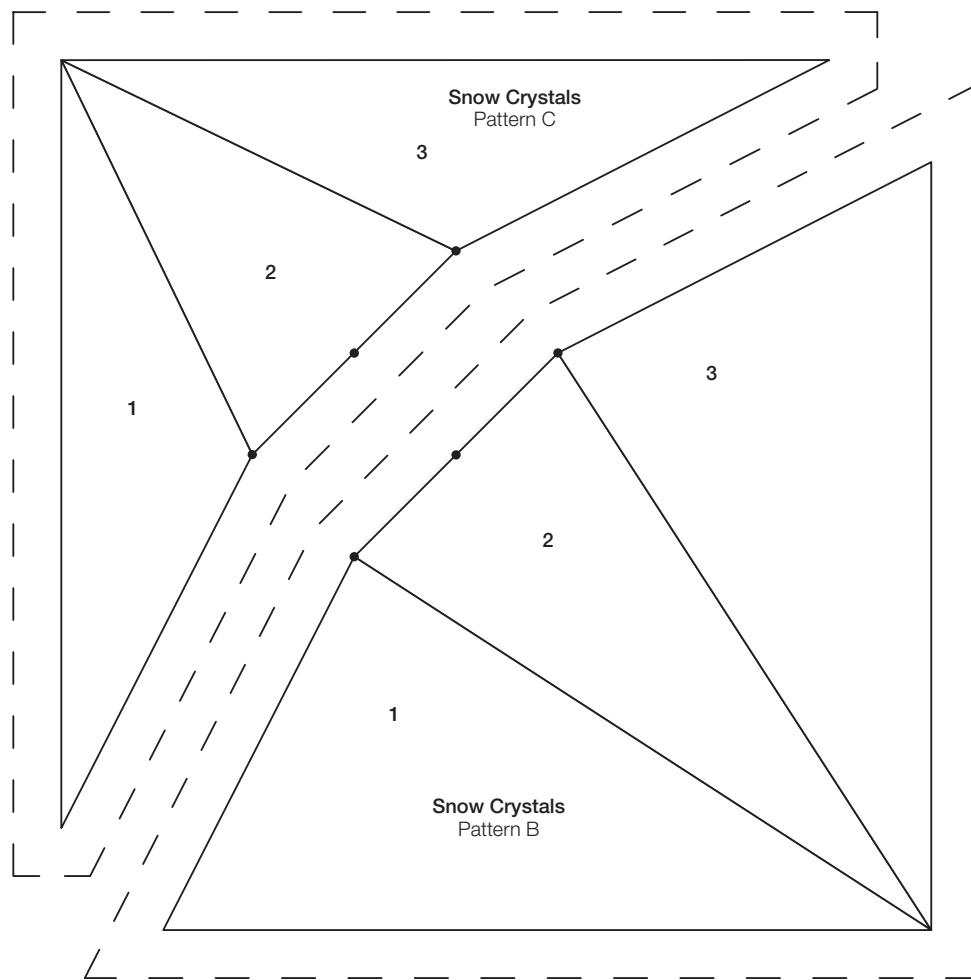


Snow Crystals
Marking Template

This box should
measure 1".
← 1" →

* 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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* NOTE:
This box should
measure 1".
← 1" →

When printing a
downloadable pdf, set Page
Scaling preference to NONE
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or "Fit to Printable Area."

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 appliquéd, 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 appliquéd, 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 appliquéd, 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.

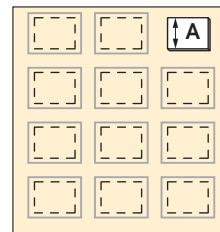


DIAGRAM 1

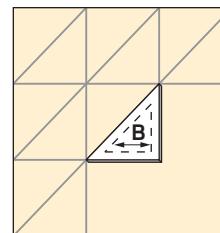


DIAGRAM 2