

Project: Fresh Chicks

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Stitch up a whole flock of chicks—they take so little time and not much fabric. Just gather up a chunk of yellow fleece, snippets of felt for the beaks, tiny buttons for eyes, and fabric scraps for wings, and you're ready to turn out one cuddly peep after another.



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Materials for One Bird

- Scrap of orange felt or fleece
- ¼ yard yellow fleece
- Scrap of blue print
- Polyester fiberfill
- Embroidery floss: yellow
- 2—½"-diameter buttons: black

Finished bird: 6×5×3" for small bird; 7¼×6¼×3½" for large bird

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

Cut Fabrics

Cut pieces in the following order.

Instructions are for one small bird. Patterns for small and large birds are on pages 4-6. Use patterns A-D for small bird, or substitute patterns E-H to make a large bird.

To make templates of patterns, see Make and Use Templates on page 7. Be sure to transfer the dots (matching points) marked on the patterns to the templates, then to the fabric pieces.

From orange felt or fleece, cut:

- 1 of Pattern D

From yellow fleece, cut:

- 1 each of patterns A and A reversed
- 1 of Pattern B

From blue print, cut:

- 2 each of patterns C and C reversed

Assemble Bird

1. Referring to **Diagram 1** for placement, pin orange felt D piece on one yellow fleece A piece.
2. Layer and pin A pieces with right sides together. With a short stitch length (1.5-2 mm), sew together A pieces, leaving an opening between dots to make upper body (**Diagram 2**).
3. Matching dots, pin B piece (lower body) into upper body opening. Using short stitch length, sew B piece to upper body, leaving a 2" opening near tail to make bird body (**Diagram 3**). Clip corners and curves almost to stitching.
4. Turn bird body right side out. Stuff tightly with fiberfill (use eraser end of pencil or a chopstick to poke fiberfill into curved areas of body). Hand-stitch opening closed.
5. Layer and sew together blue print C and C reversed pieces, leaving a 1" opening along one edge.
6. Turn C pieces right side out. Stuff lightly with fiberfill. Hand-stitch opening closed to make a wing.
7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 to make a second wing.
8. Referring to **Pattern A** for placement, use two strands of yellow floss to blanket-stitch a wing to each side of bird body.

To blanket-stitch, pull needle up at A, form a reverse L shape with floss, and hold angle of L shape in place with your thumb (**Blanket Stitch Diagram**). Push needle down at B and come up at C to secure stitch. Continue in same manner around shape.
9. For eyes, sew a ½"-diameter black button on each side of body to complete bird.

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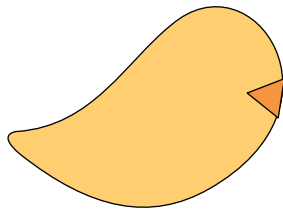


DIAGRAM 1

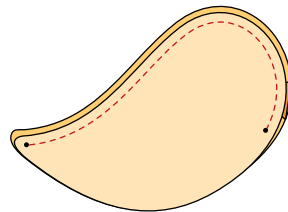


DIAGRAM 2

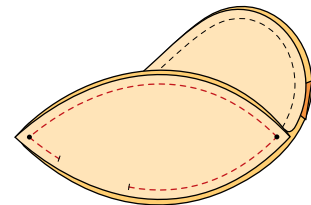
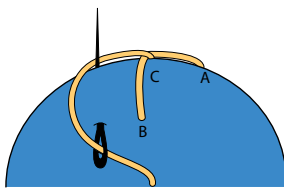
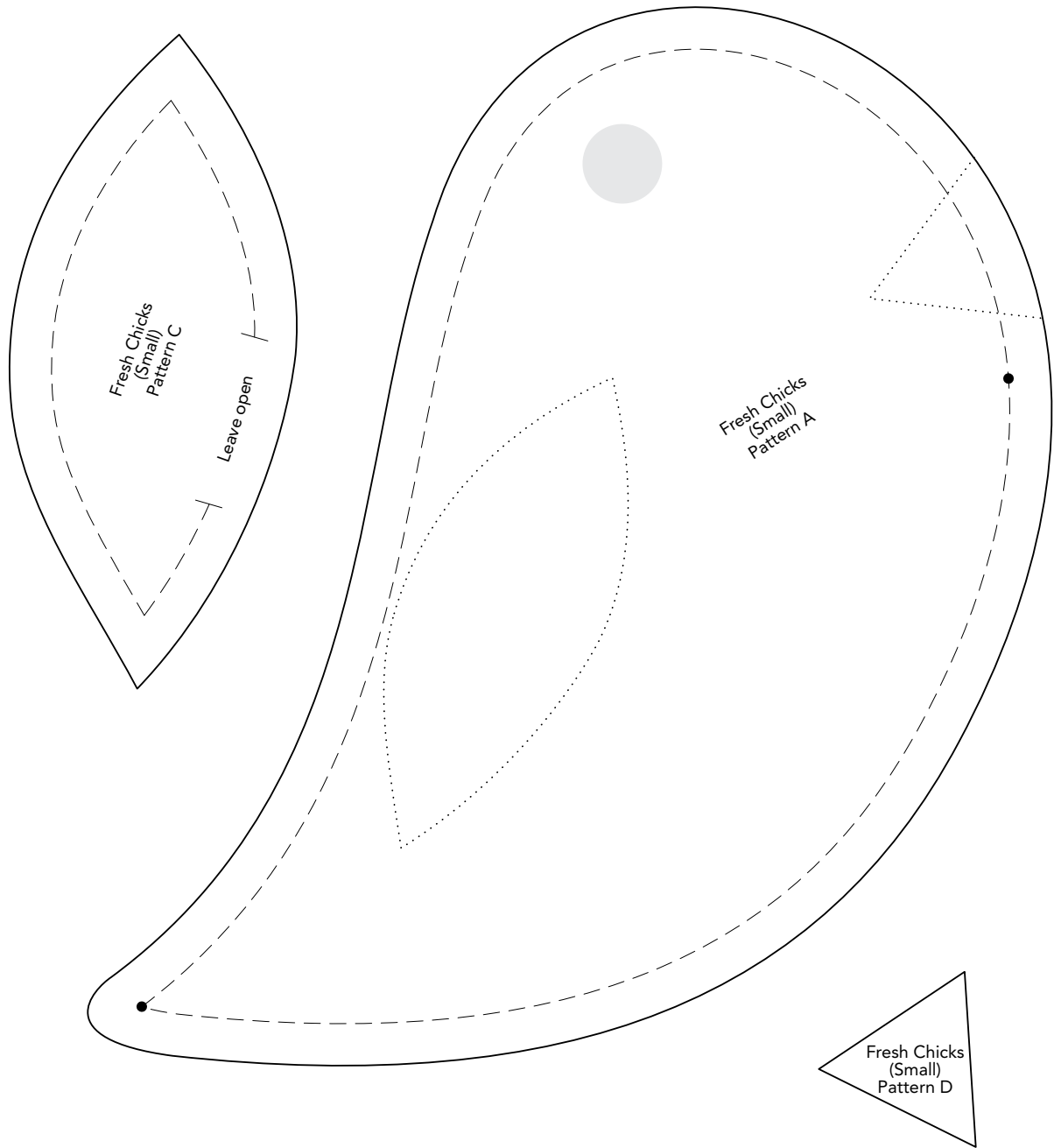


DIAGRAM 3



BLANKET STITCH DIAGRAM

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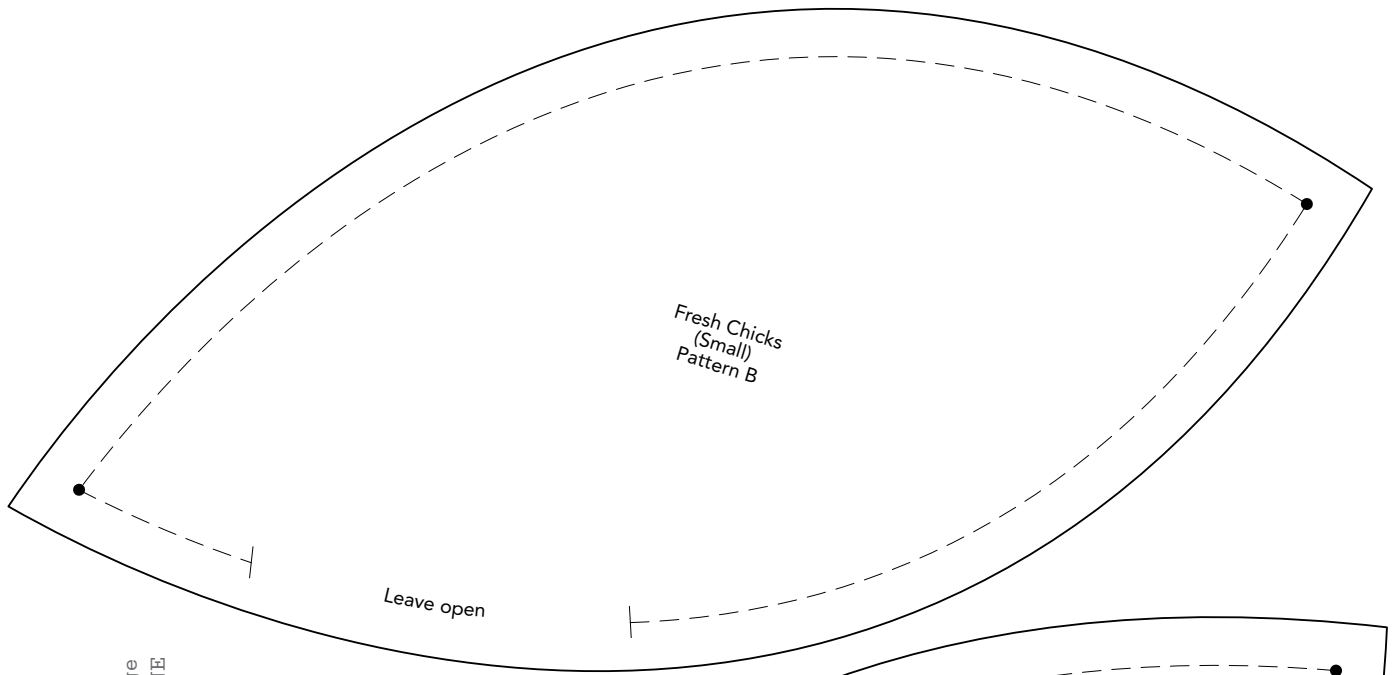


This box should measure 1".

← 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."

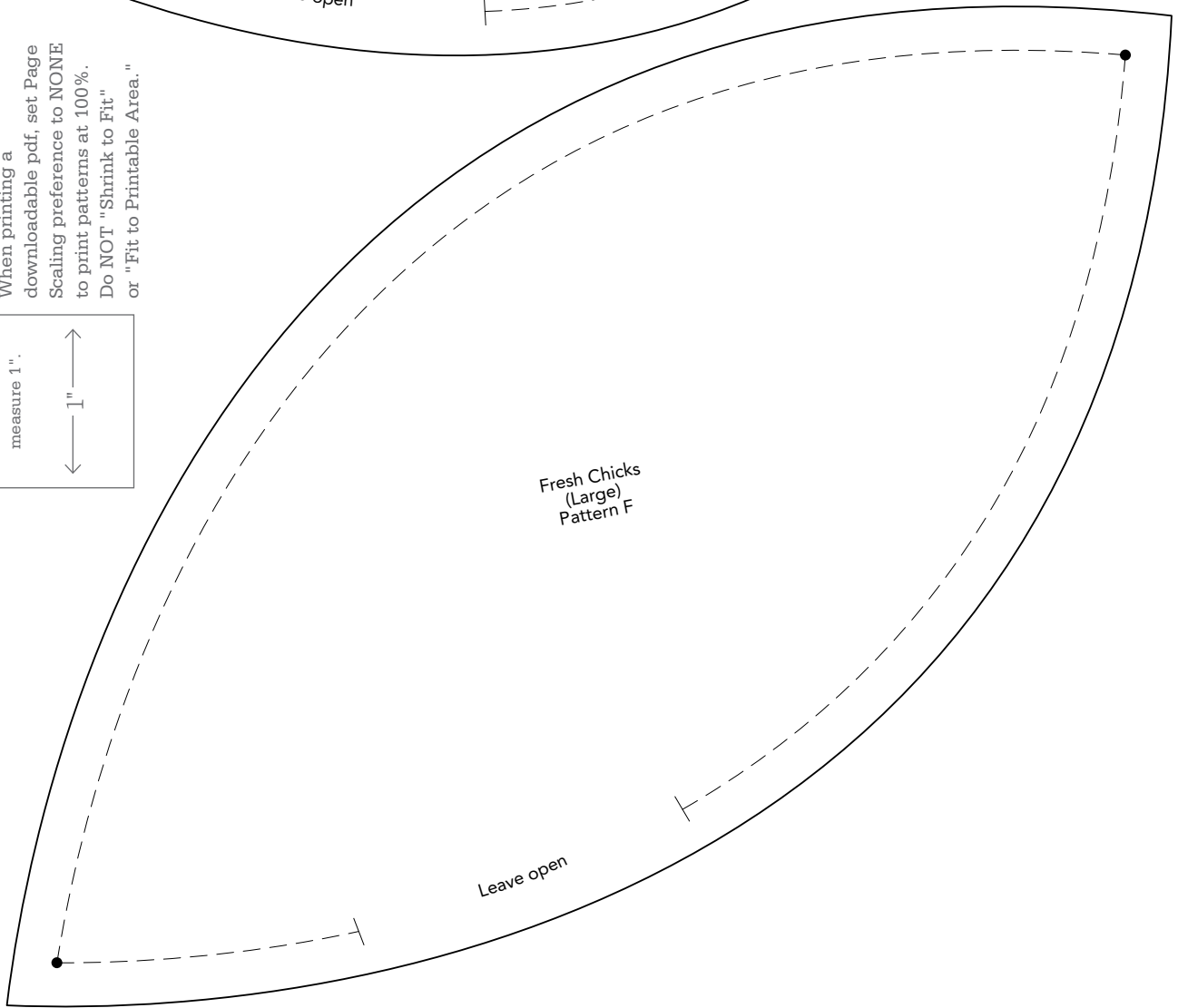
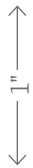
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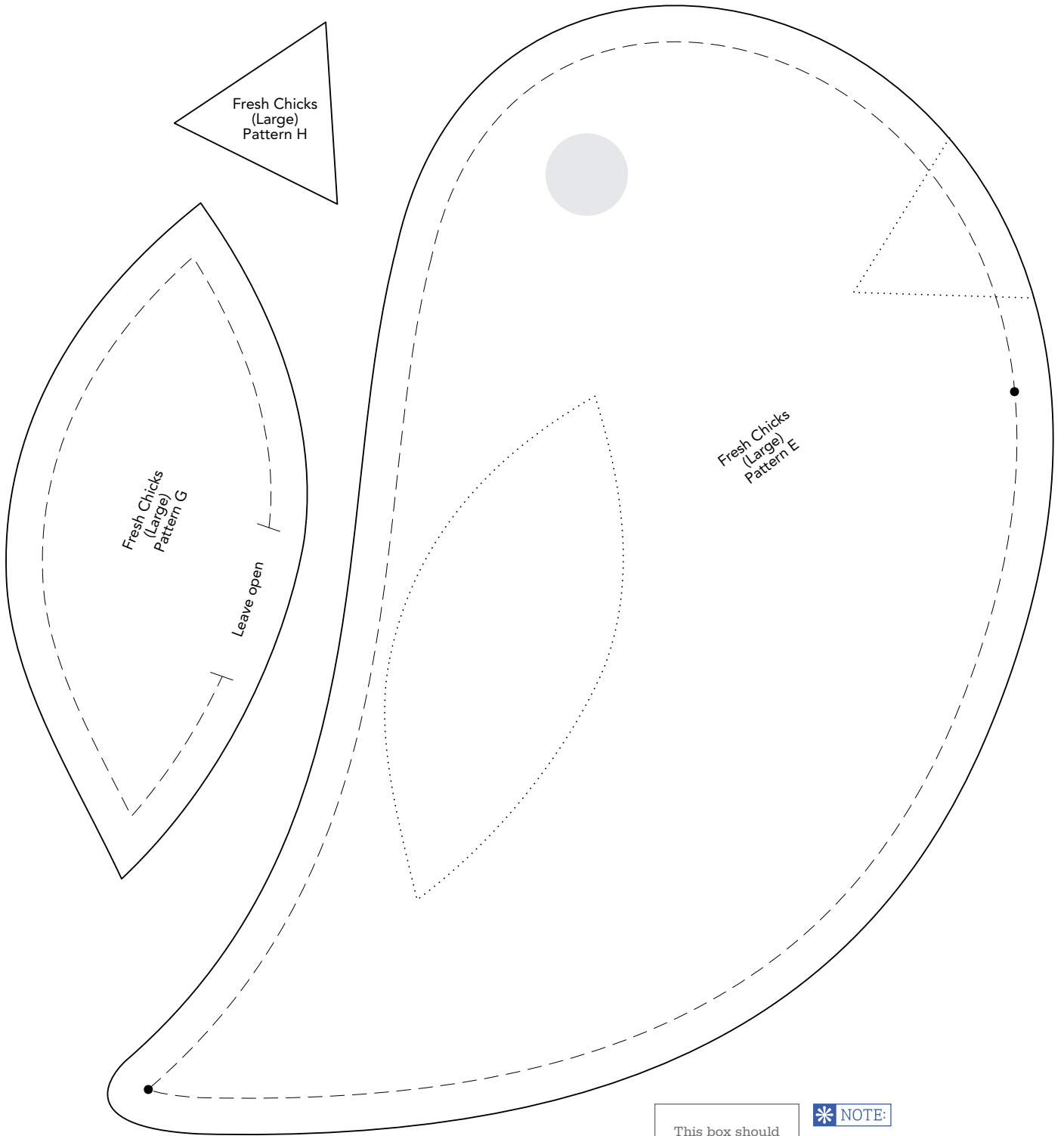
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This box should measure 1".



Project: Fresh Chicks



Fresh Chicks
(Large)
Pattern H

Fresh Chicks
(Large)
Pattern G

Leave open

Fresh Chicks
(Large)
Pattern E

This box should
measure 1".

← 1" →

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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.

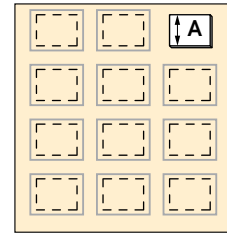


DIAGRAM 1

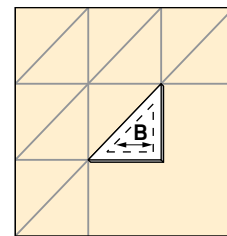


DIAGRAM 2