Project: Spot On!

DESIGNER: JENNI PAIGE

Contrasting fabrics, eye-catching appliqués, and frayed edges create visual and textural appeal in this pillow. You'll quilt the pillow top before creating the ragged-edge look.

Materials
- Large scraps of assorted cream batiks and prints (blocks)
- Scraps of black batiks (appliqués)
- 20" square muslin (lining)
- 17" square backing fabric
- 20" square lightweight batting
- Quilt basting spray
- 16"-square pillow form

Finished pillow: 16" square
Finished block: 8" square

Yardages and cutting instructions are based on 42″ of usable fabric width.
Measurements include ½" seam allowances. Sew with wrong sides together unless otherwise stated.

Cut Fabrics
Cut pieces in the following order. The Circle Pattern is on *page 3*. To make a template of the pattern, see Make and Use Templates, *page 4*.

From assorted cream batiks and prints, cut:
- 4—3×9" rectangles for position 4
- 8—3×7" rectangles for positions 2 and 3
- 4—3×5" rectangles for position 1
- 4—5" squares

From black batiks, cut:
- 2 of Circle Pattern

Assemble Blocks
1. Sew together a cream batik or print 5" square and a position 1 rectangle **(Diagram 1)**. Press seam toward position 1 rectangle.

2. Referring to **Diagram 2**, add a cream batik or print position 2 rectangle to top edge of pieced Step 1 unit. Press seam toward added rectangle.

3. Referring to **Diagram 3**, add a cream batik or print position 3 rectangle to right side of pieced Step 2 unit. Press seam as before.

4. Referring to **Diagram 4**, add a cream batik or print position 4 rectangle to top of pieced Step 3 unit to make a block. Press seam as before. The block should be 9" square including seam allowances.

5. Repeat steps 1–4 to make four blocks total.

Assemble Pillow
1. Referring to photo, *page 1*, lay out blocks in pairs. Sew together blocks in each pair; press seams in opposite directions. Join pairs to make pillow top. The pillow top should be 17" square including seam allowances. Place a black batik circle on two cream batik or print squares; baste in place.

2. Layer pillow top, batting, and muslin lining.

3. Quilt as desired (be careful not to catch seam allowances so they can be clipped later). A spiral design is machine-quilted in each appliqué; parallel lines are stitched elsewhere.

4. Trim lining and batting even with pillow top edges. Machine-baste layers of pillow top ⅜" from outside edges.

5. To fray pillow top raw edges, make ¼"-deep cuts ½" apart in the seams. Then machine-wash the pillow top in a warm-water-wash and cool-rinse cycle with a small amount of detergent; machine-dry.
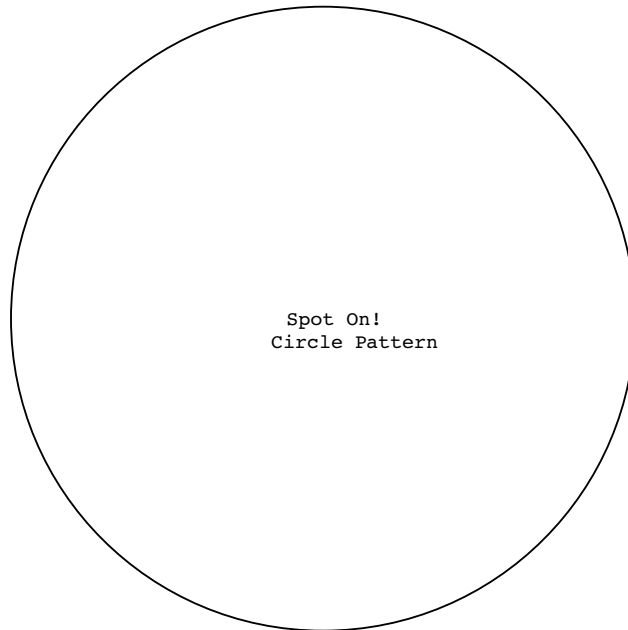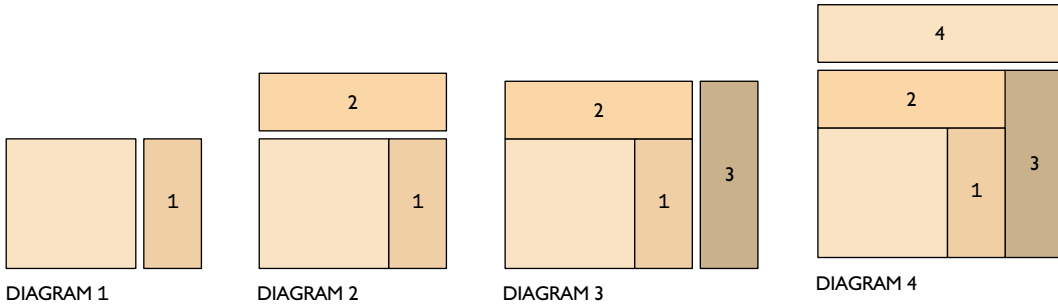
6. With right sides together, layer pillow top and 17" square backing; pin. Sew together, leaving an opening for pillow form. Turn right side out and insert pillow form; slip-stitch opening closed.

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DIAGRAM 1

DIAGRAM 2

DIAGRAM 3

DIAGRAM 4

Spot On!
Circle Pattern

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."

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 ½" away from the previous tracing (Diagram 1), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines ¼" away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a ¼" seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a 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.
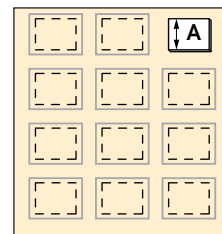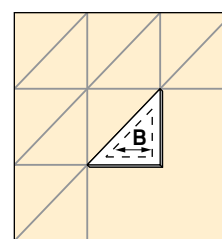

DIAGRAM 1

DIAGRAM 2