

Project: American Beauty

Materials

- Red print and solid cream scraps

Finished block: 9" square

Cut the Fabrics

The patterns are on page 2. To make templates of patterns, see "Make and Use Templates" on page 3.

From red print, cut:

- 1— $3\frac{1}{2}$ " square
- 4 each of patterns B and B reversed

From solid cream, cut:

- 4— $3\frac{1}{2}$ " squares
- 4—2" squares
- 4 of Pattern A

Assemble the Block

- For accurate sewing lines, use a quilter's pencil to mark a diagonal line on the wrong side of the four solid cream 2" squares.
- With right sides together, align a marked solid cream 2" square with one corner of the red print $3\frac{1}{2}$ " square (see **Diagram 1**; note the placement of the diagonal line). Stitch on the marked sewing line; trim the seam allowance to $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Press the attached triangle open. Align a second marked solid cream 2" square with the opposite corner of the red print square; stitch, trim, and press as before. Align a second marked solid cream 2" square with the remaining corner of the red print square; stitch, trim, and press as before. Sew a marked solid cream 2" square to each remaining corner of the red print square to make a center unit. The pieced center unit should measure $3\frac{1}{2}$ " square, including the seam allowances.

- Join a red print B triangle, a solid cream A triangle, and a red print B reversed triangle to make a star point unit (**Diagram 2**). Press the seam allowances toward the red print triangles. The pieced star point unit should measure $3\frac{1}{2}$ " square, including the seam allowances. Repeat to make a total of four star point units.
- Lay out the center unit, the four star point units, and the four solid cream $3\frac{1}{2}$ " squares in three horizontal rows (**Diagram 3**). Sew together the squares in each row. Press the seam allowances toward the solid cream squares and center unit. Then join the rows to make a block (**Block Assembly Diagram**). Press the seam allowances in one direction.

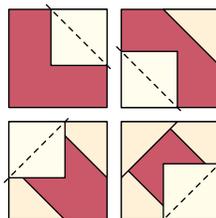


DIAGRAM 1



DIAGRAM 2

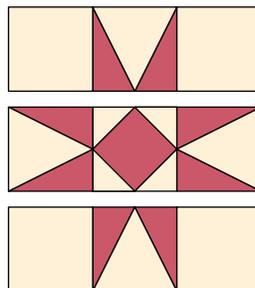
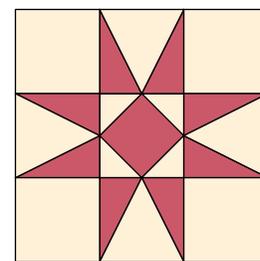
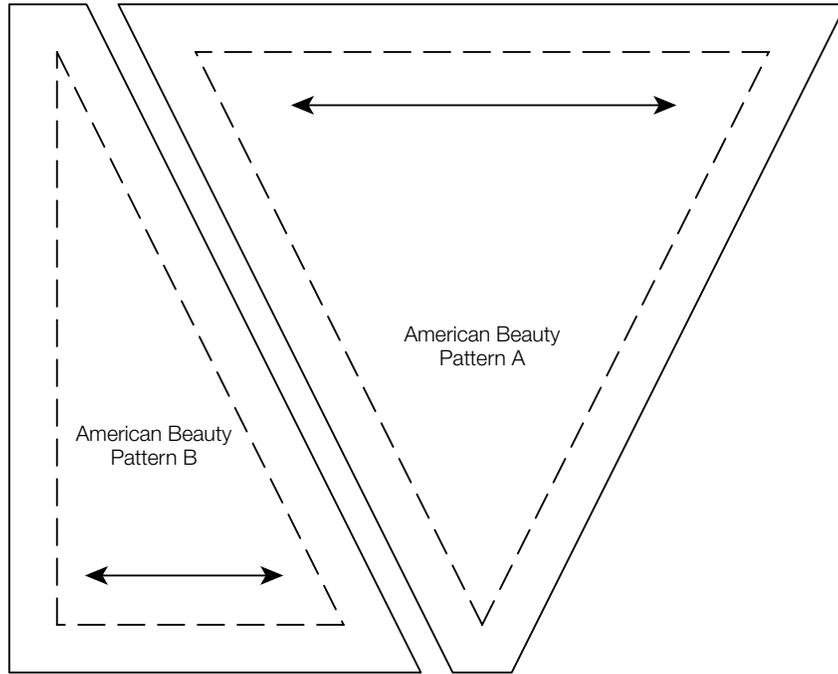


DIAGRAM 3



BLOCK ASSEMBLY 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."

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.

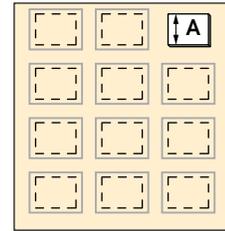


DIAGRAM 1

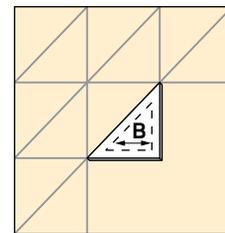


DIAGRAM 2