

Project: Dresden Star Pincushions

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Machine-stitch a trio of cute-as-can-be pincushions with Dresden stars on top. Pick your favorite fabric scraps, a bit of rickrack, and buttons, then tie it all together with solid white.

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Materials for One Pincushion

- Scraps of six assorted prints (Dresden star unit)
- 8×16" piece solid white (pincushion front and back)
- $\frac{2}{3}$ yard $\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide rickrack
- Two coordinating buttons, about $\frac{7}{8}$ " and $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter
- Pincushion filling, such as crushed walnut shells, polyester fiberfill, or sand

Finished pincushion: 6" diameter

Measurements include $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Cut Fabrics

Cut pieces in the following order. Patterns are on pages 4 and 5. To make and use templates to cut patterns, see Make and Use Templates, page 6.

From each assorted print, cut:

- 1 of Pattern A

From solid white, cut:

- 1 of Pattern B

From green wool, cut:

- 1 of Pattern B
- 1 of Pattern C

Assemble and Appliqué Pincushion Top

1. Fold an assorted print A triangle in half with right side inside and two edges aligned; finger-press fold (Diagram 1). Stitch along top edge to make a star point.
2. Turn star point right side out; place star point right side down on pressing surface. Using crease to center the point, press point flat (Diagram 2).

3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 to make six star points total.
4. Referring to Diagram 3, sew together star points in two vertical rows. Press seams in each row in opposite directions. Then join rows to make Dresden star unit. Press seam in one direction.
5. Referring to Diagram 4, center Dresden star unit on solid white B circle. Pin or baste pieces in place. Straight-stitch close to edges of Dresden star unit to make pincushion top. On some pincushions, designer Monica Soloro-Snow blanket-stitched along the Dresden star unit edges or hand-appliquéd them in place.
6. Referring to Diagram 5, sew together straight edges of solid white C half-circles, leaving an opening in the middle for stuffing, to make pincushion back. Press seam open.

Finish Pincushion

1. Pin rickrack to right side of pincushion top so points of rickrack are just at edge of pincushion top. Overlap rickrack ends, or pull excess rickrack into seam allowance and pin. Stitch through center of rickrack to baste in place (Diagram 6). Trim excess rickrack.
2. Stack buttons and center on pincushion top. Hand-stitch in place.
3. Join pincushion top and back, stitching just inside rickrack basting stitches. Turn right side

out. Fill with desired filling then hand-stitch opening closed to complete pincushion.

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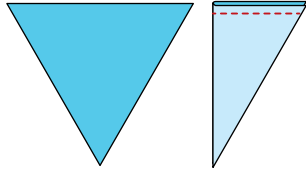


DIAGRAM 1

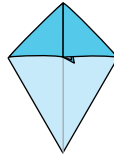


DIAGRAM 2

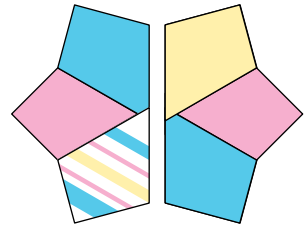


DIAGRAM 3

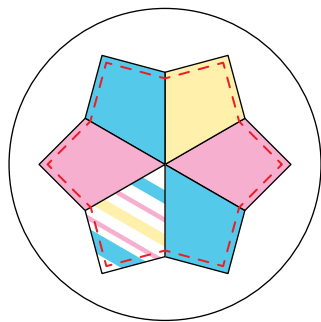


DIAGRAM 4

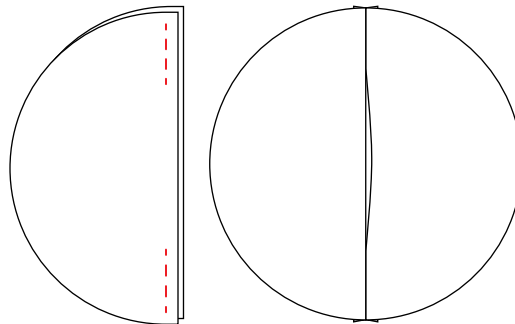


DIAGRAM 5

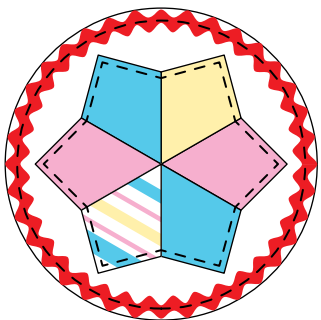
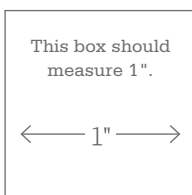
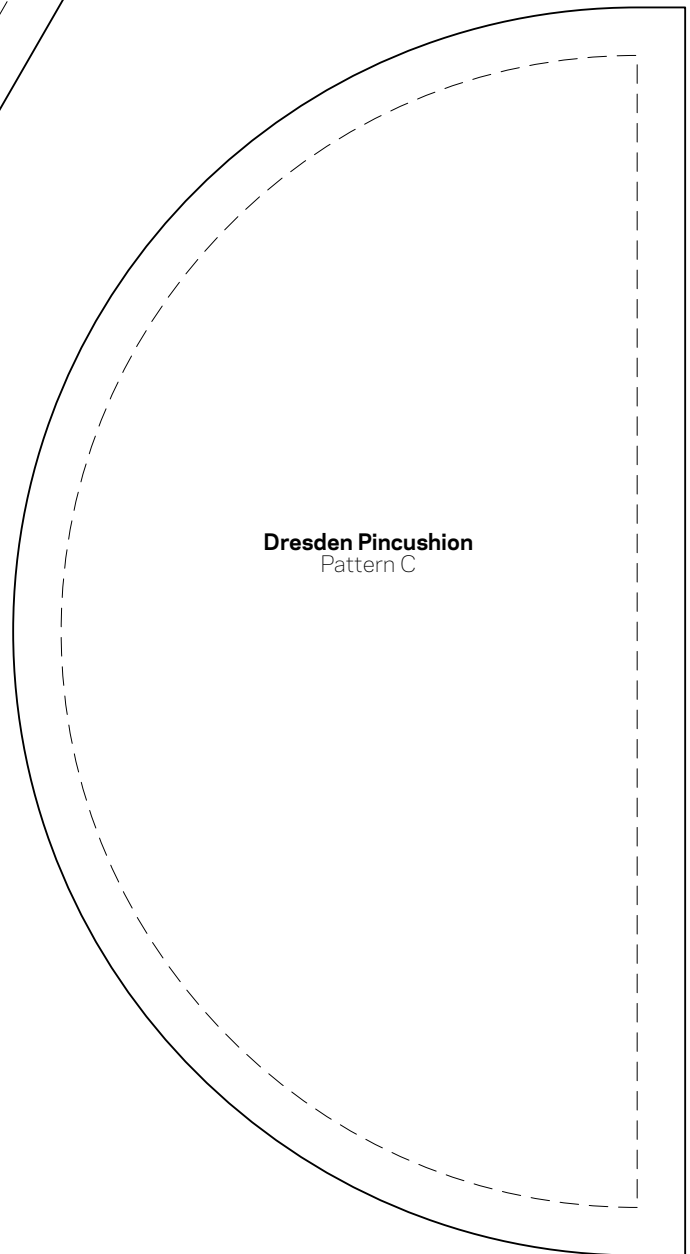
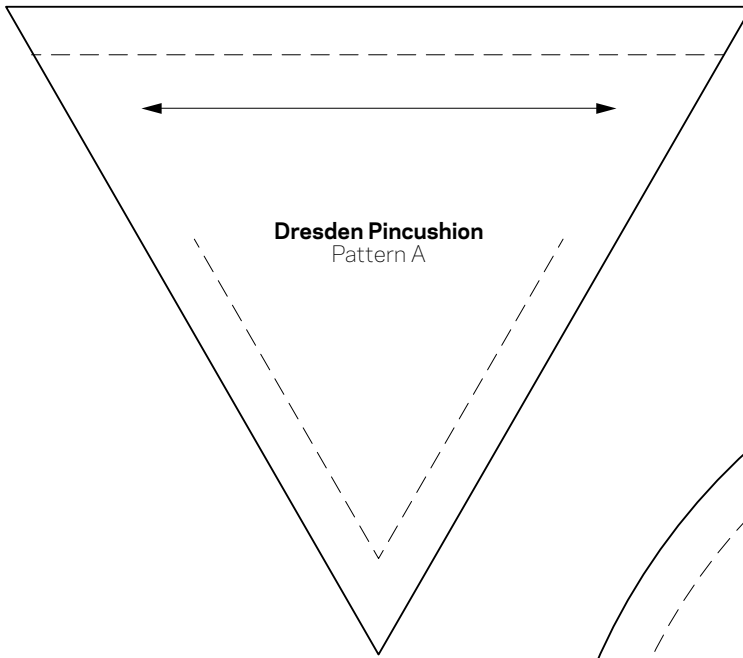


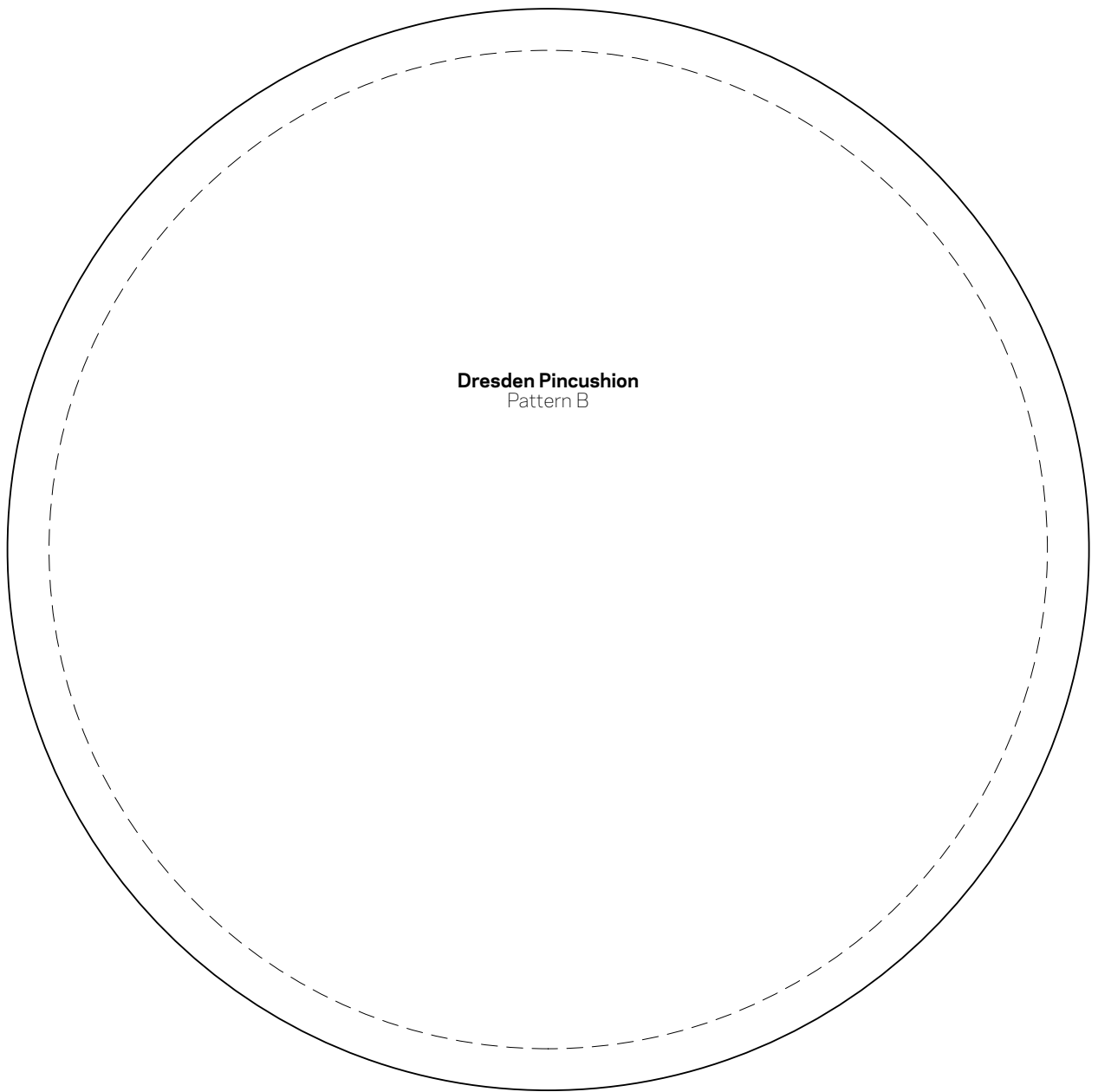
DIAGRAM 6

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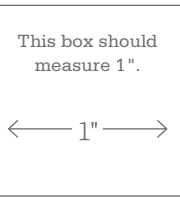


*** NOTE:**
When printing a downloadable pdf, set Page Scaling preference to NONE to print patterns at 100%. Do NOT "Shrink to Fit" or "Fit to Printable Area."

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Dresden Pincushion
Pattern B



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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.

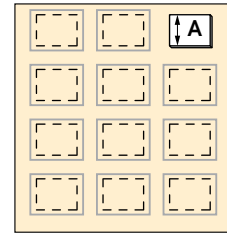


DIAGRAM 1

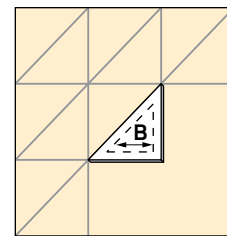


DIAGRAM 2