

Project: Prairie Diamonds Quilt

INSPIRED BY *DIAMOND IN THE RUFF* BY DESIGNER VANESSA CHRISTENSON OF V. AND CO. ([VANESSACHRISTENSON.COM](http://VANESSACHRISTENSON.COM))  
QUILT TESTER: KATHLEEN WILLIAMS



Use a diamond template and mix light and dark fabrics in an easy-to-piece quilt. These fabrics are from the Abigail collection by Sara Morgan for Blue Hill Fabrics ([bluehillfabrics.net](http://bluehillfabrics.net)).

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**Materials**

- 1 $\frac{7}{8}$  yards assorted dark prints (diamonds, middle border)
- 1 $\frac{5}{8}$  yards assorted tan prints (diamonds)
- $\frac{7}{8}$  yard tan print No. 1 (inner border, binding)
- $\frac{1}{2}$  yard tan print No. 2 (outer border)
- 3 yards backing fabric
- 52×63" batting

Finished quilt: 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ ×54 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

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

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

**Cut Fabrics**

Cut pieces in the following order. To make a Diamond Pattern template, print and cut out the two full-size pattern pieces on pages 4 and 5. Match pattern pieces at large dots and tape them together. To make a template of the pattern, see Make and Use Templates on page 6.

From assorted dark prints, cut:

- 20 of Diamond Pattern
- 12—1×18" strips for middle border

From assorted tan prints, cut:

- 12 of Diamond Pattern
- From tan print No. 1, cut:
- 6—2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ×42" binding strips
  - 6—1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ×42" strips for inner border

From tan print No. 2, cut:

- 5—2×42" strips for outer border

**Assemble Quilt Center**

1. Referring to **Quilt Assembly Diagram** for placement, lay out assorted dark and tan print diamonds in diagonal rows. Join pieces in each row. Press seams in one direction, alternating direction with each row.
2. Sew together rows to make quilt center. Press seams in one direction.
3. Referring to **Quilt Center Cutting Diagram**, trim quilt center to 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ ×48 $\frac{1}{2}$ " including seam allowances.

**Add Borders**

1. Cut and piece tan print No. 1—1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ×42" strips to make:
  - 2—1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ×48 $\frac{1}{2}$ " inner border strips
  - 2—1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ×39 $\frac{1}{2}$ " inner border strips
2. Referring to photo, page 1, join long inner border strips to long edges of quilt center. Add short inner border strips to remaining edges. Press all seams toward inner border. The quilt center now should be 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ ×50 $\frac{1}{2}$ " including seam allowances.
3. Using diagonal seams, cut and piece dark print 1×18" strips to make:
  - 2—1×50 $\frac{1}{2}$ " middle border strips
  - 2—1×40 $\frac{1}{2}$ " middle border strips
4. Join long middle border strips to long edges of quilt center. Add short middle border strips to remaining edges. Press all seams toward middle border. The quilt center now should be 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ ×51 $\frac{1}{2}$ " including seam allowances.

5. Cut and piece tan print No. 2—2×42" strips to make:
  - 2—2×51 $\frac{1}{2}$ " outer border strips
  - 2—2×43 $\frac{1}{2}$ " outer border strips
6. Join long outer border strips to long edges of quilt center. Add short outer border strips to remaining edges to complete quilt top. Press all seams toward middle border.

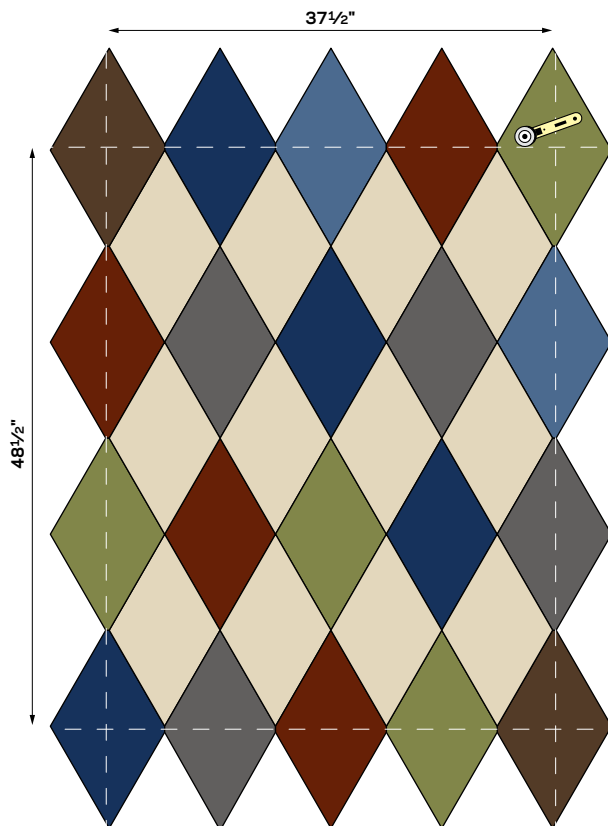
**Finish Quilt**

1. Layer quilt top, batting, and backing; baste. Quilt as desired.
2. Bind with tan print No. 1 binding strips.

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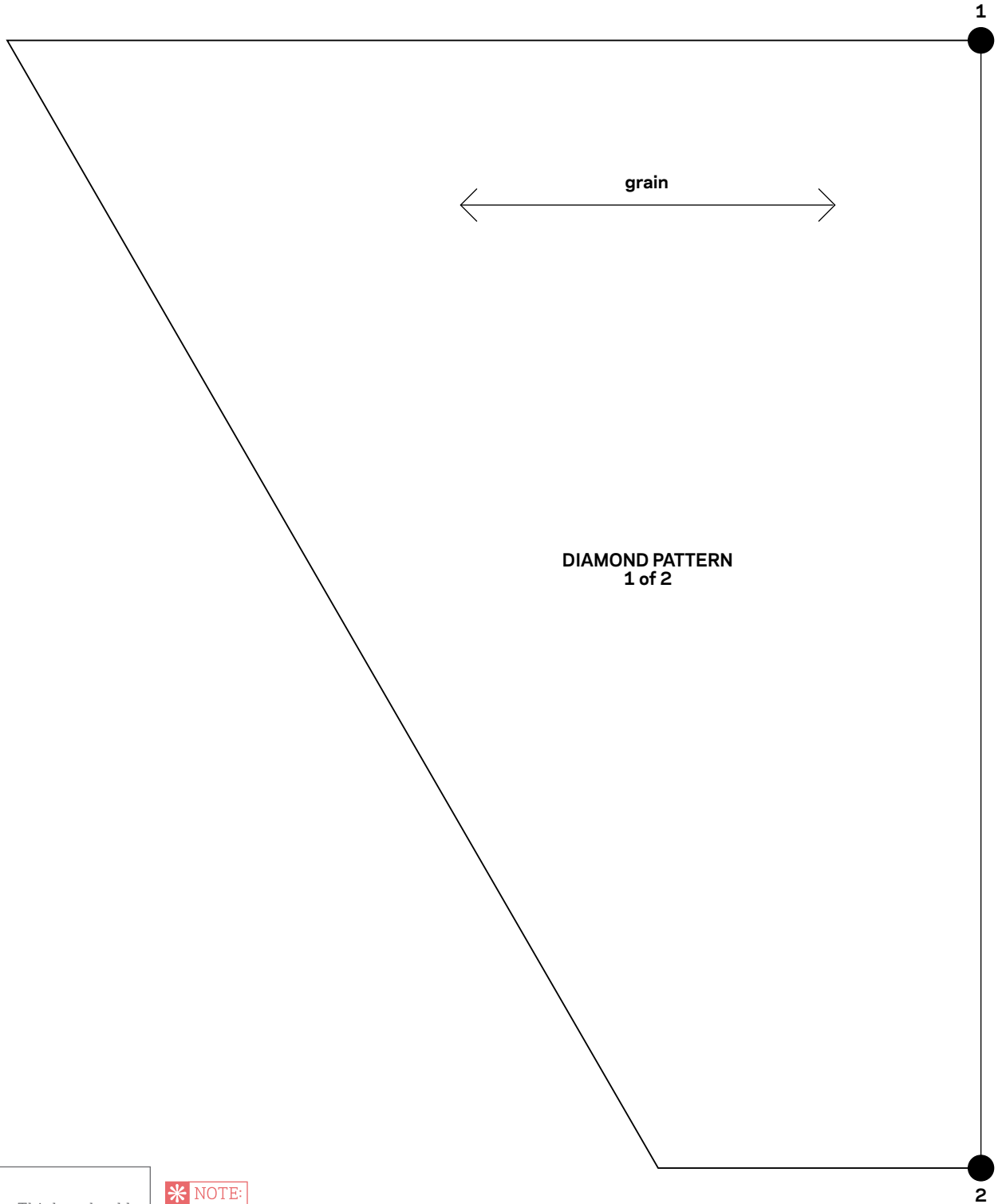


QUILT ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM



QUILT CENTER CUTTING DIAGRAM

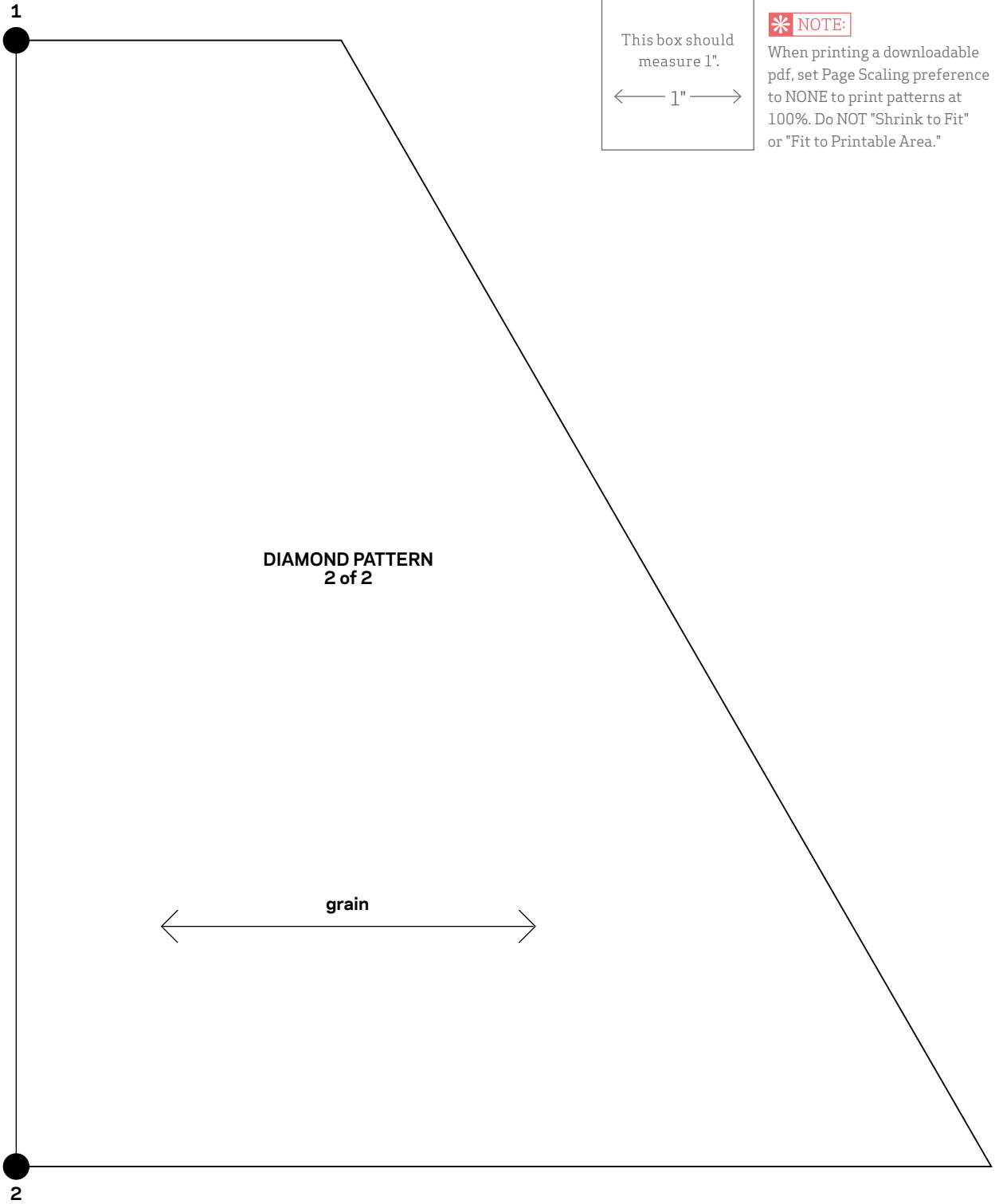
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This box should measure 1".  
← 1" →

**\* 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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## 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 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.

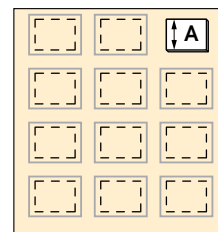


DIAGRAM 1

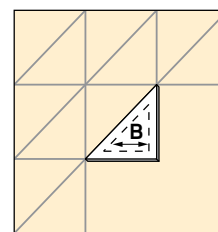


DIAGRAM 2