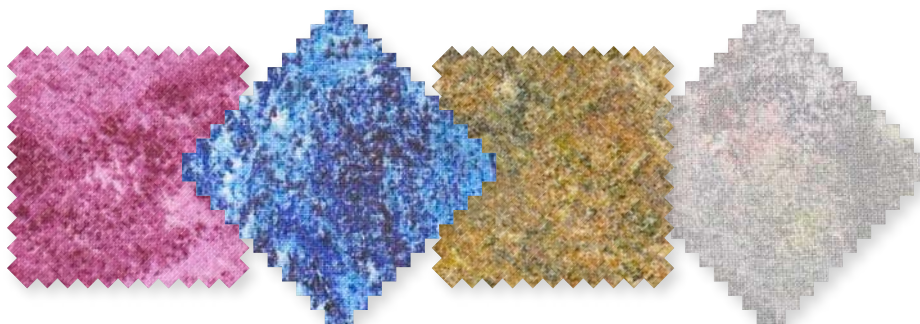


Project: Melon Patch Circles

INSPIRED BY "AHEAD OF THE CURVE" FROM DESIGNERS CORI DERKSEN AND MYRA HARDER OF BLUE MEADOW DESIGNS
QUILTMAKER: LAURA BOEHNKE



Warm and cool colors blend beautifully in these Melon Patch blocks using Sunshine Cottage's Stonehenge collection for Northcott Fabrics. The fabric's simple print allows the form to be easily seen.

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Materials

- 1½ yards total assorted dark prints (blocks)
- 1½ yards total assorted light prints (blocks)
- ⅝ yard brown print (border, binding)
- 2½ yards backing fabric
- 44" square batting

Finished quilt: 37½" square

Finished block: 16" square

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

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

Cut Fabrics

Cut pieces in the following order. The patterns are on pages 4–6.

To make templates of patterns and use them for cutting out pieces, see Make and Use Templates on page 7. Be sure to transfer dots to templates, then to fabric pieces. These dots are matching points and are necessary when joining pieces.

From assorted dark prints, cut:

- 16 of Pattern A
- 8 of Pattern B

From assorted light prints, cut:

- 16 of Pattern A
- 8 of Pattern B

From brown print, cut:

- 4—2½×42" binding strips
- 2—3×37½" border strips
- 2—3×32½" border strips

Assemble A Units

When joining pieces, be sure to align marked matching points. To do this, push a pin through center of dots on layered pieces.

1. Layer an assorted light print B piece atop an assorted dark print A piece; match center dots on curved edges (**Diagram 1**).
2. Using slender pins and picking up only a few threads at a time, pin at center, ends, and remaining dots, then generously in between (**Diagram 2**).
3. Join pieces, removing each pin just before your needle reaches it. Press seam toward A piece (**Diagram 3**).
4. Repeat steps 1–3 to add a second assorted dark print A piece to opposite edge of B piece to make a Unit A (**Diagram 4**). Press as before. Unit A should be 8½" square including seam allowances.
5. Repeat steps 1–4 to make eight A Units total.

Assemble B Units

1. Layer an assorted dark print B piece atop an assorted light print A piece; match center dots on curved edges. Repeat Assemble A Units, steps 2 and 3.
2. Repeat Step 1 to add a second light print A piece to opposite edge of B piece to make a Unit B (**Diagram 5**). Press seam toward A piece just added. Unit B should be 8½" square including seam allowances.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 to make eight B Units total.

Assemble Blocks

1. Referring to **Diagram 6**, pair two A Units and two B Units. Sew together units in each pair. Press seams toward A Units.
2. Join pairs to make a Melon Patch block. Press seam in one direction. The block should be 16½" square including seam allowances.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 to make four Melon Patch blocks total.

Assemble Quilt Center

1. Referring to **Quilt Assembly Diagram**, lay out blocks in pairs. Sew together blocks in each pair. Press seams in opposite directions.
2. Join rows to make quilt center. Press seams in one direction. The quilt center should be 32½" square including seam allowances.

Add Border

Sew short brown print border strips to opposite edges of quilt center. Add long brown print border strips to remaining edges to complete quilt top. Press all seams toward border.

Finish Quilt

1. Layer quilt top, batting, and backing; baste. Quilt as desired.
2. Bind with brown print binding strips.

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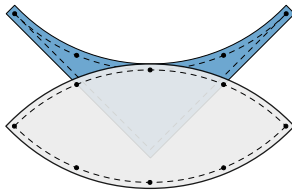


DIAGRAM 1

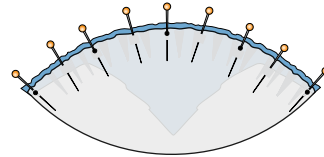


DIAGRAM 2

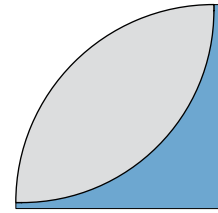
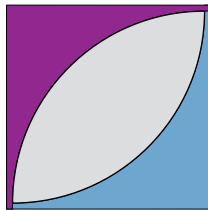
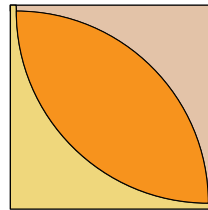


DIAGRAM 3



UNIT A
DIAGRAM 4



UNIT B
DIAGRAM 5

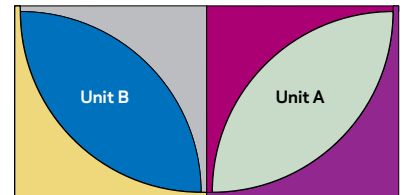
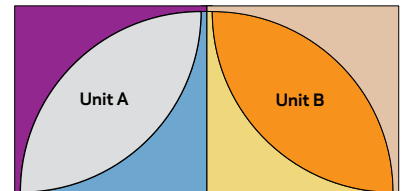
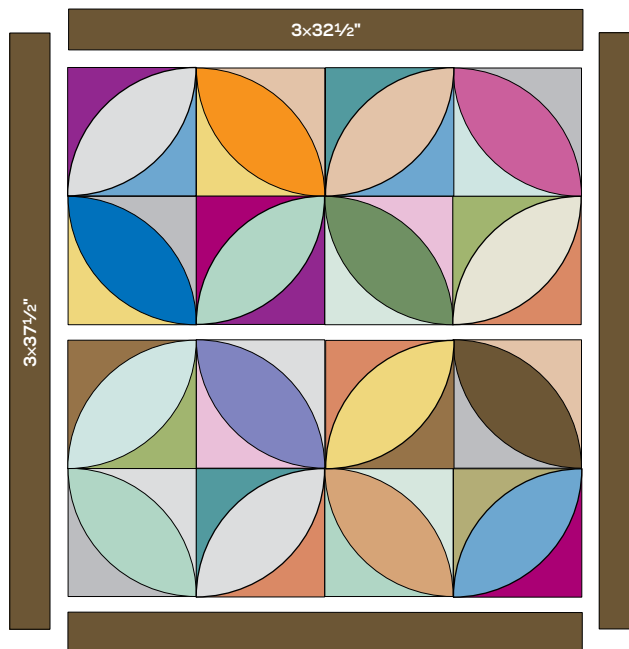
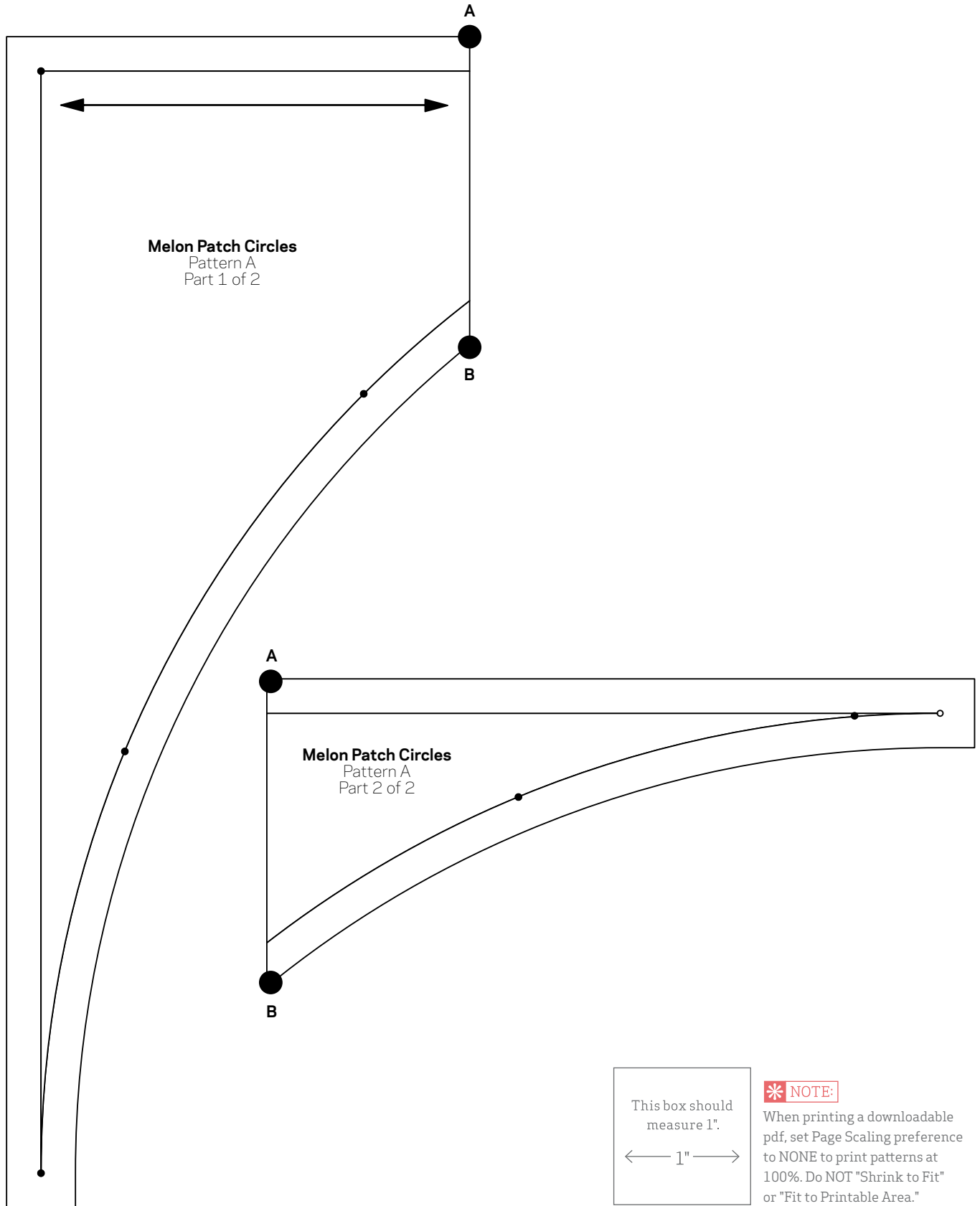


DIAGRAM 6

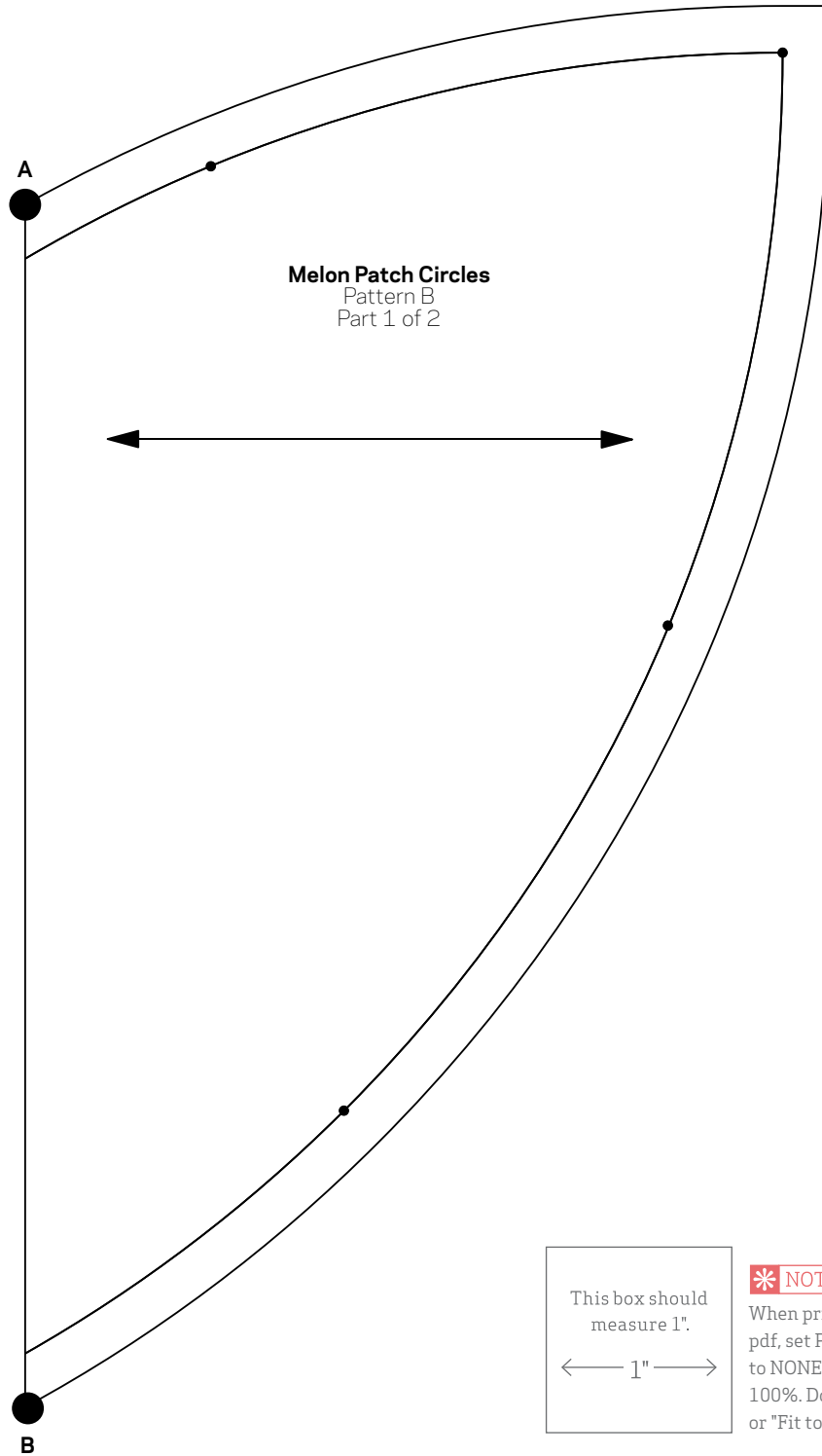


QUILT ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

Project: Melon Patch Circles

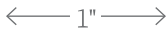


Project: Melon Patch Circles



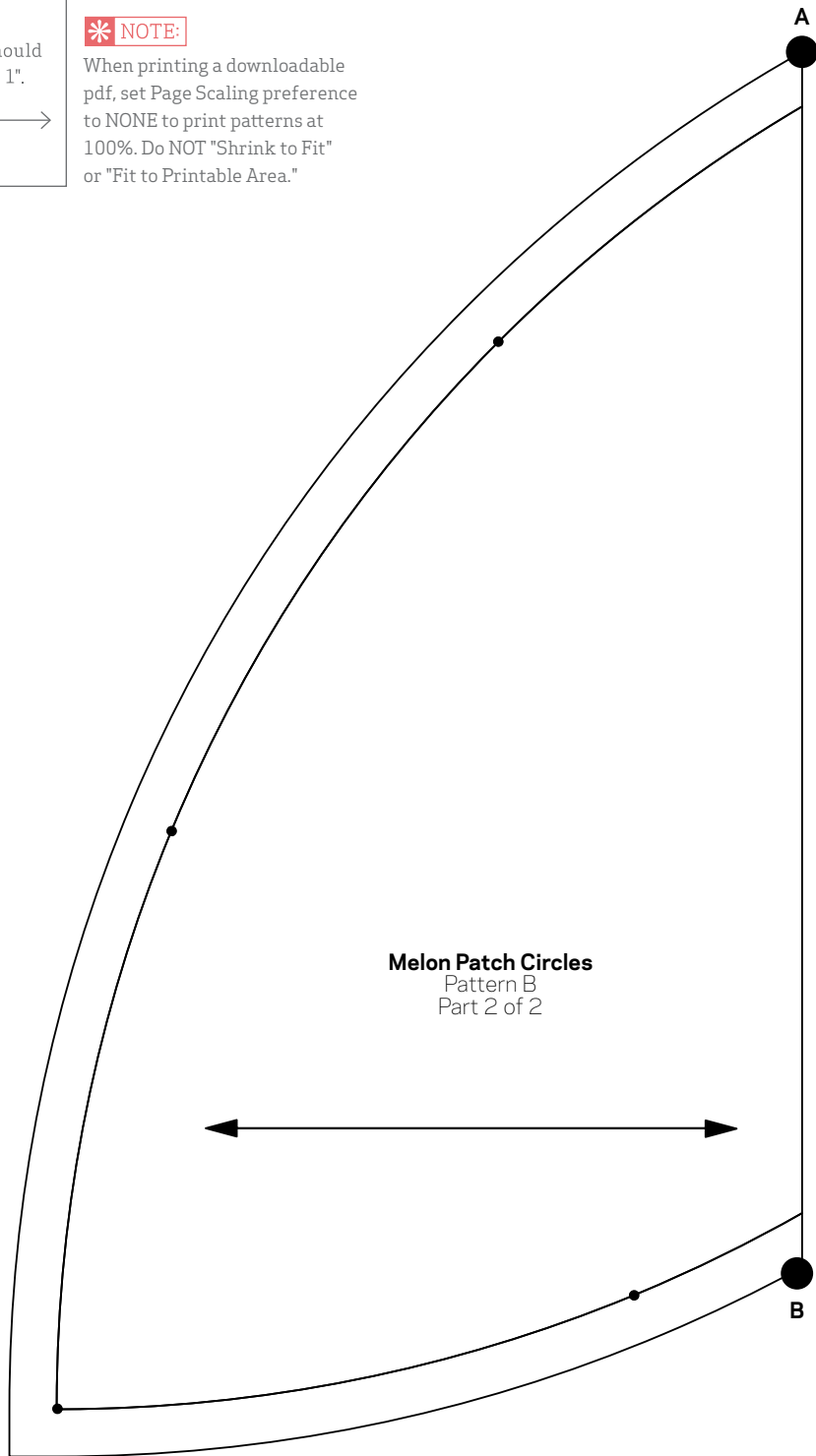
Project: Melon Patch Circles

This box should measure 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 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. Trace 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 $1/2$ " away from the previous tracing (**Diagram 1**), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines $1/4$ " away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a $1/4$ " 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.

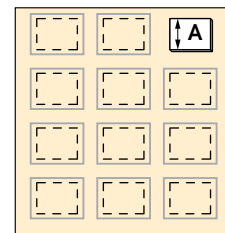


DIAGRAM 1

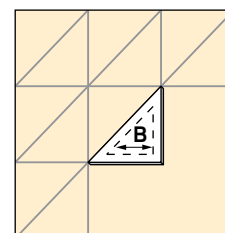


DIAGRAM 2