

Blast from the Past Sampler: Block 24

From *Neutral or Not?* by designer Amy Ellis (amyscreativeside.com)

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FINISHED BLOCK: 6" square

MATERIALS

Yardages and cutting instructions are based on 42" of usable fabric width.

- 10" square light print No. 1
- 10" square dark print
- 10" square light print No. 2

CUT FABRICS

Cut pieces in the following order.

From light print No. 1, cut:

- 4-3×3¼" rectangles

From dark print, cut:

- 2-3×4" rectangles

From light print No. 2, cut:

- 1-6" square, cutting in half diagonally for 2 triangles total

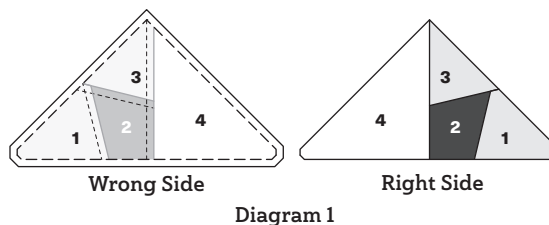
ASSEMBLE BLOCK

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

Foundation Patterns are on *page 2*. Print the patterns or use a pencil to trace the patterns onto tracing paper or the foundation material of your choice. Cut out each traced pattern roughly ¼" outside dashed lines to make foundation papers.

To foundation-piece, you stitch fabric pieces to a foundation paper with the marked side of the paper facing up and the fabric pieces layered underneath. The resulting pieced unit is a mirror image of the foundation paper. (For details, see *Foundation Piecing, page 3*.)

1 Gather one foundation paper, two light print 3×3¼" rectangles (positions 1 and 3), one dark print 3×4" rectangle (position 2), and one light print triangle (position 4). Referring to **Diagram 1**, work in numerical order to foundation-piece unit. Repeat to make a second unit. Carefully remove foundation papers.



2 Referring to **Diagram 2**, join units to make block. The block should be 6½" square including seam allowances.

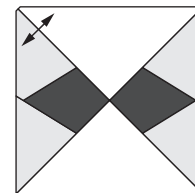
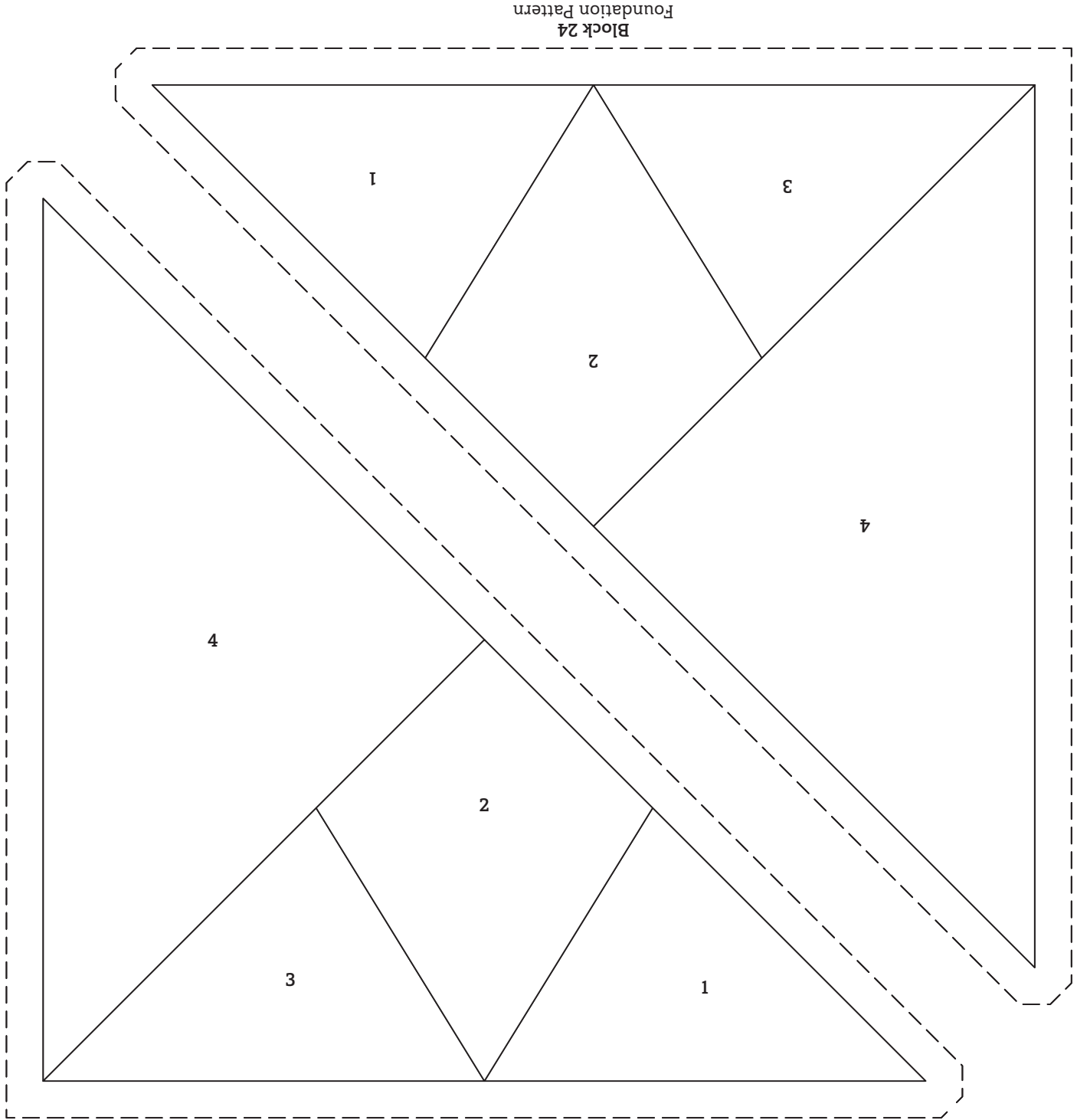


Diagram 2





Block 24
Foundation 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."

FOUNDATION PIECING

To precisely piece intricate blocks or units, you can sew together fabric pieces on a foundation paper. Some quilters find this technique (also called paper piecing) to be freeing because precise cutting isn't required and grain line direction doesn't matter. However, it requires you to think about piecing in a different way.

To foundation-piece, you stitch fabric pieces to a foundation paper with the marked side of the paper facing up and the fabric pieces layered under the paper. The resulting pieced unit will be a mirror image of the foundation paper. **Diagrams 1-5**, which show the right and wrong sides of a unit as it is being constructed, illustrate the process.

To make a foundation paper, trace the desired pattern onto tracing paper or foundation material of your choice; include all lines, numbers, and dots. Repeat to make the desired number of foundation papers. Cut out the traced foundation papers roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ " outside the dashed outer lines.

Roughly cut out fabric pieces that are at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " larger on all sides than the area they will cover on the foundation paper. (For this example, green and pink rectangles were cut to cover triangles on foundation paper.)

With right sides together, layer the green position 1 rectangle atop the pink position 2 rectangle; align a pair of long edges.

Place a foundation paper, marked side up, atop the layered rectangles, positioning the paper so the aligned rectangle edges are $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the stitching line between positions 1 and 2 and at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the foundation paper outer stitching line (**Diagram 1**).

To check placement, pin on the line between positions 1 and 2. Flip the pink rectangle open. Make sure the rectangles completely cover positions 1 and 2 and extend at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " into adjacent positions. If they don't, reposition and recheck until they do.

Working with marked side of foundation paper up, use a small stitch length (1.5 millimeters) to sew on the stitching line through all layers, extending stitching past the beginning and end of the line by a few stitches (**Diagram 2**).

Turn stitched layers over so the foundation paper is on the bottom. Press pink rectangle open. Referring to **Diagram 3**, trim green rectangle (but not the foundation paper) to about $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond next stitching lines (the line between positions 1 and 3 and the line between positions 1 and 4). Roughly trim pink rectangle to the foundation paper edge. (You will trim it later on the dashed lines when you trim the entire unit.)

With right sides together, align a pink position 3 rectangle with the long trimmed edge of green piece. Turn stitched layers over so the foundation paper is on top. Sew on the stitching line (**Diagram 4**). Turn stitched layers over so foundation paper is on the bottom. Press pink rectangle open. Roughly trim pink rectangle to the foundation paper edge.

In same manner, add a pink position 4 triangle. Trim all fabric layers and foundation paper on the outer dashed lines to complete a foundation-pieced unit (**Diagram 5**). Remove foundation paper with tweezers or the blunt edge of a seam ripper.

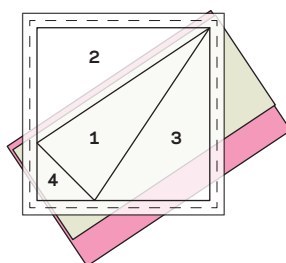


Diagram 1

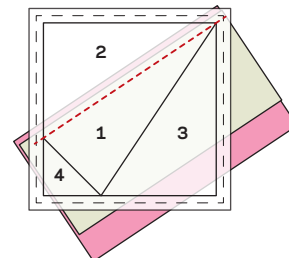


Diagram 2

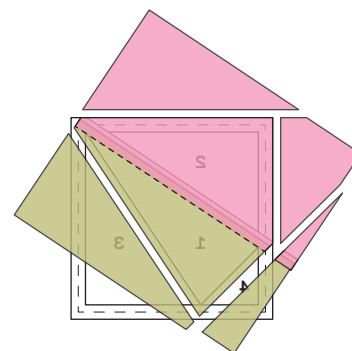


Diagram 3

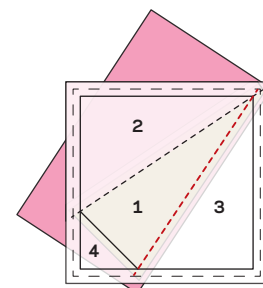


Diagram 4

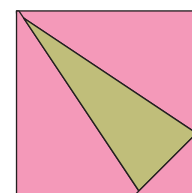
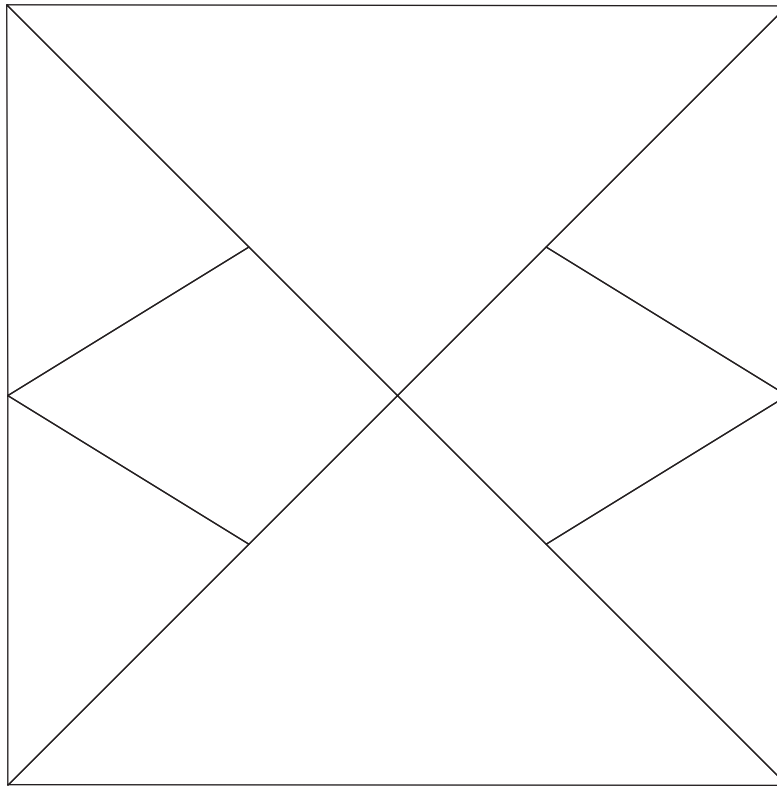
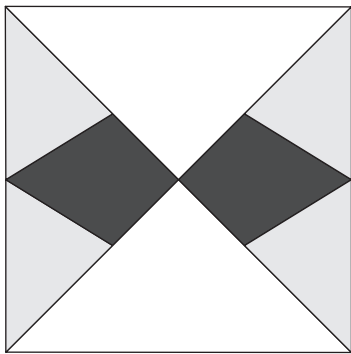


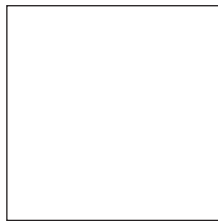
Diagram 5



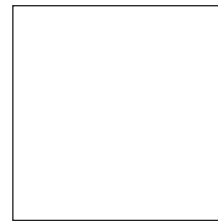
Coloring Diagram



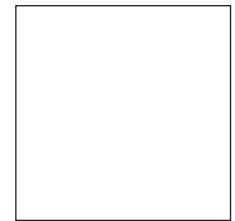
Use the Coloring Diagram, *top*, to plan your version of the original block, *above*. Audition fabric swatches using the squares, *right*.



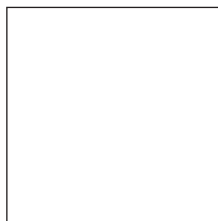
Swatch



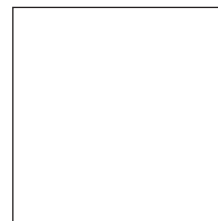
Swatch



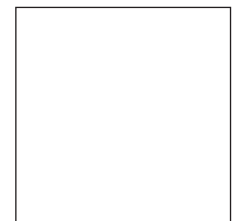
Swatch



Swatch



Swatch



Swatch