Briar Patch

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Briar Patch was designed to meet the needs of a beginner at paper piecing. However, this quilt will take a little thought as to where to place the colors, so you may want to study the information in the fabric selection before you purchase any fabric.

The foundation papers in this pattern allow for a 6" block to be made. Four 6" blocks make up one unit. The layout for the quilt size pictured on the front cover has 20 units. When you start cutting out the fabric, this information will be important, since you must separate your cut fabric into units before you begin sewing.

This pattern includes instructions, along with seven sheets of foundation paper, enough to complete the quilt as shown on the coversheet. The quilt size is 66" X 78". I have also included the instructions and yardage requirements for five additional quilt sizes. If you choose to make a double, queen, or king size quilt you will need to purchase extra foundation sheets, which are sold separately in packages of 5 sheets. These packages yield 60 blocks. If you cannot purchase these through your local quilt shop you can contact me through e-mail or on my webpage, listed on the coversheet.

SUPPLY LIST

The tools and supplies required are as follows:

Rotary cutter, Medium size cutting board, 6" by 24" ruler, ADD-A-QUARTER ruler, Seam ripper, Iron, Template plastic, Purple thang, Scotch tape, Gluestick, Size 80 needles, A sewing machine with a quarter inch foot, Fabric, Thread, Pins, and Scissors.

UNITS AND TEMPLATES

This quilt is built using one foundation block. Unlike other paper piecing patterns you may be familiar with, this pattern utilizes precut fabric pieces and strips. This is beneficial because it helps to minimize fabric waste, it places each fabric on the grain line, and it helps you understand where the fabric pieces need to be placed when doing the foundation paper piecing. Fabric requirements for each template are listed on the yardage chart on the back cover.

The templates for precutting your fabric are located on pages 6 and 7 of the pattern. Make a photocopy of each template (the names of these are listed below). Glue the copies onto a piece of template plastic with all the writing facing up. This writing is the instructions for each of the respective templates. Please pay special attention to these instructions. This will prevent you from making any cutting mistakes. Once these templates are made, they must always be used with the writing face up. This will prevent your fabric from being cut in the wrong direction.

Template Names

Points	Background 1 (B-1)
Center 1 (C-1)	Background 1 (B-2)
Center 2 (C-2)	Melon
Center 3 (C-3)	Edge Triangle

On the templates, for foundation paper piecing, the inside dotted lines show the actual finished size. The second dotted line shows the quarter inch seam allowance. The solid line is for cutting the fabric for foundation paper piecing. Please cut the templates on the solid line. When precutting fabric pieces for foundation paper piecing, you need to use a larger piece than the actual size. This is to allow extra room when positioning the fabric under the paper. This is why your templates should be bigger than the actual size of your block. Remember that you can always trim the excess fabric, but if your piece is too small you have to start over.

SELECTING YOUR FABRIC

This quilt is designed to be a scrap quilt. However, if you choose to purchase your fabrics, you will need to purchase the yardage as listed on the back cover. If you want to purchase many different fabrics, a simple way to avoid purchasing too much or too little is to add approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ yard to the total yardage required then divide the total yardage needed into $\frac{1}{4}$ yard increments. This will allow you several different options without a tremendous waste of fabric.

Your fabric selection will play an important role in the outcome of this design. The colors are not as important to the success of the quilt as the value of the colors you choose. I would suggest that you take the time to do a

little precutting and pasting to see if you like the flow of the colors you have chosen. On my templates, I have included the actual finished size of each piece. You can use these templates to cut out a few pieces for experimentation. In order to prevent your points from "disappearing", I suggest you select the darkest fabric for the points and the lightest fabric for the background pieces B-1 and B-2. The melons and centers can be from a dark, medium, or light value. However, the value you choose for each will drastically change the outcome of the quilt. This is where precutting and pasting can help you find the most appealing result. Check out my webpage to see several different samples if you are interested in the different effects that the value of each fabric plays in the outcome of this quilt.

If you are making a scrap quilt and want the background behind the points to match up with the next block, you will need to number your units. Then you will need to number the backgrounds behind the points as I have done in my illustration below. This all needs to be done before you start cutting. On the back of the coversheet, you will find a full layout of the quilt. Using a photocopier, magnify this layout and use it below when setting up your colors.

So, let's say you choose four colors for your background pieces B-1 and B-2, and you want the background to flow from one unit to the next unit. This is how you do it.

Step 1: Set up a fabric chart. The fabrics you have selected for B-1 and B-2 will need to be numbered to match the numbers on your layout.
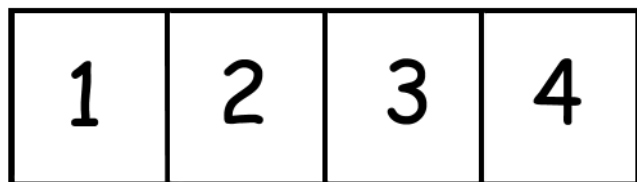
Step 2: Number your background pieces and units as shown in the graphic below.
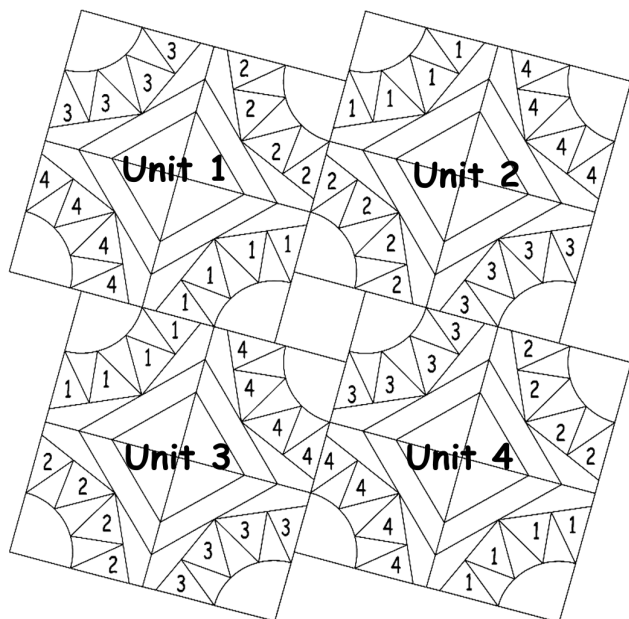
If you only use four colors, then each unit will be the same. If you use more than four colors, then each unit will be different so when you do your cutting, you will need to place each unit into a little bag and mark each of the pieces with the unit number. If you want your points to flow from one unit to the next, you will need to number the blocks the same way.

▋CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

The graphics that are illustrated in the cutting instructions below show the pieces being cut on a strip of fabric. If you are using scraps, your fabric may not always be cut in strips. Just be sure to cut the proper number of pieces needed for your quilt listed on the cutting chart. The cutting chart is located on the back page. When cutting, be aware that templates B-1, B-2, and C-1 all require a left and right piece to be cut for each block.

Points: Cut your fabric into strips 3 ½" wide. Place the template onto the fabric and cut out three points per block. Check your chart for the total number of pieces you will need. You can use the same fabric over several times.
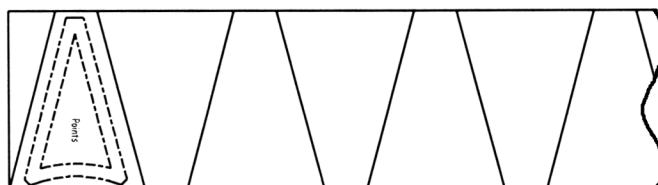
Background B-1 and B-2: The background fabric behind each point should be the same on each individual block. If you are using more than one color for your background then you will need to cut your fabric according to units, with each unit having four different background colors. This was explained in the fabric selection segment. Remember, each unit is made from 4 blocks. You will need to cut at least 2 left and 2 right pieces from each fabric. This will give you enough pieces for the background on two blocks so that the trail will flow together from one unit to the next. If you number your colors according to my illustration in the fabric selection step 2, you will be able to easily determine the number of pieces to cut from each background color. The cutting chart will have the instructions for the total number of pieces to cut for each quilt. Finally, if you are using more than one color for your background, make sure to bag each unit up separately in a ziploc bag.
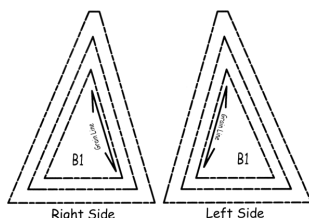
B-1: Cut a 3 ½" strip of fabric for template B-1. Fold the strip with right sides together. Lay the template onto the strip, as illustrated in Graphic B-1, and begin cutting the strips into pieces. Each cut will give you one left and one right piece from template B-1.
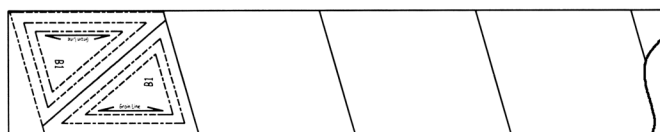
Graphic B-1

Separate the left and right pieces into two piles, as illustrated in Graphic 3.
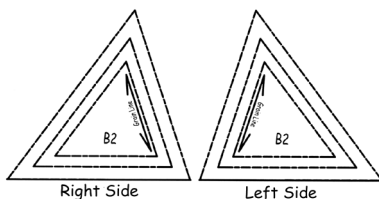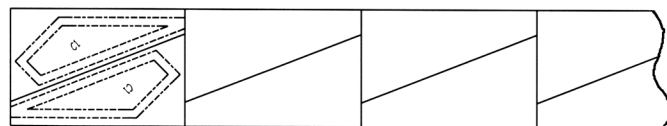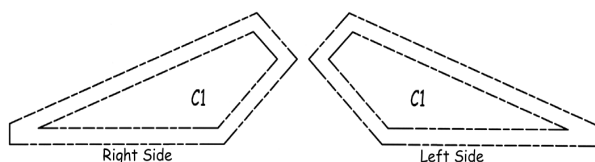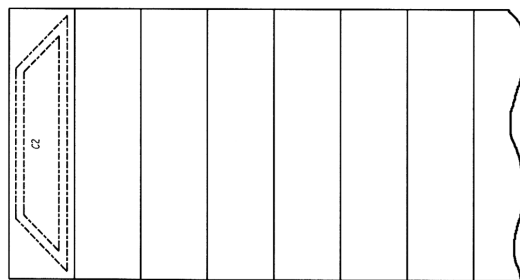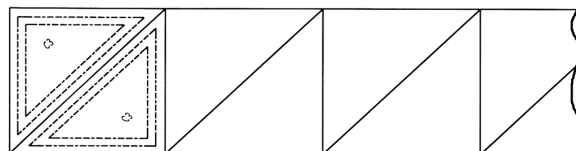

Graphic 3

B-2: Cut a 4" strip of fabric for template B-2. Fold the strip with right sides together. Lay the template onto the strip, as illustrated in Graphic B-2, and begin cutting the strips into pieces. Each cut will give you one left and one right piece from template B-2.

Graphic B-2

Separate the left and right pieces into two piles, as illustrated in Graphic 5.

Graphic 5

Center 1 (C-1): Cut a 3 ½" strip of fabric for template C-1. Fold the strip with right sides together. If you choose to simplify the cutting, you can cut the strips into rectangles. This information is found on the actual template. Lay the template onto the strip, as illustrated in Graphic 6, and begin cutting the strips into pieces. Each cut will give you one left and one right piece from template C-1.

Graphic C-1

Separate the left and right pieces into two piles, as illustrated in Graphic 7.

Graphic 7

Center 2 (C-2): Cut an 8" strip of fabric for template C-2. Now cut the 8" strips into 2" x 8" rectangles. This information is found on the actual template. Lay the template onto the strip, as illustrated in Graphic C-2, and begin cutting the strips into pieces.

Graphic C-2

Center 3 (C-3): Cut a 4 ¾" strip of fabric for template C-3. Next cut the strip into 4 ¾" squares. Now cut the squares diagonally. This information is found on the actual template, and illustrated in Graphic C-3.

Graphic C-3

Melon: Cut one 3 ½" square for each melon (see the number of melons needed in your cutting chart). These pieces have to be cut to the correct size. Then lay the melon template onto each square and trim the curve with your rotary cutter as illustrated in Graphic 10.
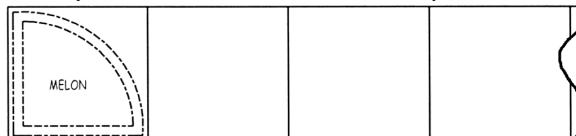
Graphic 10

Center Square: You may want to choose these colors after you have the foundation blocks completed. These squares are used to set the units together. Cut these pieces into 3 3/4" squares. These pieces have to be cut to the correct size. There is not a template for this piece.

Edge and Corner Pieces: The instructions for these pieces are written on page 10 under "Setting the Quilt Together".

Helpful Hints Before Sewing: At this point, you need to adjust the stitch length and tension on your machine for sewing on paper. This will vary with different machines. When using paper as a foundation, use a size 80 needle and set your stitch length at 16 stitches per inch or 1.50 on your sewing machine. This perforates the paper, easing the removal of the paper later. Your tension must be set evenly top to bottom, such that when you tear away the paper it will not loosen or tear the stitches. Practice on a few pieces before starting your quilt.

Warning: The disadvantage of speed piecing is that when you make one mistake, you usually make it on several pieces before you notice it, so pay close attention! You may want to make a couple examples before you begin your chain sewing.

Corrections With Tape: If you make a sewing mistake when doing your paper piecing, and you need to pick out the stitches, do the following. Place a piece of scotch tape over the sewing line on your foundation paper. Then, pull on the fabric and pop the fabric loose from your paper. Now you can pick out the stitches and your foundation paper will remain in tact. When you resew the piece just sew on the line over the tape. CAUTION: When you press the fabric open, always make sure you place the iron on the fabric. If you press on the paper side you will melt the tape and make a mess.

Speed Piecing: For this quilt, speed piecing will be done in units. Each unit has four blocks, and they should have been separated during the cutting section. It must be done this way due to the variety of colors used for each unit. All the pieces will be completed in each step before going on to the next step. For instance, all the papers will be cut out first. Next, you will fold all the papers. Then, you will sew all the lines labeled one, and then all the lines labeled two, and so on. This will save lots of confusion not having to go back and forth with each step.

Before you start paper piecing, you need to mark each of your pieces cut from your templates from 1-11, as illustrated in Graphic 11.

These pieces need to be placed with wrong sides up.
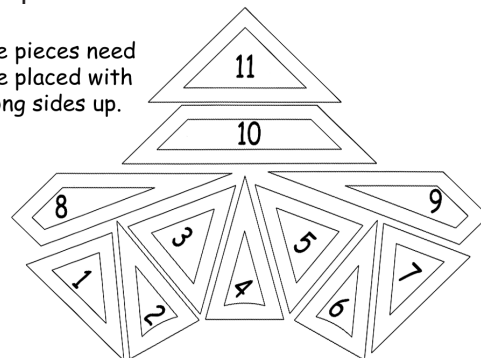
Graphic 11

FOUNDATION PAPER PIECING INSTRUCTIONS
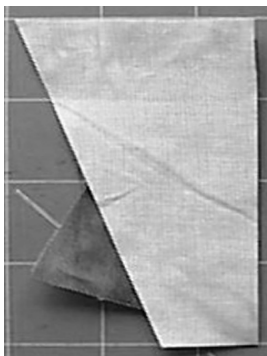
Step 1: Use one of pieces marked fabric 1 and one of the dark triangles marked fabric 2. Position the two pieces together as shown in example 1-1. Make sure the right sides are together. Fold the paper on line one and position it over the fabric as shown in example 1-2. You may need to place a small amount of glue to the back side of section one to hold the first piece of fabric in place. Hold the paper up to the light to make sure the fabric is positioned correctly under section 1 and 2.
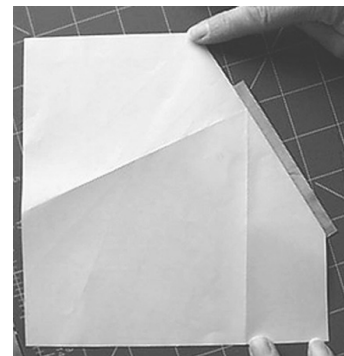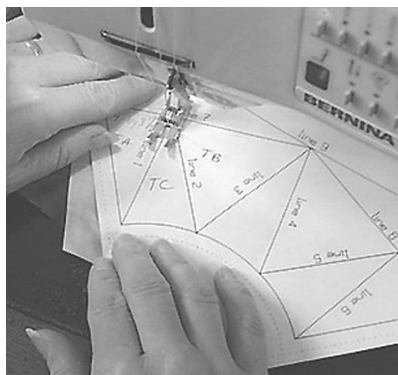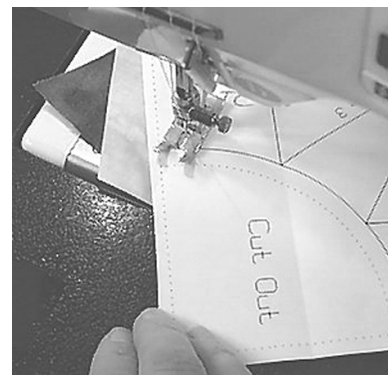
Example 1-1

Example 1-2

Step 2: Place the paper and fabric onto the sewing machine as shown in example 2-1 below. Carefully open up the paper without moving the fabric and begin sewing 1/4" above line one as shown in example 2-2. Sew down line one as shown in example 2-3, and then stop sewing 1/4" below the line.
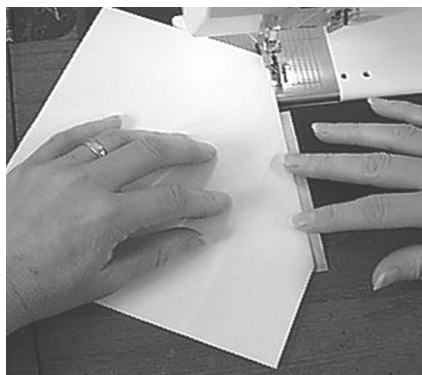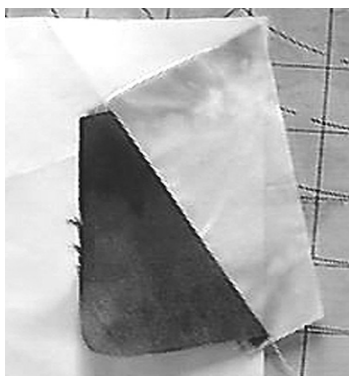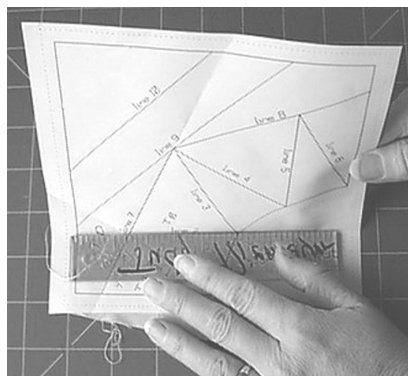
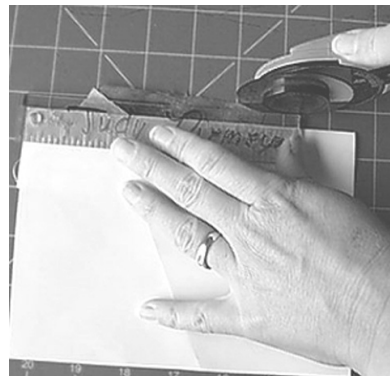Example 2-1

Example 2-2

Example 2-3

Step 3: Press both fabrics open on the back side of the paper as shown in example 3-1. Fold the paper back on line two as shown in example 3-2. Place your add-a-quarter ruler snug against your paper with the lip down and trim a 1/4" seam allowance along line 2 as shown in example 3-3.

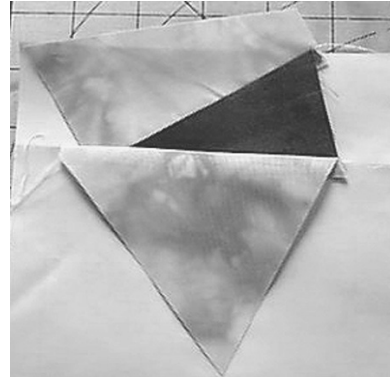Example 3-1   Example 3-2   Example 3-3

Step 4: Place one of the background triangles marked number 3 right side up on your work table. Lay the straight edge of fabric #2 (the dark point) on top of fabric #3. Match the straight edges and the bottom point where my fingers are shown in example 4-1 below. Before sewing, hold up to the light to make sure that the fabric is positioned correctly. Continue to sew on line 2 starting above the line and ending below the line as shown in example 4-2. Press open the fabric as shown in example 4-3. Continue to repeat this process until all the points are completed.
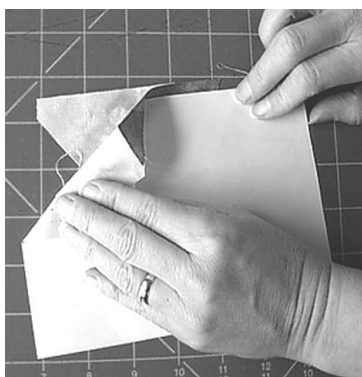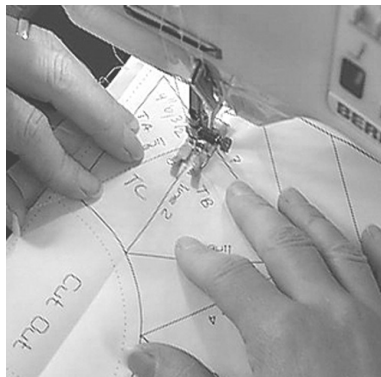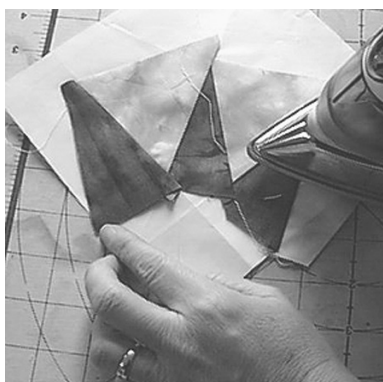
Example 4-1   Example 4-2   Example 4-3

Step 5: When all the points are finished, press as shown in example 5-1 below. Now fold back the paper on line 7. In order to do this, you will need to pull the paper loose from the fabric on the points that have been sewn. Do this about 1/2" down on each line as shown in example 5-2. Trim a 1/4" seam allowance along line 7 (example 5-3).

Pull threads loose.

Example 5-1   Example 5-2   Example 5-3

C2

Cut strips 8" x 2"

C3

Cut Square 4-3/4" x 4-3/4"
Cut Diagonally

B2

Place all fabric rights sides together.

Grain Line

Cut strips 4"

B1

Place all fabric rights together.

Grain Line

Cut strips 3-1/2"

Cut strips 3-1/2"

Points

Place all fabric rights sides Together.

Grain Line
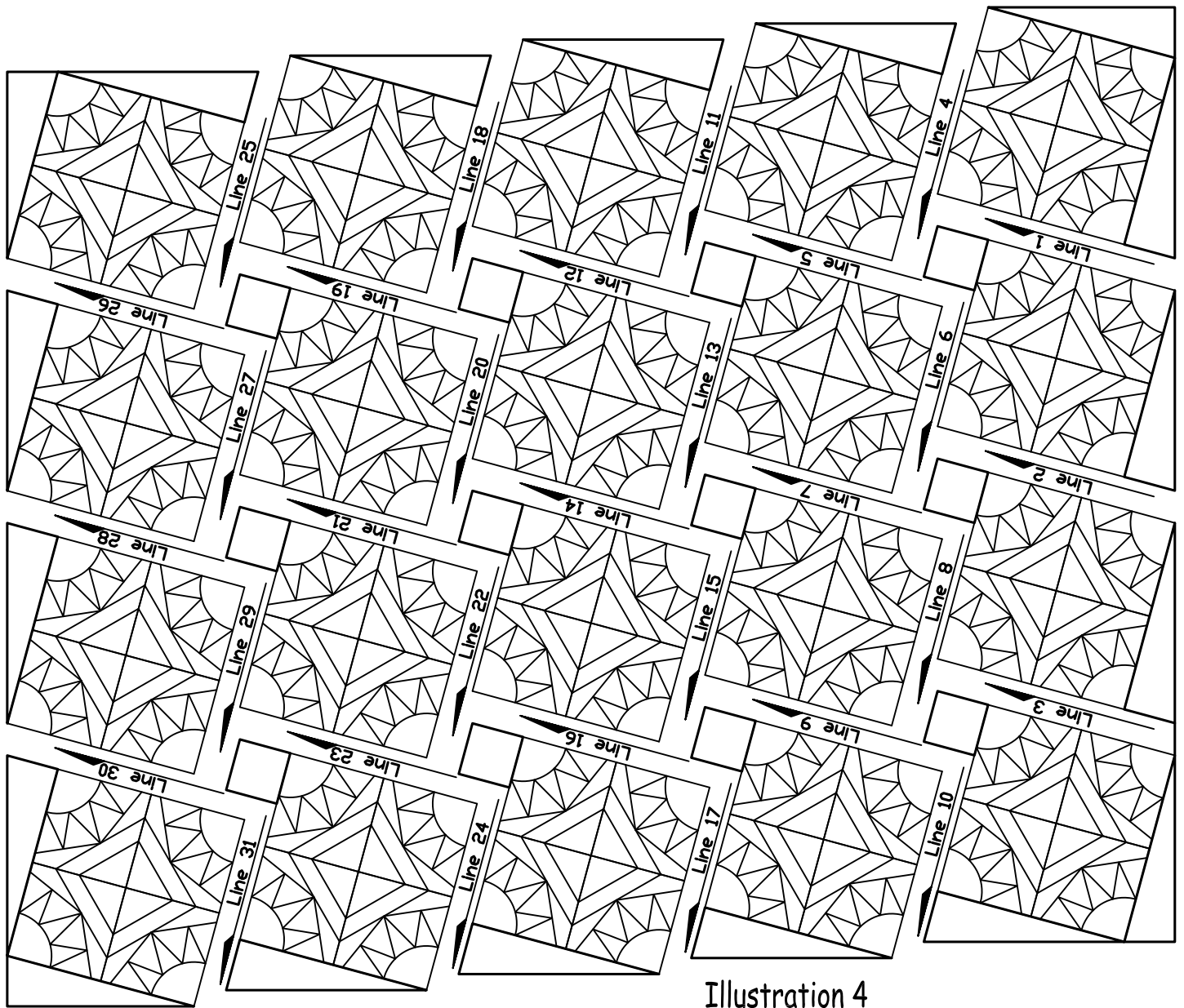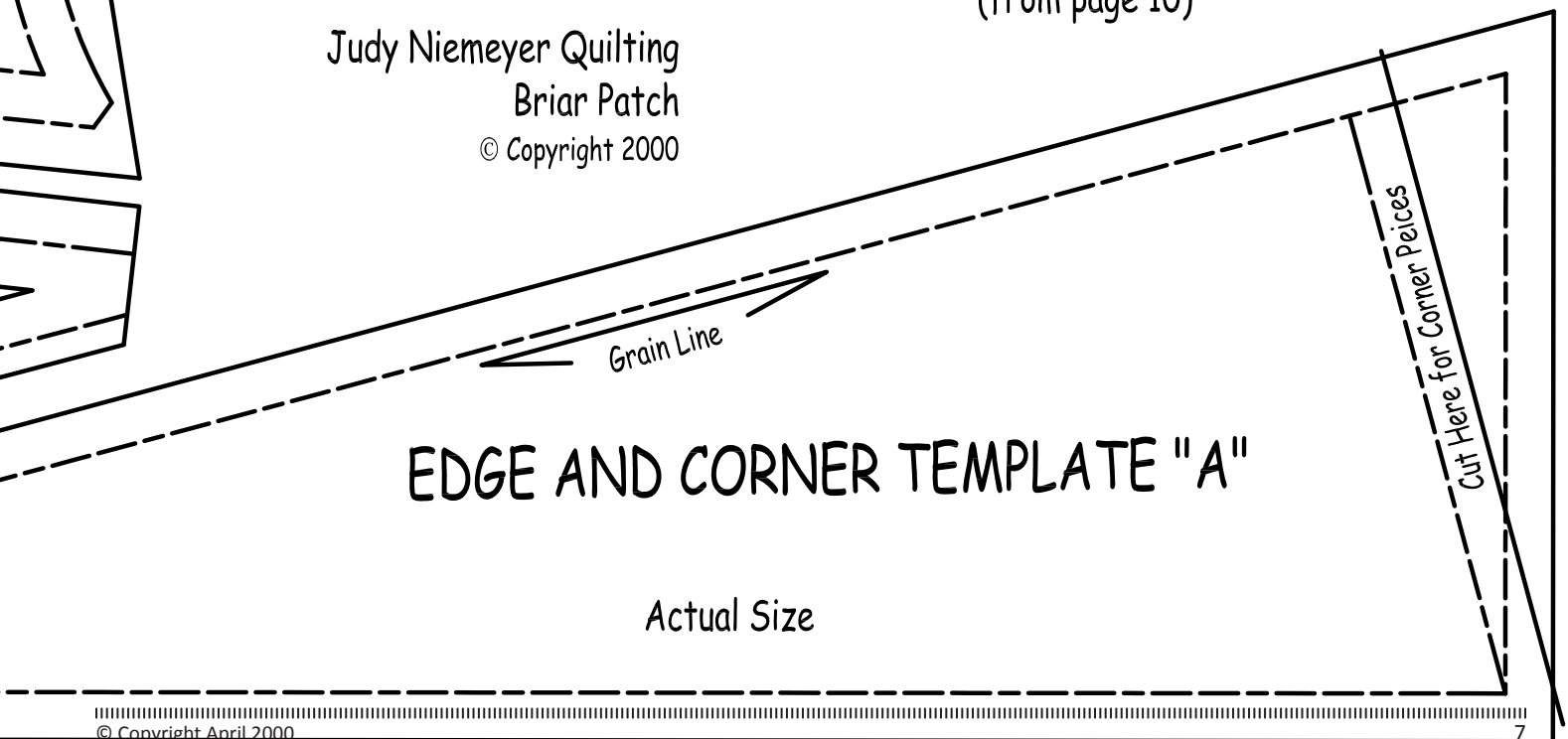
Cut Rect. 3-1/2" x 5-1/4"

C1

MELON

Actual Size

Illustration 4
(from page 10)

Judy Niemeyer Quilting
Briar Patch
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Grain Line

EDGE AND CORNER TEMPLATE "A"

Actual Size

Cut Here for Corner Peices

Step 6: Place fabric number 8 right side up on the table. Position it directly under the paper as shown in example 6-2. Begin sewing at the edge of the paper on line 7, as in example 6-3. Sew past the point about 1/2". Pull the paper loose from the point of line 7 and 8 and fold the paper back on line 8. Trim a 1/4" seam allowance. Complete line 8 using fabric number 9 in the same color as used for line 7.
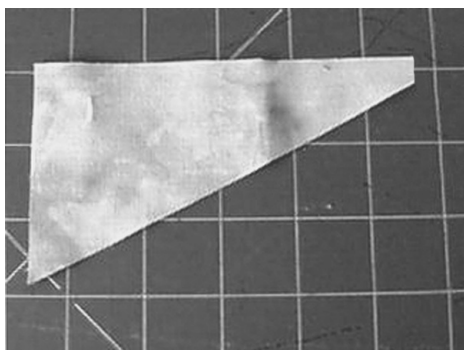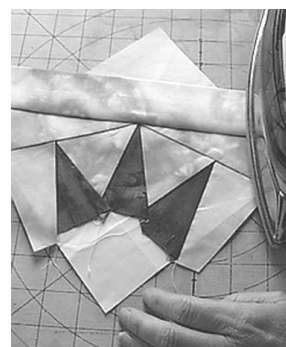

Example 6-1
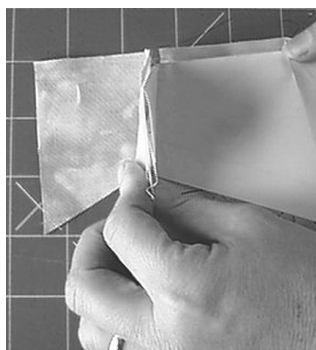
Example 6-2
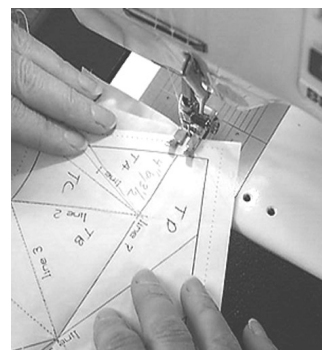
Example 6-3

Step 7: Press the fabric open. Then fold back the paper on line 9 and trim a 1/4" seam allowance as shown in example 7-1. Place one of the 2" by 8" strip (marked fabric number 10) directly under the paper as shown in example 7-2. **Make sure to line up the edges!** Begin sewing on line 9 at the edge of the paper and end sewing on line 9 on the opposite edge of the paper. Then press the fabric open as shown in example 7-3.
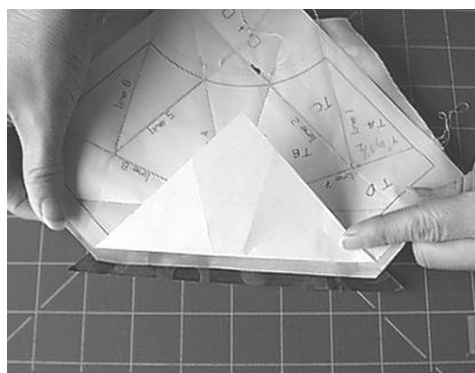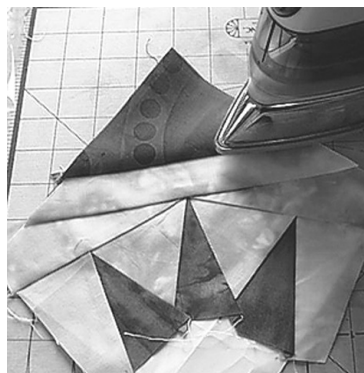

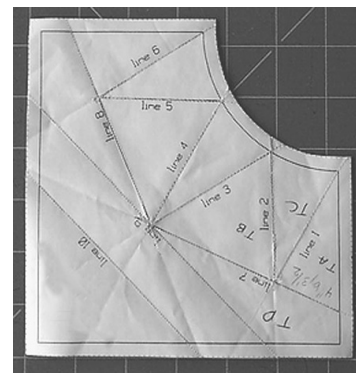Example 7-1
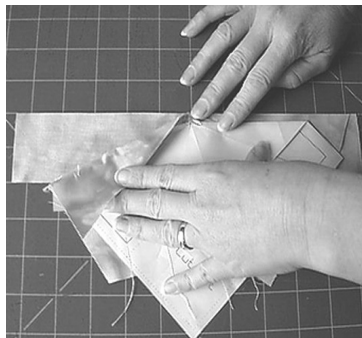
Example 7-2

Example 7-3

Step 8: Trim a 1/4" seam allowance along line 10. Place the large triangle marked fabric number 11 directly under the paper as shown in example 8-1 below. Sew on line 10, and then press the fabric open as shown in example 8-2. Trim all the excess fabric along the quarter inch seam allowance as shown in example 8-3.
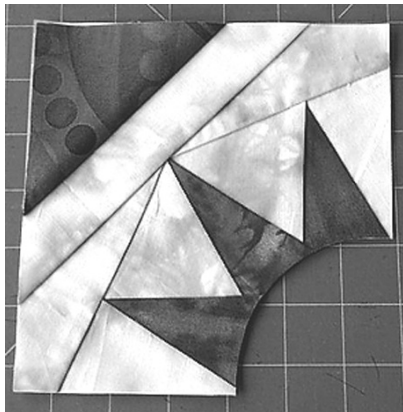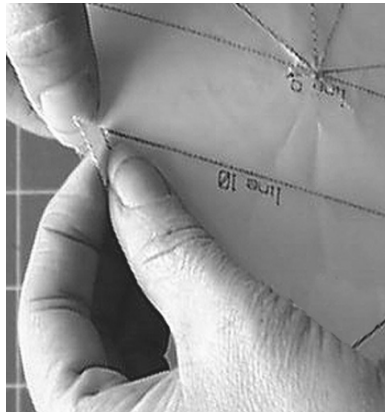

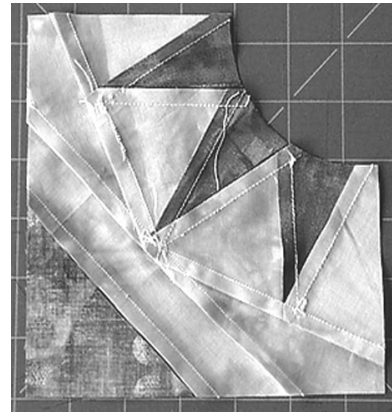Example 8-1

Example 8-2

Example 8-3

Step 9: Example 9-1 below shows the block all trimmed. See how nice all the points look. Gently tear the paper away from the fabric by holding onto the beginning of each seam as shown in example 9-2. Example 9-3 shows the back side of the pieced block. Notice how nice all the seams are laying. Complete all the paper piecing before going onto the next step.
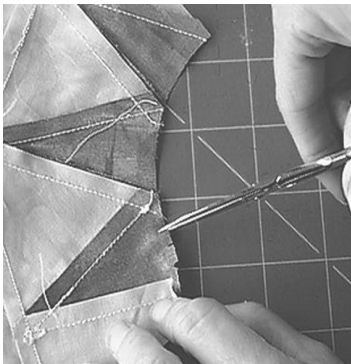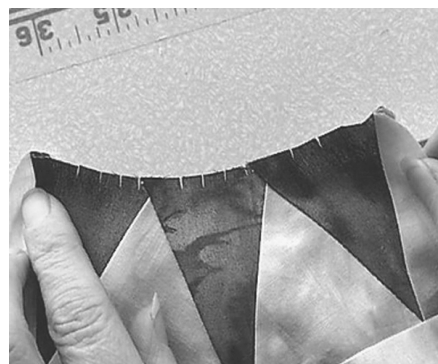

Example 9-1

Example 9-2

Example 9-3

Melons: Sewing on the melons cut from the Melon Template is not as hard as most people think. With a little help from the pictures in steps 10 and 11, you should be able to do this with little difficulty if you follow the directions carefully.
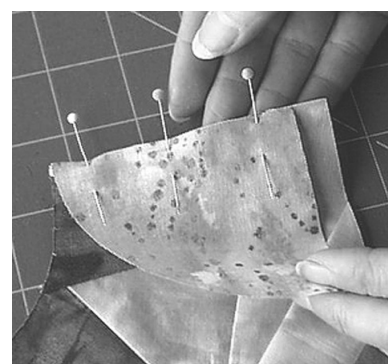
Step 10: First you need to clip the inside curve of the pieced block about 1/8" several times as shown in example 10-1 below. (Do not clip in too far). Example 10-2 shows the whole inside curve clipped. Next place right sides together and pin one edge of the melon along the edge of the pieced block three times as shown in example 10-3.
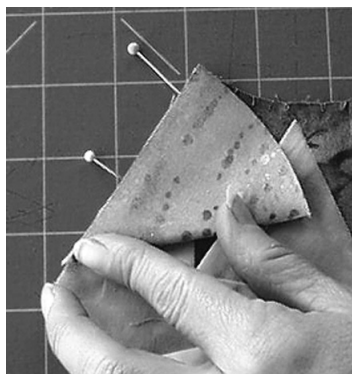

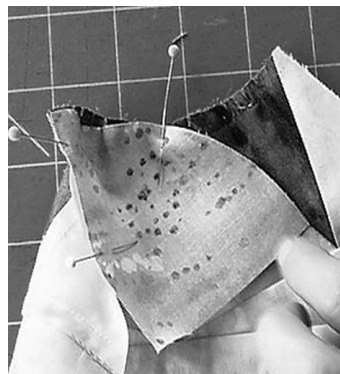Example 10-1

Example 10-2

Example 10-3

Next find the center of the melon by folding the melon in half as shown in example 10-4. Now find the center of the block and match it to the center of the melon. Place a pin at this point as shown in example 10-5. Now pin the other two edges together with three pins and work the fabric into a curve as shown in example 10-6. If you feel like adding a few more pins do so at this point.
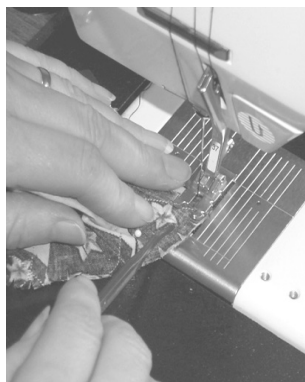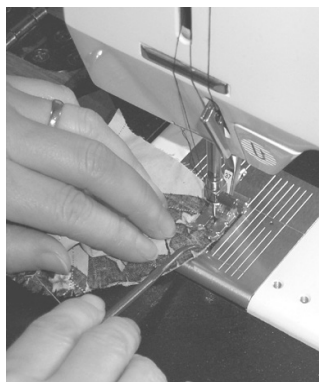

Example 10-4
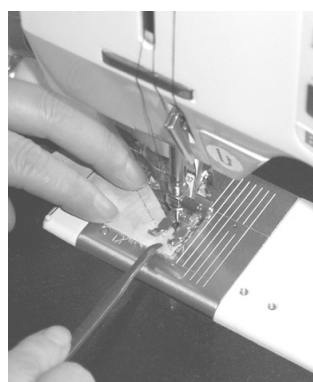

Example 10-5
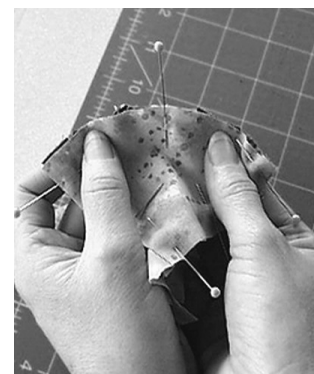
Example 10-6

Step 11: To begin sewing, place the pieced block up and the melon down. Set the pressure foot down on the edge of the fabric and sew about three stitches. Then pull the top pin out of the way and sew just a little bit further as shown in example 11-1 below. Now remove the pin on the first side where you began sewing. Slowly continue sewing using a 'purple thang' (by Lynn Graves) to help keep the fabric together in a nice smooth curve as shown in example 11-2. When you reach the center, pull the pin out and continue sewing. Before you reach the end, stop and pull only the top pin out. Use your 'purple thang' to hold the edges together as you sew to the end as shown in example 11-3. When you are finished sewing, press so that the seams lay flat towards the center melon as in example 11-4.
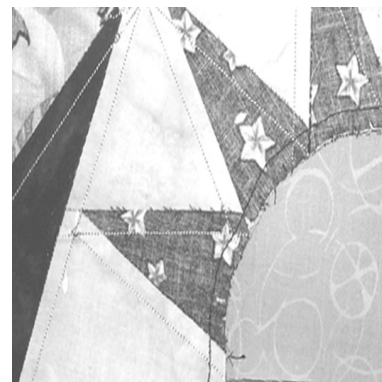

| Example 11-1 | Example 11-2 | Example 11-3 | Example 11-4 |

■ SETTING THE QUILT TOGETHER

Step 1: Cut the edge pieces needed for your quilt from template A. Make sure that you cut these pieces out following the 'grain line' shown on the template. Cut the center squares 3 3/4" by 3 3/4" (there is no template for these pieces).

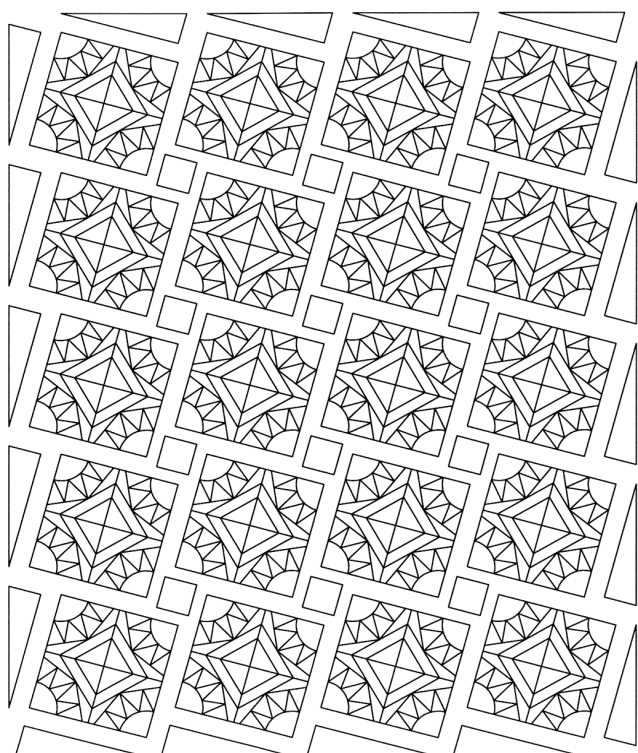**Step 2:** Lay out your blocks according to the illustration below and sew the blocks together in sets of 4.

Illustration 1

Step 3: Sew one center square onto each unit as shown in Illustration 4 on page 7 (the template page). Each center square is only sewn onto each unit half way. This is demonstrated in Illustrations 2 and 3. Make sure each center square is sewn onto the upper right-hand corner.
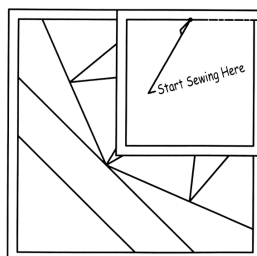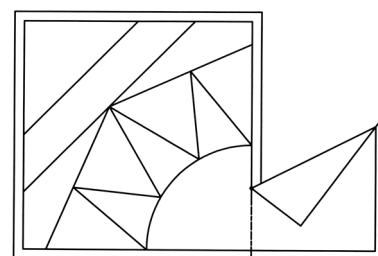
Illustration 2   Illustration 3

Step 4: Sew the edge pieces onto the outside units as shown in Illustration 4 (found on template page).

Step 5: After the edge pieces are sewn onto the outside units, use template A and cut the excess fabric from the four corner pieces.

Step 6: Sew each unit together by following the arrows on Illustration 4. Sew line 1 first, then sew line 2, continuing to sew in this fashion until the last unit has been attached finishing with line 31.

MAKING BORDER #1

Step 1: Out of your background prints, cut the correct number of 2 7/8" squares needed for your quilt. Out of your border print, cut the same amount of 2 7/8" squares. Place the right sides together with the lightest fabric on top as shown in diagram 1. Remember, one light and one dark square yields two ppts (Perfectly Pieced Triangles).
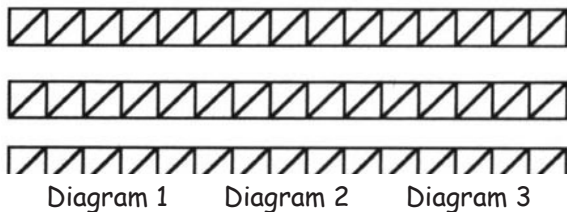
Draw a single line diagonally from corner to corner. Place the quarter inch foot along the edge of the line and sew a quarter inch seam down each side of the line as shown below in diagram 2. Press all the squares flat, then cut the pieces diagonally from corner to corner as shown in diagram 3.

Diagram 1   Diagram 2   Diagram 3

When pressing the blocks open, press the seam allowances toward the dark fabric. You may also choose to use foundation triangle papers. There are several brands out on the market that can be purchased through your local quilt shops.

Step 2: Sew all the triangles into 4 rows as shown below. All four rows are sewn and pressed in one direction.
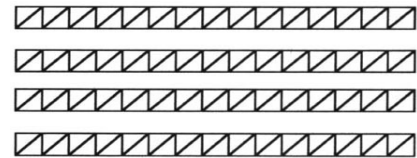
Measure the length and width of your quilt to calculate the number of triangles required in each row.

Step 3: Lay your quilt down on the floor and straighten it out. Measure the triangle borders to your quilt. If the borders are too short or too long you will need to adjust the triangle borders to fit each side. This can be done if you ease in several of the seams until the triangle borders fit the quilt.

Step 4: Sew the two side borders on first. Then sew the top and bottom onto the quilt. Press the seams toward the center of the quilt. This is illustrated below in "Making Border 2".

MAKING BORDER #2

Step 1: Estimate the width and length needed for your quilt and cut the outer border strips according to the cutting charts.

Step 2: Lay the two longest rows down the center of your quilt. Trim both strips the same length of the quilt, as shown at the right.
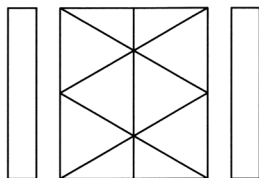
Step 3: Pin the border pieces onto both sides of the quilt. Match the ends and centers first. Then, ease the quilt to fit the border. Sew the two side borders onto the quilt as illustrated to the right. Press the seams toward the border. Repeat this process for the top and bottom borders shown below.
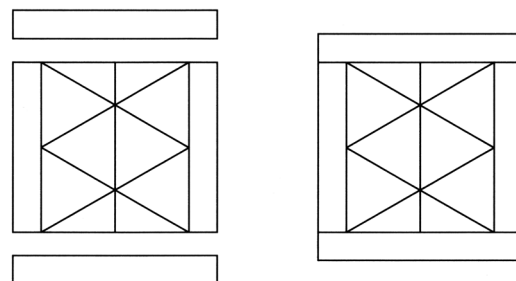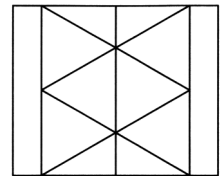
Extra materials may be obtained from local quilt shops or directly from Judy Niemeyer Quilting.

Judy Niemeyer Quilting
100 Lincoln Lane
Kalispell, MT 59901

email: info@quiltworx.com   homepage: http://www.quiltworx.com

If you want to purchase many different fabrics, a simple way to avoid purchasing too much or too little is to add approximately 1/2 yd to the total yardage required for each of the pieces and divide that total yardage amount into 1/4 yard increments. By looking at the foundation paper sheets, you can determine the location of each of the template pieces, which then enables you to decide where your colors will be used.

~ Thank you for ordering from Quiltworx.com!

Yardage Chart

	Crib	Lap	Twin	Double	Queen	King
Size w/o Border	39 X 52	52 X 64	52 X 77	64 X 77	77 X 89	89 X 102
Template B-1 & B-2	1 1/2 yds	2 1/2 yds	2 3/4 yds	3 1/2 yds	4 1/2 yds	5 3/4 yds
Center 1	3/4 yd	1 1/8 yds	1 1/2 yds	1 5/8 yds	2 1/4 yds	2 7/8 yds
Center 2	3/4 yd	1 yd	1 1/4 yds	1 1/2 yds	1 7/8 yds	2 1/2 yds
Center 3	1/2 yd	3/4 yd	7/8 yd	1 1/4 yds	1 2/3 yds	2 1/4 yds
Points	3/4 yd	1 1/4 yds	1 1/3 yds	1 2/3 yds	2 1/4 yds	3 yds
Melon	1/2 yd	3/4 yd	7/8 yd	1 1/8 yds	1 1/2 yds	1 7/8 yds
Set in Squares	1/8 yd	1/4 yd	1/4 yd	1/4 yd	1/3 yd	1/2 yd
Edge Pieces	1/2 yd	1/2 yd	3/4 yd	1 yd	1 yd	1 1/8 yd
Size with Border	5 " Border 49 X 62	7" Border 66 X 78	7" Border 66 X 91	8" Border 80 X 93	8" Border 93 X 105	8" Border 105 X 118
Border 1 - PPT Border each of light and dark fabric	2/3 yd	7/8 yd	1 yd	1 yd	1 1/4 yds	1 1/3 yds
Border 2 & Binding	2 yds	2 1/2 yds	2 3/4 yds	3 yds	3 1/4 yds	3 3/4 yds

One package (5 extra sheets) of extra foundation papers has an additional 60 blocks. These can be purchased to increase the size of your quilt.

Cutting Chart and Instructions

	Crib	Lap	Twin	Double	Queen	King
Template B-1 Cut the following of each Left and Right	48	80	96	120	168	224
From Template B-2 Cut the following of each Left and Right	48	80	96	120	168	224
Template Points Cut the following	144	240	288	360	504	672
From your Melon Template Cut the Following	48	80	96	120	168	224
From Template C-1 Cut the following of each Left and Right	48	80	96	120	168	224
From Template C-2 Cut the following of each Left and Right	48	80	96	120	168	224
From Template C-3 Cut the following of each Left and Right	48	80	96	120	168	224
Center Squares	6	12	15	20	30	42
Edge Pieces	14	18	20	22	26	30
Foundation Blocks/Pattern	48	80	96	120	168	224
Number of Foundation Sheets	3	7	8	10	14	19
Border Size	5"	7"	7"	8"	8"	8 "
PPTs	96	120	132	144	168	196
Units	12	20	24	30	42	56

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