

FOUR SEASONS: SPRING

by Arlene Nicholas



One of four tributes to the seasons, *Spring* features a pieced border of *Star* and *Irish Chain* blocks that frame a bouquet of appliquéd irises. Patterns for the other three seasons are available at thequiltersbouquet.com. Quilted by the very talented Nuala Evans at Newla's Needle.

Arlene is a passionate pattern designer and teacher and loves sharing her ideas with fellow quilters and guilds. Follow her on Facebook ([quiltersbouquet](https://www.facebook.com/quiltersbouquet)) and Instagram ([@thequiltersbouquet](https://www.instagram.com/thequiltersbouquet)).

Fabric Requirements & Supplies

- 1½ yards white
- ½ yards green
- ½ yards lavender
- ¾ yards purple (includes binding)
- ½ yards appliqué fabric for flowers (batiks work great!)
- 1 fat quarter appliqué fabric for leaves (batiks work great!)
- 1½ yards backing
- 1½ yards fusible web

- thread to match appliqué
- embroidery floss for iris beards, coordinating threads for appliqué (optional)
- Teflon pressing sheet (optional)
- batting

NOTE The design templates for the centre panel have been provided in reverse. Please refer to the Master Placement Template for appliqué placement. Dashed lines indicate the sections that sit beneath another template.

Instructions

Cut:

WHITE

- 1 strip 1½" x WOF (width of fabric);
sub cut into sixteen (16) 1½" x 2 ½" strips
- 1 strip 2½" x WOF
- 2 strips 4½" x WOF;
sub cut **one** strip into sixteen (16) 1½" x 4½"
- 2 strips 2½" x WOF;
sub cut into thirty-two (32) 2½" x 2½" squares
- 1 strip 3½" x WOF;
sub cut into eight (8) 3½" x 3½" squares
- 1 strip 16½" x 16½" (appliqué background)

GREEN

- 1 strip 2½" x WOF;
sub cut into eight (8) 2½" x 2½" squares
- 4 strips 1½" x WOF

LAVENDER

- 1 strip 2½" x WOF;
sub cut into eight (8) 2½" x 2½" squares
- 2 strips 3" x WOF;
sub cut into sixteen (16) 3" x 3" squares
(cut in half diagonally = 32 triangles)

PURPLE

- 2 strips 1½" x WOF (inner borders);
sub cut into two (2) strips 1½" x 16½"
and two (2) strips 1½" x 18½"
- 1 strip 3½" x WOF;
sub cut into eight (8) 3½" x 3½" squares
- 4 strips 2½" x WOF (binding)

STAR POINTS

- 1 Draw two diagonal lines on the wrong side of the 3½" x 3½" white squares (Diagram A, page 58).
- 2 Place a 3½" white square on a 3½" purple square, right sides together.

- 3 With needle in the centre of your presser foot, sew ¼" from the left side of one of the diagonal lines; stop at the crossing lines. Keep your needle down, pivot and sew along the pencil line stopping ¼" beyond the crossed lines. Pivot again and stitch ¼" on the right side of the first diagonal line using the left edge of your presser foot as a guide (Diagram B). >

4 Repeat step 3 for the second diagonal line. Continue with the remaining star points in the same manner. Make 8 (Diagram C).

5 Cut each square along both marked lines (Diagram D).

6 Press star points towards the dark fabric (Diagram E).

7 Align the star point with a lavender triangle. With right sides together, sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " along the long side of the star point (Diagram F). Press towards the dark fabric.

8 Trim to $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (Diagram G). Make 4 for each star, 32 in total.

STAR BLOCK

Row 1 Sew one $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " square to each side of a star point (Diagram H).

Row 2 Sew one $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " star point to each side of a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " lavender block (Diagram I).

Row 3 Same as first row. Note the orientation of the star point (Diagram J).

With right sides together, sew Row 1 to Row 2; then sew Row 3 to Row 2 (Diagram K). Press seams in direction of arrows. Your block should be $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ "; square up as needed. Make 8.

IRISH CHAIN BLOCK

Unit A

Sew one white $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF strip between two green $1\frac{1}{2}$ " strips (Diagram L). Sub cut into 16 strips $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ " (Diagram M).

Unit B

Sew one white $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF strip between two green $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF strips (Diagram N). Sub cut into 16 strips $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ " (Diagram O).

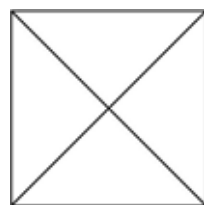


DIAGRAM A



DIAGRAM B

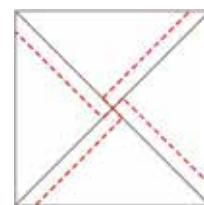


DIAGRAM C

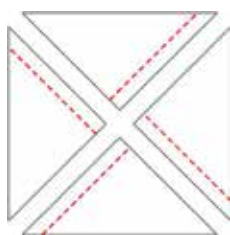


DIAGRAM D



DIAGRAM E

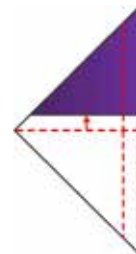


DIAGRAM F



DIAGRAM G

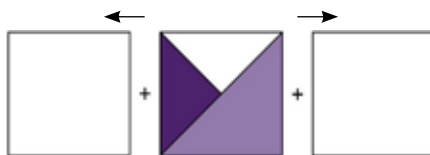


DIAGRAM H

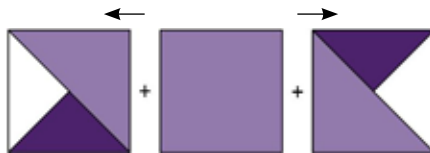


DIAGRAM I



DIAGRAM J



DIAGRAM K

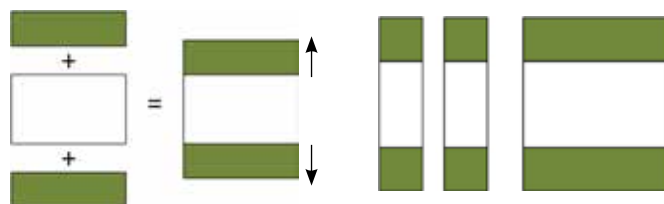


DIAGRAM L



DIAGRAM M



DIAGRAM N

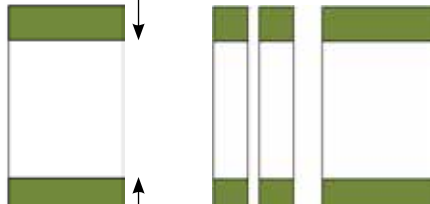


DIAGRAM O

Round 1 Sew one $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " white strip to each side of a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " green square. Press to the centre square (Diagram P).

Round 2 Sew one $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ " Unit A strip to the top and bottom of the *Irish Chain* block (Diagram Q). Block measures $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Round 3 Sew one $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ " white strip to each side of the *Irish Chain* block (Diagram R).

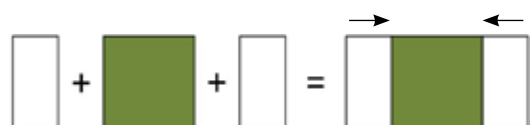


DIAGRAM P

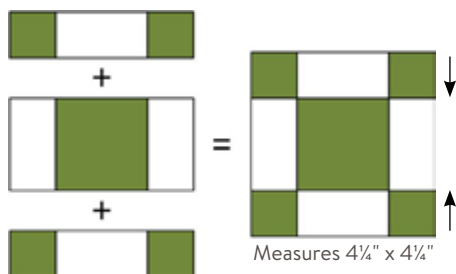


DIAGRAM Q

Round 4 Sew one $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ " Unit B strip to top and bottom of the *Irish Chain* block (Diagram S). Block measures $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ ".

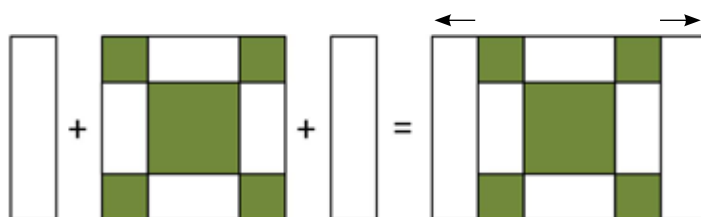


DIAGRAM R

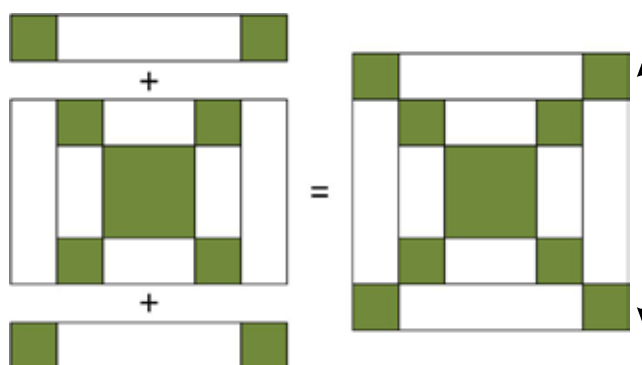


DIAGRAM S

INNER BORDER

1 Sew one $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $16\frac{1}{2}$ " purple Inner Border strip to each side of the $16\frac{1}{2}$ " x $16\frac{1}{2}$ " background. Press toward the border.

2 Sew one $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $18\frac{1}{2}$ " purple Inner Border strip to the top and bottom of the background (Diagram T). Press toward the border; measures $18\frac{1}{2}$ " x $18\frac{1}{2}$ ".

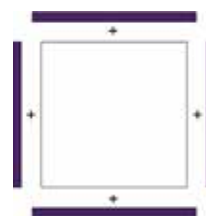


DIAGRAM T

OUTER BORDER

1 Sew one *Star* block between two *Irish Chain* blocks. Make two (2) side Outer Border units (Diagram U); measures $18\frac{1}{2}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ ".

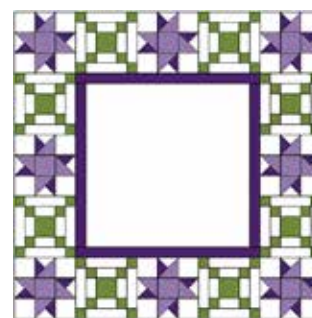
2 Sew Outer Border units to each side of the Inner Border of the quilt, matching top, bottom and middle edges.

3 Sew top and bottom Outer Border units together (Diagram V); measures $30\frac{1}{2}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ ".

4 Sew Outer Border units to the top and bottom of the Inner Border, matching top, bottom and middle edges. Press all seams to the Inner Border (see Master diagram). >



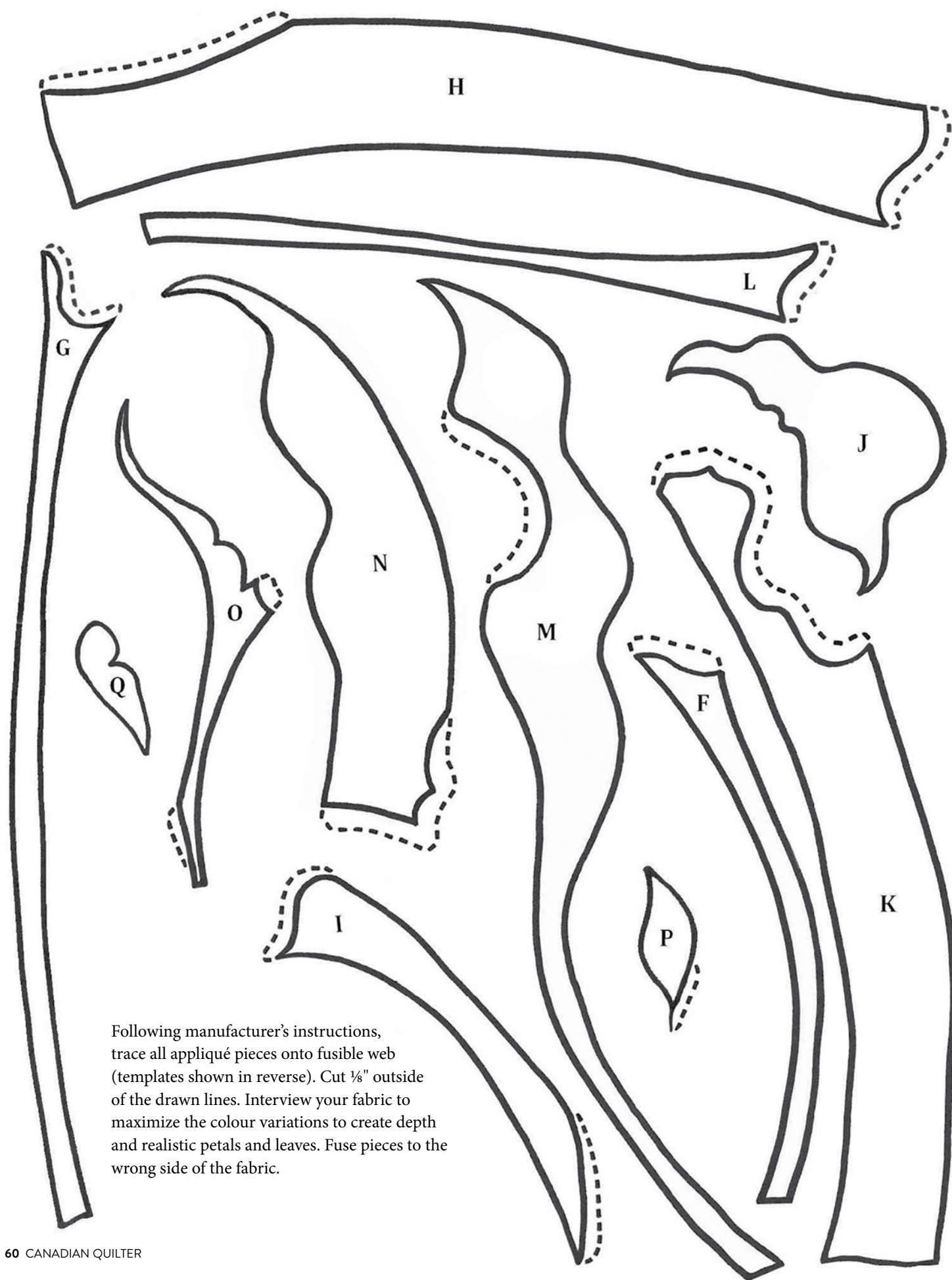
DIAGRAM U



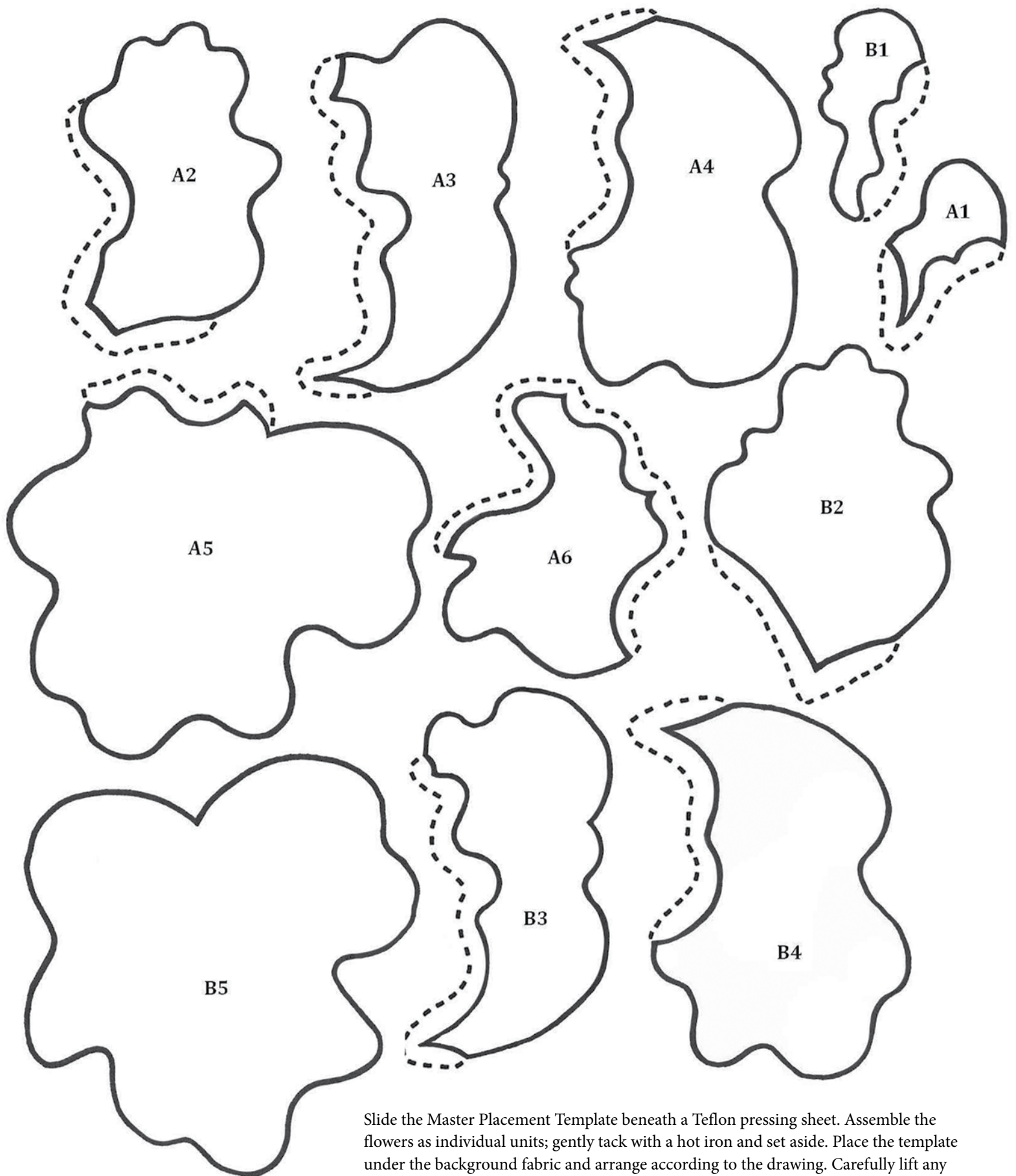
MASTER



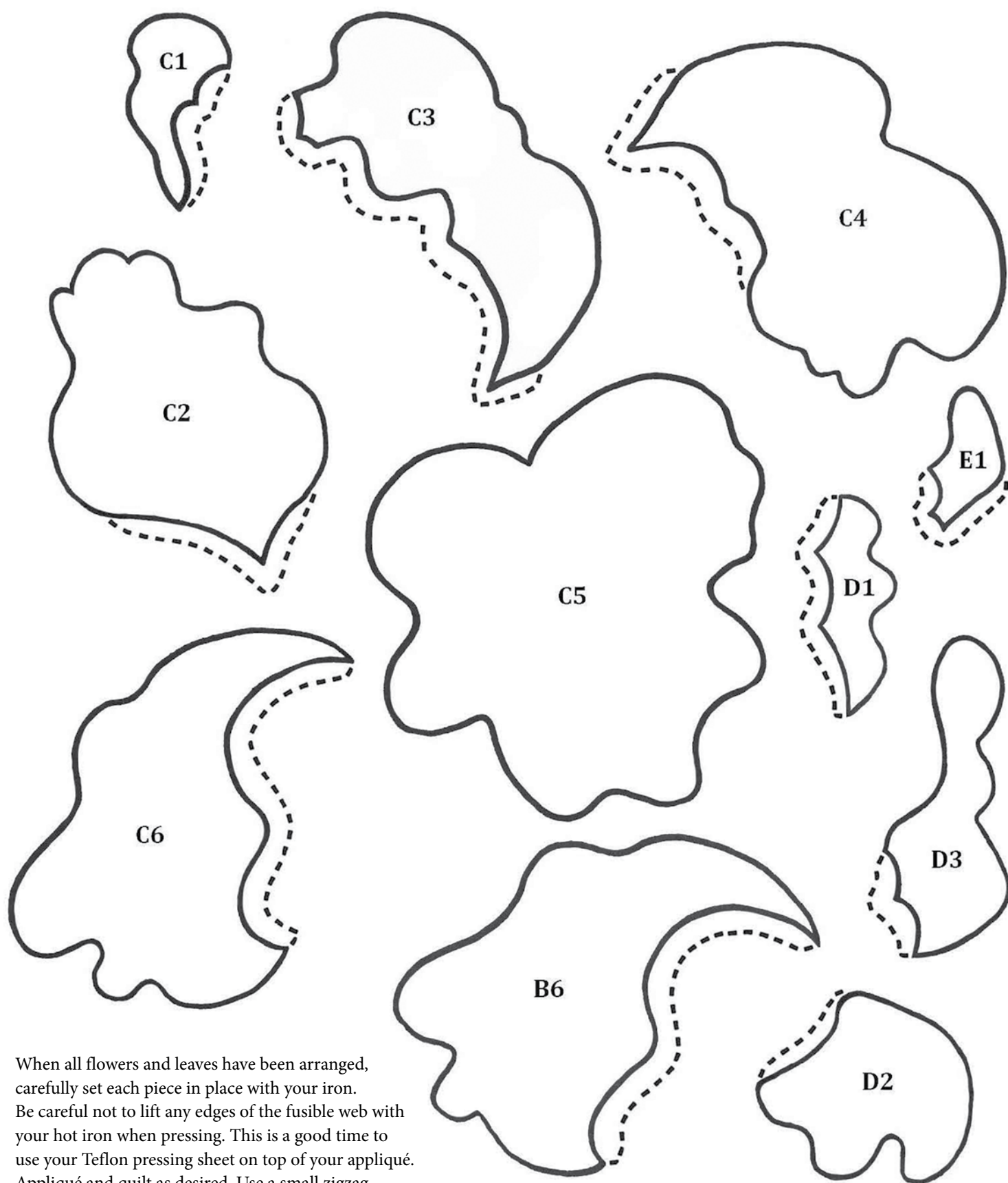
DIAGRAM V



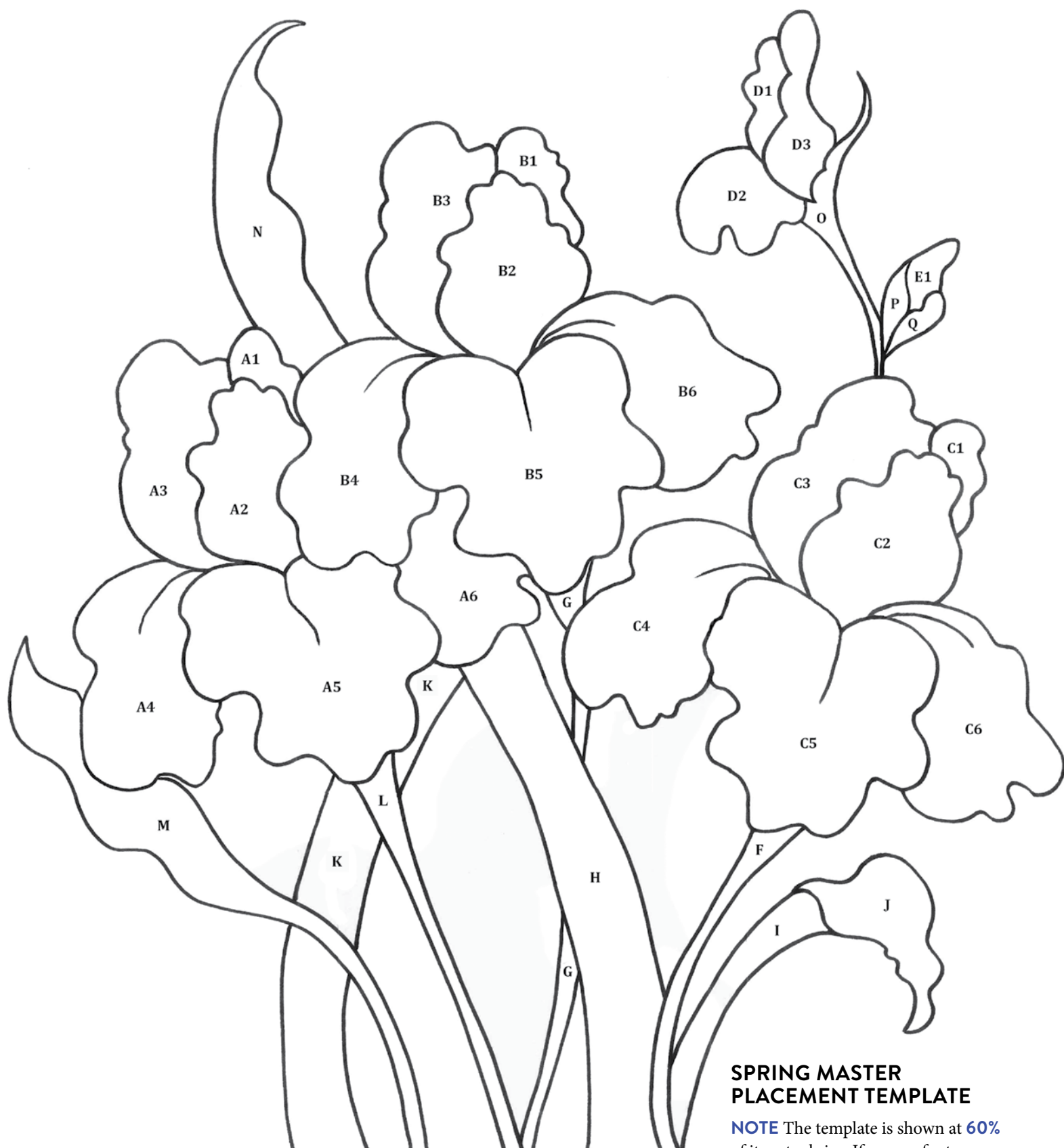
Following manufacturer's instructions, trace all appliqué pieces onto fusible web (templates shown in reverse). Cut $\frac{1}{8}$ " outside of the drawn lines. Interview your fabric to maximize the colour variations to create depth and realistic petals and leaves. Fuse pieces to the wrong side of the fabric.



Slide the Master Placement Template beneath a Teflon pressing sheet. Assemble the flowers as individual units; gently tack with a hot iron and set aside. Place the template under the background fabric and arrange according to the drawing. Carefully lift any flowers where a leaf sits underneath a flower. >



When all flowers and leaves have been arranged, carefully set each piece in place with your iron. Be careful not to lift any edges of the fusible web with your hot iron when pressing. This is a good time to use your Teflon pressing sheet on top of your appliqué. Appliqué and quilt as desired. Use a small zigzag, blanket, satin or raw edge stitch to finish the appliqué edges. Use machine free motion thread play or hand embroidery to create the Iris beards.



SPRING MASTER PLACEMENT TEMPLATE

NOTE The template is shown at **60%** of its actual size. If you prefer to use it full sized, please download it from the *Members Only Studio* on the CQA/ACC website. 🌸