

Wheelhouse Quilt Series

Traditional Quilt Version - 60½" x 60½"

Designed by Lauren MacDonald

Introduction (So, in other words, feel free to skip right past this section and on to the pattern!)

What's in a name? This quilt began as an experiment to find blocks that would 'play' together well. It was my way of exploring the new software from Electric Quilt – BlockBase+® - as I scrolled through the various categories, I would copy the blocks that I liked and pasted them into 4x4 quilt layouts to help me visualize how they would meld with each other into a good quilt design.

After many experiments and consultations with other quilters, I arrived at this pattern for a traditional quilt, using just three of the blocks from the program. Along with a pattern, I was lucky enough to gain a partner and we have collaborated with the series. Shirley Jobson, a quilt designer from the Next Stop Englehart Quilters Guild, has developed the Beginner Version of this quilt. During one of our conversations the term 'wheelhouse' came up. If something is in your wheelhouse, it is in your comfort zone. All these blocks took me out of my wheelhouse! But, as with most quilters, I was happy to tackle and learn new skills.

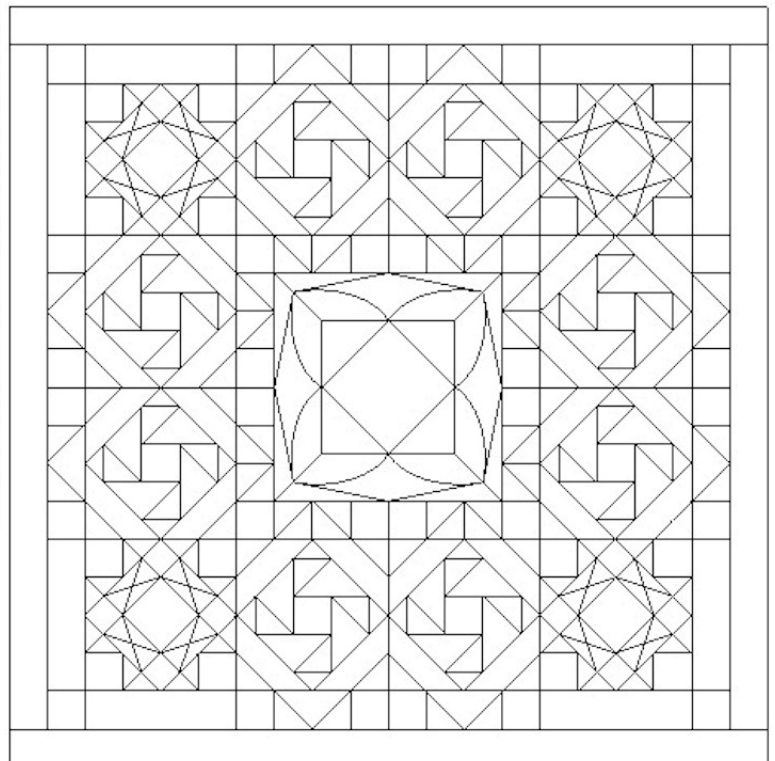
What types of skills make these blocks (possibly) tricky? Here's a quick list and that might help you decide which block to begin with:

Side Blocks – cutting some of the pieces using 'eighths', partial piecing, exact ¼" seams so that the points of all the triangles show at the end, ensuring that 2 of the corner triangles are in one position on 4 blocks and reversed on the other 4

Corner Blocks – doing one section with Foundation Paper Piecing methods, working with many triangles

Centre Block – creating an 18" block, sewing curves

Note: each of the blocks has a centre section so a quilter may decide to leave it plain or insert a unique item – appliqué or fussy cutting or embroidery or a mini-quilt block.



Wheelhouse Quilt Series

Traditional Quilt Version

NOTE: Be sure to test your ¼" seam before you begin to sew (and if you change machines during the project). Each block depends on you having a perfect ¼" seam.
If you enlarge your PDF copy while on your device - you will be able to view the pictures even better!!
Before beginning to cut or sew...read, read and re-read the pattern. There are a number of pictures to help you along the way, as sometimes explanations need more than words to be understood.

Yardage

I will refer to my colours here, to make it easier for you to see what colours go where in the quilt to help you pick your own colours. My version was made with autumn theme batik fabrics.

Colour 1 - Beige speckled - background 1 ¾ yards

Colour 2 - dark patterned fabric used in all blocks and looking like connecting lanes 1 ⅜ yards

Colour 3 - orange mottled used in centre and corner blocks - ⅜ yards

Colour 4 - light batik used in corner, centre and border around the centre block - ⅜ yards

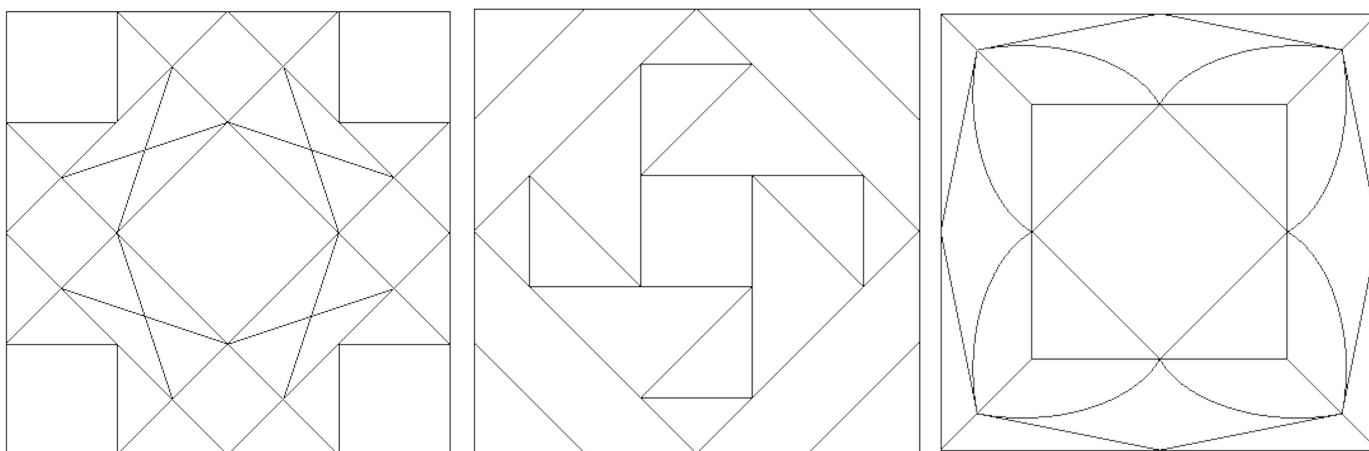
Colour 5 - light 'oak & acorn' batik used in all blocks - 1 yard

Other fabrics used:

¼ yard of 4 fabrics used for accent sections

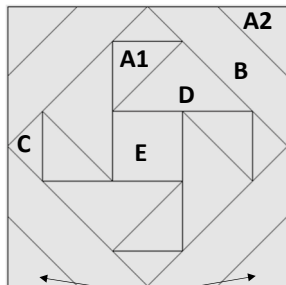
⅛ yard of 8 bright fabrics used in side blocks (could be one fabric only - 1 yard)

Foundation Paper Piecing stabilizer or newsprint or freezer paper - according to your preference.



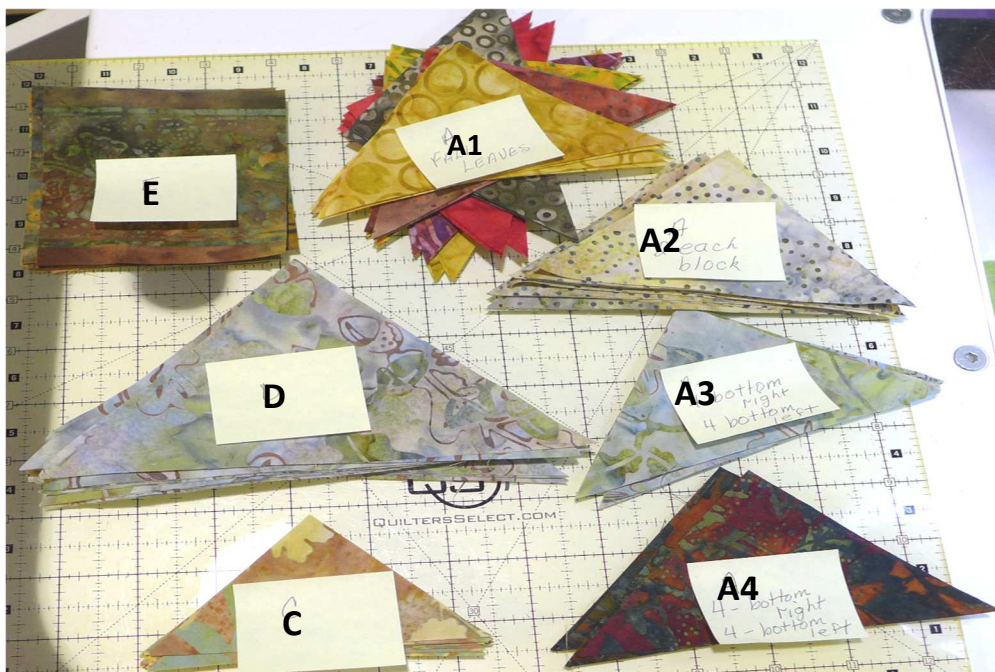
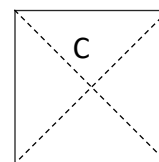
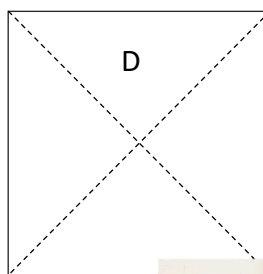
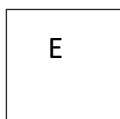
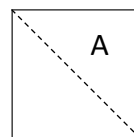
Wheelhouse Quilt Series – Traditional - a digital PDF pattern - by Lauren MacDonald

Side blocks



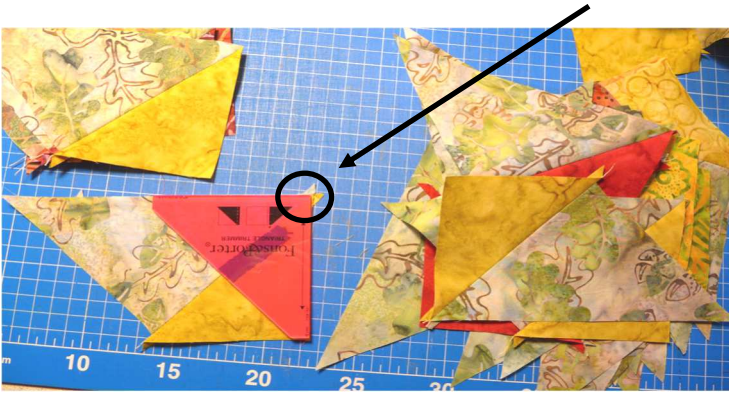
A3 and A4

- a) **Cutting:** (Note: your colour choices may lead you to cut C and D from the same fabric - see p. 5 for a look at completed block)
- b) A1 – 4 per block (so 16 squares, cut once on the diagonal to give 32 pieces), same or different colours
- c) A2 – 2 per block (8 squares, cut once to give 16 pieces). In the image, this fabric is the background fabric
- d) A3 – 1 per block (2 squares, cut once to give 8 pieces). In the image this fabric is set on the right side in 4 of the blocks and on the left side in the other 4 blocks.
- e) A4 - 1 per block (2 squares, cut once to give 8 pieces). In the image this fabric is set on the right side in 4 of the blocks and on the left side in the other 4 blocks.
- f) B – Cut 8 strips (WOF x 2 ⁵/₈") then subcut each strip into 4 - 9 ¹/₂ " strips. These will become part of the ‘connector lanes’ in the quilt.
- g) C – Cut 8 squares 4 ¹/₄" x 4 ¹/₄" , then cut each one twice diagonally, giving 4 each and 32 in total
- h) D - Cut 8 squares 7 ¹/₄" x 7 ¹/₄" , then cut each one twice diagonally, giving 4 each and 32 in total
- i) E – Cut 8 squares 3 ¹/₂" x 3 ¹/₂"

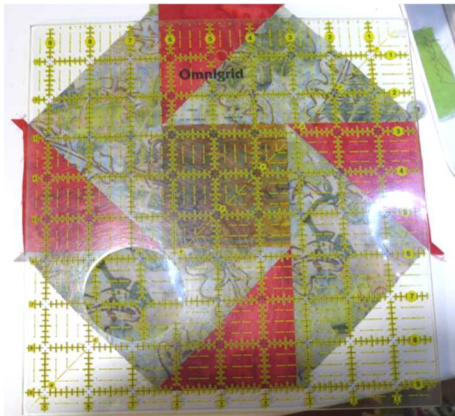
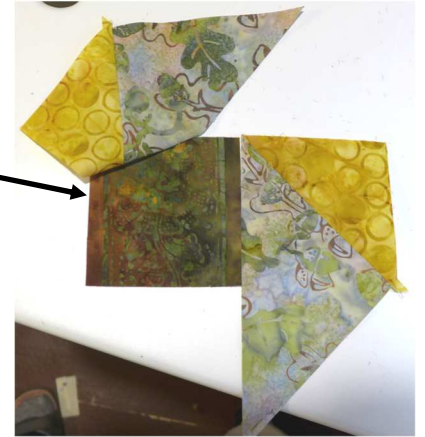


Bottom edges aligned and the ‘dog ear’ of A extends at the top

2. **Directions:** Sew A1 to D – be careful to have ¹/₄" seam for the whole seam
 - a) Place A1 right side down on D. Line up the straight lines on the bottom and the diagonal side on the left side of D
 - b) Sew along the diagonal side (zoom in on image to see seam line)
 - c) Continue to sew all the A1 pieces to all the D pieces, then press seams and press open (optional)
 - d) If you want to be even more exact, line up a square edge on the seam where the 2 triangles meet and trim if you need to ensure that the seam line is centred and the edge is 90° (see photo at top of next page)



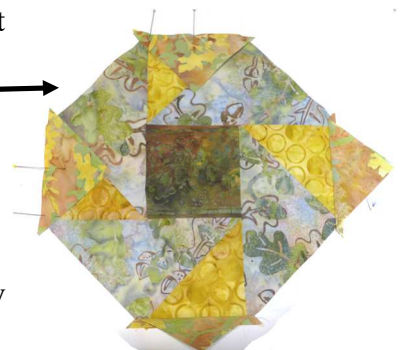
3. **‘Stop and Go’ Step:** adding the A1/D sections to the centre square E
- Take one A1/D section and place it right sides together on E
 - Sew a partial seam from the corner – about an inch and a half
 - Stop, then take the next A1/D section and lay it on the next corner
 - Sew a partial seam from the corner – about an inch and a half
 - Press the second partial seam either open or to the side, then pin to the first A1/D section and complete the seam (Note: if you press the seam open, you will see where the ¼" seam must travel so that the point is not ‘cut off’)
 - Take the third A1/D section and lay it on the next corner
 - Sew a partial seam from the corner – about an inch and a half
 - Press the third partial seam either open or to the side, then pin to the second A1/D section and complete the seam (Note: if you press the seam open, you will see where the ¼" seam must travel so that the point is not ‘cut off’)
 - Take the fourth A1/D section and lay it on the last corner.
 - Sew a full seam, then press
 - Finish by finishing the seam from part ‘h’
 - The resulting shape should measure 9½" x 9½"



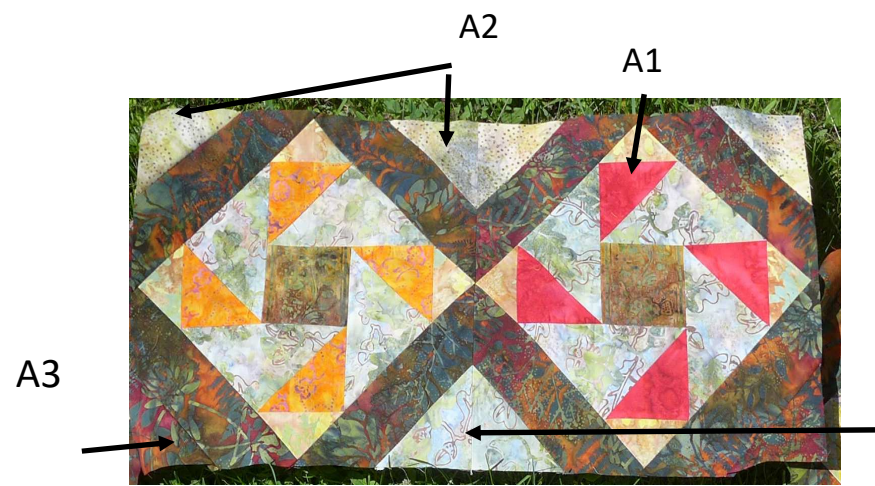
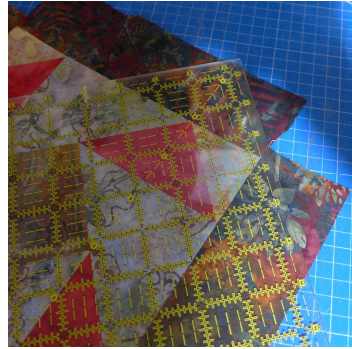
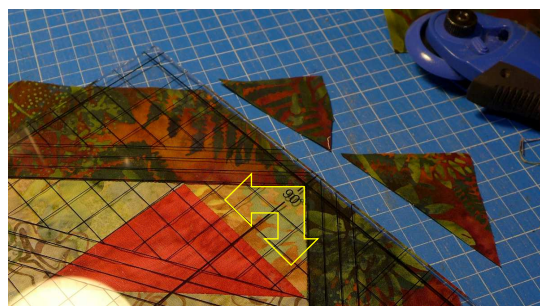
4. Add C to the A1/D units
- Pin or mark the halfway point on the diagonal side of C and the outside edge of the A1 triangle. (Double check that you allow ¼" for the next part of the piecing) Pin right sides facing
 - Sew on the C triangles, with C on the bottom then press



5. Add B to the four sides of the centre unit
- The B strips are slightly longer than the centre squares because the corners will be cut off in the next step
 - One way to add the strips: fold the strip in half and mark the halfway point, then do the same to one side of the centre unit



- c) Pin at the centre points then a couple of more times along the strip
- d) Arrange the pieces so that you can see the wrong side of the centre unit so that when you sew a 1/4" seam, you will not 'sew off' the point of the triangles
- e) Continue in the same manner to add the other three strips, pressing after adding strips
- f) Cut a 1/4" at an angle across the strips just added (If you have a Square in a Square ruler, you can set the ruler so that the 90° angle is exactly shown). You can use a regular square ruler as well - both shown in the following images:



6. Adding the corners of the blocks:
- a) Sew the two A2 triangles on adjoining sides
 - b) If using separate colours for A3 and A4, sew A3 on the left side of 4 of the blocks and on the right side of the other 4 blocks
 - c) Repeat the previous step for A4
 - d) Trim the 'dog ears' and the block should measure 12 1/2" x 12 1/2"
 - e) Make 8 side blocks and if you have used different colours, sew them in pairs so that the correct pairs remain together.



Corner Star Blocks:

(Barbara Brackman #2465 'World's Fair')(12" finished, 12½" unfinished)

Cutting: (numbers given to make 4 blocks)

Background colour fabric:

A - 12 squares 3½" x 3½"

B - 2 squares 4¼" x 4¼" , cut twice diagonally

Connecting Fabrics (to other blocks):

A - 4 squares 3½" x 3½"

B - 2 squares 4¼" x 4¼" , cut twice diagonally

C - 8 squares 2⅝" x 2⅝"

Star fabric:

B - 2 squares 4¼" x 4¼" , cut twice diagonally

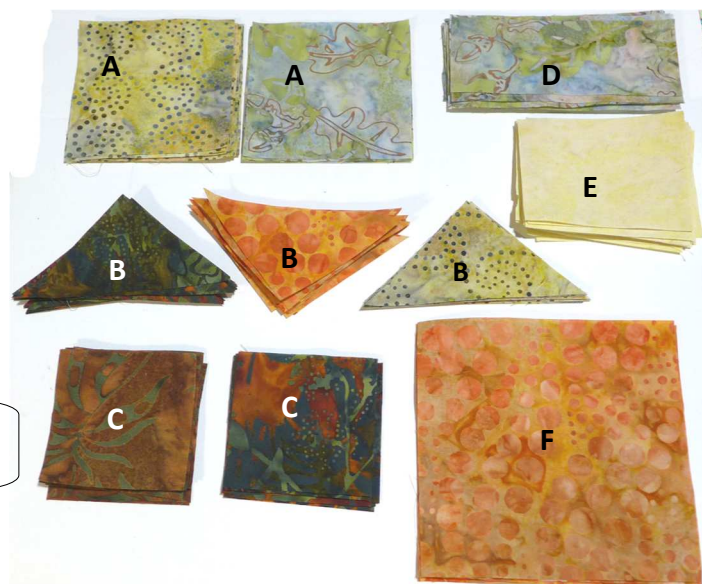
C - 8 squares 2⅝" x 2⅝"

D - 32 rectangles 4¾" x 1¾"

E - 32 rectangles 3¼" x 2½"

F - 4 squares 4¾" x 4¾"

D/E for foundation paper
piecing sections #1 & 2



Directions:

Foundation Paper Piecing (FPP) with D & E rectangles (PDF pattern named

Corner_Star_PPsection_BB2465.pdf)

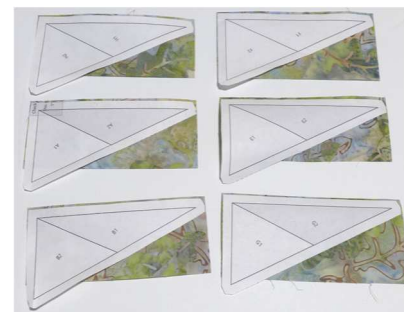
If you are a beginner at paper piecing, increase the rectangles by ¼" each side to allow for practice

Cut 32 rectangles 4¾" x 1¾" for the sections #1

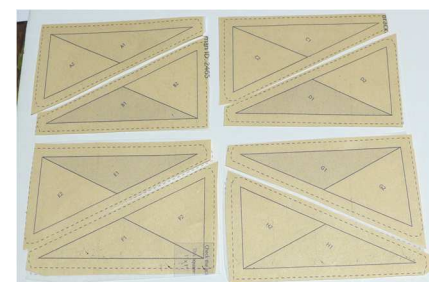
Cut 32 rectangles 3¼" x 2½" for the sections #2 that form an inner 'star' shape in the block

Print out the pattern sheet 'Corner_Star_PPsection_BB2465.pdf' and check the 1" square to see that the pattern printed correctly. This prints the 8 shapes necessary for 1 block so if you are using stabilizer or paper, you will need 4 copies.

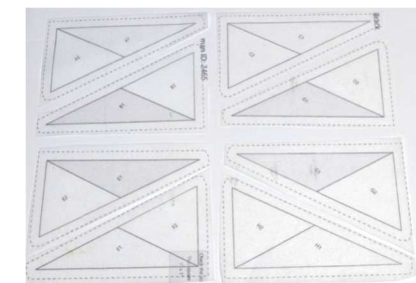
If using freezer paper, use 1 copy for all the blocks. Pros and Cons for using freezer paper, newsprint or stabilizer (there are many videos on line for each of these methods:



Freezer paper



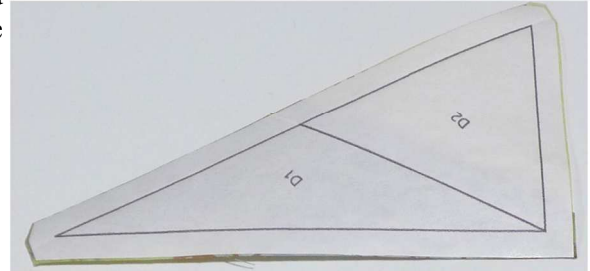
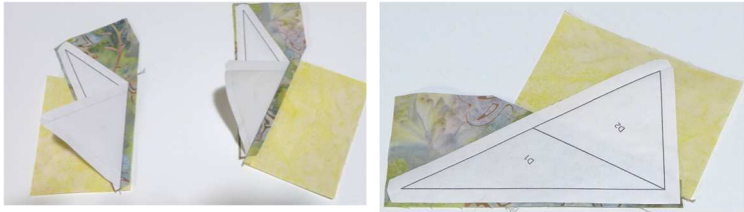
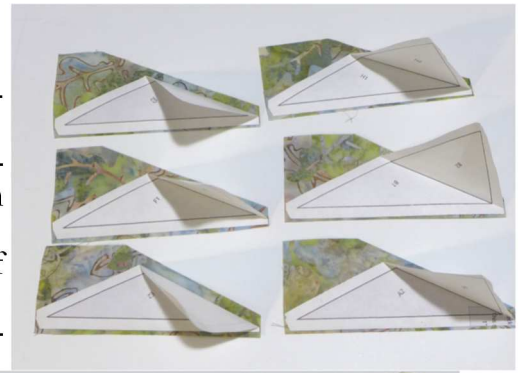
Newsprint paper - any thin paper



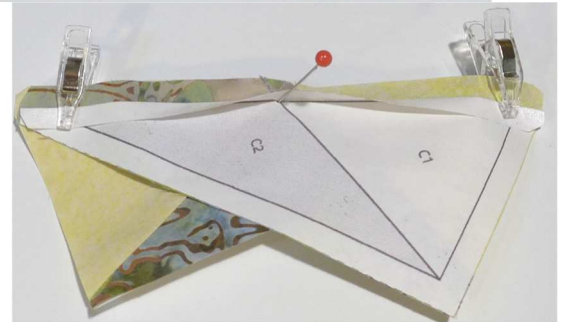
Stabilizer

FPP	Pros	Cons
Freezer paper	Since the freezer paper is folded back and the seam is sewn beside the line, the shape may be used many times. Can use printer.	The pattern piece is not available for reference to the intersection when the 2 sections are sewn together. Sometimes difficult to find printer-size sheets of freezer paper
Newsprint or other light paper	Sew through the paper	Paper must be torn away once the whole pattern is sewn
Stabilizer developed for paper piecing	Sew through the pieces. Can use printer to print patterns. Stabilizer may be left in the quilt to become softer or dissolve when it is washed.	May be difficult to find in stores.

- Cut out all the shapes and pin or glue the wrong side of the D fabric to the non-printed side of the pattern piece where #1 is printed.
- On each piece, fold the paper/stabilizer back carefully on the intersection between the #1 and #2 sections. Lay a ruler so that you can cut 1/4" away from the folded paper.
- Lay the E fabric for section #2, right side against the right side of the fabric of section #1
- Lay the paper/stabilizer back down (depending on the method being used – with freezer paper, you leave the paper folded back and sew very close to the fold) and sew on the line between the 2 sections



- Press the #2 fabric carefully so that there are no 'tiny' wrinkles
- Trim carefully
- Take the two matching parts (i.e. A1/2 and B1/2; C1/2 and D1/2; E1/2 and F1/2; G1/2 and H1/2)
- Place right sides together
- Put a pin carefully thru the intersection of A1 & 2, then through the matching intersection of B1 & 2
- Pin or clip carefully through the matching points at the end of the shapes.
- You can also put a pin through the seam lines to make sure they match
- Sew along the seam line, check the intersection and your seam on the other side. Complete 4 blocks for each block - 16 in all



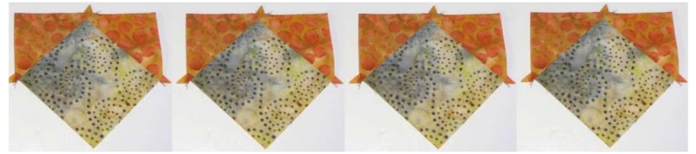
Sewing the rest of the corner star blocks - following are the directions to complete one block:

Adding the outside star points (B) to corner squares (A):

- Fold both A and B to find centre points (on the long diagonal side of B)
- Refer to your personal colour choices for this step (the images show a choice to use the background fabric for 3 of the A squares and 1 of another fabric)
- Pin diagonal side of B to one side of A at centre, then sew a 1/4" seam
- Fold A in half and pinch the half-way point and do the same with another B triangle (on the long side) and pin at that point
- Sew A to B



- Repeat 3 more times to have a total of four 'star points'



Corner sections of corner star blocks:

- According to your colour choices, add A triangles to **two** 'star point' sections (refer to the photos at right to see how to align these triangles)
- Still referring to your colour choices, add C squares to **two** of the four FPP sections



- According to your colour choices, add A triangles to these 2 units

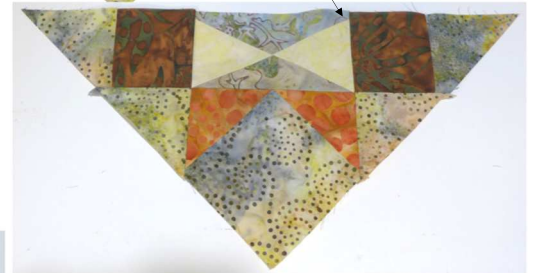


- Combine these 2 units to 2 of the 'star point' sections. Fold the FPP part in half so that you can pin the centre of the 'star point' section to the centre of the FPP part. Pin carefully where seams will meet and sew together to complete the 2 sections



Centre section of block:

- Sew a 'star point' section to one FPP section. Repeat to sew the other 'star point' section to another FPP section
- Sew these 2 units on either side of square F to create the centre section of the block



Combining the three sections to make the corner star block:

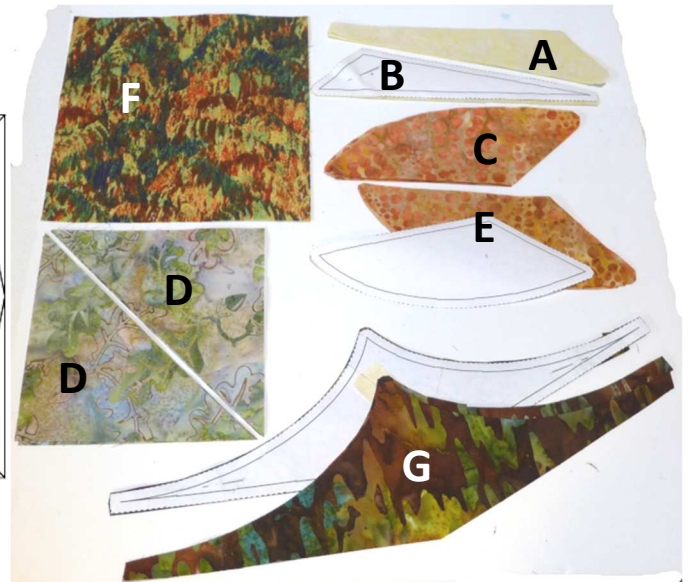
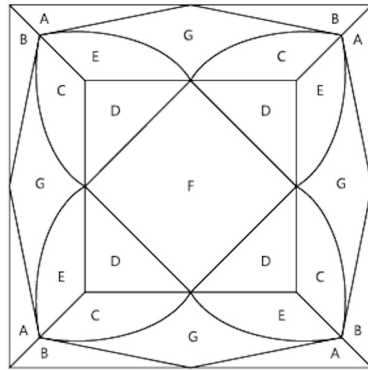
- Carefully pin together one corner section to the centre section, matching the seams
- Sew
- Add other corner section
- Trim the completed block to 12½"



Repeat this process to make 4 corner blocks

Centre Block and Border

The centre block requires the use of templates (see end of this pattern for the pdf pages for A,B, C, E and G templates - must tape 2 parts of G together) and will end up 18½" unfinished. The border around it will have



sections that will be 3½" wide unfinished, so both units will combine to be 24½" unfinished. Use the diagram to assign fabrics to each section. (Option: if the quilter desires one fabric only for the centre (pieces D & F) cut a square 11" x 11")

Cutting: (the templates PDF is named [Centre_block_18inBB2551_templates.pdf](#))

A & B - use the templates to cut 4 of each pair - fabric about 10" x 3½" for each pair

C & E - use the templates to cut 4 of each pair - fabric about 6" x 8¼" for each pair

D - 2 squares 6⅞" x 6⅞" - cut each one once diagonally to give 4 pieces

F - 1 square 7⅞" x 7⅞"

G - use the template to cut 4 - fabric about 15½" x 4½" for each copy

Directions:

1. Sew the long diagonal side of 2 D triangles to opposite sides of F. Press open or towards F
2. Sew the other 2 D triangles to F and press - set aside
3. Sewing C and E to G:
 - a) Pin the curved edge of E (right side down) on the left side of G (right side up). Pin the centre points of each and the ends. Sew with G on top and ease the sewing from one end to the other.
 - b) Clip the curves



- c) Pin piece C to the other curve in G
- d) Sew and clip the curved seam
- e) Repeat for all 4 sides

4. Adding A & B to C/E/G section
- a) Pin A to the C/E/G section (right sides facing)
 - b) Sew and press
 - c) Add B on the other side and press
 - d) Continue to sew A and B to each side

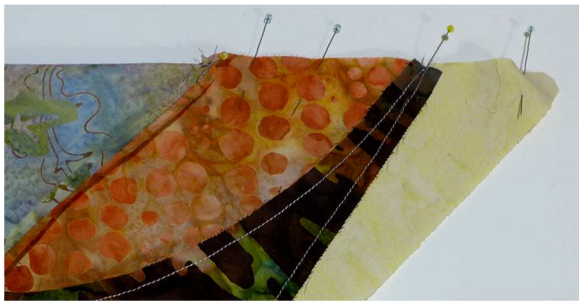


5. Sewing the 4 outside sections to the centre section completed in Step 1
- a) Pin one outside section to the centre - pin at the centre point, then the edges, then in between. Start sewing $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the end and stop sewing $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the other end, and press
 - b) Add the next outside section to the opposite side of the centre in the same way.
 - c) Add the other 2 sections (at this point the corner seams are not sewn - see the next section for this part)



6. Sewing together to diagonal outside seams

- a) Fold the block diagonally. At each corner, match and pin seams. Sew from the centre section out to the edge



18½" square

3½" x 18½" rectangles - make 2 for side borders



3½" x 24½" rectangles - make 2 for top and bottom borders



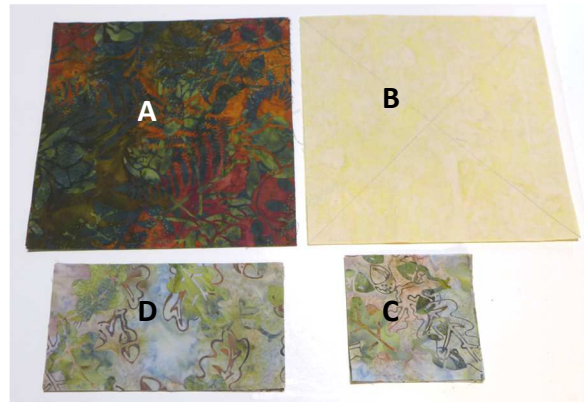
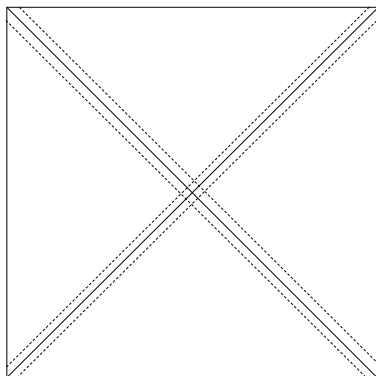
**Adding the borders to the centre block:
Cutting:**

NOTE (the Magic 8 quilt block method is used to make 8 half-square triangle units at a time for this border - use this or your own favourite method)

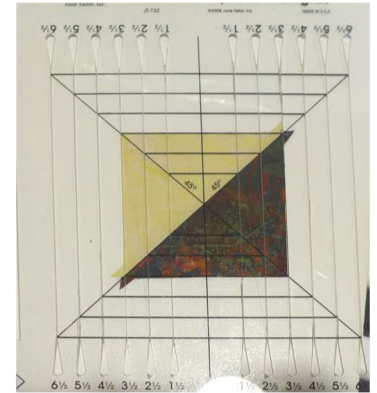
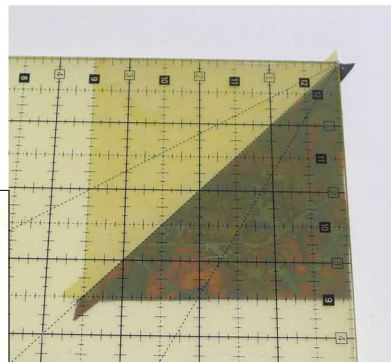
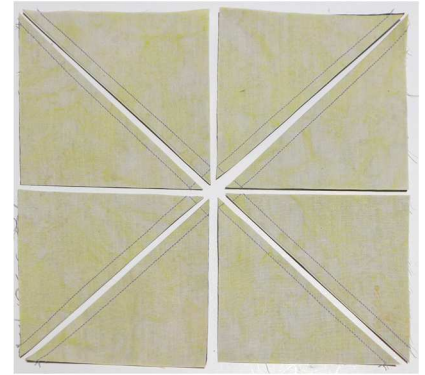
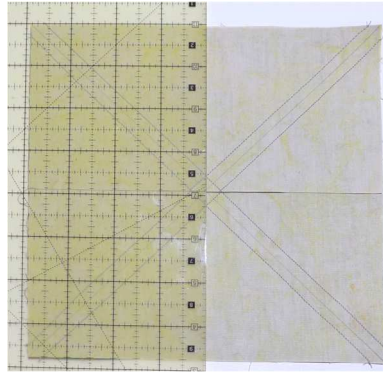
- A - 2 squares 7¾" x 7¾" of Colour 2
- B - 2 squares 7¾" x 7¾" of Colour 4
- C - 4 squares 3½" x 3½" of Colour 5
- D - 4 rectangles 3½" x 6½" of Colour 5

Making the half-square triangle units with A and B:

- On the wrong side of the lighter fabrics, draw 2 lines diagonally from one corner to the other. Do this carefully with a thin line
- Pin this to the darker square (right sides facing)
- Sew ¼" away from the drawn line - on both sides of the lines drawn (some quilters keep the presser foot on the line to make sure the seam is a scant ¼")
- Press seams. Repeat for the other diagonal line



- Do not cut on the lines first - it will be more accurate to cut the straight lines
- Place a ruler at the half-way point (the left side of the fabric will be under the $3\frac{7}{8}$ " mark) Cut and then turn the halves, measure again to cut.
- Cut on the drawn lines and then press the half-square triangle (HST) units open
- Depending on the accuracy of your seams, you may not have to trim your HST units, but if you do, use the diagonal line of a ruler to line up on the diagonal sewn line before trimming it to $3\frac{1}{2}$ " square. There are specialty rulers (shown on the right) to trim HST units.



Sewing the border units:

- For the 2 side borders, sew 2 HST units together. Repeat, then sew them on either side of the D rectangle
- Sew one border on either side of the centre block
- Repeat the above steps to make the top and bottom borders but add an A square on either side of the sewn strip
- Sew these to the top and bottom of the centre square



- Arrange your side units with the centre square to decide which set of side units to place around the centre block



- Sew a pair of side blocks on either side of the centre unit. Match the seams so that the colours match up well
- Sew a corner block on either side of the other 2 sets of side blocks
- Sew the 3 sections together



Adding quilt border #1 (to add the points to the sides of the quilt top)

- This border is comprised of 8 flying geese units ($3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 6\frac{1}{2}''$ unfinished) plus plain rectangles:

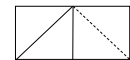
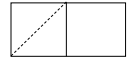


- The sizes of the fabric needed for the 8 flying geese units depends on your method for making them. A simple way will be described and there are a couple of websites that describe other methods -

<https://www.scrapish.com/flying-geese.html>

<https://www.fabric.com/blog/sewing-101-flying-geese-3-ways/>

- Cut 8 rectangles of the fabric you used to complete the 'connector lanes' through the quilt - $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 6\frac{1}{2}''$
- Cut 16 squares of background fabric - $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}''$
- Draw a diagonal line on the back of each square
- Place one square, right sides together, on one side of a rectangle and sew on the line
- Ensure that the square folds up to cover the rectangle fabric below, then cut off the rectangle fabric below the seam
- Place another square on the other side of the rectangle and repeat the previous steps



Completing the border:

- Background fabric
 - 4 rectangles - $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 6\frac{1}{2}''$
 - 4 rectangles - $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 15\frac{1}{2}''$ for the side borders
 - 4 rectangles - $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 18\frac{1}{2}''$ for the top and bottom borders

Directions:

- Sew the $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 6\frac{1}{2}''$ rectangles to connect the 4 pairs of flying geese. Sew the short side of a flying geese unit to each side of the rectangle.



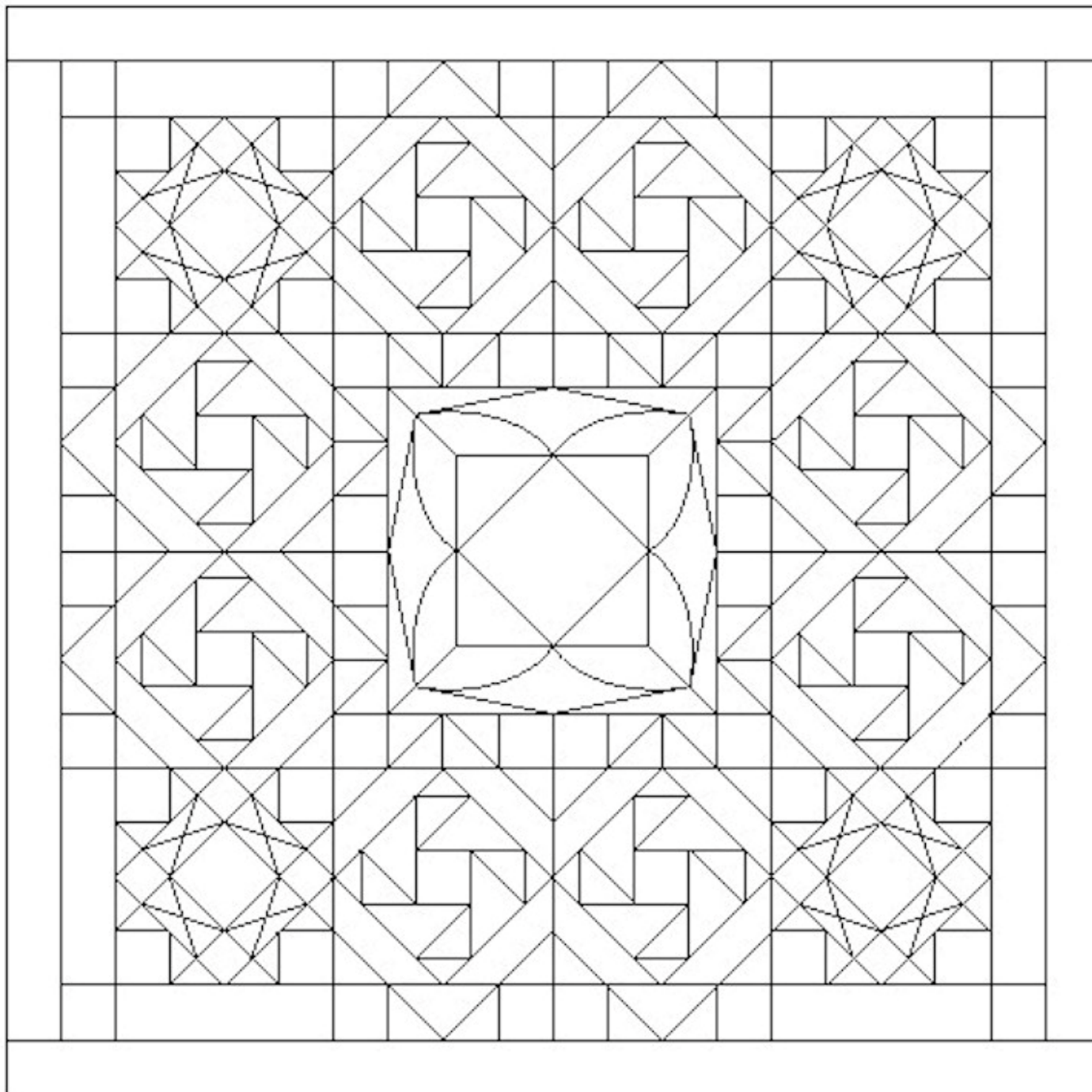
- Sew the $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 15\frac{1}{2}''$ rectangles to each side of 2 sets of flying geese
- Pin each side border carefully to the centre part of the quilt before sewing it
- Sew the $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 18\frac{1}{2}''$ rectangles to each side of the last 2 sets of flying geese
- Sew these top and bottom sets to the quilt centre.



Adding quilt border #2 (an optional plain background border)

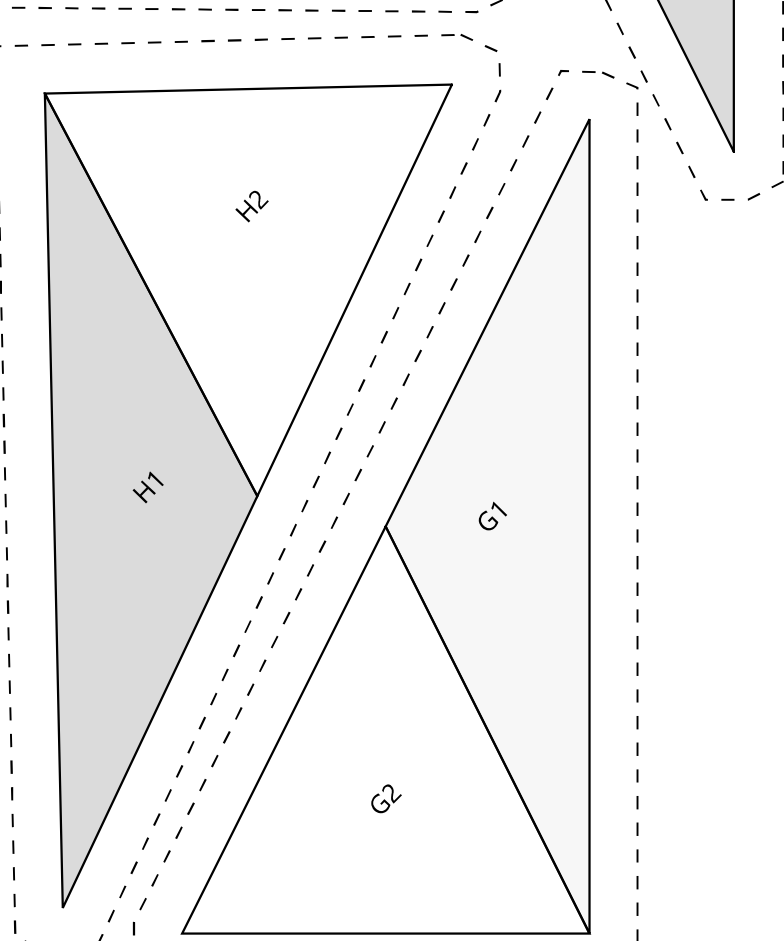
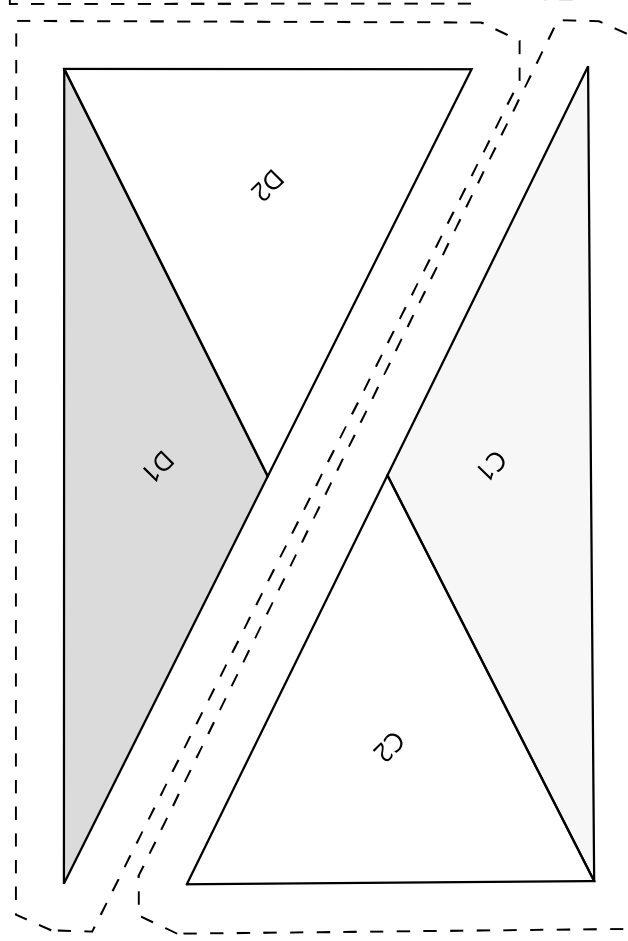
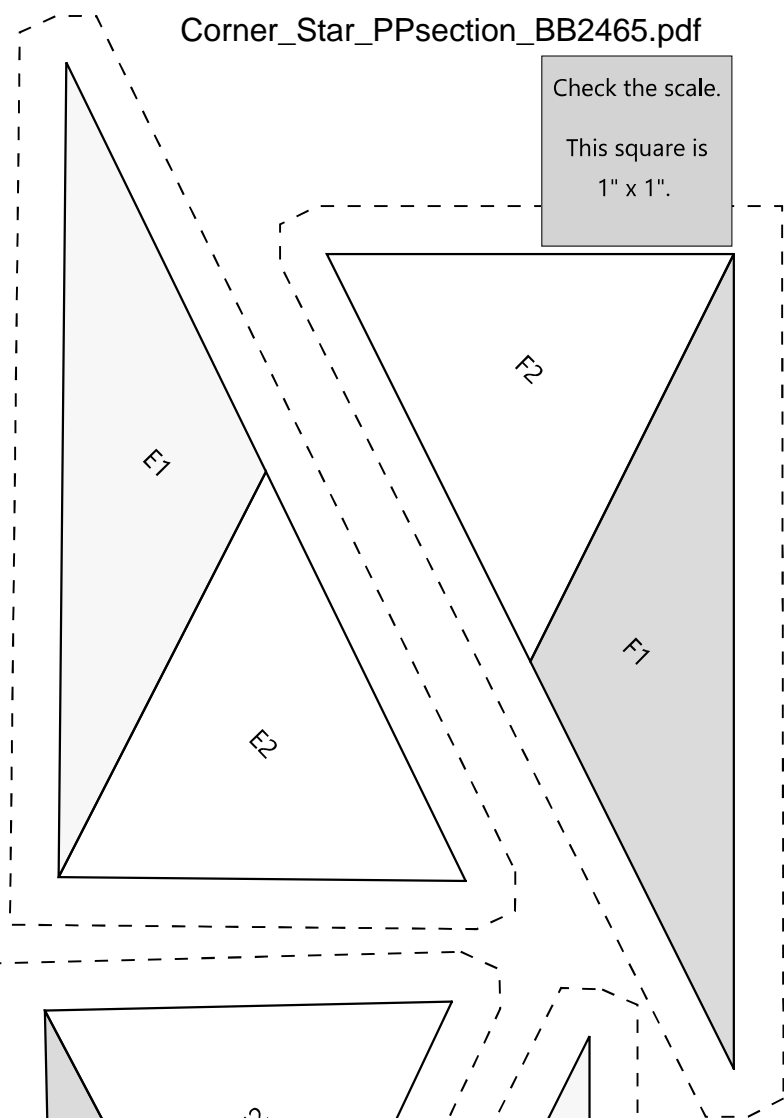
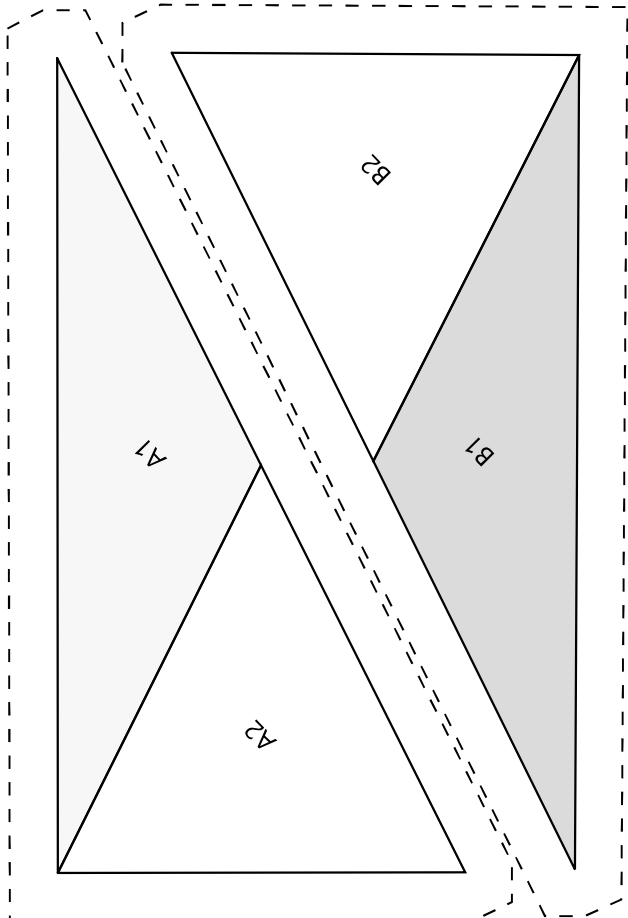
- Background fabric
 - 2 rectangles - 3½" x 54½" for the side borders
 - 2 rectangles - 3½" x 60½" for the top and bottom borders
- Add the side borders then the top and bottom borders to complete the 60" square quilt as seen on page 1

Below is another outline copy of the quilt layout for you to experiment with.



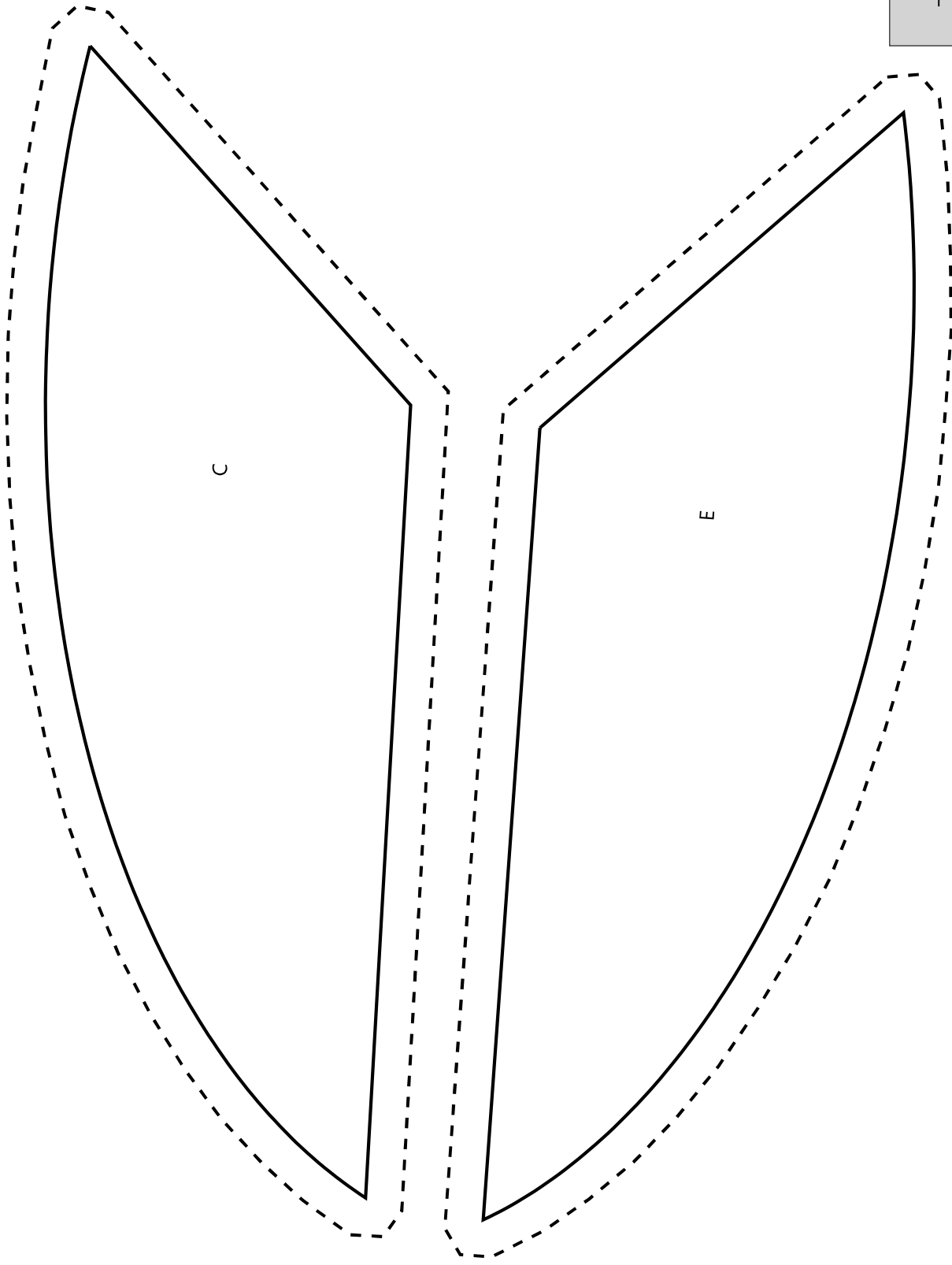
Check the scale.

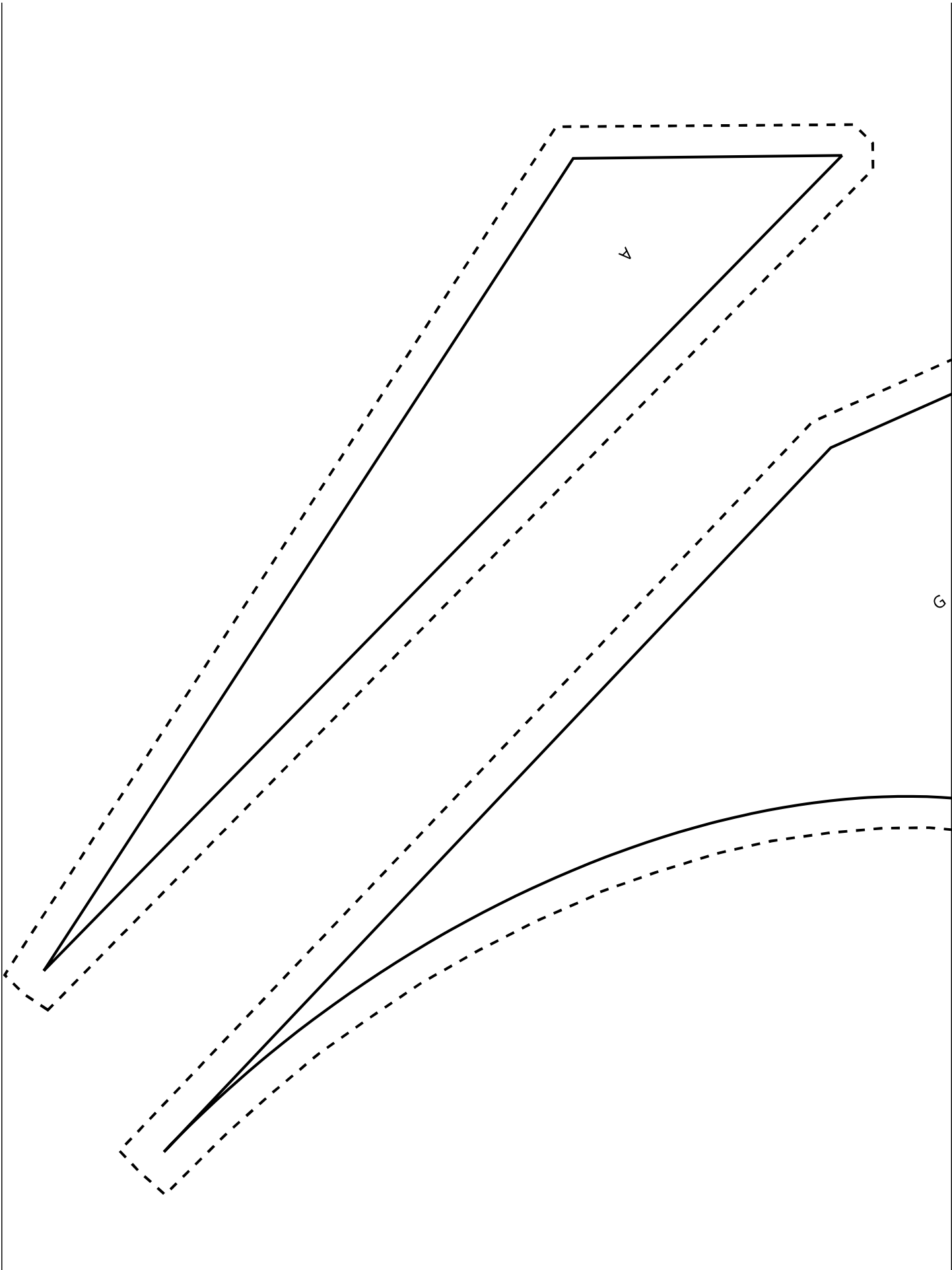
This square is
1" x 1".

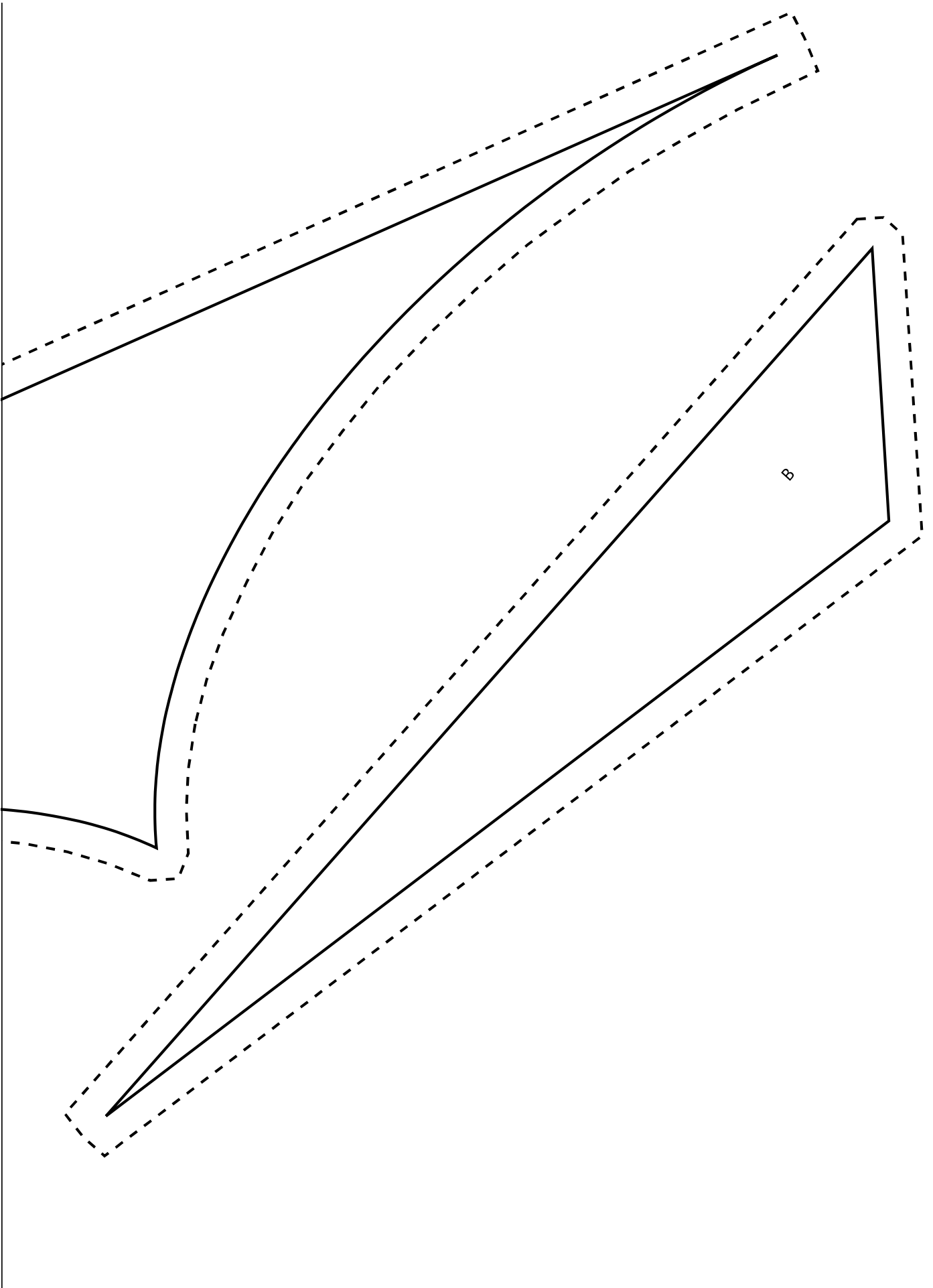


No key for finished block

Check the scale.
This square is
1" x 1".







When you have completed the construction of your quilt, please share on the CQA/ACC website in the New Member Wheelhouse Quilt Gallery.

Simply, take a picture of your quilt and fill out the form on the website here: <https://canadianquilter.com/new-member-gallery-wheelhouse-quilt-series-entry-form/>

Attach your photo and submit.

It will appear in the gallery within 10 business days from the submission.