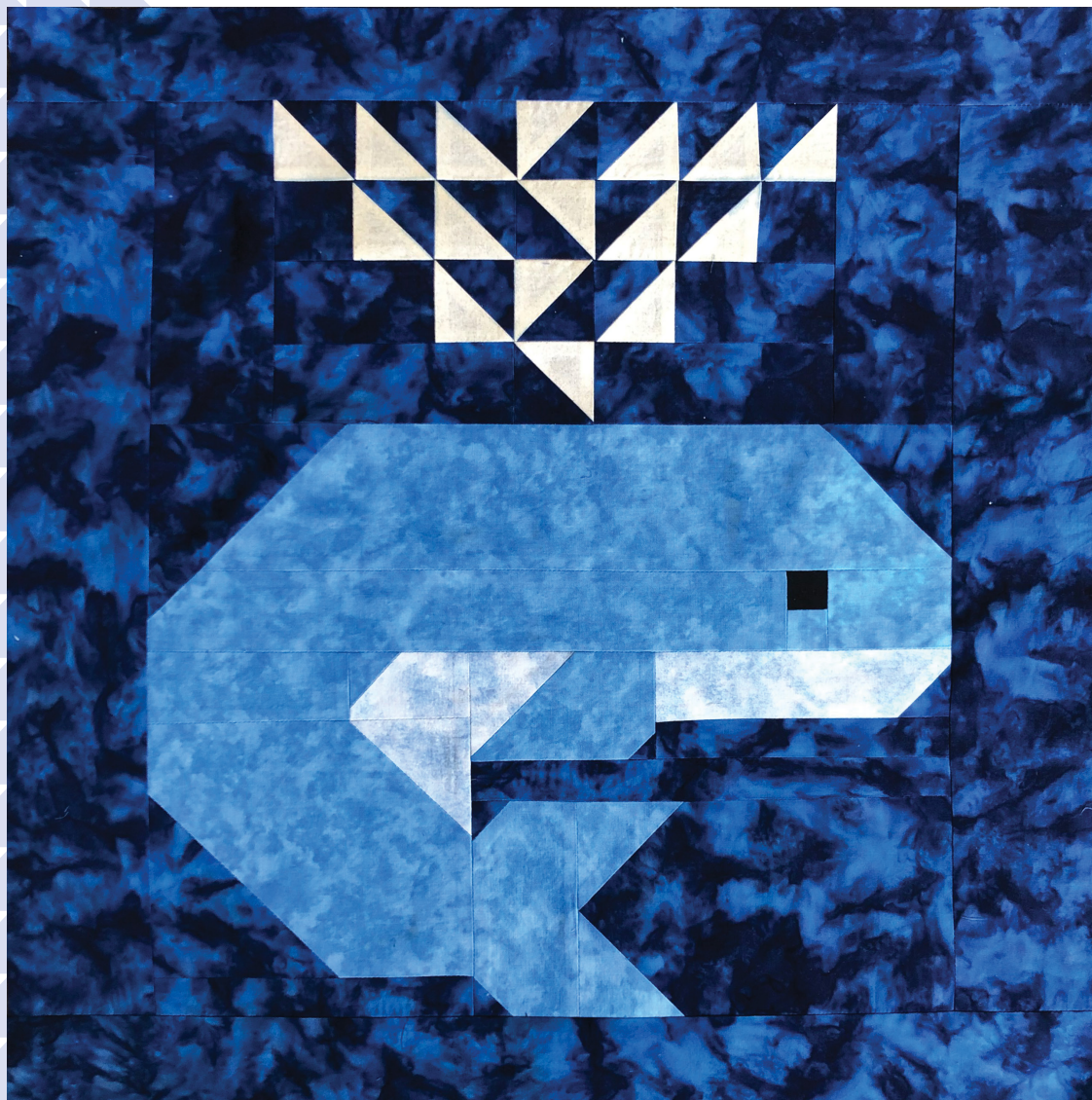


THERE SHE BLOWS!

by John MacPhail, Art East Quilting Co



This traditionally-pieced block finishes at 20.5" square, including seam allowance, perfect for making a wall hanging, tote bag, or pillow. You could also combine several blocks and make a pod of whales into a full-size quilt. >

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Cutting Guide

All dimensions provided in this pattern include the $\frac{1}{4}$ " necessary for your seam allowances. Test your $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance before starting your block. Make sure that when you sew with this seam allowance, no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ " is *lost* from your pieces. Depending on how you sew, you may want to use a *scant* $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance (meaning slightly less than $\frac{1}{4}$ ") to stay accurate in the size of your units. I also recommend pressing your seams open to reduce bulk.

To produce this block, you will need:

- 0.4 m of background fabric
- 0.25 m of whale body fabric
- 3" x 10" of whale belly fabric
- 5.5" x 9.5" of water spray fabric
- 1.25" x 1.25" of eye fabric

Be sure to label your pieces as you cut.

PIECE	QTY	Size (inches)
BACKGROUND		
A	1	4.25 x 4.25
B	1	3 x 3
C	1	4 x 4
D	1	1.5 x 1.5
E	1	1 x 1
F	2	1.25 x 1.25
G	1	6 x 1.25
H	1	9.5 x 1.25
I	1	6.5 x 1.25
J	1	7.5 x 4.5
K	2	5.25 x 5.25
L	2	5 x 2
M	2	3.5 x 2
N	2	2 x 2
O	2	6.5 x 2.75
P	2	17.5 x 3
Q	2	20.5 x 2

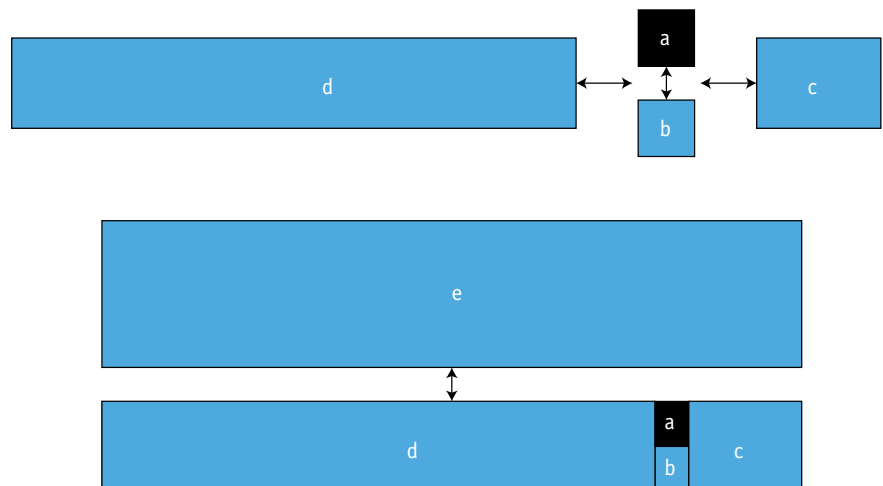
PIECE	QTY	Size (inches)
EYE		
a	1	1.25 x 1.25
WHALE BODY		
b	1	1.25 x 1.25
c	1	2.75 x 2
d	1	12.5 x 2
e	1	15.5 x 3.25
f	1	4.25 x 1.75
g	1	1.5 x 1.5
h	1	6.5 x 5.25
i	1	4 x 2.5
j	1	4.5 x 2.5
k	2	2.5 x 2.5
WHALE BELLY		
l	1	2.75 x 1.75
m	1	2.75 x 2.75
n	1	2.5 x 2.5
o	1	6 x 1.75
WATER SPRAY		
p	2	5.25 x 5.25

Construction

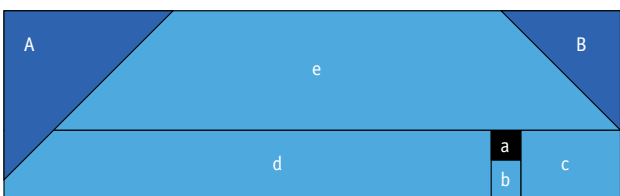
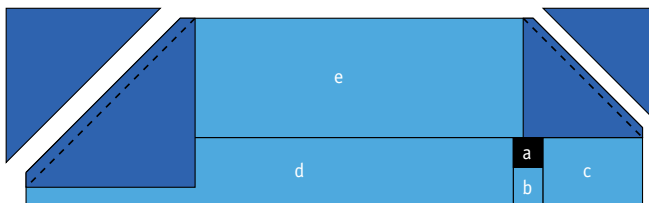
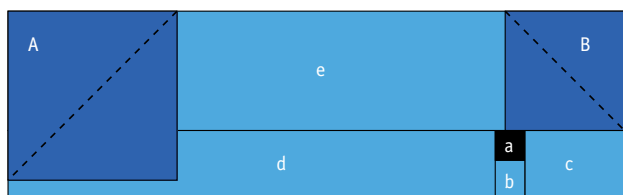
STEP 1 – UPPER WHALE UNIT

Stitch piece **a** to the top of piece **b**, as shown. Once pressed, stitch piece **d** to the left of the **ab** unit and piece **c** to its right. This creates the **eye unit** (this unit should measure 15.5" x 2").

Once pressed, stitch piece **e** to the top of the eye unit and press, creating the **upper whale unit** (15.5" x 4.75").



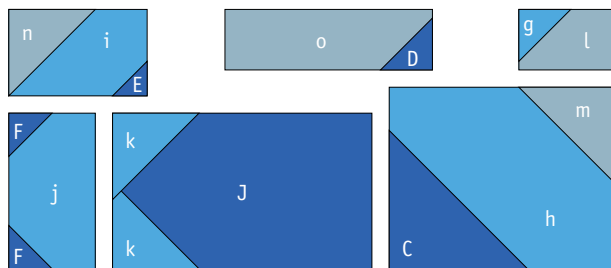
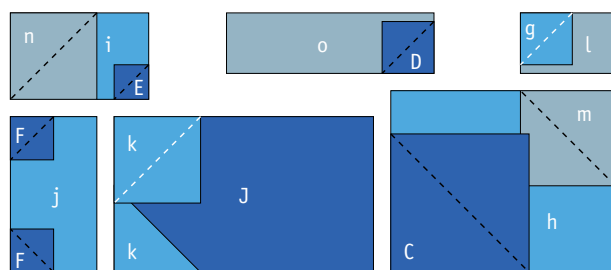
Stitch pieces **A** and **B** to the upper corners of the **upper whale unit**, as shown, right sides together, completing the unit. Note that you stitch these pieces on their diagonal, intersecting with the outer edges of the unit. Once stitched, trim these pieces $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the stitch line to the side closest to the corners and press the seams open. I call this process the *Stitch & Flip Technique* and you will see this come up often in the block.



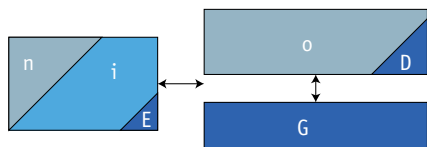
STEP 2 – LOWER WHALE UNIT

Prepare the pieces for the lower whale unit by stitching and flipping:

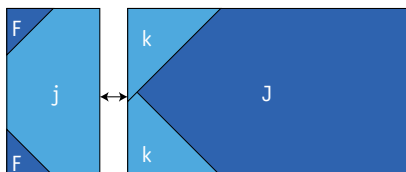
- piece **n** to the top left corner of piece **i** and piece **E** to its bottom right corner
- piece **D** to the bottom right corner of piece **o**
- piece **g** to the upper left corner of piece **l**
- both **F** pieces to the left corners of piece **j**
- both **k** pieces to the left corners of piece **J**, one at a time, trimming and pressing in between
- piece **C** to the lower left corner of piece **h** and piece **m** to its upper right corner



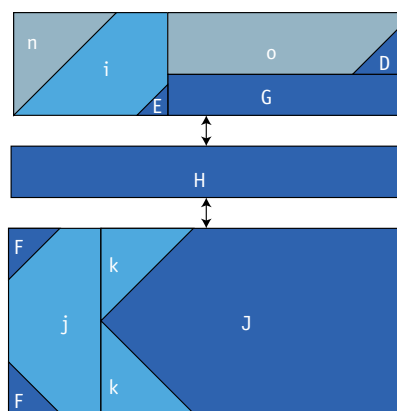
Stitch piece **G** to the bottom of the **o/D** unit. Once pressed, stitch the **i/n/E** unit to the left of the **o/D/G** unit, as shown, creating the **fin unit** (9.5" x 2.5").



Stitch the **j/F/F** unit to the left of the **J/k/k** unit, as shown, creating the **tail unit** (9.5" x 4.5").

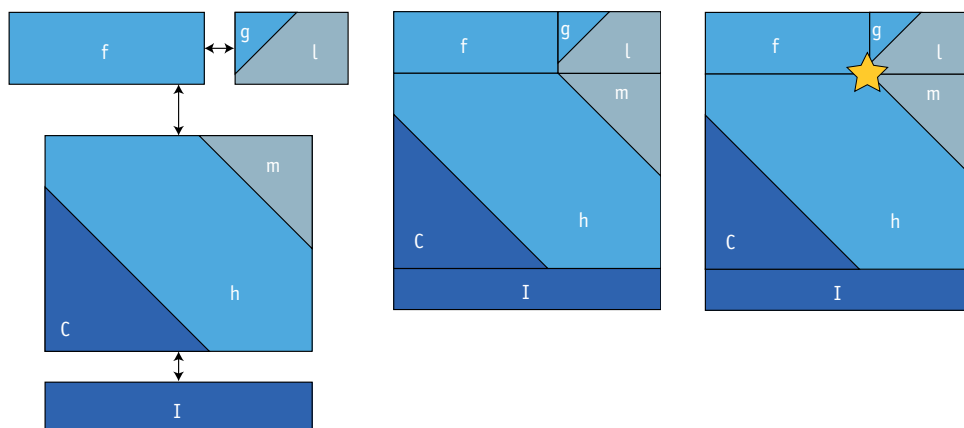


Create the **fin/tail unit** by stitching the fin unit, piece **H** and the tail unit in a sequence, as shown (9.5" x 7.25"). Place aside. >



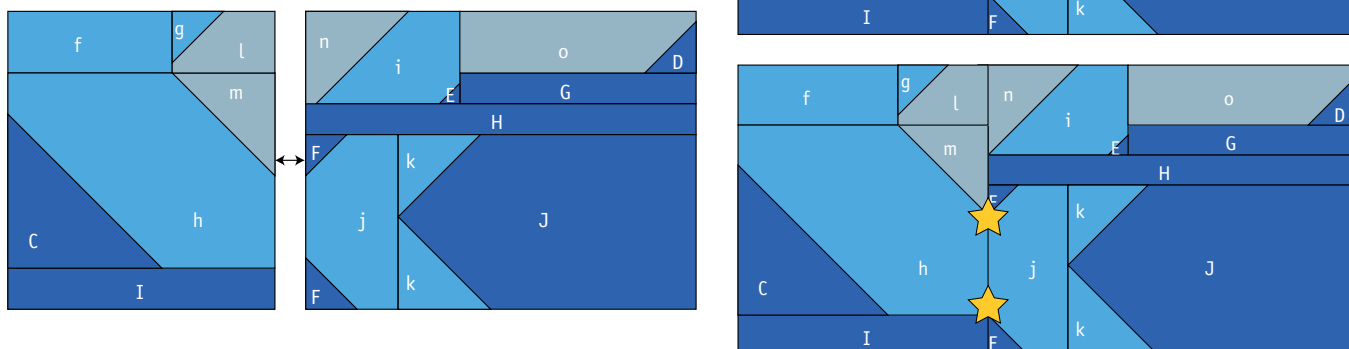
Stitch piece **f** to the left of the **l/g** unit. Once pressed, stitch the **l/g/f** unit, the **h/m/C** unit and piece **I** in a sequence, as shown, creating the **bum unit** (6.5" x 7.25").

*Note that when you stitch the **l/g/f** unit to the top of the **h/m/C** unit, you will want to match the point where the seam created between pieces **f** and **l** meets the seam created between pieces **h** and **m**, as marked on the diagram with a star.*

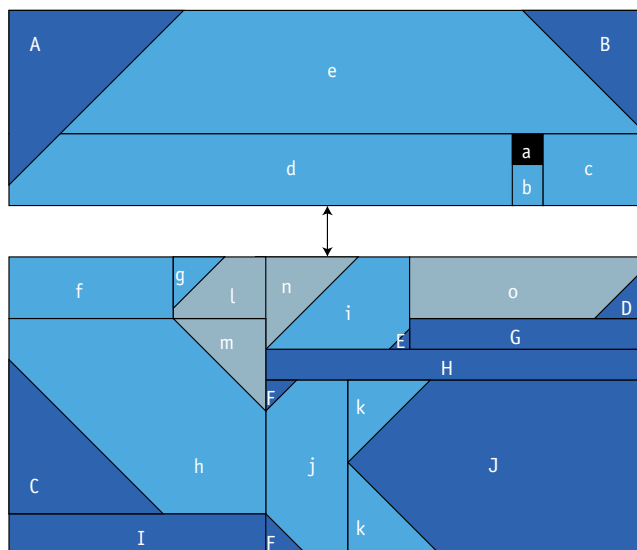


Stitch the **bum unit** to the left of the **fin/tail unit**, completing the **lower whale unit** (15.5" x 7.25").

*Note that when you do this, you will want to match the points where the seams created between piece **j** and the **F** pieces meet the seams created between pieces **h**, **m** and **I**, as marked on the diagram with stars.*



Once pressed, stitch the **upper whale unit** to the top of the **lower whale unit**, creating the **whale unit** (15.5" x 11.5"). Place aside.



STEP 3 – WATER SPRAY UNIT

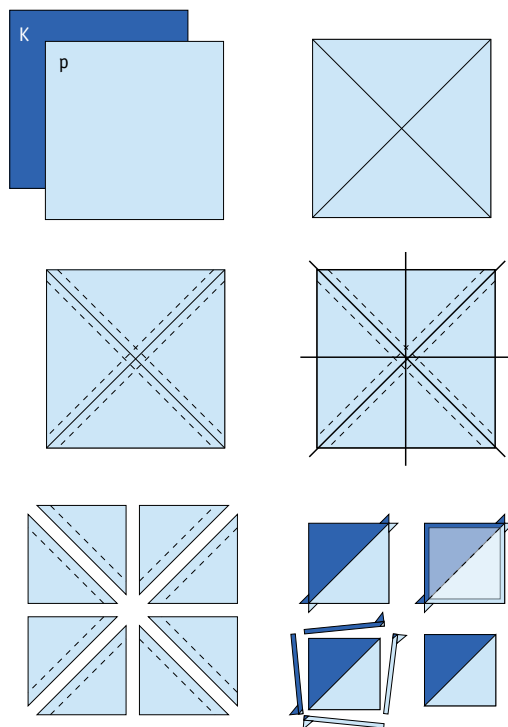
To create the sixteen **HSTs** (half-square-triangles) needed to create the **water spray unit**, we are going to create eight at a time.

Stack the **p** pieces with the **K** pieces right sides together, as shown.

Draw two diagonal lines going through the **p** pieces, dissecting the two diagonally opposing corners and forming an “X,” as shown.

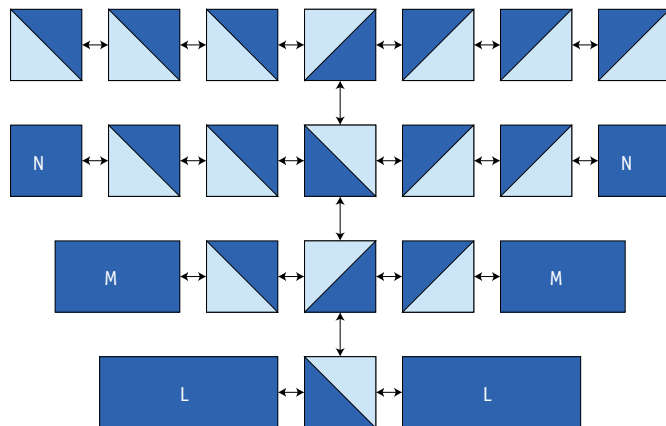
Run a line of stitching $\frac{1}{4}$ " away on either side of each drawn line and cut the pieces in half directly on the drawn diagonal lines as well as through the centre of the units both vertically and horizontally.

Once pressed, you will want to “true-up” your pieces to be perfect 2" **HSTs**. To do this you want to trim your pieces in a way that the dimensions of each piece are 2" square with the diagonal seams of your **HSTs** perfectly dissecting two diagonally opposing corners, as shown.



Stitch your **HSTs**, the **N** pieces, the **M** pieces and the **L** pieces into four rows, as shown (11" x 2" each).

Once pressed, stitch the four rows into a sequence, as shown, lining up the seams between **HSTs** with the other seams between **HSTs** where they may meet, creating the **water spray unit** (15.5" x 6.5"). >



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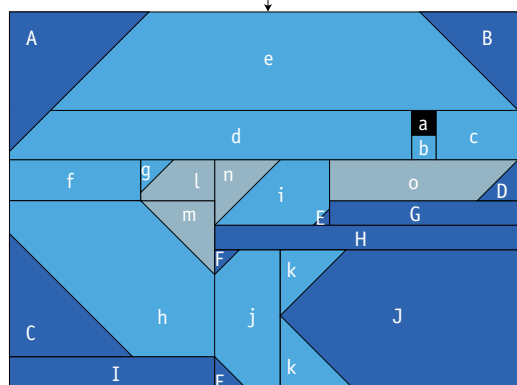
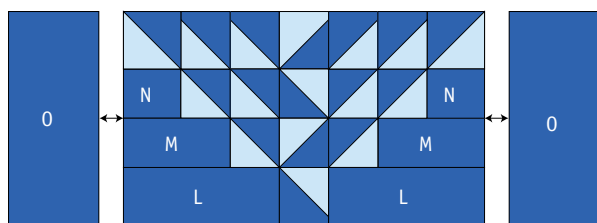
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Once pressed, stitch the **O** pieces to either side of the unit, completing the **water spray unit** (15.5" x 6.5").

Once pressed, stitch the **water spray unit** to the top of the **whale unit** (15.5" x 17.5").



Complete the block by stitching the **P** pieces to either side of the block, followed by the **Q** pieces to the top and bottom of the block, pressing in between. The completed block should measure 20.5" x 20.5".

