

LOG CABIN BIRDHOUSE

by Cathy Price, Lanark County Quilters Guild



This cute spin on the Log Cabin block can be pieced with or without foundation paper – your choice. A great project for using up some scraps and playing with colours and prints.



CANADIAN
Quilters
Courtepointes
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Block Size: 10.5" x 10.5"

Cutting Instructions

PENTAGON CENTRE

- 1 – 3" x 3"

HOUSE

- 10 strips 1" wide, various colours

ROOF

- 2 strips 1" wide,
longer than space provided

BACKGROUND

- 2 strips 1" wide (12 & 13)
- 2 pieces 2½" x 4½" (16 & 17)
- 1 piece 6½" x 4½" (18)
- 1 piece 9" x 4½" (19)
- 2 pieces 4¼" x 4¼"

POLE

- 1 piece 1" x 4¼"

ADDITIONAL SECTION

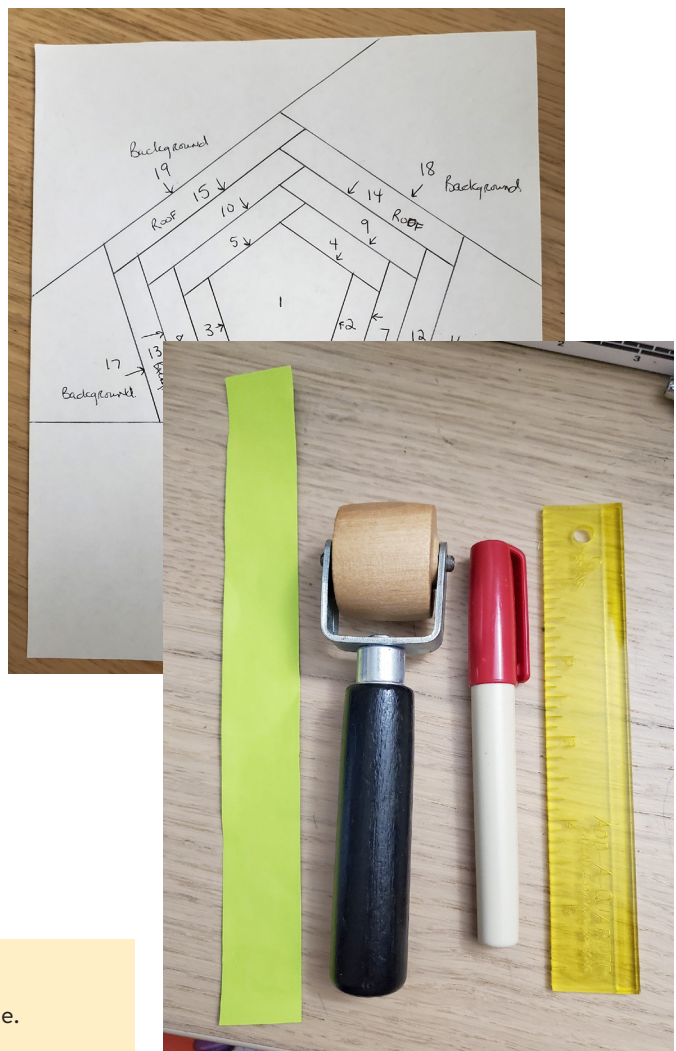
- 2½" x 10½"

Piecing Tips

I chose to write this pattern as a foundation pattern (paper piecing), but it can be pieced traditionally if you prefer. The one-inch strips are exactly the right size, so the only trimming required is for bulk or squaring the block. The main thing is to make the block enjoyable for you.

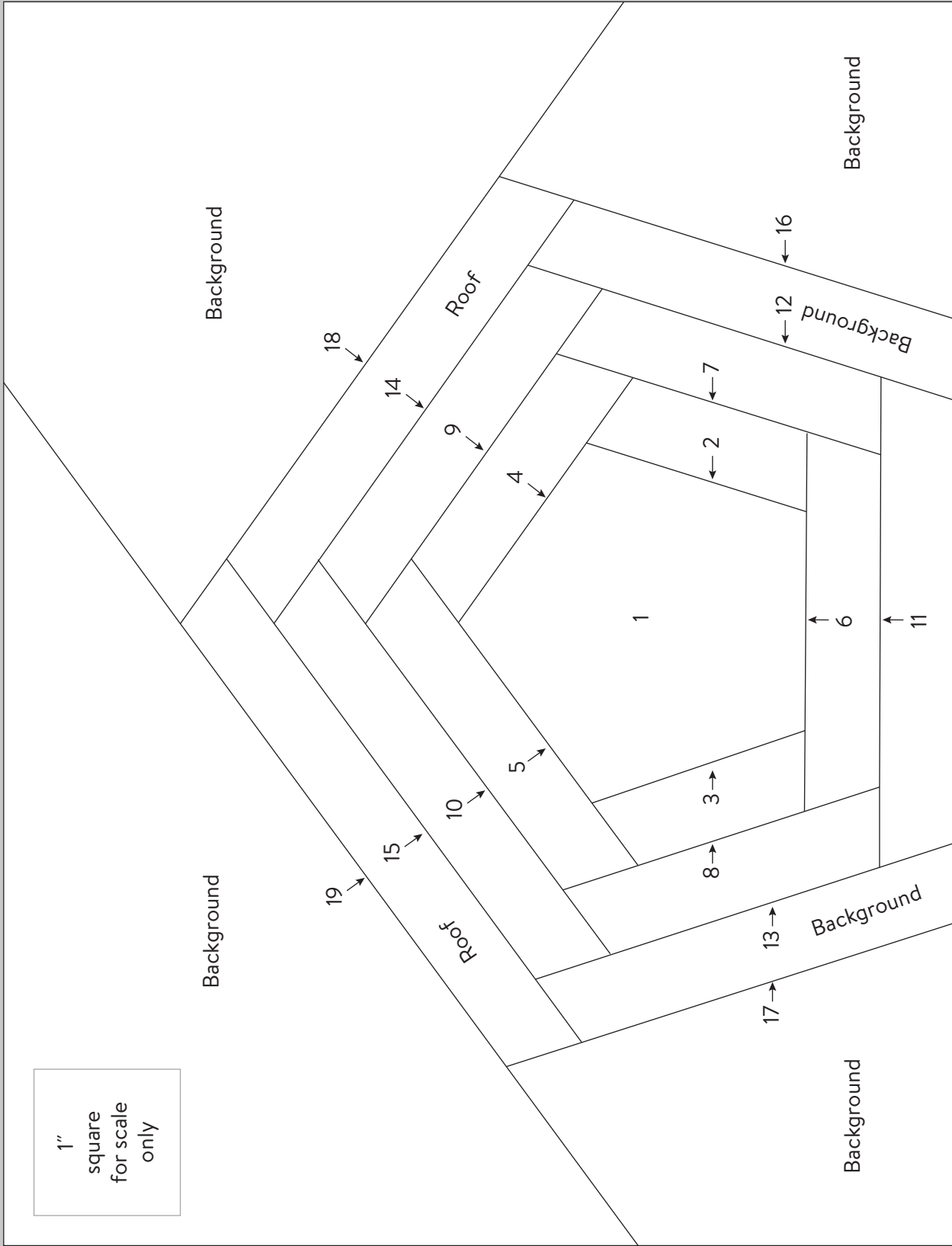
You will need to print the paper piecing pattern (page 3), and to shorten your stitch length when sewing. I chose 1.5. The shorter stitch length helps ensure the paper will tear off more easily. I also used a seam roller, an Add-A-Quarter ruler, a glue stick, and a piece of cardstock (or a couple of layers of paper glued together 1" x 8"). If you don't have a seam roller, use something blunt, like the back end of scissors or a knife. If you don't have an Add-A-Quarter ruler, use your clear ruler. It will work the same, it just won't have the drop-down.

I used to hold the fabric on when paper piecing, but now I find the paper too big to handle. I use a glue stick in the area of the seam allowance, to put the pieces on, then sew. All the fabrics will be going on the wrong side of the paper, and the sewing is done on the front side of the paper, following the lines. Whether you're using regular or paper piecing, it's helpful to write your colour choices on the paper pattern, so you won't mix them up. Don't take any chances!



Please share your block photos on the **Canadian Quilters Association – Quilting Projects** Facebook page.

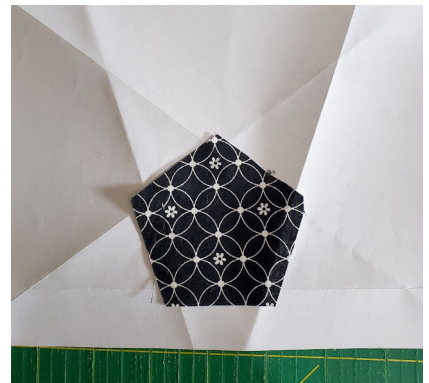
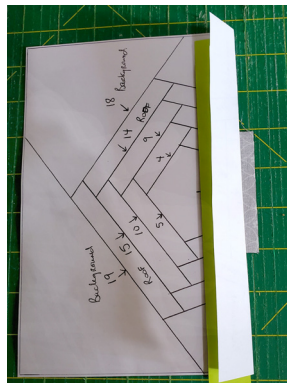
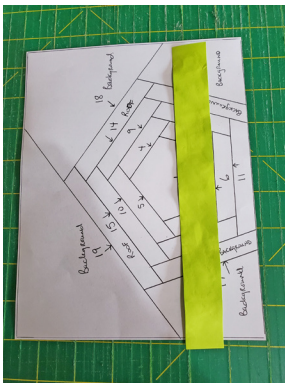
1"
square
for scale
only



STEP 1

On the back of the paper, in the pentagon space, dab some glue, then place your Centre fabric, wrong side against the paper. Hold it up to the light, look through the paper from the right side, and make sure the lines are covered. Take this, your Add-A-Quarter ruler, and your piece of cardstock to the cutting board.

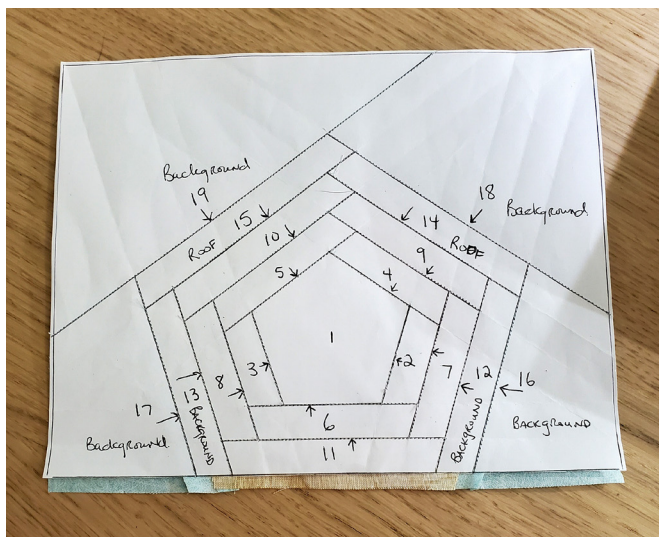
You will be turning your square of fabric into a pentagon. On the front side of the paper, lay your strip of cardstock on one of the lines outlining the centre pentagon. Fold the paper back over the cardstock, and the fabric will show underneath. Put the Add-A-Quarter ruler on the edge to allow the drop-down to fall onto the fabric, and cut the excess off with your rotary cutter. Your fabric will end up $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger than the outline. Do this all the way around, until it looks like a pentagon.



For #2, cut a strip longer than the space. Put dots of glue along the edge of the pentagon fabric, and put the next fabric on, right side facing the centre fabric. Flip the paper right side up, and sew on the line for #2. Try not to go past the line by more than one stitch. Open out the fabric, and

press with your seam roller. An iron isn't recommended, because it will curl the paper. Look under the paper, and nip the extra tail. You can use the Add-A-Quarter ruler or just a pair of scissors. Continue on to #3, and keep going all the way to #19. Let the outside fabrics extend past the paper.





STEP 2

Square this block to $8\frac{1}{2}" \times 6\frac{3}{4}"$, which includes the block extending $\frac{1}{4}"$ past the paper on the bottom of the block.



STEP 3

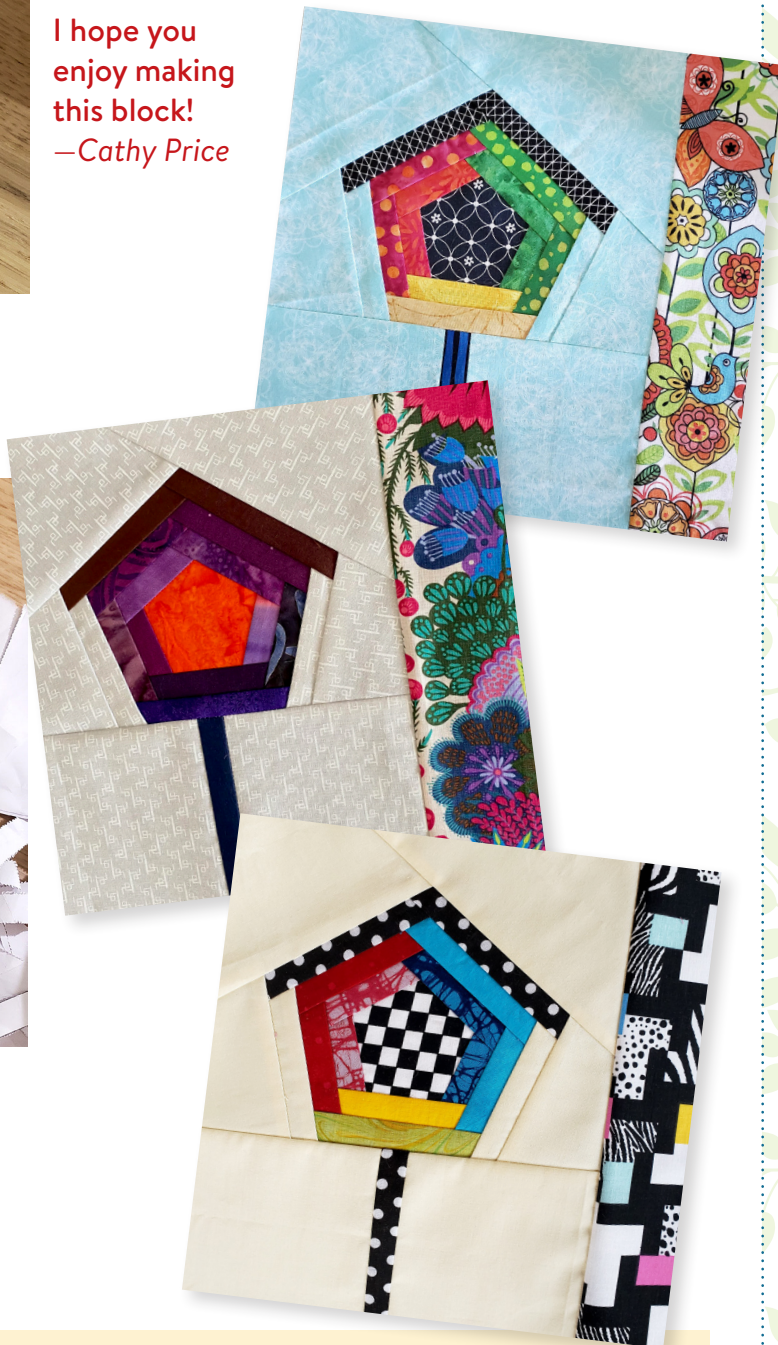
Sew the last 2 background pieces together with the stem between. Iron. Then add this to the bottom of the paper pieced block following the bottom of the paper. Now pull the paper out. You may or may not need tweezers. This block now measures $8\frac{1}{2}" \times 10\frac{1}{2}"$.

STEP 4

Now for something a little bit extra.

Because this block needs to measure $10\frac{1}{2}" \times 10\frac{1}{2}"$, we need to add something to the side of it. I cut a piece of fun flower fabric $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 10\frac{1}{2}"$, and sewed it on the side, but if you want to do something more complicated, go for it.

**I hope you
enjoy making
this block!**
—Cathy Price



Catherine Price loves creating patterns and working out how to do things, in order to come up with interesting ideas for Block of the Month at her guild, the Lanark County Quilters Guild.

Many thanks to Catherine for sharing her Log Cabin Birdhouse pattern with members of CQA/ACC.