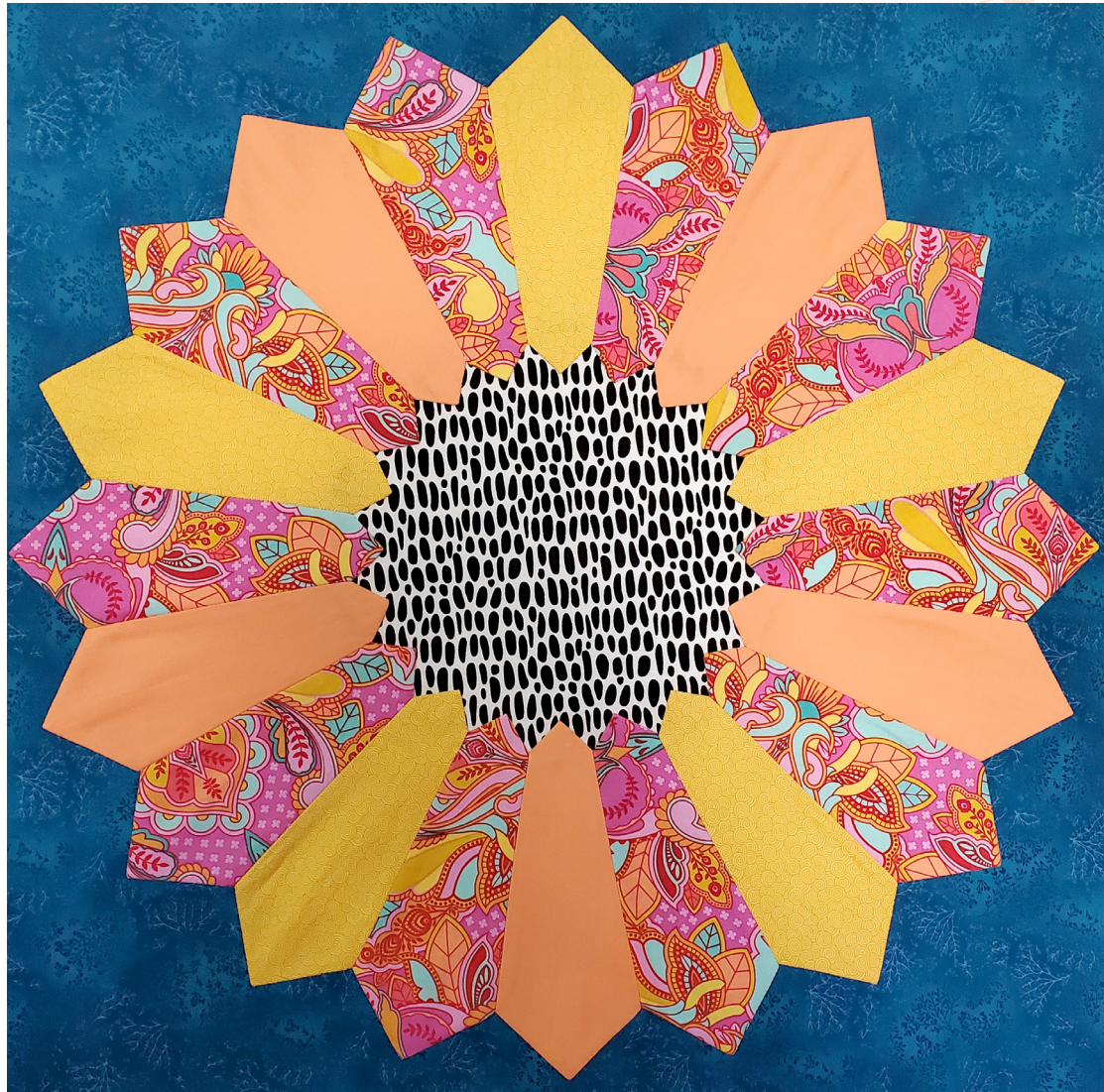


# DOUBLE ENDED DRESDEN SUNFLOWER BLOCK

by Cathy Price, Lanark County Quilters Guild



This Dresden has points at both ends, so the centre fabric is actually under the Dresden, not on top of it. Both ends are finished, no raw edges. Perfect for a sunflower block!



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Block Size: 20.5" x 20.5"

## Cutting Instructions

### BACKGROUND

- 21" x 21"

### CENTRE PIECE

- 10" x 10"

### BLADES

- Using the template provided, trace 20 blades on the back of fabric (seam allowance is included in template).

**BONUS** For an alternative look using two jelly roll fabrics for each blade, see page 6.

## Assembly

### STEP 1 – PREPARING THE BLADES

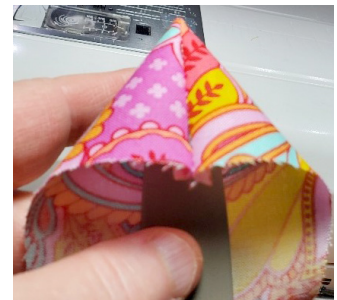
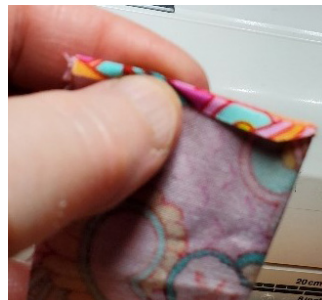
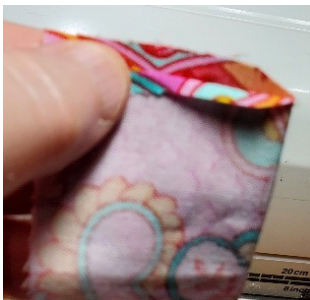
Fold the blades in half lengthwise, right sides together, and iron with a dry iron, so the crease doesn't become permanent.

Shorten the stitch length on your sewing machine.

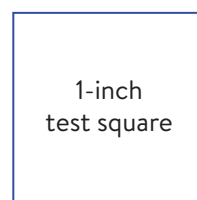
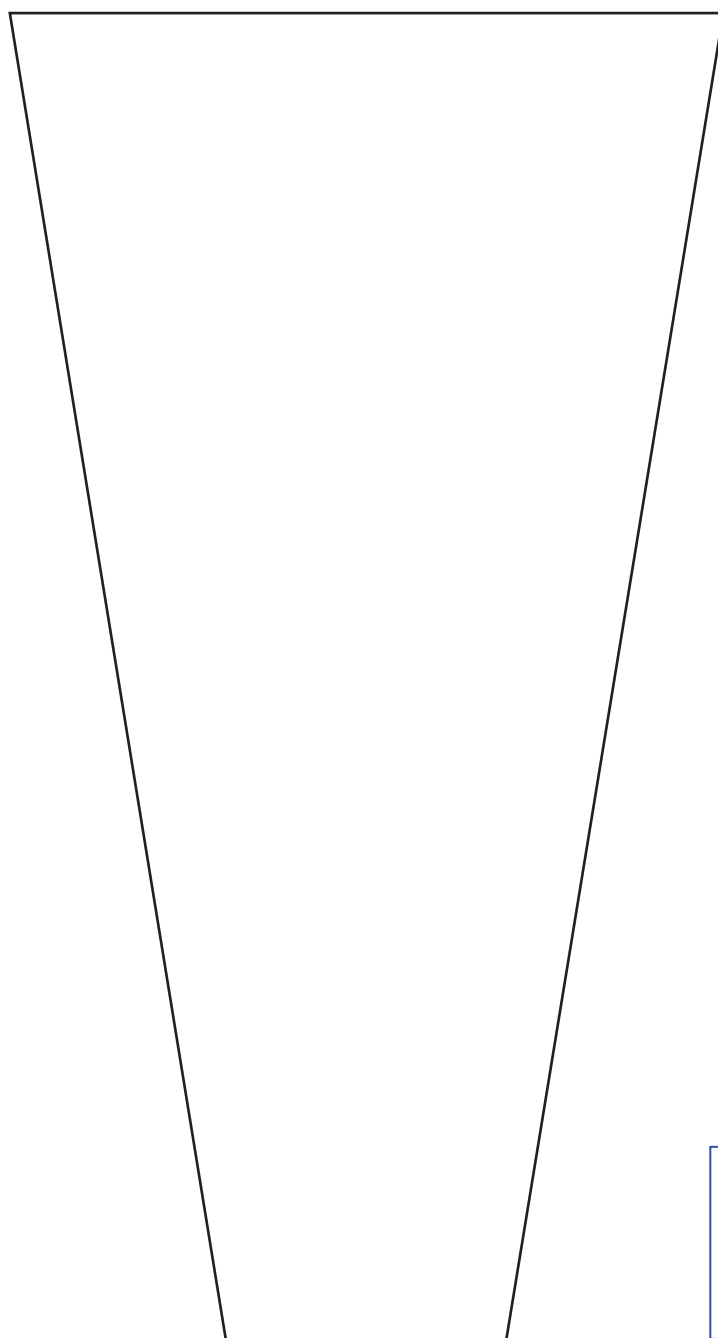
I shortened mine to 1.8. Start with a piece of fabric as a leader, and sew across all the tops and then across all the bottoms, ¼" seam allowance, and making sure the pieces stay straight. Mine kept roaming, because they are small pieces, so it works better if you start from the open edge.

Clip the folded edge, within the seam allowance, so that the point is not bulky. If you are not sure that you have a straight quarter inch, measure it and mark it in pencil. This will help you improve, by teaching your eye what a quarter inch looks like.

Open the seam allowances, finger press, and flip so that the right side is out. Use a flat, pointy tool, to poke out the points, at both ends.



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



**TEMPLATE FOR DOUBLE ENDED DRESDEN**



Iron the blades, so that the centre seams line up with the centre crease. Use steam. Do both ends.



These seams are short, so supporting them while poking out the points and pressing them is important.

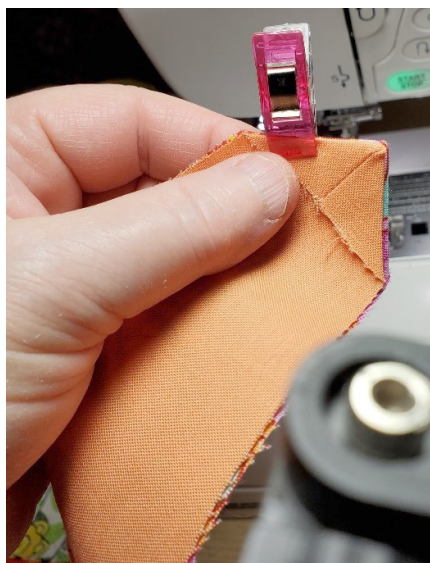


## STEP 2 – STITCHING THE BLADES TOGETHER

Lay out your finished blades, in the order you want them. Big ends will be to the outside of the curve; small ends towards the centre.

Start by sewing two together, right sides together. In order to get them to line up, pin the small end by matching the points. Start sewing from the big end. If it doesn't seem like it will fit, stop in the middle, go to the small end and sew up to where you left off. Keep an eye on your  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. If you have a problem with a straight  $\frac{1}{4}$ " line, mark it.

**Iron the seam open.** This will prevent bulk. Keep sewing two together, then four together, until they are all sewn. Give the Dresden a good press and check to see if it's laying flat. If not, you may need to recheck your seam allowance and correct it.





### STEP 3 – ADDING THE CENTRE

Position the 10" centre behind the Dresden, and glue the Dresden down, near the edge. I used Roxanne's Glue-Baste-It, but you can use Elmer's. Heat set with a dry iron, and appliqué. I hand appliquéd, but you can definitely machine sew it down. Iron again, then trim the 10" square to more of a round shape. I used a very vibrant black and white, and it was showing through, so I trimmed it back to where the fabric is thicker, and not transparent. I do my hand appliqué at about 8-to-10 stitches per inch.



Test block by Irene Lafleche

### STEP 4 – ADD DRESDEN TO THE BACKGROUND

Iron the background, and iron the Dresden. Centre the Dresden onto the background. I glued down the outside edge (I don't like getting stuck with pins). Heat set the glue with a dry iron, then appliqué (or machine sew). If you want, you can sew down the seam between each blade. Or you can cut away the background that isn't showing, if you choose to. I had to – my background was dark and my fans were light; the background was showing through.

Now trim your block down to 20½" x 20½". Always square a block from the centre out.

And now your block is finished!

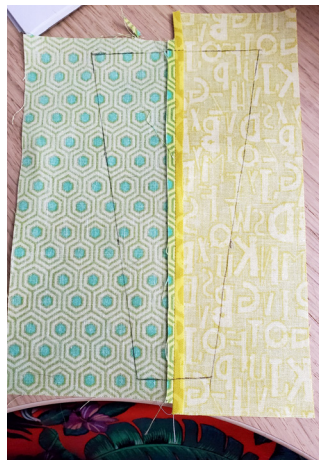


Test block by Linda Lake

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 Dresden pattern with members of CQA/ACC.





### BONUS! BLADE VARIATION

I was asked how a jelly roll could be used for the blades, since the template is too wide. Solution: put a seam in the middle! For visual interest, use a light fabric on one side and a darker fabric on the other.

I hope you enjoy making this block!  
—Cathy Price