

Foundation Paper Piecing

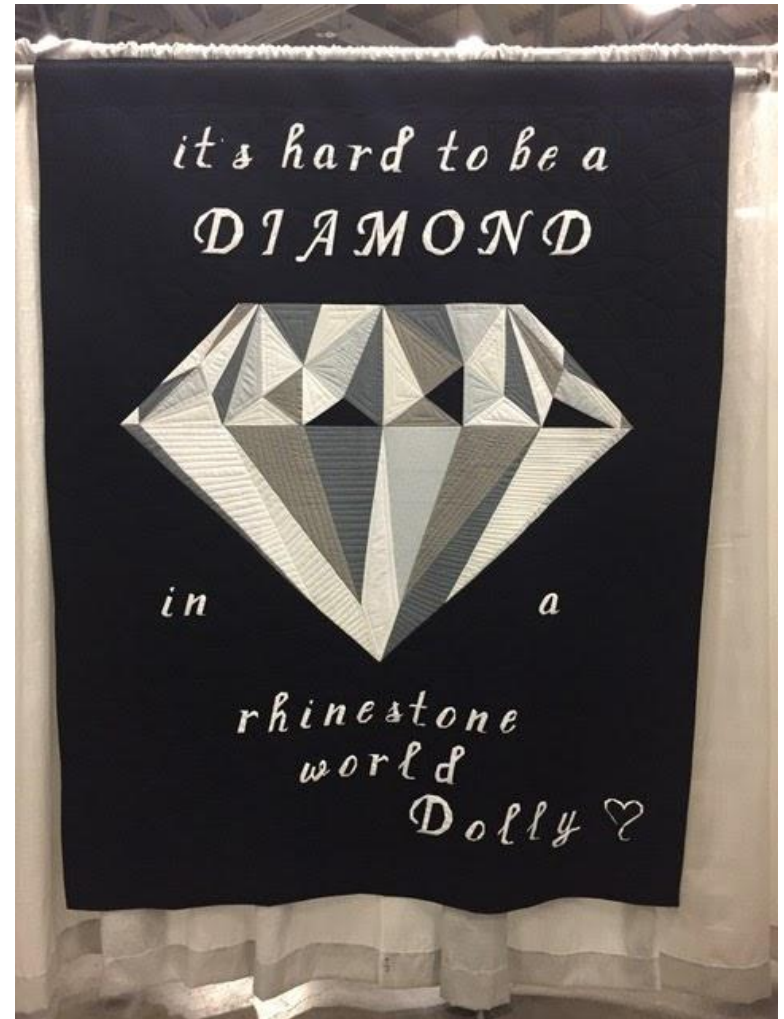
February 2022

Why Foundation Paper Piece

Piece Outside the Lines

- ❖ Piecing is not just straight lines and curves
 - ❖ Foundation paper piecing can be cursive letters and amazing angles!
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- ❖ Pattern: “It’s Hard to be a Diamond”; Music City Modern Quilt Guild submission at QuiltCon, February 2020
- ❖ Designers/Piecers: Pam Casey, Debby Lee, Melanie Bontusa
- ❖ Quilted by: Vicki Gray
- ❖ FPP Level: Beginner... but, this was the first time any of the piecers had attempted FPP so it was hard, but we learned a lot!



Teeny Tiny Piecing



- ❖ Small fabric piecing allows for impressive definition

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- ❖ “Birdhouses”; 12” x 12”
 - ❖ Designer: Kerry Goulder; www.kidgiddy.com; available at no cost on Bernina WeAllSew website
 - ❖ Pieced and Quilted by: Pam Casey
 - ❖ FPP Level: Confident Beginner
 - ❖ Gifted to Mini Quilt swap partner at Sew in Your Jammies, June 2020

Find Out Who Your True Friends Are

- ❖ Invite friends over to help pick out the foundation paper
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- ❖ Pattern: “Fractured Star” by Judy Niemeyer
 - ❖ Pieced by: Aimee DeRiggi; 2017-2020
 - ❖ Paper Picker-Outer: Pam Casey; February 2020 on a 6-hour car ride from Texas to Louisiana taking our mom to Mardi Gras
 - ❖ Quilted by: Yea... it’s in the closet ... one day it will be quilted
 - ❖ FPP Level: the pattern indicates ‘Beginner’ ... but, my sister said it was ‘Extremely Hard’



RCMQG Member Samples



Pam Casey



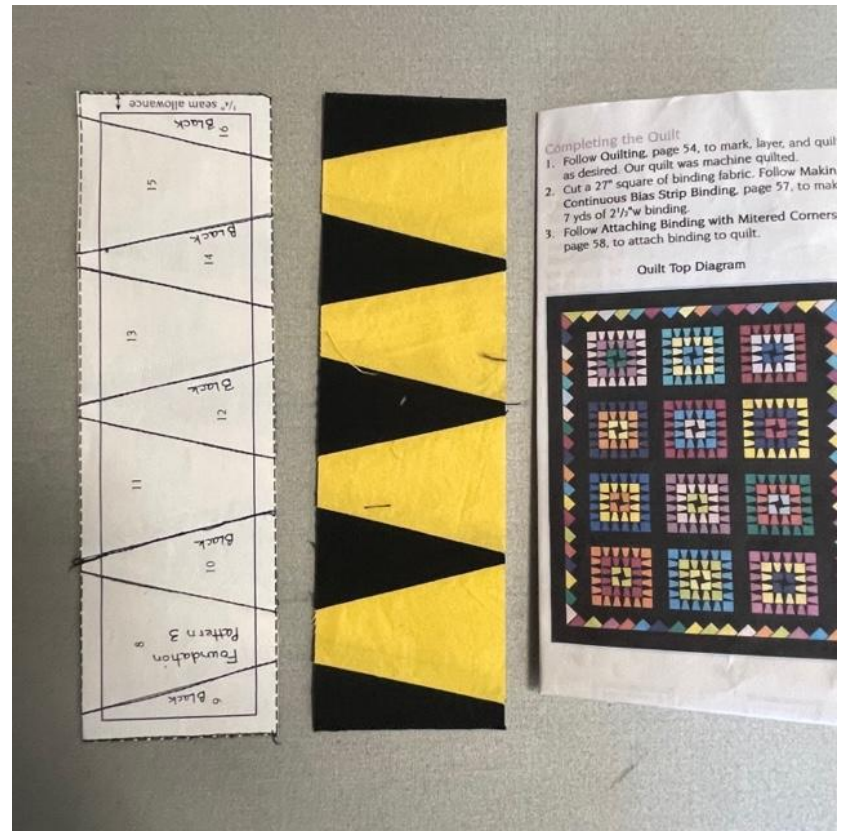
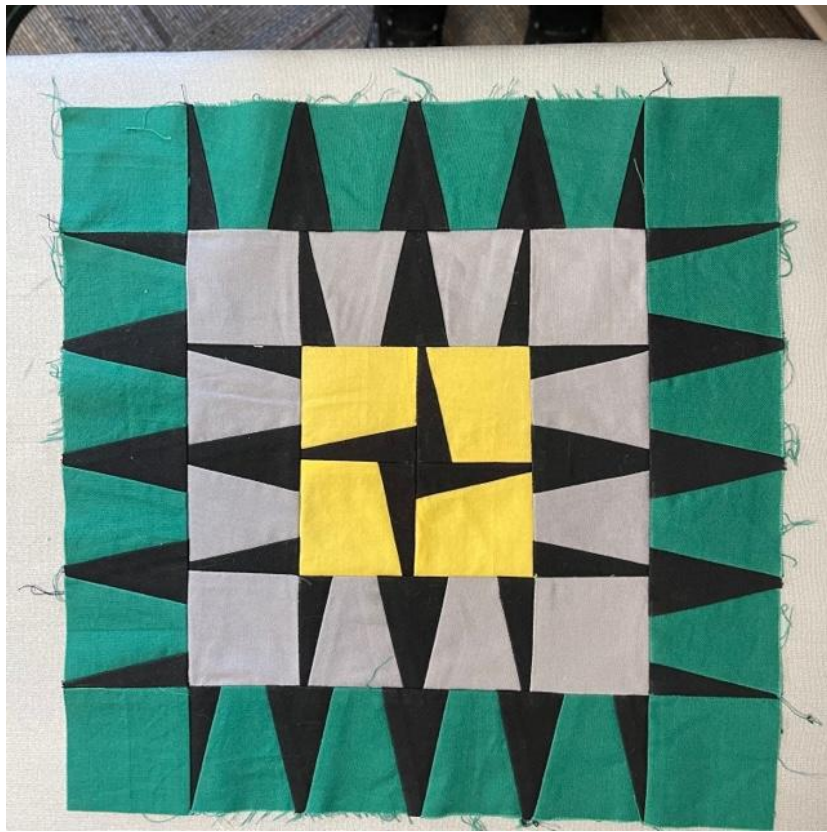
Pam Casey



Pam Casey



Lauren Goodson



Beverly Keyser



Beverly Keyser



Beverly Keyser



Debby Lee



Paula Newquist



Paula Newquist

Tattoo Quilt Boot Camp



TATTOO QUILT: designed and pieced by
Berene Campbell. Quilted by Stacey
Murton. Patterns available as individual
blocks. www.happysewluucky.com
#tattooquilt

Repetition, Repetition, Repetition

- If you are new to paper piecing, select a pattern that provides lots of repetition
- Repetition creates muscle memory



Tiny Piecing

- Once you have mastered the technique, move on to patterns with smaller piecing
- Learn to pre-cut fabric for minimal wastage
- FPP Quilt Math!

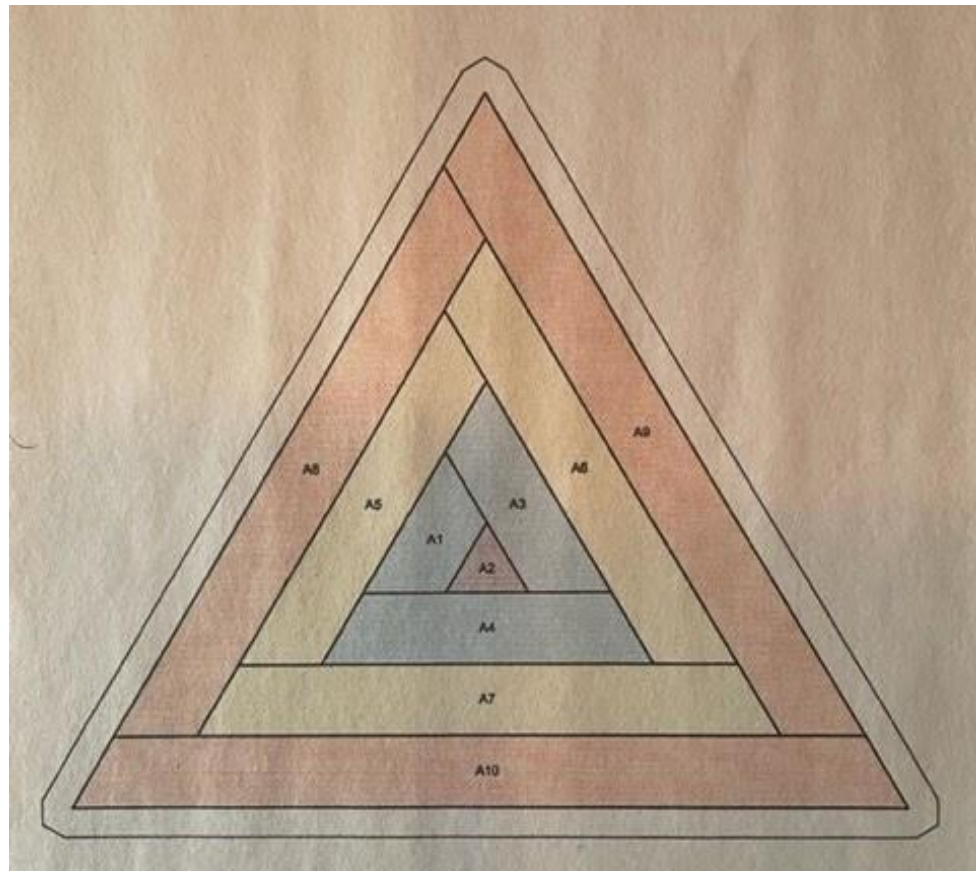


Angles, Angles, Angles

- FPP patterns often give the illusion of being multi-dimensional and piecing often has angles
- Calculating the fabric for these pieces can be challenging
- Lining up critical matching points is key



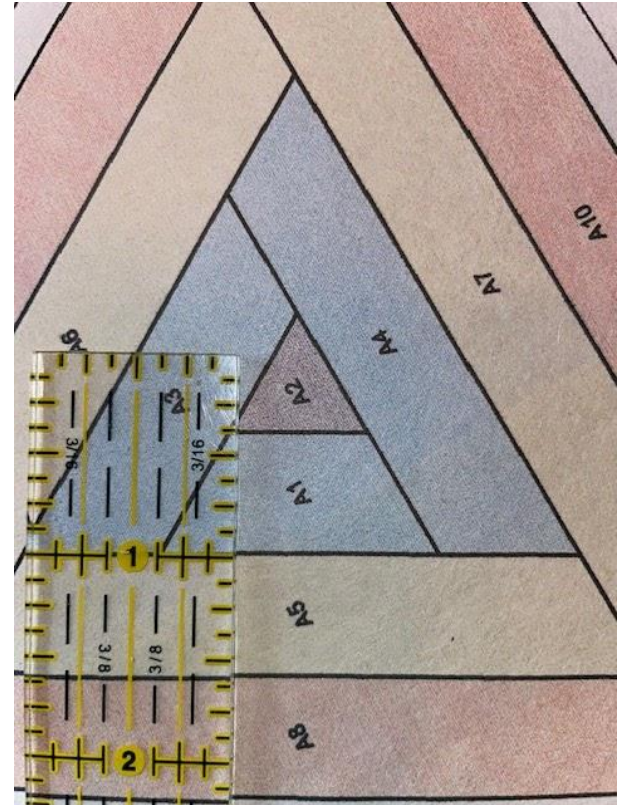
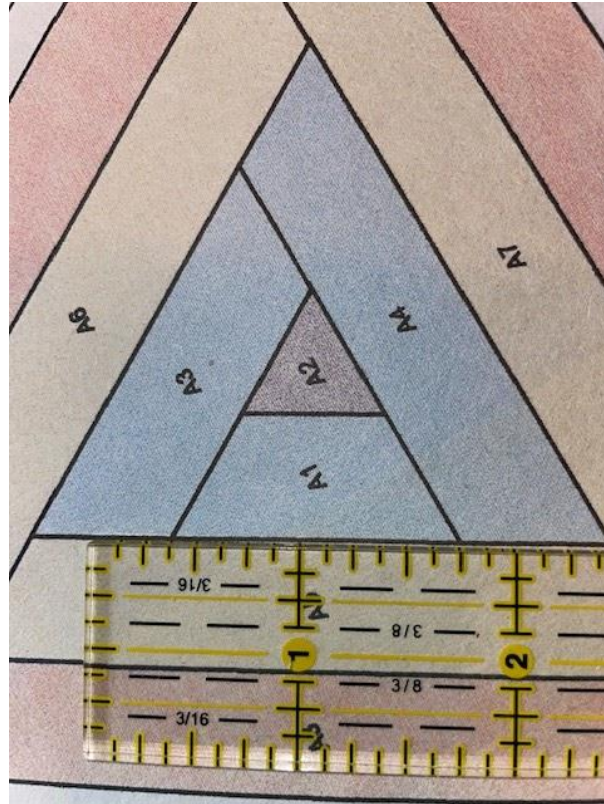
Foundation Paper Piecing Quilt Math



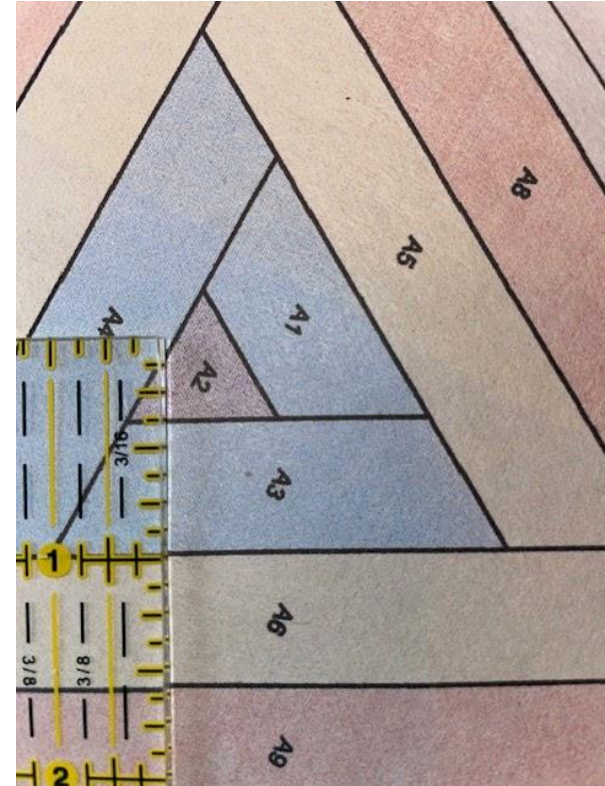
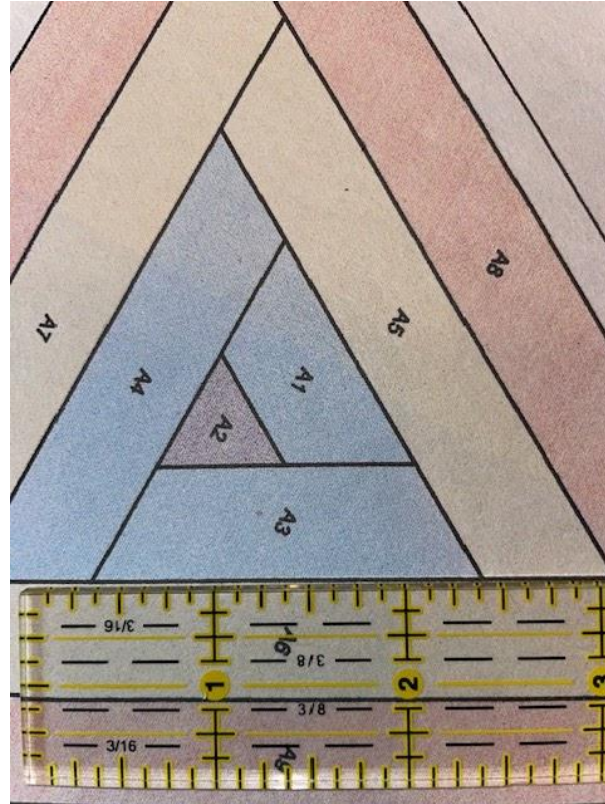
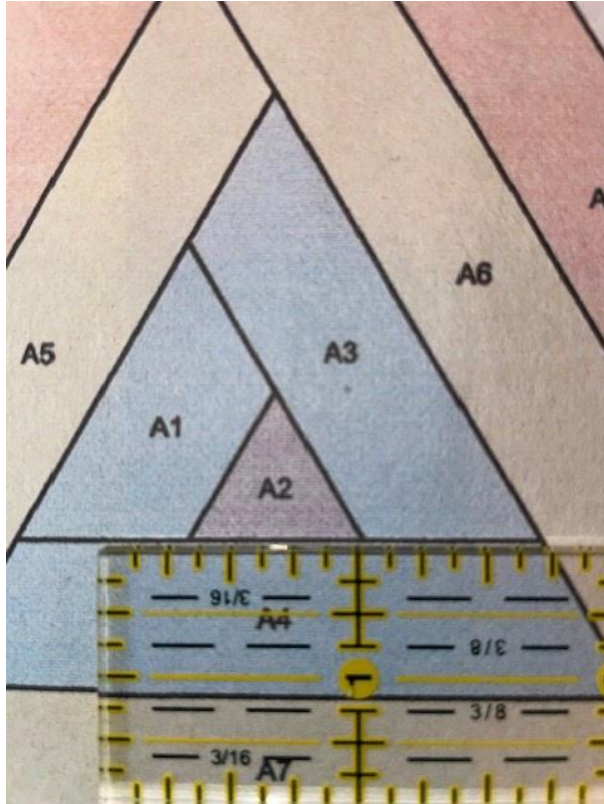
Sample Block

Quilt Math for Minimal Fabric Wastage

- Measure the width and height of the pattern section
- Add $\frac{3}{4}$ " to each measurement
- This allows a minimum of $\frac{3}{8}$ " fabric for the seam allowances

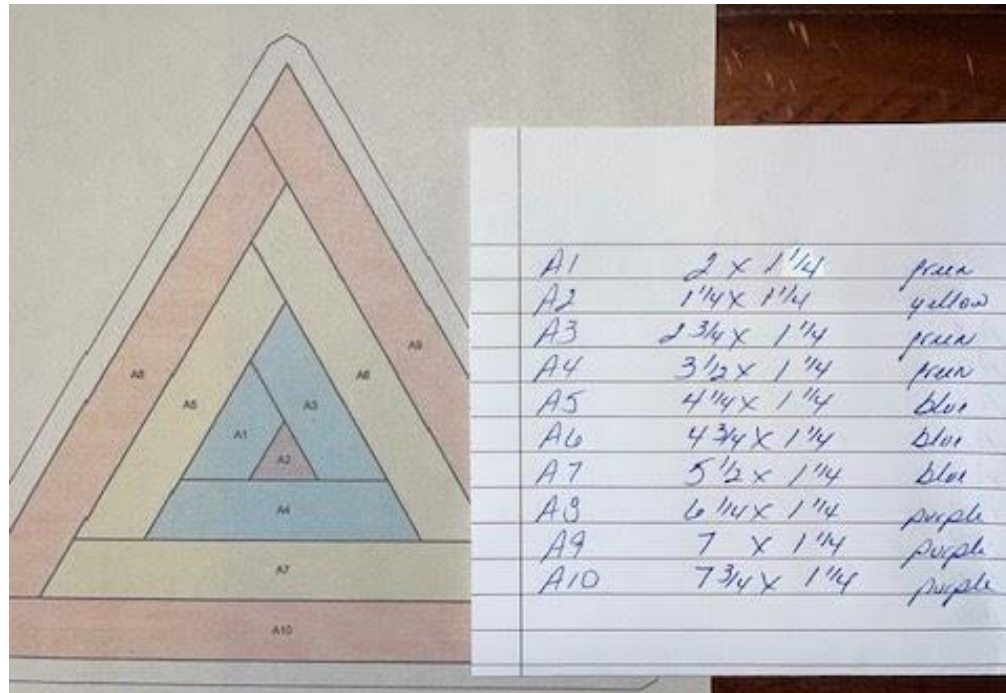


Quilt Math for Minimal Fabric Wastage



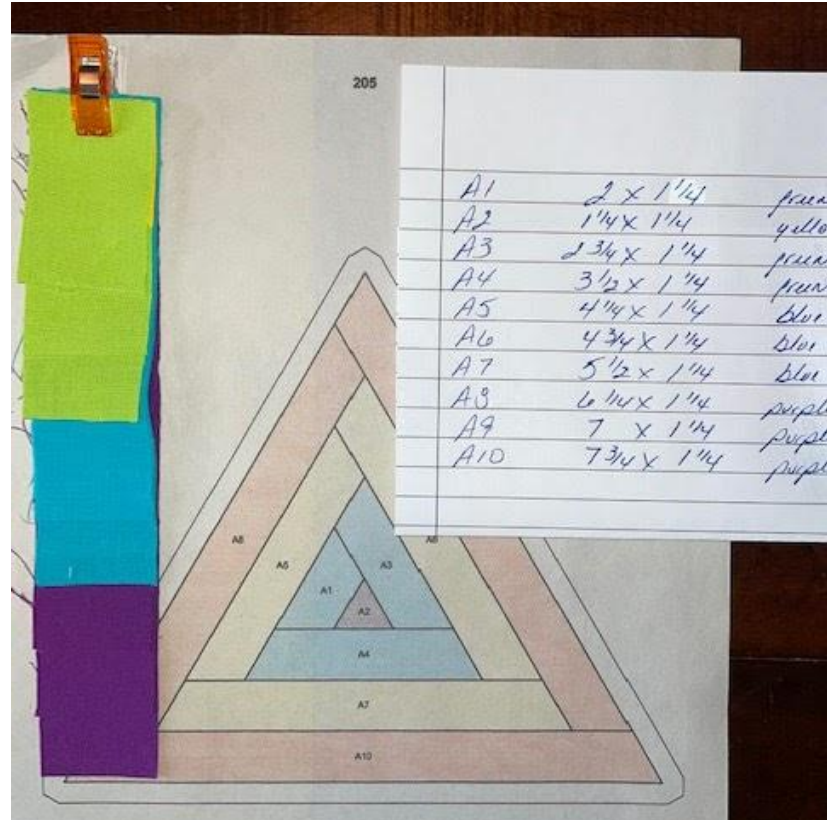
Quilt Math for Minimal Fabric Wastage

- Cut fabric based on measurements



Quilt Math for Minimal Fabric Wastage

- Place fabric in order of sewing



Let's Start Sewing

Supplies

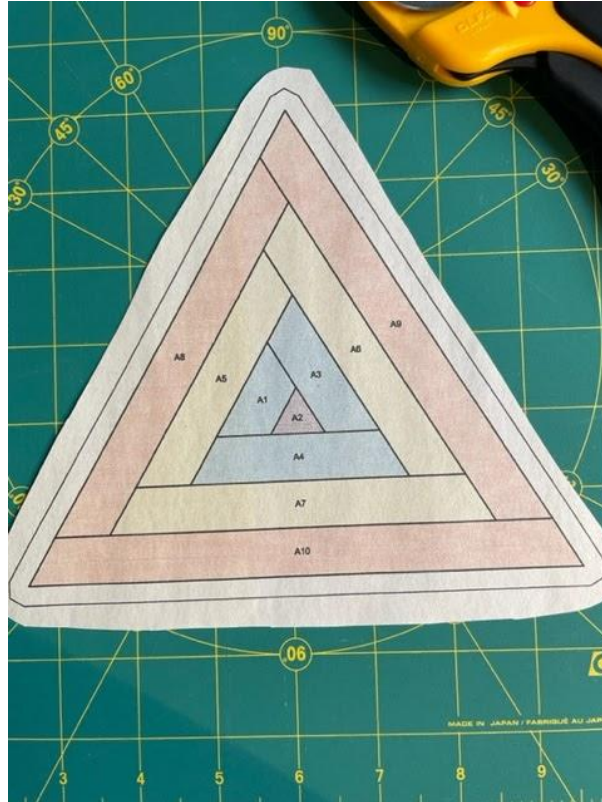
- 70/10 needle
- FPP paper
- Add-a-Quarter Ruler
- Add-an-Eighth Ruler
- Glue Stick
- Seam Roller or Small Iron
- Postcard or Cardstock
- Wonder Clips
- The Usual Suspects*



* Usual Suspects: rotary cutter, cutting mat, ruler, seam ripper, sewing machine, thread

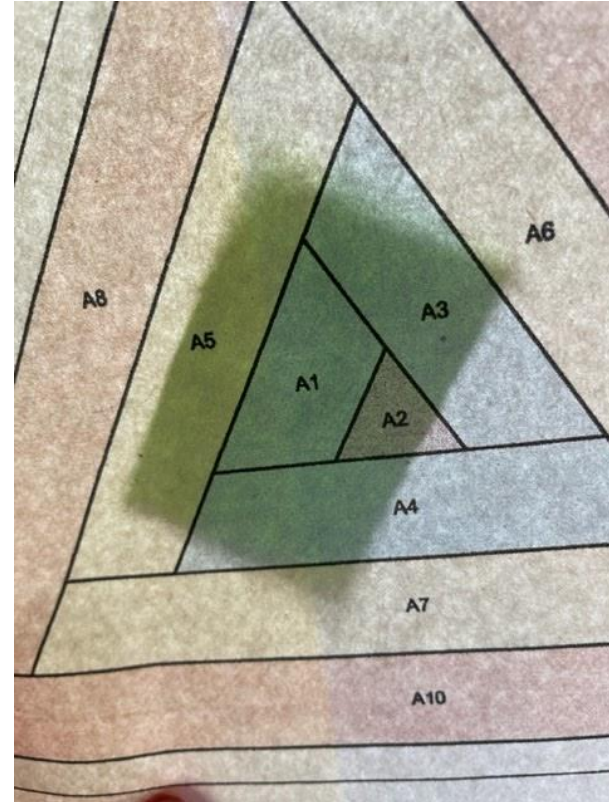
The First Piece

- Rough cut about $\frac{1}{2}$ " around pattern
- Place a spot of glue on the wrong side of the pattern at the first piece (A1)



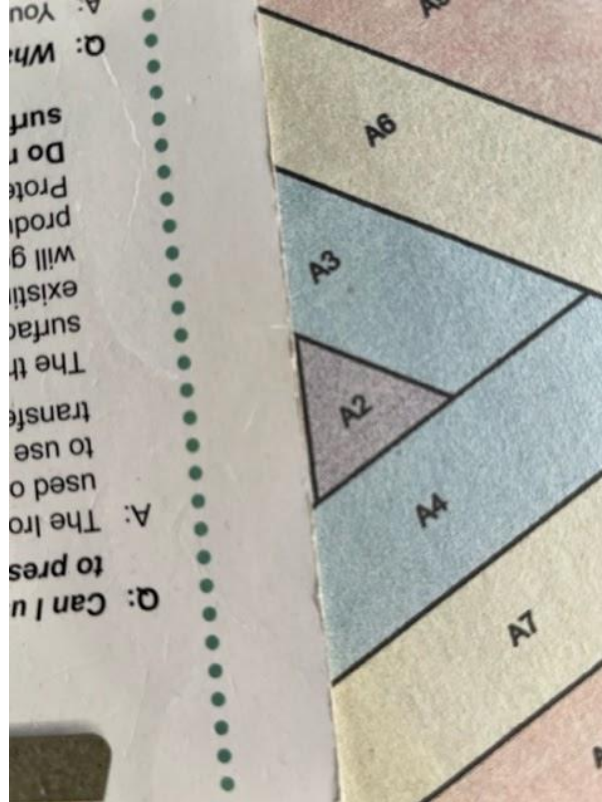
The First Piece

- Glue the wrong side of the fabric to the wrong side of the pattern
- Make sure the fabric extends at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " around the A1 outline



Fold

- Line up the cardstock against the A1 and A2 stitching line
- Fold the pattern over the cardstock



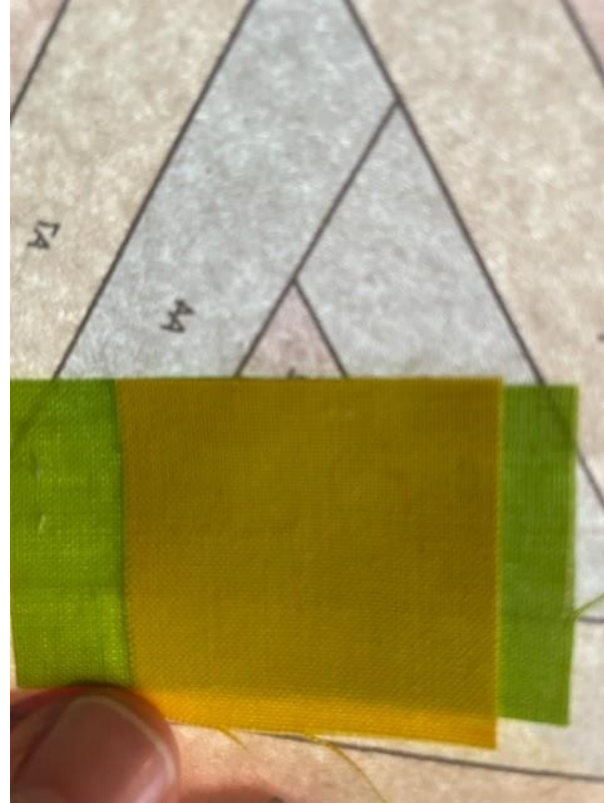
Trim

- Place the Add-a-Quarter ruler against the pattern/cardstock
- Trim the excess A1 fabric



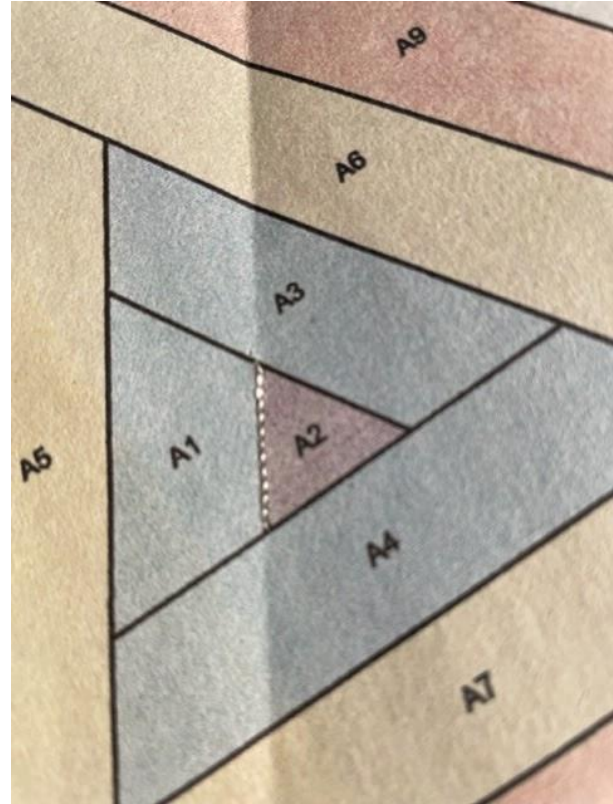
Align

- Align the A2 fabric along the edge of the A1 fabric
- Make sure the A2 fabric extends $\frac{1}{4}$ " on either side of the A1-A2 stitching line



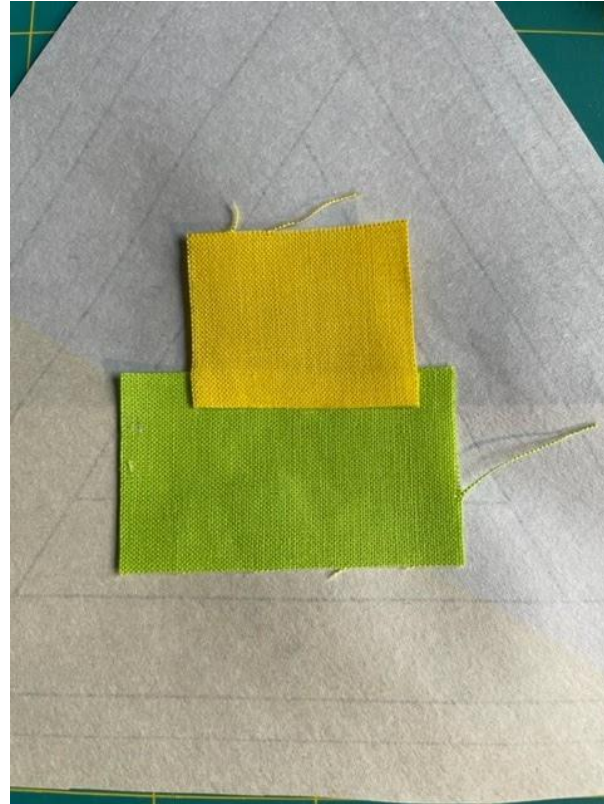
Stitch

- Flip pattern over to the printed side carefully holding the fabric in place on the reverse side
- Stitch along the A1 and A2 line using a small stitch (1.50)
- Backstitch at the beginning and end of the stitching line



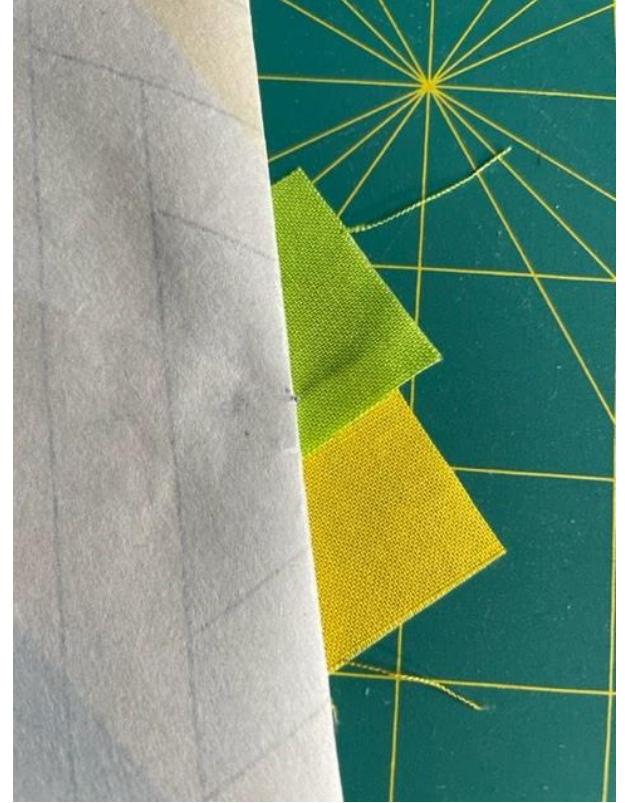
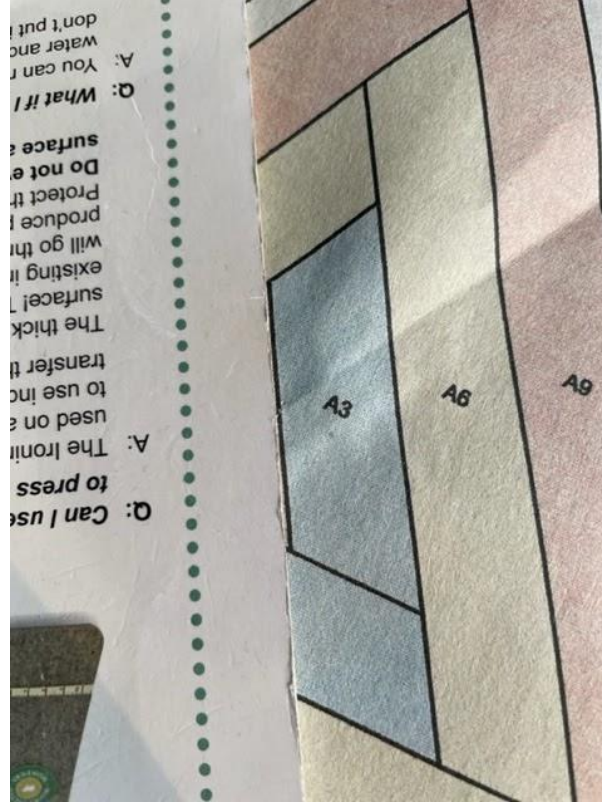
Press

- Flip the pattern over to the fabric side
- Press the fabric



Repeat

- Fold



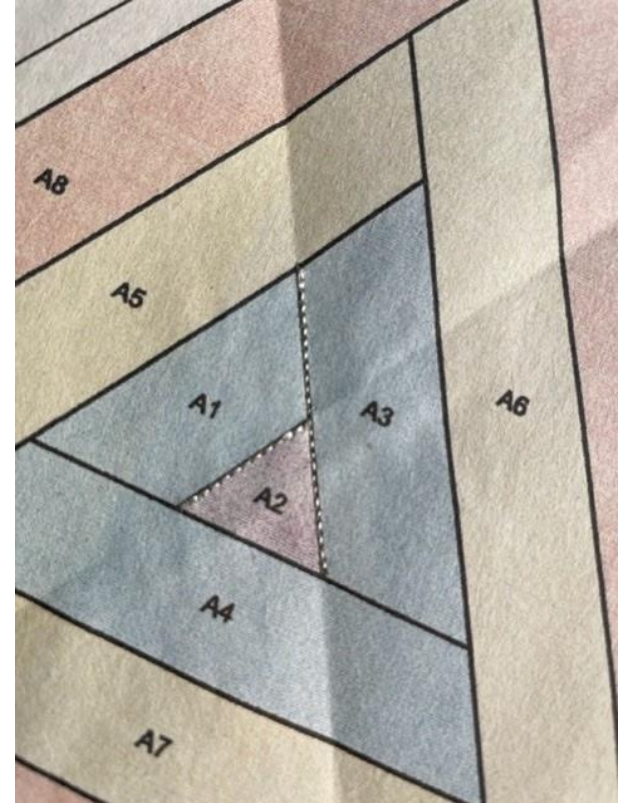
Repeat

- Trim



Repeat

- Align
- Stitch

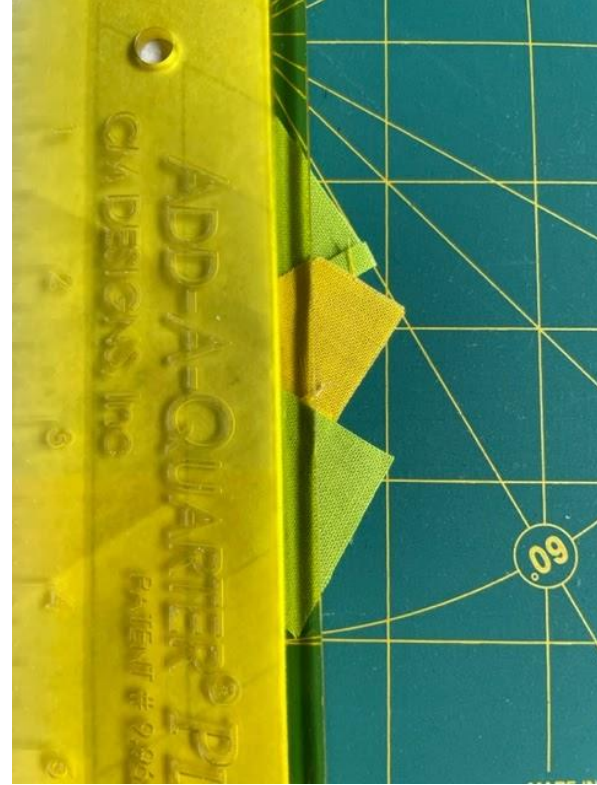
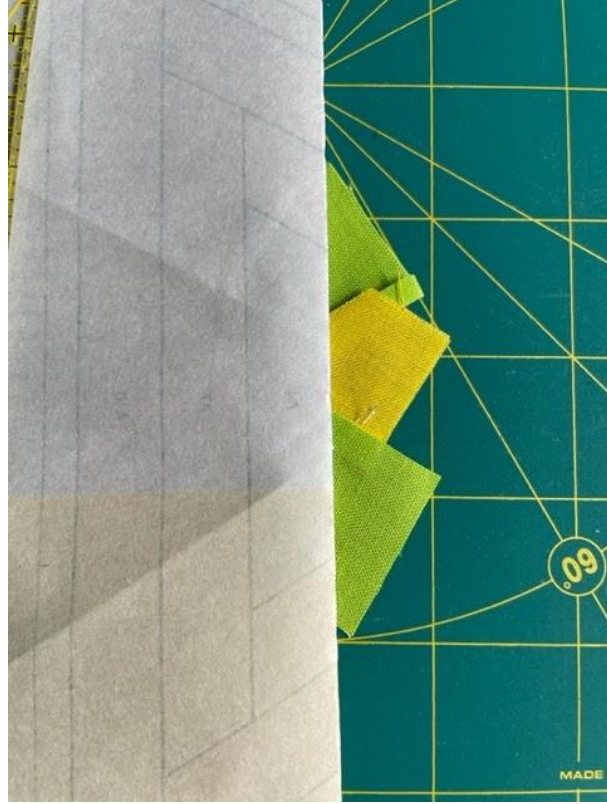
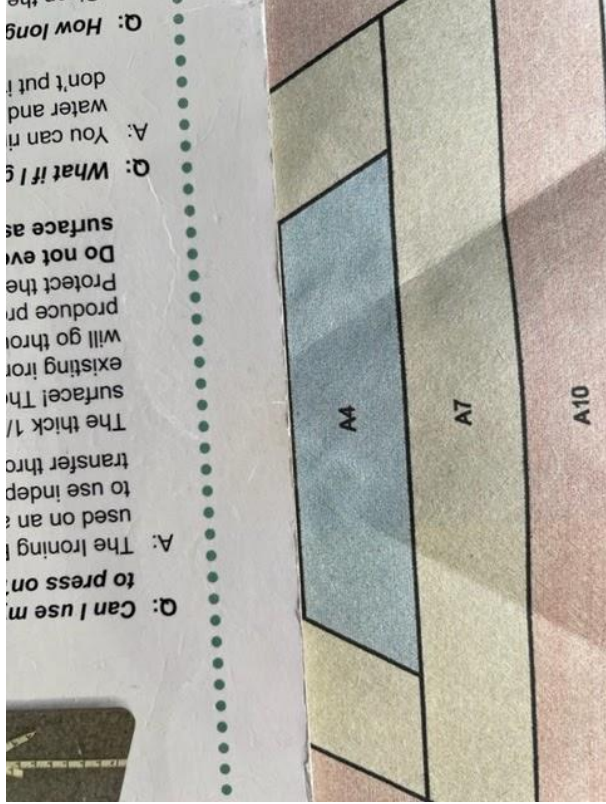


Repeat

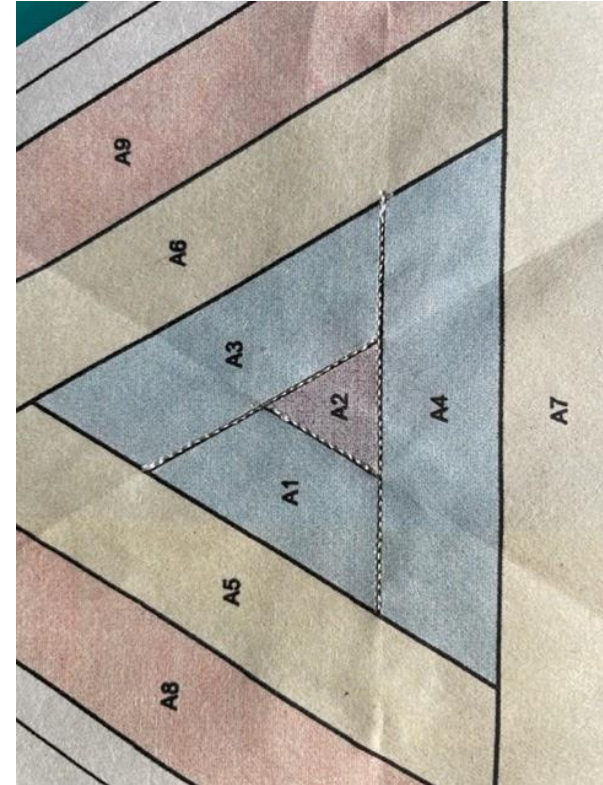
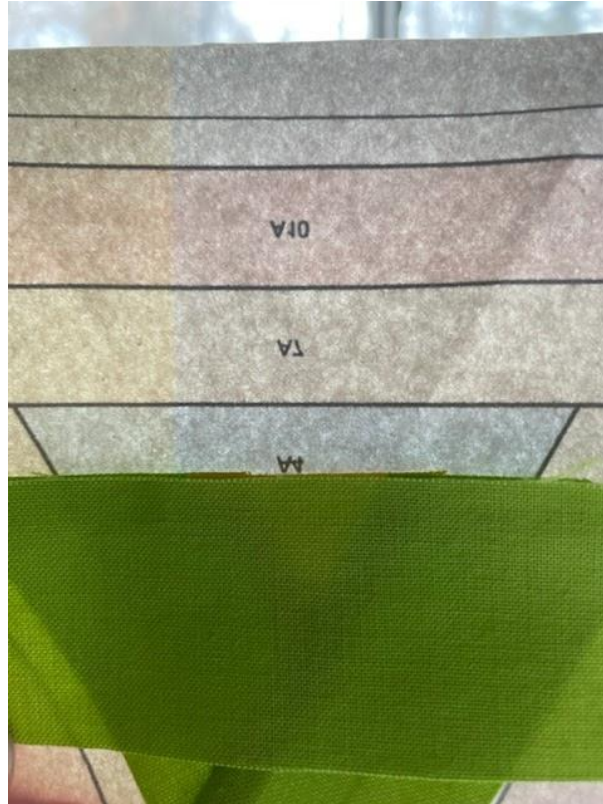
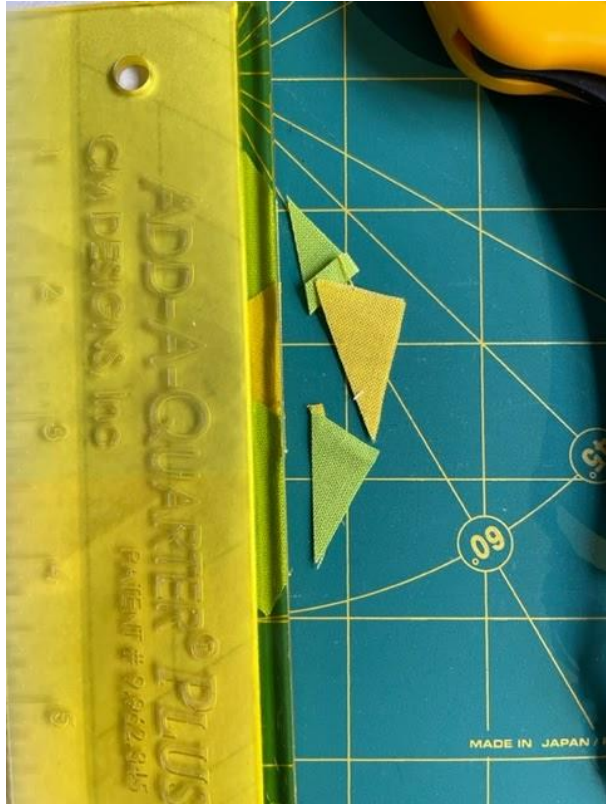
- Press



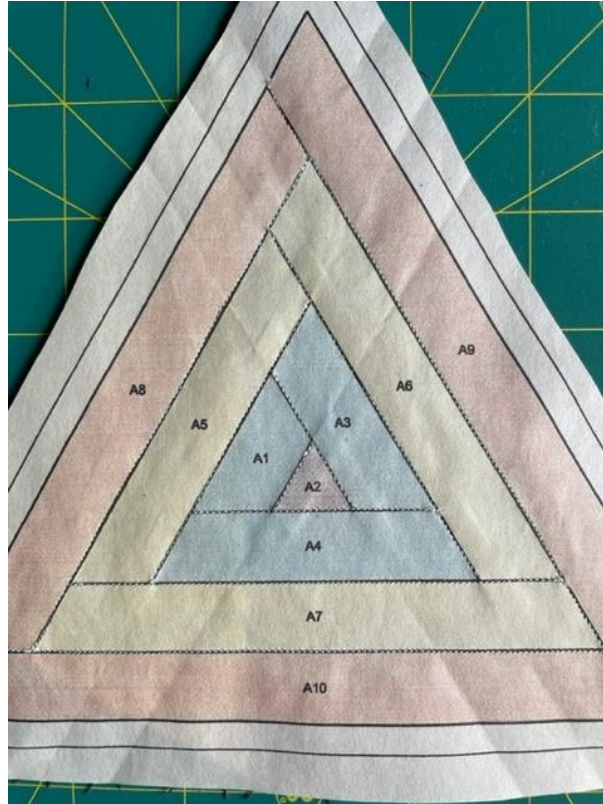
Fold - Trim



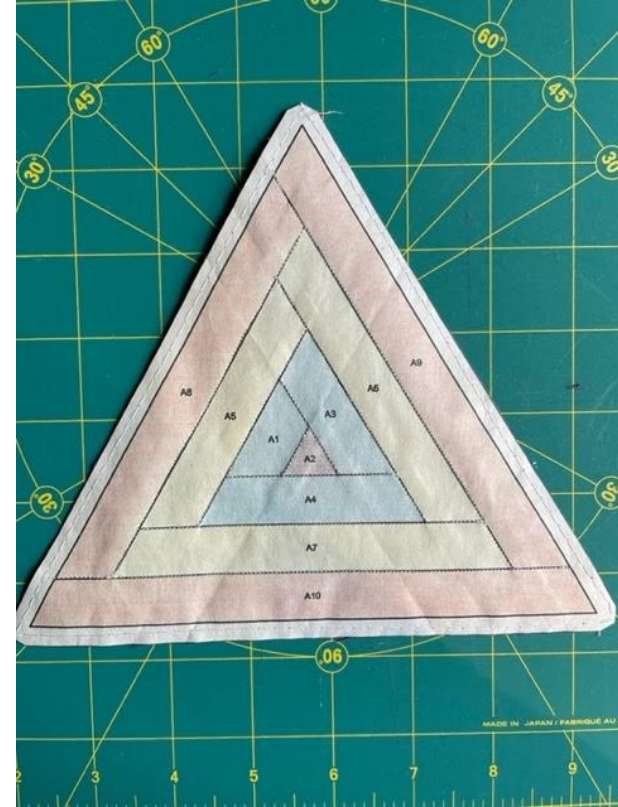
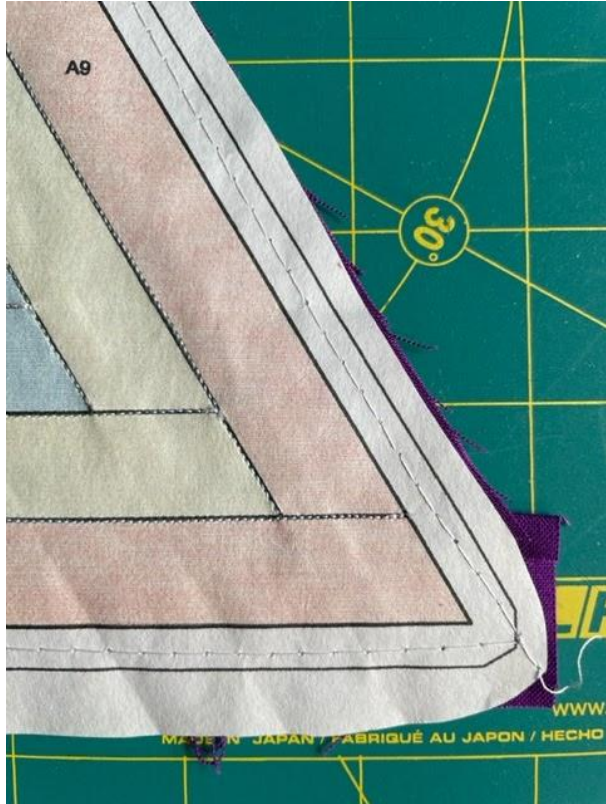
Trim - Align - Stitch



Press - Repeat



Baste Edges - Trim



Ta Da!



Tips and Tricks

Tips and Tricks

Printing the Pattern

- ❖ Locate the 1” measurement block on your pattern
- ❖ Print a test page of the pattern
- ❖ Measure the 1” block to confirm your printer actually prints at 1”
- ❖ Do not print from a browser; download the pattern and then print
- ❖ Browsers sometimes skew the print dimensions... you may not get a true 1”
- ❖ Use paper specifically designed for paper piecing
 - I use Carol Doak paper, as I find standard copy paper to be too thick

Tips and Tricks

Before You Stitch

- ❖ Rough cut pattern piece leaving final cutting line visible
- ❖ Set stitch length at 1.50; this makes for easier perforations
- ❖ Use a lightbox to help in fabric placement, especially if fussy cutting fabric to fit in pattern piece
- ❖ Watch how you place the first piece of fabric; the right side should face out
- ❖ Use a spot of glue on the first piece
 - I don't use pins, although some tutorials tell you to pin the fabric to the paper, I find that pins distort the fabric

Tips and Tricks

Finishing

- ❖ On larger pieces, place a running stitch in the seam allowance
- ❖ Follow pattern directions on pressing seams; some patterns require seams to be pressed open
 - I use a small stick iron with no steam
 - Be careful when pressing so the printer ink does not transfer through to the fabric
- ❖ When removing paper, work from the outside in towards the middle
 - I try to fold the paper creating an easy tear line
 - I remove the papers only on the sections that are seamed, but wait until the entire block is complete to remove the remaining papers

Inspiration Blocks and Resources

Inspiration Blocks



[Circle of Geese](#)



[Hearts and Rainbows](#)

Inspiration Blocks



[The Lone Starburst](#)



[Teal Pumpkin Banner](#)

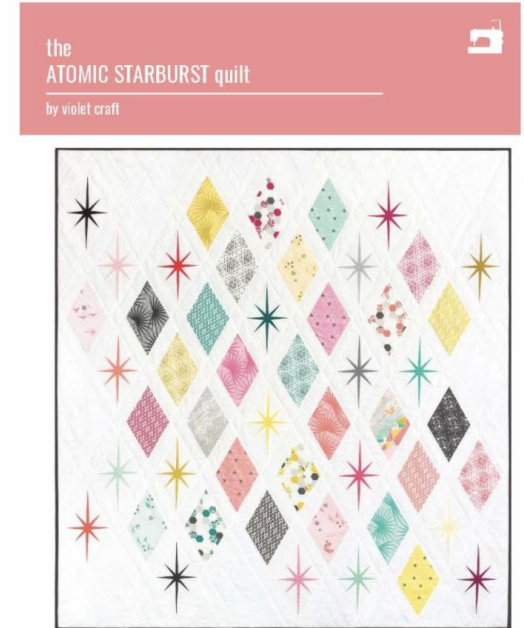
Resources



[Alison Glass](#)

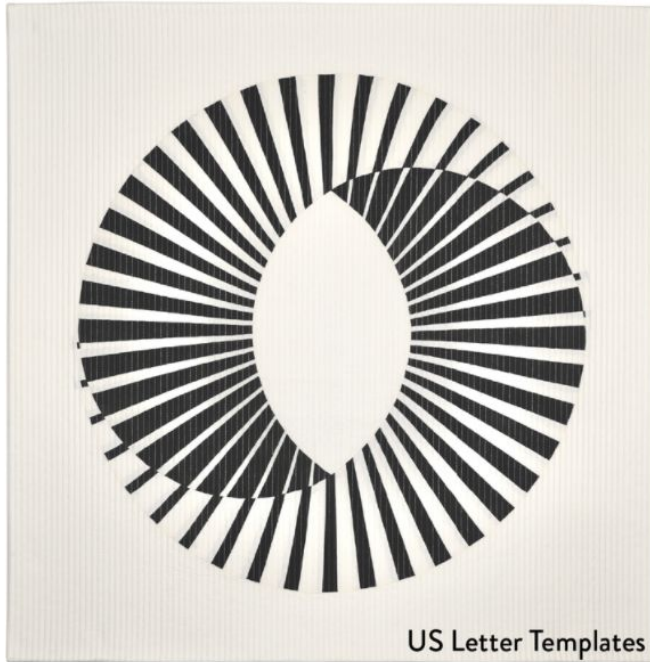


[Happy Sew Lucky](#)



[Violet Craft](#)

Resources



[Cotton & Bourbon](#)



[Pride & Joy Quilting](#)

Resources



[Quiltworx - Judy Niemeyer](#)



[BeColourful - Jacqueline de Jonge](#)

Resources (Websites with Free or Low Cost Patterns)

- [National Quilt Museum](#) - Block of the Month
- [Pen + Paper Patterns](#)
- [Quiet Play Designs](#)
- [Lillyella Stitching](#)
- [Carol Doak](#)

Let's Create Beautiful FPP Quilts!