

## Maria's Star

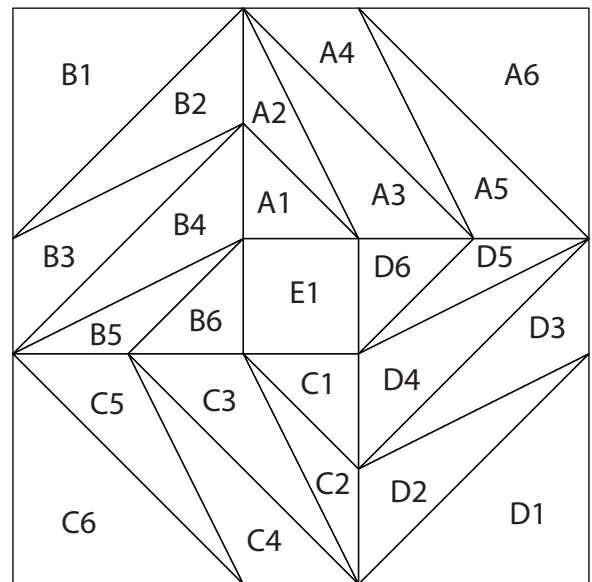
by Alison Dale

My block is named after my grandmother and my niece. My grandmother was an artist at heart, and she taught me the love of crafting. She didn't teach me to sew, but I loved looking through all the things she had painted, all the magazines she collected, and decorations she made for the holidays when we would visit. My niece Maria is about to be a senior at a special art high school in Los Angeles, and she is spending part of her summer in New York for an art program while also looking at art colleges.

@alisonsexpressions alisonsexpressions.wordpress.com

### Cutting Instructions

	Qty	6" finished block	12" finished block
Fabric 1	4	2" x 3" rectangles (A1, B6, C1, D6)	3" x 5" rectangles (A1, B6, C1, D6)
Fabric 2	4	1 3/4" x 4" rectangles (A2, B5, C2, D5)	2 3/4" x 7" rectangles (A2, B5, C2, D5)
Fabric 2	4	2" x 4 1/2" rectangles (A4, B3, C4, D3)	3 1/4" x 8" rectangles (A4, B3, C4, D3)
Fabric 3	8	2" x 4 1/2" rectangles (A3, B4, C3, D4, A5, B2, C5, D2)	3 1/4" x 8" rectangles (A3, B4, C3, D4, A5, B2, C5, D2)
Fabric 3	1	2 1/4" x 2 1/4" square (E1)	3 1/2" x 3 1/2" square (E1)
Fabric 4	4	3" x 4 3/4" rectangles (A6, B1, C6, D1)	4 3/4" x 8" rectangles (A6, B1, C6, D1)



Use this block to plan color and fabric placement!

### My Swatches

**1**

A1  
B6  
C1  
D6

**2**

A2 A4  
B5 B3  
C2 C4  
D5 D3

**3**

A3 A5  
B4 B2  
C3 C5  
D4 D2  
E1

**4**

A6  
B1  
C6  
D1





## Piecing Instructions

### Step 1

Place your cut A1 fabric so that it covers section A1 on the back of your paper template, wrong sides together. (You might have to hold your fabric and template up to the light to ensure the fabric is lined up properly.) The printed side of the paper should be facing up. Ensure that the piece of fabric covers all neighboring printed lines by at least ¼" and a little more. Once the fabric is positioned properly, secure it with a pin or a bit of glue.

### Step 2

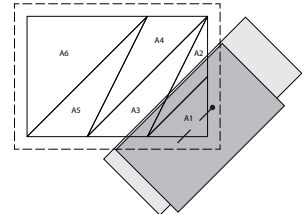
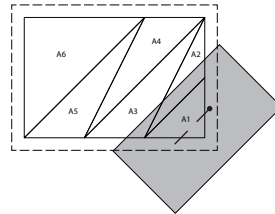
Place your cut A2 fabric on top of the trimmed A1 fabric, right sides together and edges aligned along the seam allowance. Make sure that your A2 fabric will extend beyond the A2 section by at least ¼" and a little more after sewing and pressing out. Pin in place.

With the paper template facing up, sew along the printed line between A1 and A2 (represented in red), using a short stitch length and backstitching at the beginning and end of the seam. With printed side facing up, fold the paper onto itself along the stitched seam to expose the fabric underneath and trim to a ¼" seam allowance. Press the A2 fabric out and away from A1.

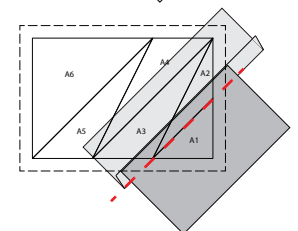
### Step 3

Repeat the previous steps to join A3 to A2. Continue adding sections in order alphabetically and numerically until all units are complete. Trim sides of each unit along the dashed seam allowance line, making sure not to cut into the ¼" seam allowance.

All cut pieces should allow for plenty of trimming room and seam allowances. If your fabric piece is short or seems too small, recut a larger piece.



Make sure the trimmed portion of your A2 fabric extends over the line and into section A2 a full ¼".



## Get to know Alison...



I know the stars have aligned when...  
*I get a good night's sleep. To say I have sleeping issues is an understatement! Some nights, I only get a couple hours of sleep.*



I'd be totally star-struck if I could meet...  
*This is a tough one! I am not the star-struck type. Growing up in LA in a showbiz family, being around celebrities was normal. Then my professional career started as a photojournalist in LA, where I photographed former Presidents, rockstars and professional athletes.*



If I could wish on a star, I'd wish for...  
*The end of anxiety. There are so many triggers out in the world that are causing anxiety for people of all ages.*



Star Trek, Star Wars, or Dancing With the Stars?  
*For me, it would have to be Star Wars. I remember going see the movie on the biggest screen there was when it came out, and how the special effects were amazing for 1977.*



I thank my lucky stars that...  
*I have a loving and supportive family. Although I have Sjogren Syndrome, an autoimmune disease, I'm thankful that my symptoms are mild and I live an ordinary, active life. I was diagnosed 10 years ago. The only thing I can think of that I have stopped is running marathons. I get too thirsty, and it is too dang hot here in Texas!*





## Piecing Instructions, continued

### Step 4

Begin Sewing Partial Seam. With right sides together, line up the start points of the red arrows of sections A and E. Place your needle down and sew a partial seam in the direction of the arrows.

Join units together as shown, using the 1/4" seams provided on the foundation templates. Press seams open to reduce bulk.

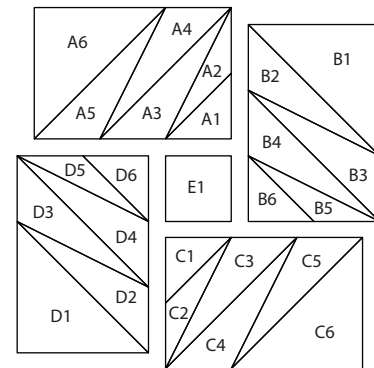
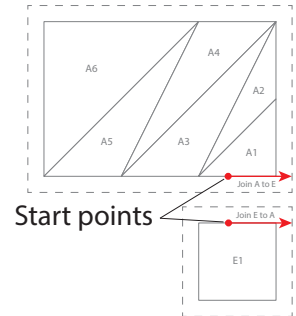
### Step 5

With right sides together, sew section B to AE. Continue by adding sections C to BE, and D to CE in a clockwise manner. Your last seam, joining DE to AE, completes the block.

### Step 6

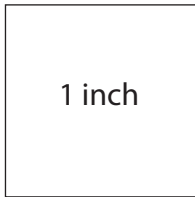
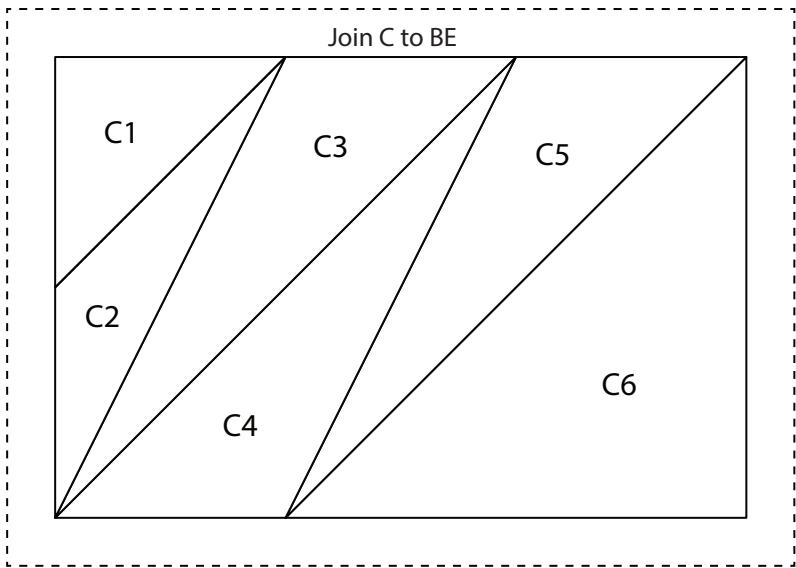
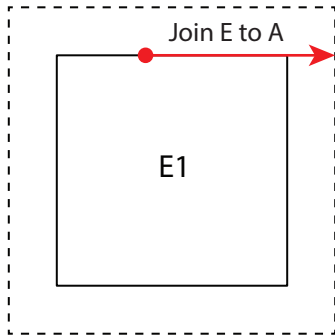
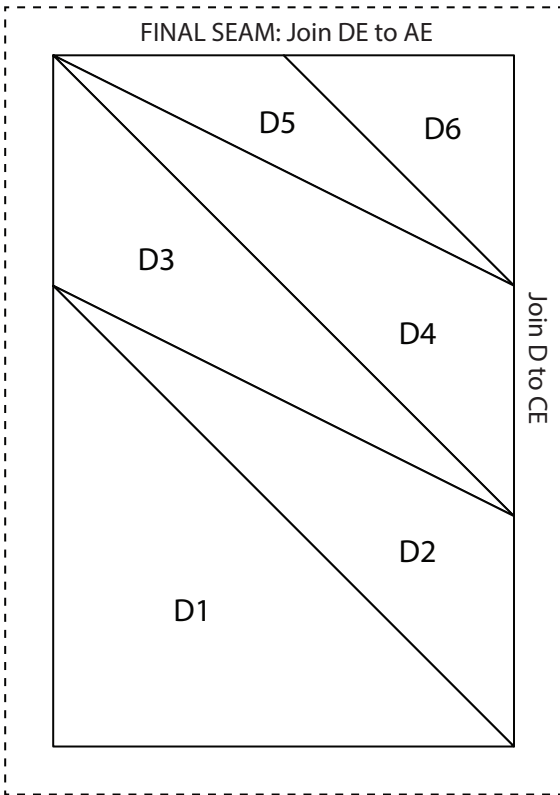
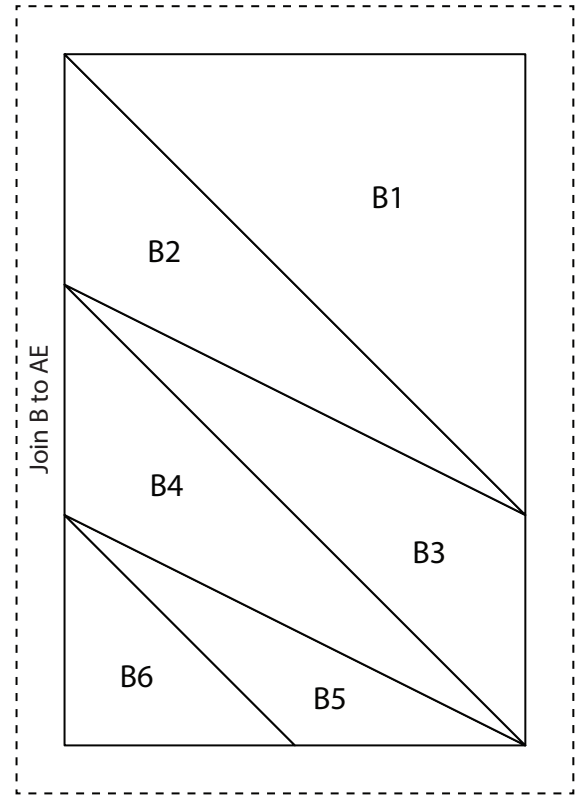
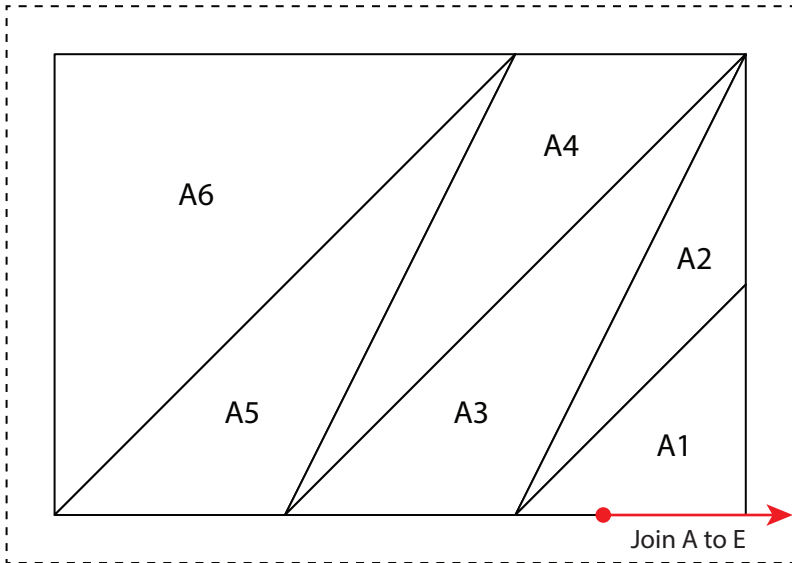
Carefully remove the paper from the completed block. Your finished block should measure 6 1/2" square or 12 1/2" square.

*With the A and E units right sides together, line up the start points and needle-down. Take a few back-and-forth-stitches and then sew off the paper in the direction shown.*



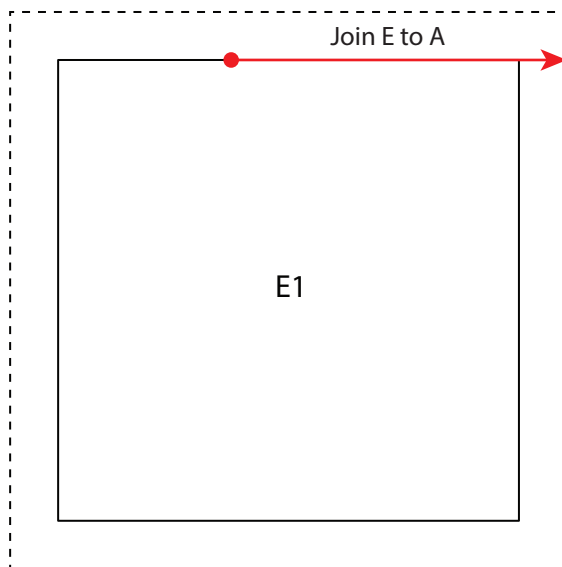
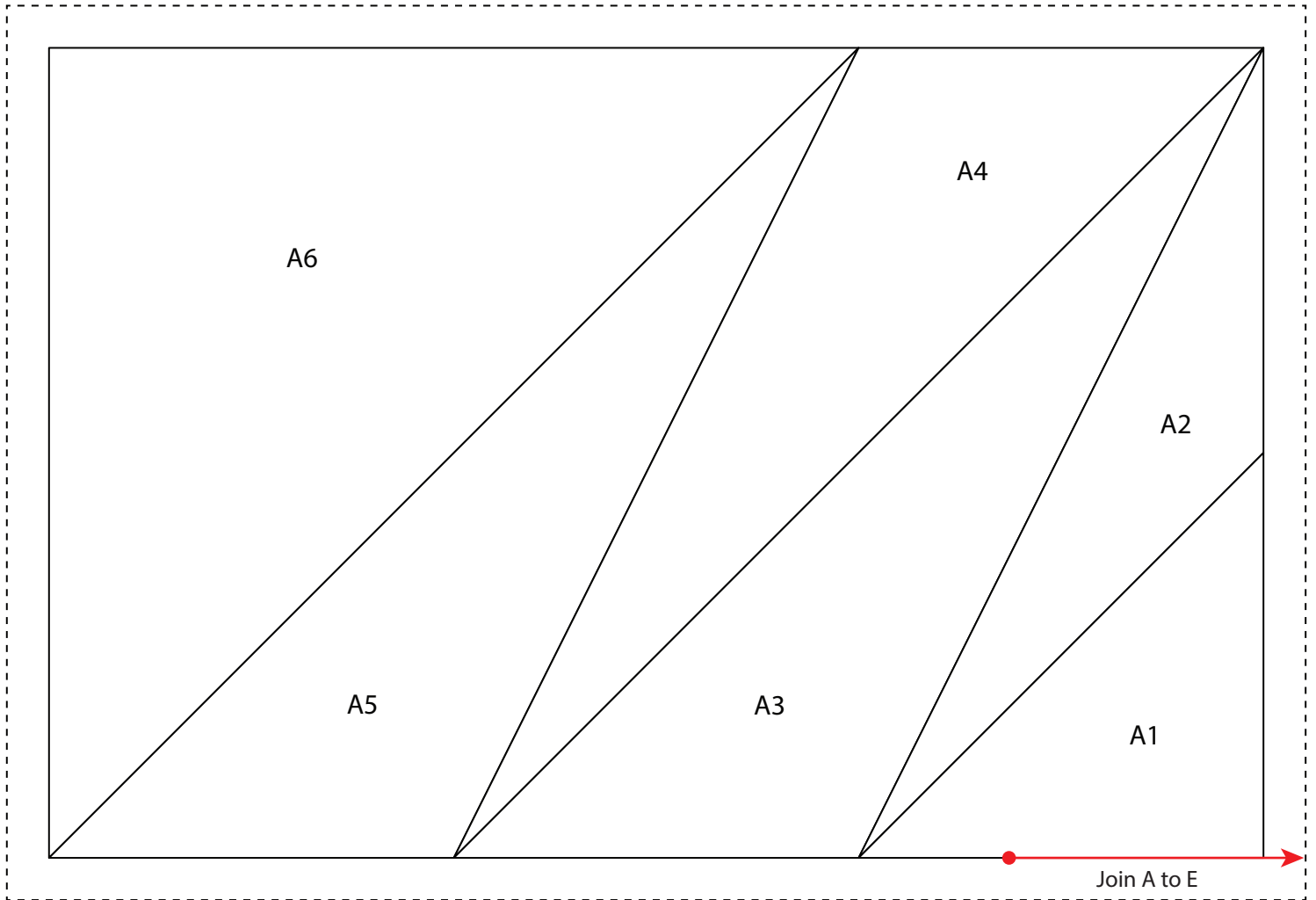
*NOTE: This diagram shows the paper template facing up. When you remove the paper from your finished block, this will be the BACK of your block. Refer to the line diagram/coloring block on the first page for a fabric placement view that shows the fabric side up.*





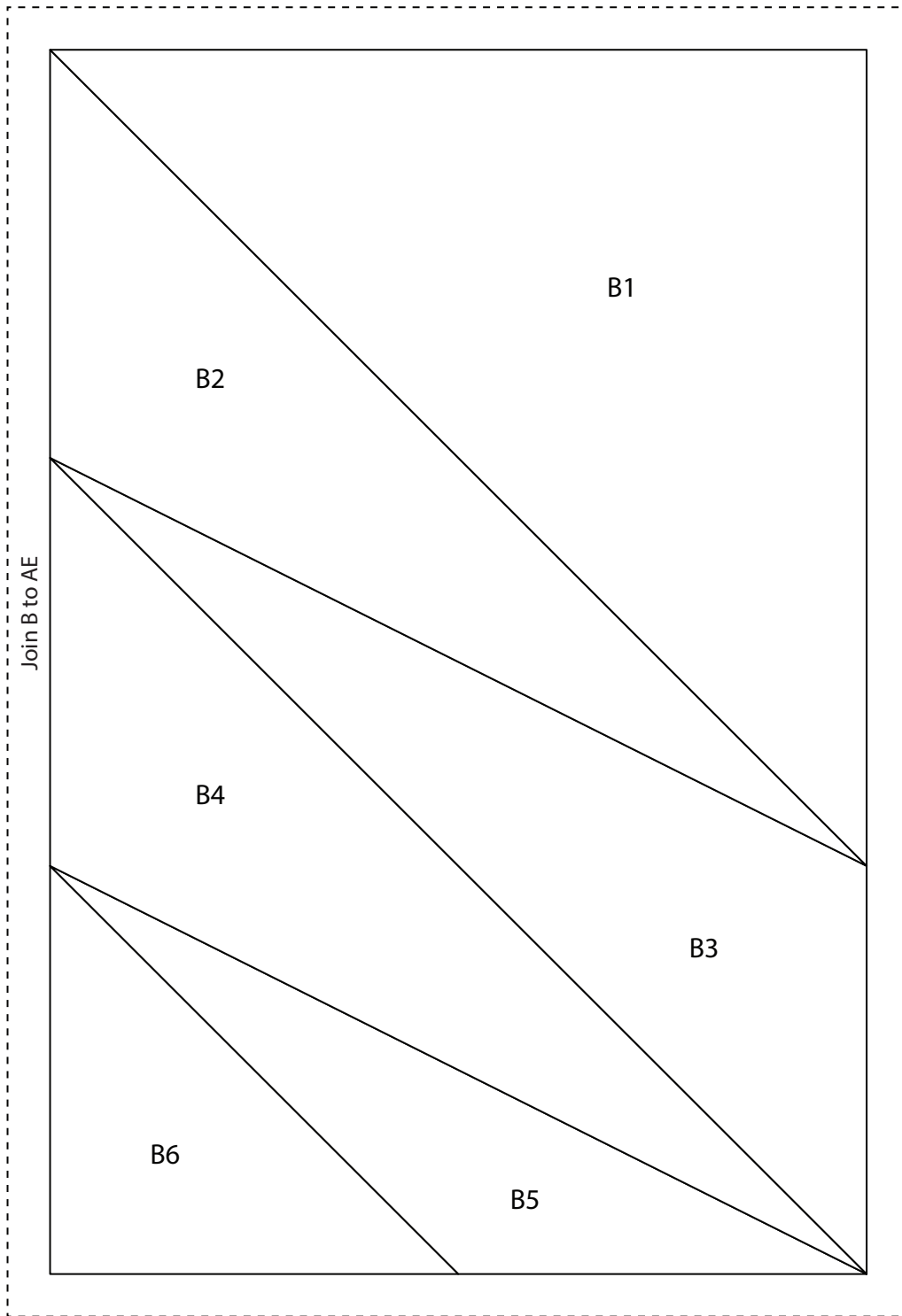


SCAN ME





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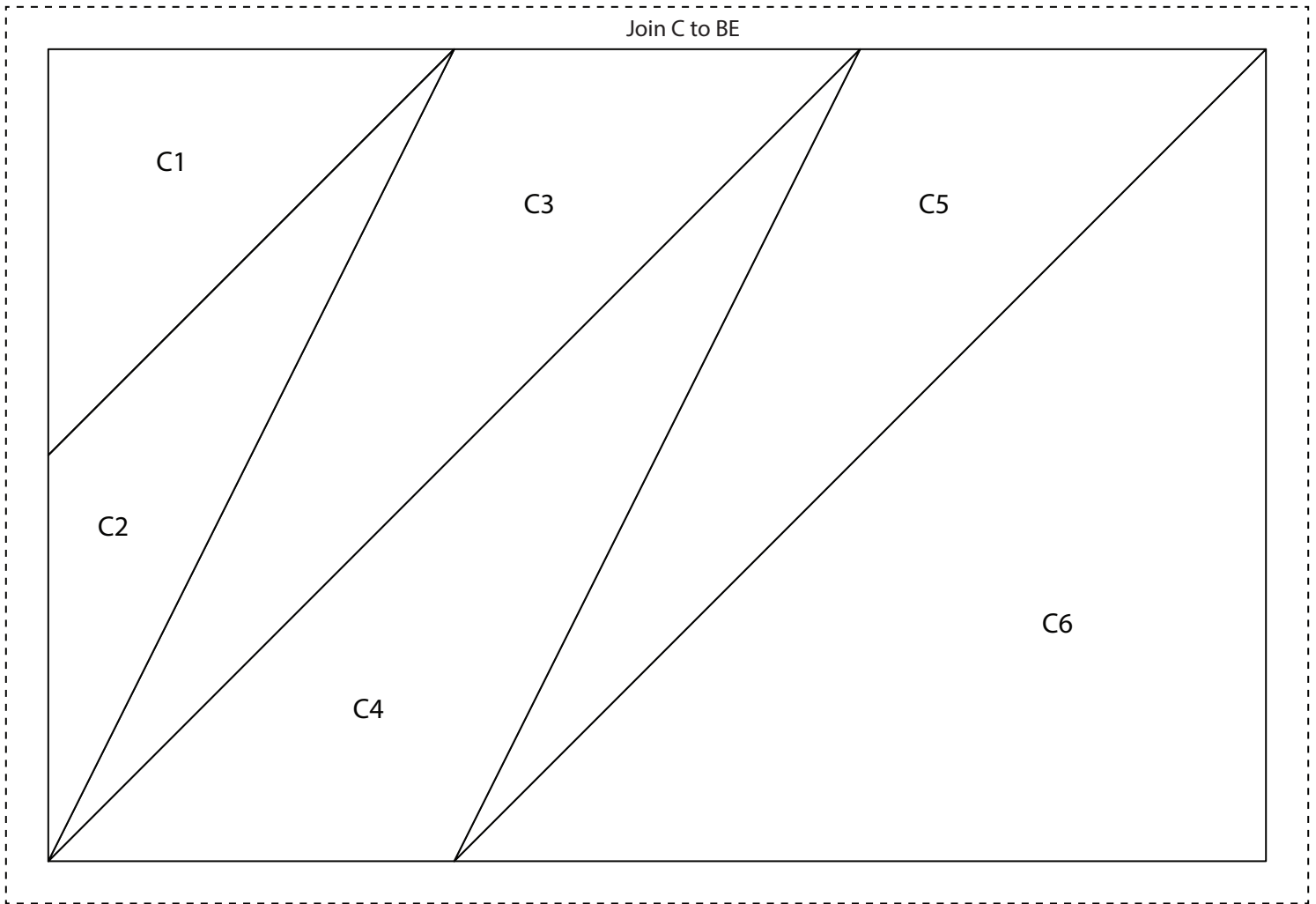
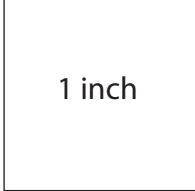


1 inch



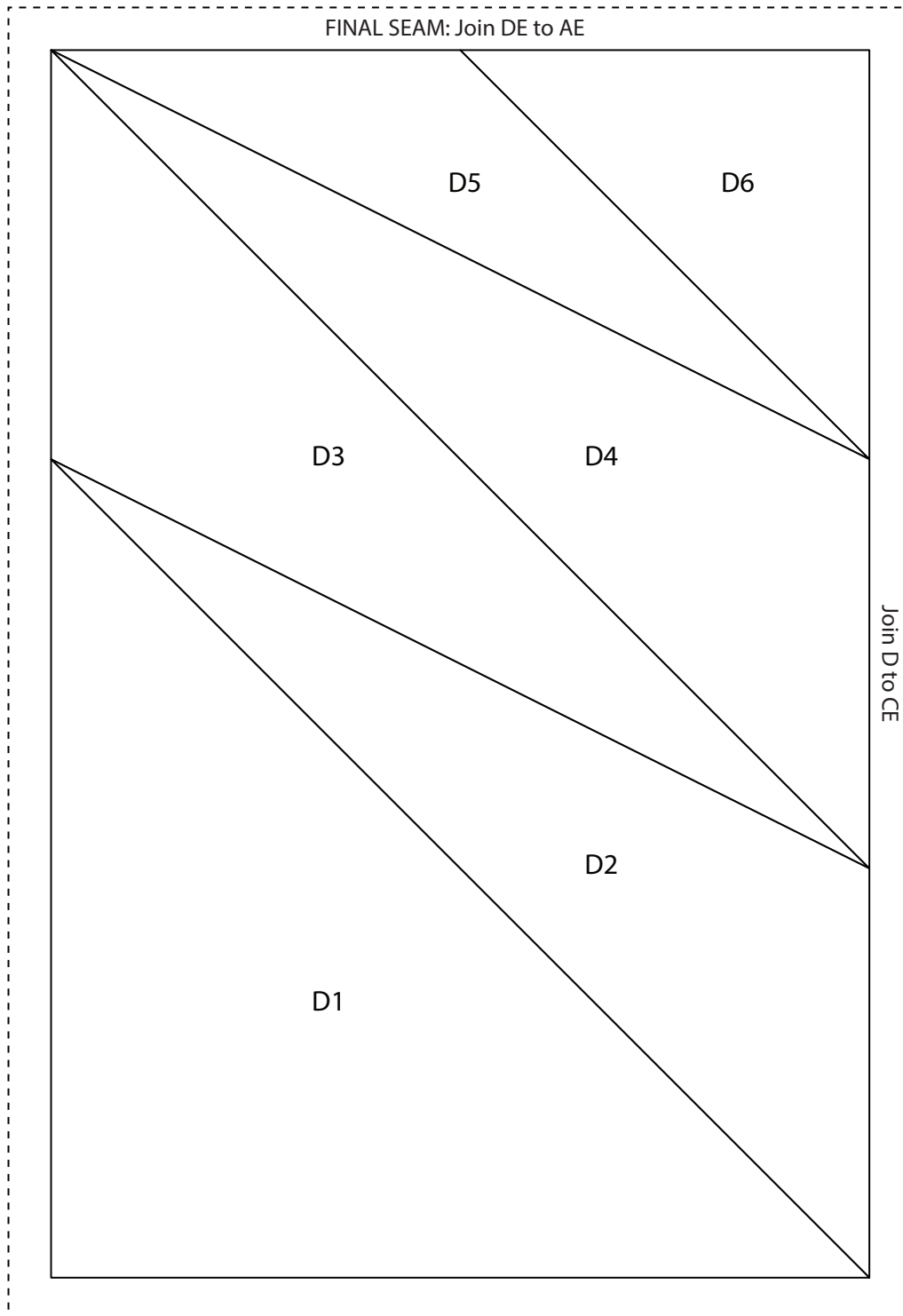


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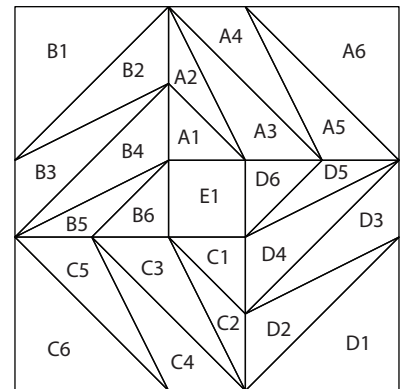
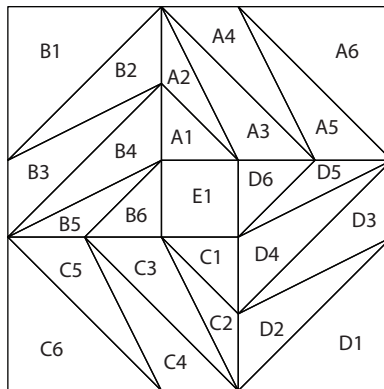
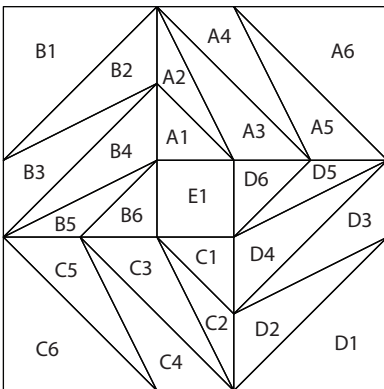
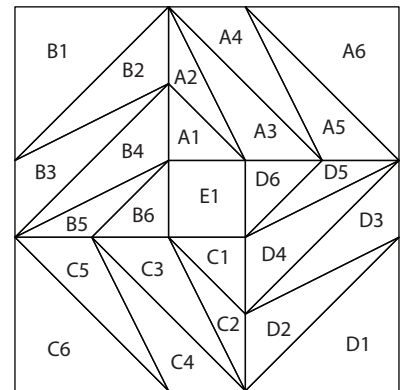
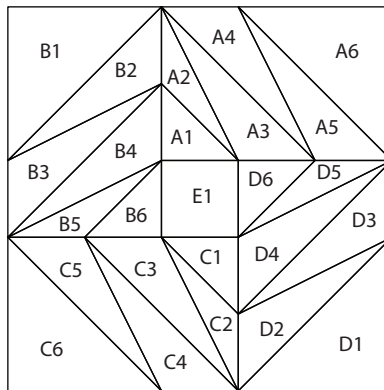
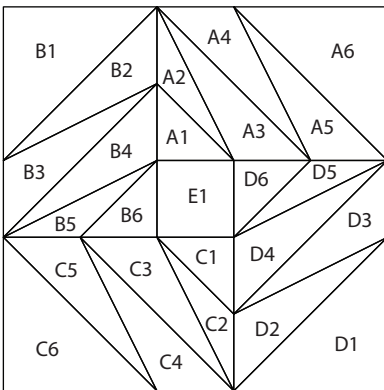
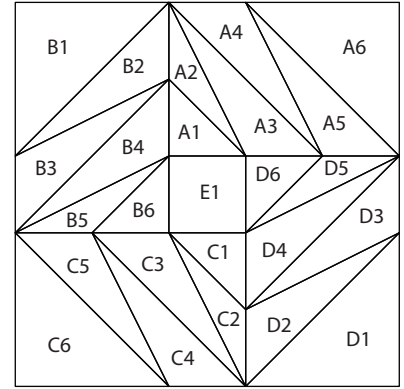
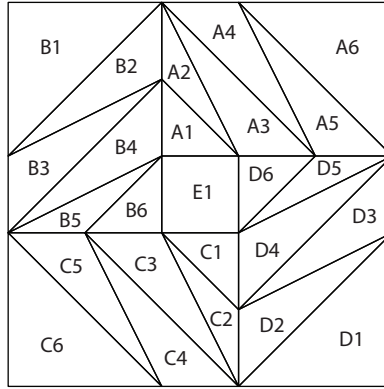
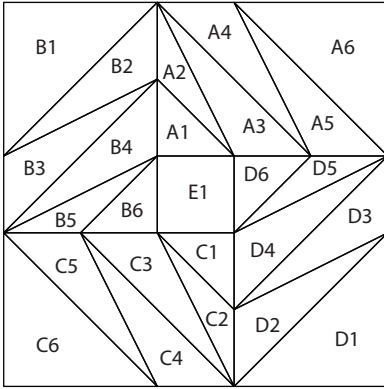
SCAN ME







## Additional Coloring Blocks



*Remember: These diagrams represent the block as it will appear when finished – fabric side up.  
 That is why the section letters appear in reverse of how they are shown on the paper templates.*

