

REVERSE PAPER PIECING

LOG CABIN BLOCK

Foundation Paper Piecing Made Easy

This new technique for paper piecing is made possible with the help of an Ultimate Seam Guide. All sewing is done by placing the fabric pieces on the printed side of the paper, which eliminates most pinning or the need to turn the paper over or hold it up to a light. Fabric pieces are cut the exact size needed for less fabric waste with the exception of the outside edges, resulting in less time trimming excess seam allowances.

Great results every time!

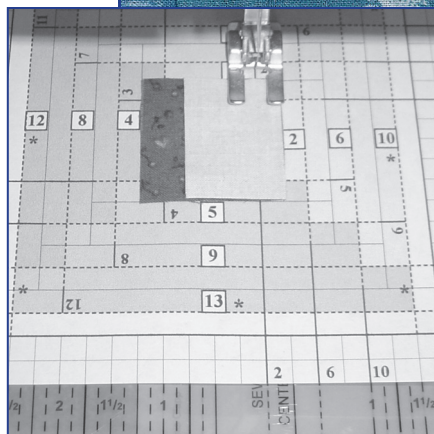
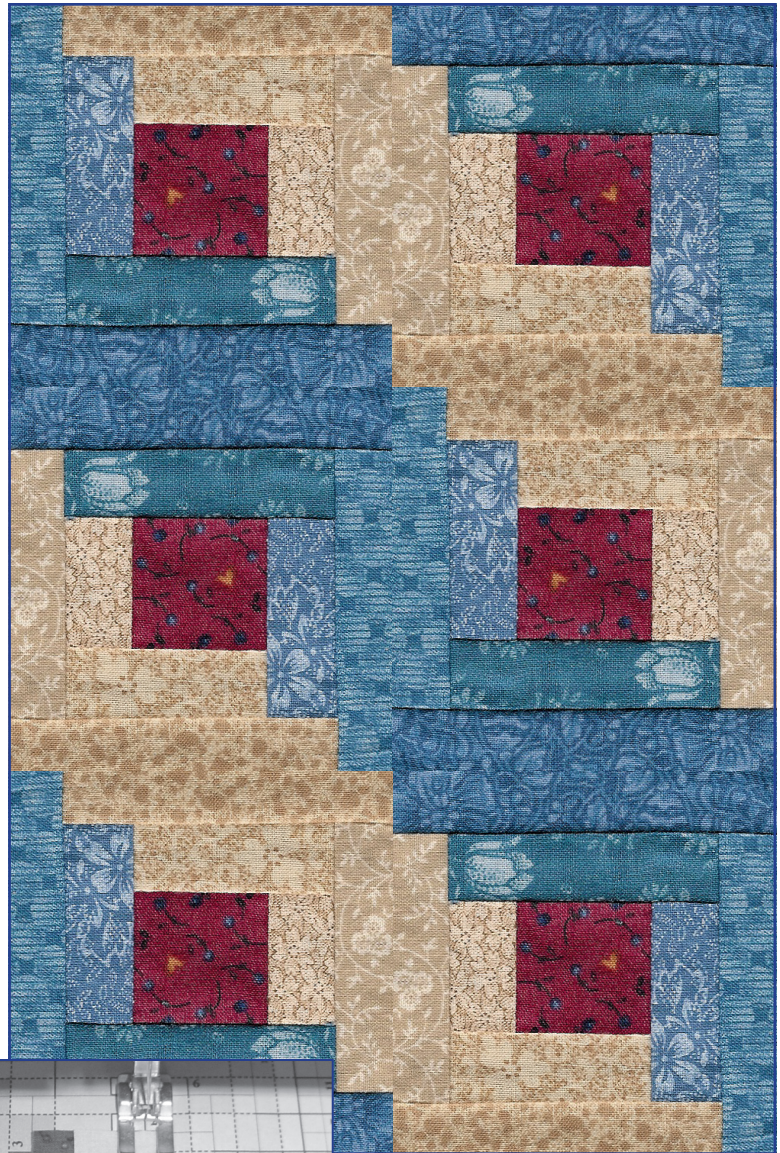
Perfect for miniature quilt blocks.

Full-size pattern in
4 block sizes.

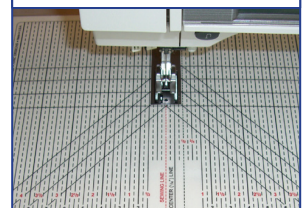


1/4", 3/16", and 1/8"
grid paper included
for drafting your own
log cabin style blocks.

by Annis Clapp



fast2sew™ Ultimate
Seam Guide



REVERSE PAPER PIECING

This paper piecing technique was designed to be used with simple block pieces that can be cut easily with a rotary cutter but are often difficult to sew accurately because of their small size or angles. It works best for miniature block sizes up to 6" and requires the use of an open toe walking foot for best results. The foundation paper I recommend for this technique is Papers for Foundation Piecing by That Patchwork Place or Carol Doak's Foundation Paper by C & T Publishing. These are lightweight, absorb the ink so it won't transfer to the fabric, and tear away easily. With good lighting the seam lines can be seen on the back of the paper for trimming the block and final block assembly. For a see-through paper use Simple Foundations Translucent Vellum Paper by C & T Publishing.

PROS

No turning the paper over (except for clipping threads) or holding it up to a light. The printed side always faces up while piecing the blocks.

No pinning, taping, or gluing needed. Fabric pieces can be held in place with your fingers since they are placed on top of the paper instead of underneath.

Fabric pieces are cut close to the exact size needed for less fabric waste. This makes it easier to keep the grain line going in the proper direction and allows for fussy cutting and the easier use of plaids, stripes, and one-way prints.

Since pieces are cut close to the exact size needed, it is easy to line them up to see how the finished block will look before sewing.

You don't need a mirror image. The finished block is what you see on the pattern.

Less trimming of excess fabric except for points when sewing triangles or odd shapes. Some triangle points may be trimmed ahead of time to make it easier to line up the triangles in the correct position for sewing.

Missewn seams can usually be removed and resewn without using tape.

Extra lines around outside edge of block can be used for precision piecing $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " borders (if they can be seen on the back side of the paper with the sewing machine light).

CONS

Reducing or enlarging the block patterns changes the width of the seam allowance markings.

Solution: You can usually estimate a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. It doesn't have to be exact. It may be preferable to use a narrower seam allowance on smaller block sizes.

Paper and fabric do not feed evenly without the use of a walking foot. The top fabric will stretch and shift to the left.

Solution: If you are in the market for a new sewing machine, consider purchasing a Pfaff with dual feed built-in. I have had some success using fabric strips cut on the lengthwise grain or using heavy spray starch without using a walking foot. Also you could try pinning the pieces to the paper before sewing, but this would take extra time. Flannels should always be sewn with a walking foot and cut on the lengthwise grain for less stretching.

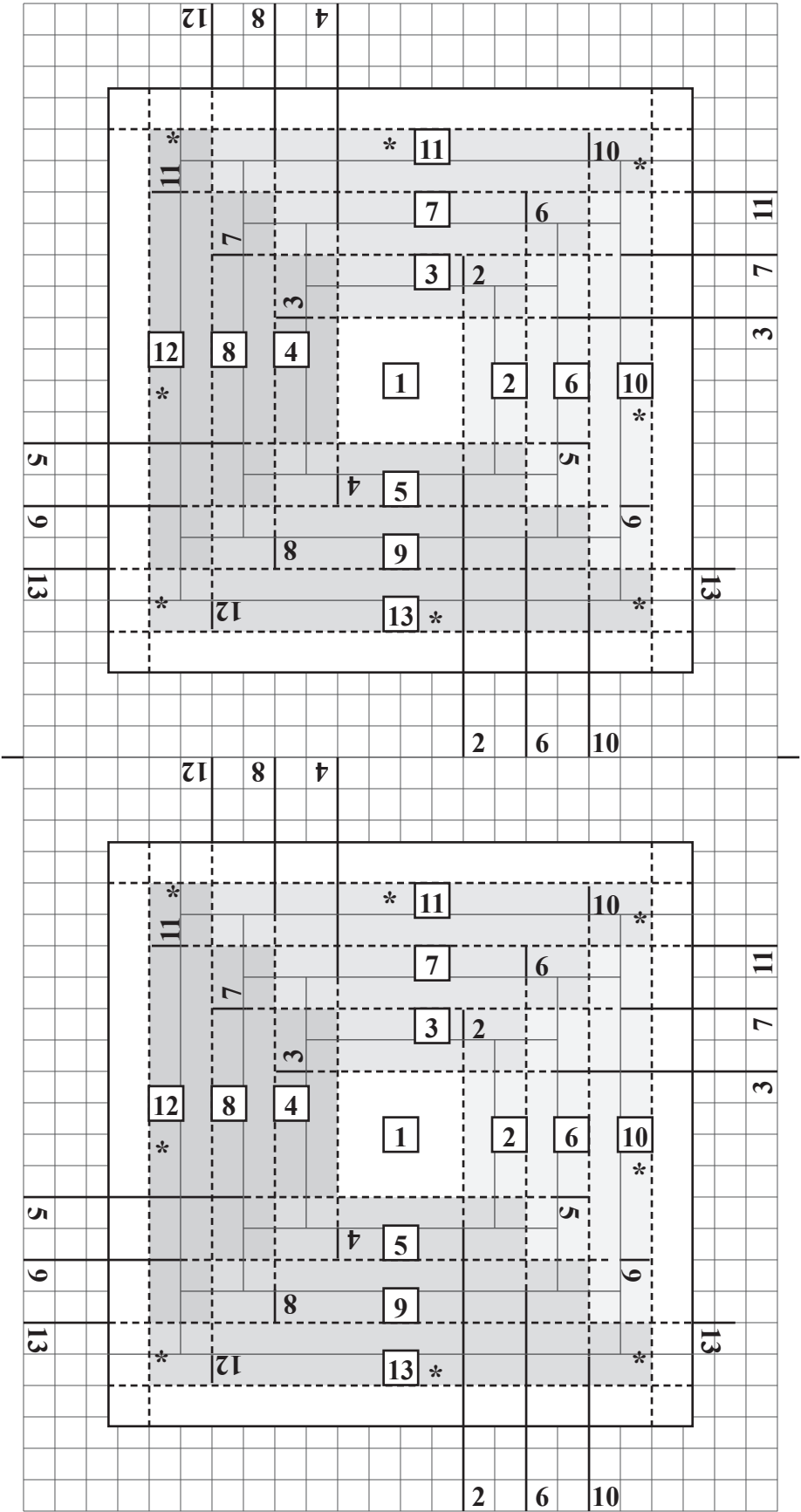
Fabric pieces must be cut close to the exact size needed when using odd shapes.

Solution: Although this technique was originally designed for pieces that can be cut easily with a rotary cutter and ruler, occasionally you may want to use it for odd-shaped pieces. Simply trace the finished shape on the dull side of freezer paper, marking the straight grain of fabric. Cut out leaving a small border (over $\frac{1}{4}$ "). Use a dry iron to iron it shiny side down to the front side of a piece of fabric (back side if you need a mirror image) and place the $\frac{1}{4}$ " line of a ruler on the traced lines to rotary cut while adding seam allowances. If you find it easier to line up the pieces with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance, draw your guidelines on the paper foundations at the $\frac{3}{8}$ " mark for easier alignment. Always add $\frac{3}{8}$ " to seams on the outer edges of the block. Trim any long points and mark dots at each corner for easier placement. Layer fabrics before cutting to cut several pieces at the same time. Registration marks may be added to the pattern and the fabric pieces if you are having trouble lining them up correctly.

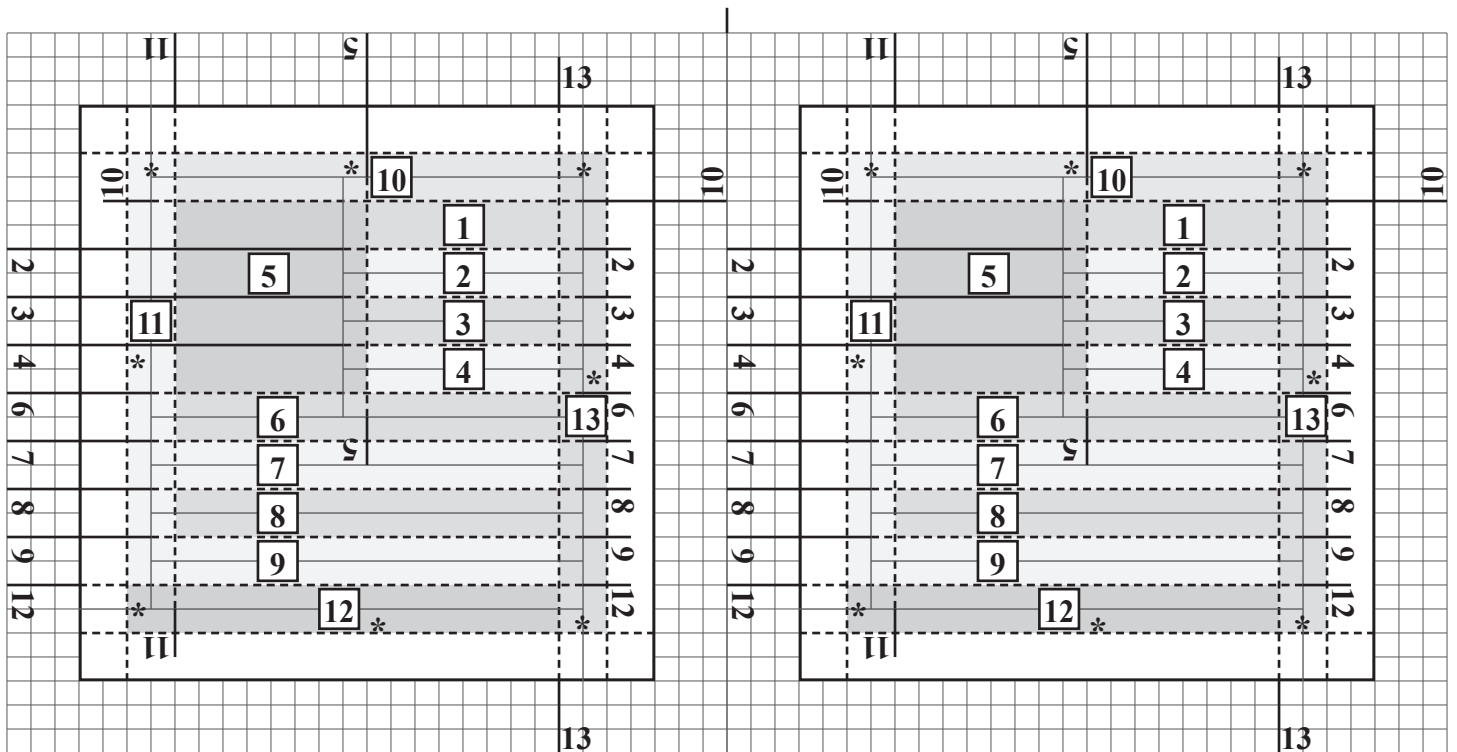
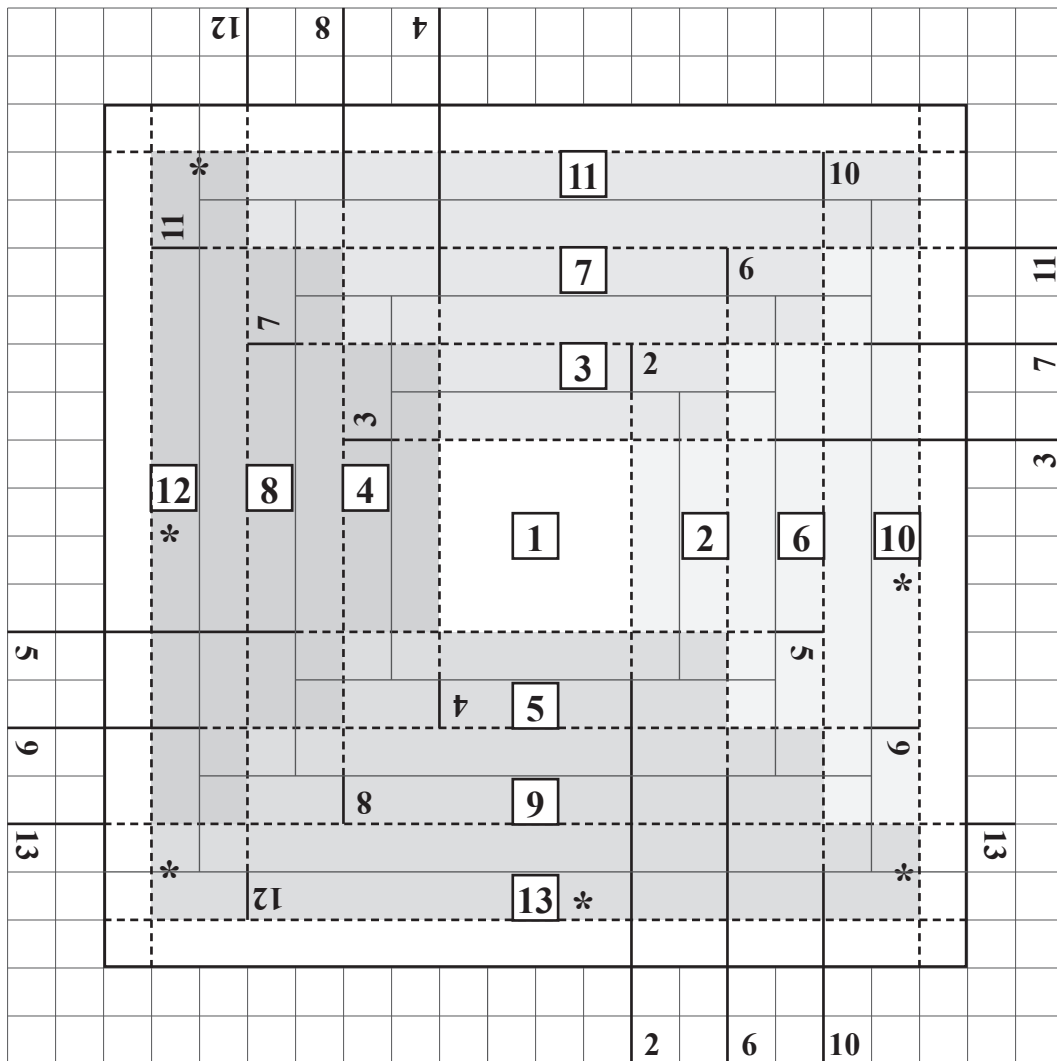
Sometimes the seam allowance of a darker fabric extends past the seam allowance of a lighter fabric.

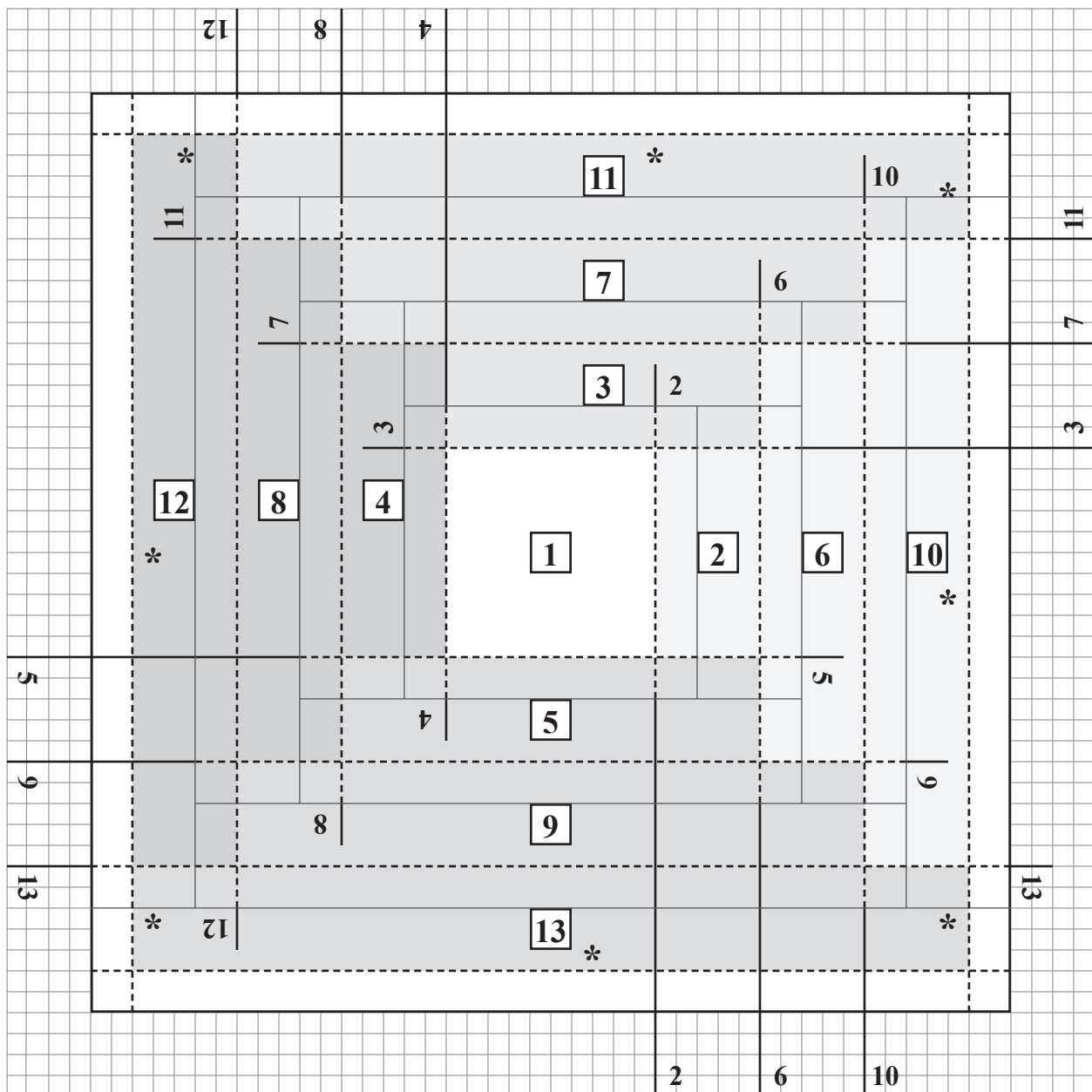
Solution: Fold the paper on the seam line and trim the darker fabric. You may need to pull some stitches from previous seams away from the paper in order to fold it.

Finished Size: 3" square • 3/16" seam allowance (1/4" on outside edges) • Trim Size: 3 1/2" square



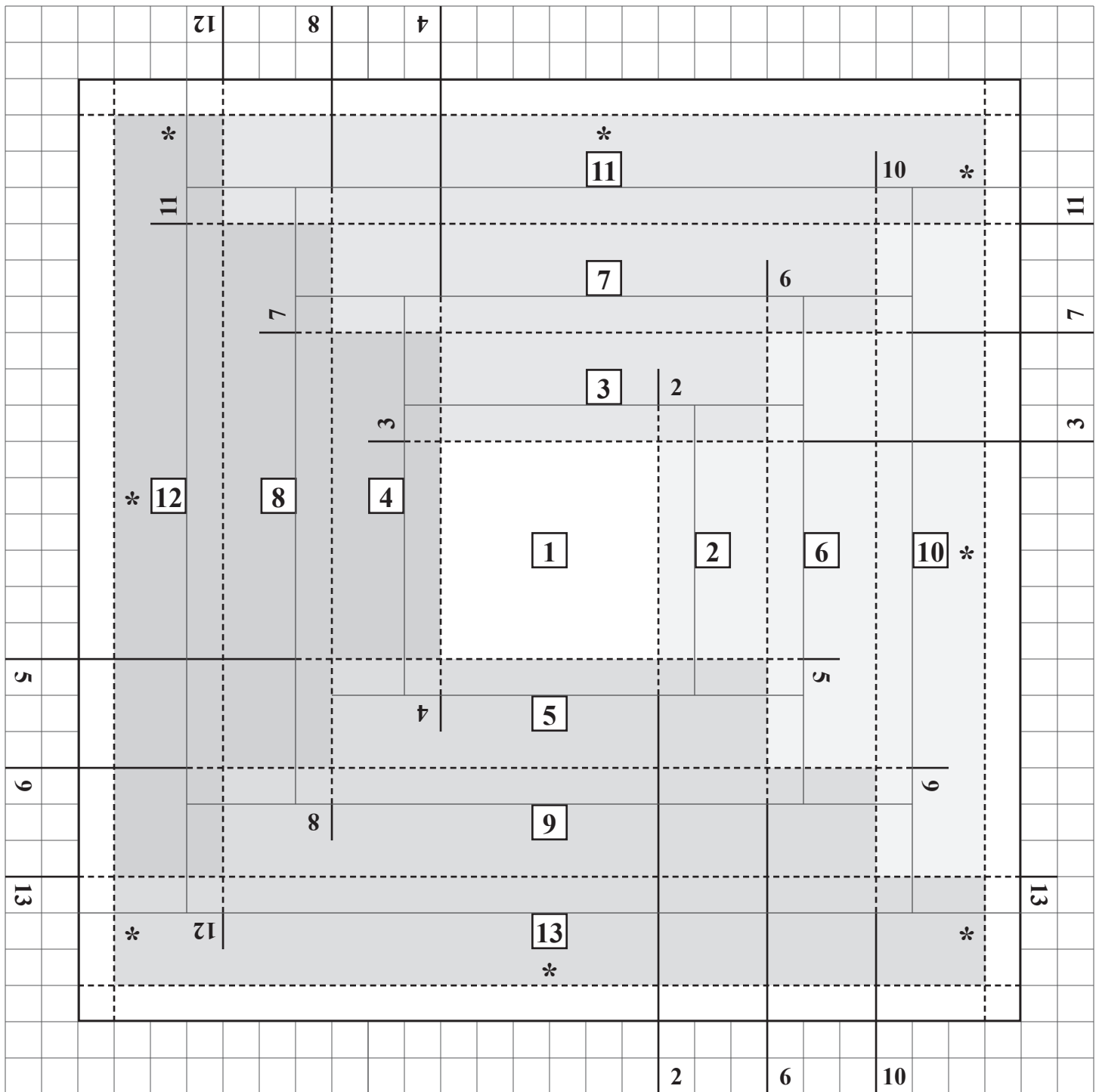
Finished Size: 4" square • 1/4" seam allowance • Trim Size: 4 1/2" square





To draft your own pattern, choose the grid size that works best for your pattern dimensions and seam allowances. For instance, if your pattern pieces use 1/8" measurements or you are using 1/8" seam allowances, use the 1/8" grid. Draw the finished block units on the grid with a dotted line. Extend the lines for the width of the seam allowance. Shade in the color values. Draw a 1/4" seam allowance around the outside edge. Number each piece in the order they will be sewn. Measure each piece and add the seam allowance to the measurement. Add an extra 1/8" to the sides of the pieces that are on the outside edge. Write the measurement on the piece or on a separate piece of paper. Draw the extended lines on the grid and label for each numbered piece. Make copies and cut out leaving an extra 1/2" on all sides.

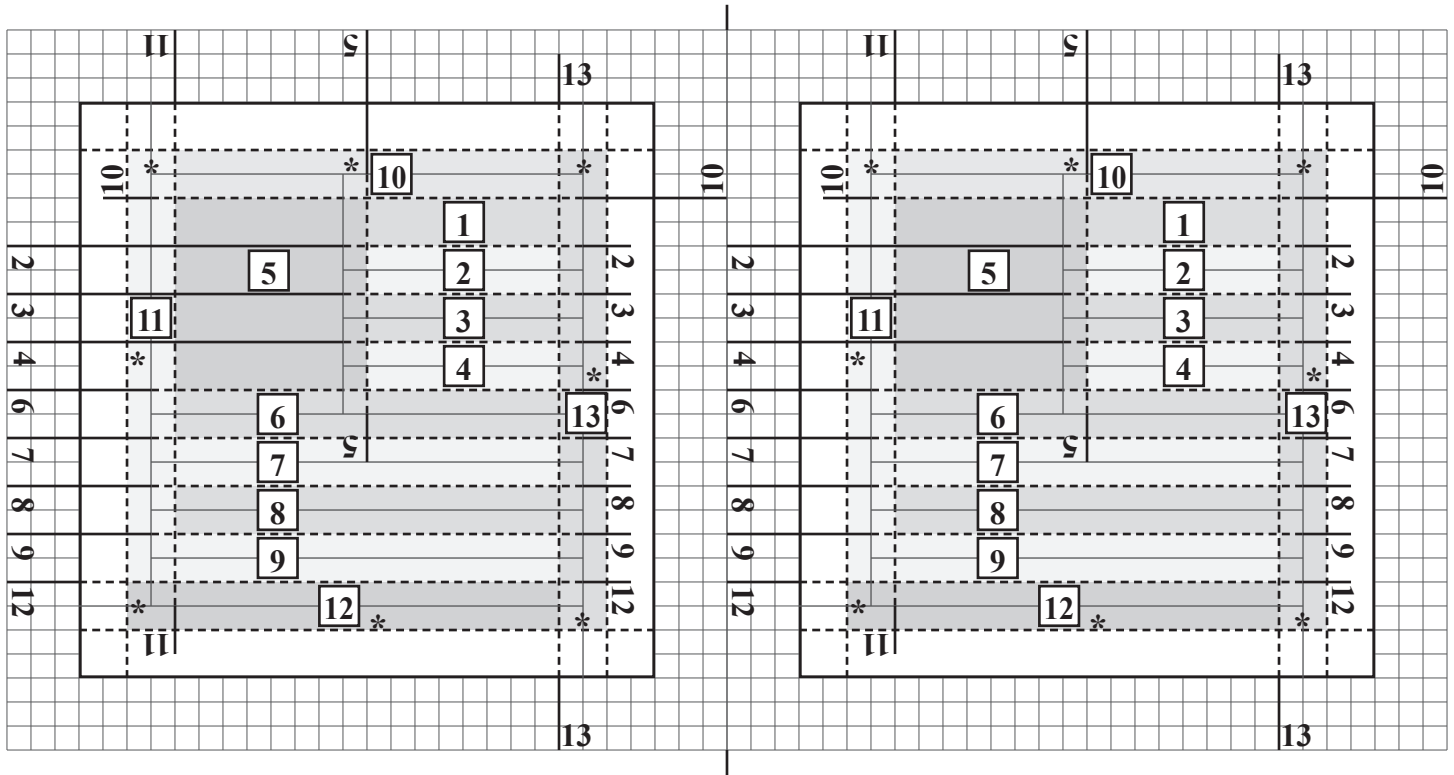
Note: When using 1/8" seam allowances, cut your pieces about 1/16" larger than the size needed.



ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

- *If possible, use an inkjet all-in-one printer instead of a copy machine for making copies, and foundation paper made for inkjet printers that absorbs the ink for less ink transfer.*

The Extension for the Seam Guide is no longer available, but you can easily make your own if the line in front of the needle is not long enough for all of the block units. Simply draw a red line down the center of a ruled index card. Laminate the card or cover it with clear packaging tape. Line it up with the red sewing line on the Seam Guide and tape in place.



BONUS BLOCK • FRAMED FLAG

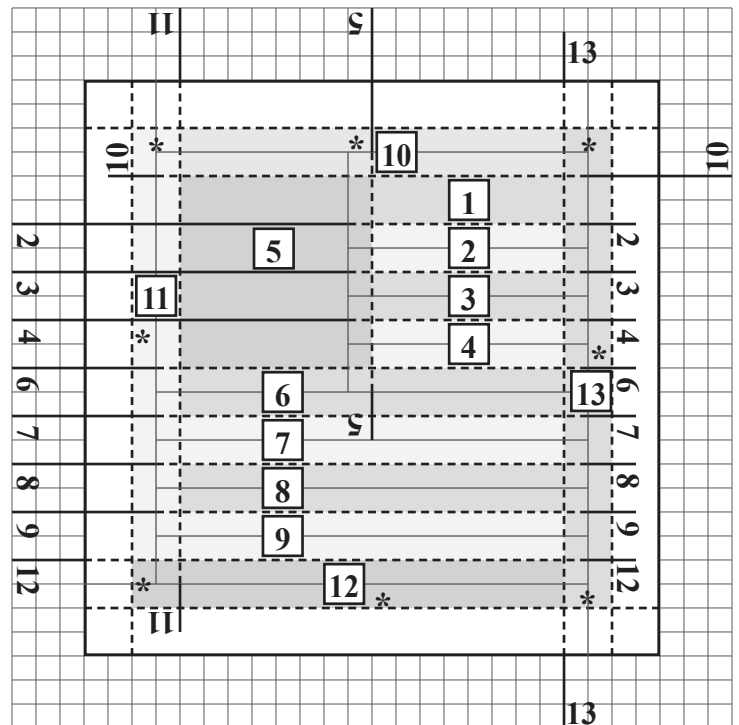
Finished Size: $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (5") square • $\frac{1}{8}$ " ($\frac{1}{4}$ ") seam allowance
($\frac{1}{4}$ " on outside edges) • Trim Size: 3" ($5\frac{1}{2}$ ") square

Finished Size	$2\frac{1}{2}$ "	5"
1 - Medium	$1\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ "	$2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1"
2 - Light	$1\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ "	$2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1"
3 - Medium	$1\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ "	$2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1"
4 - Light	$1\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ "	$2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1"
5 - Dark	$1\frac{1}{4}$ " x $1\frac{1}{4}$ "	$2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ "
6 - Medium	$2\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ "	$4\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1"
7 - Light	$2\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ "	$4\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1"
8 - Medium	$2\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ "	$4\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1"
9 - Light	$2\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ "	$4\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1"
*10 - Light	$2\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ "	$4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $1\frac{1}{8}$ "
*11 - Light	$2\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ "	$5\frac{1}{8}$ " x $1\frac{1}{8}$ "
*12 - Dark	$2\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ "	$5\frac{1}{8}$ " x $1\frac{1}{8}$ "
*13 - Dark	$3\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ "	$5\frac{3}{4}$ " x $1\frac{1}{8}$ "

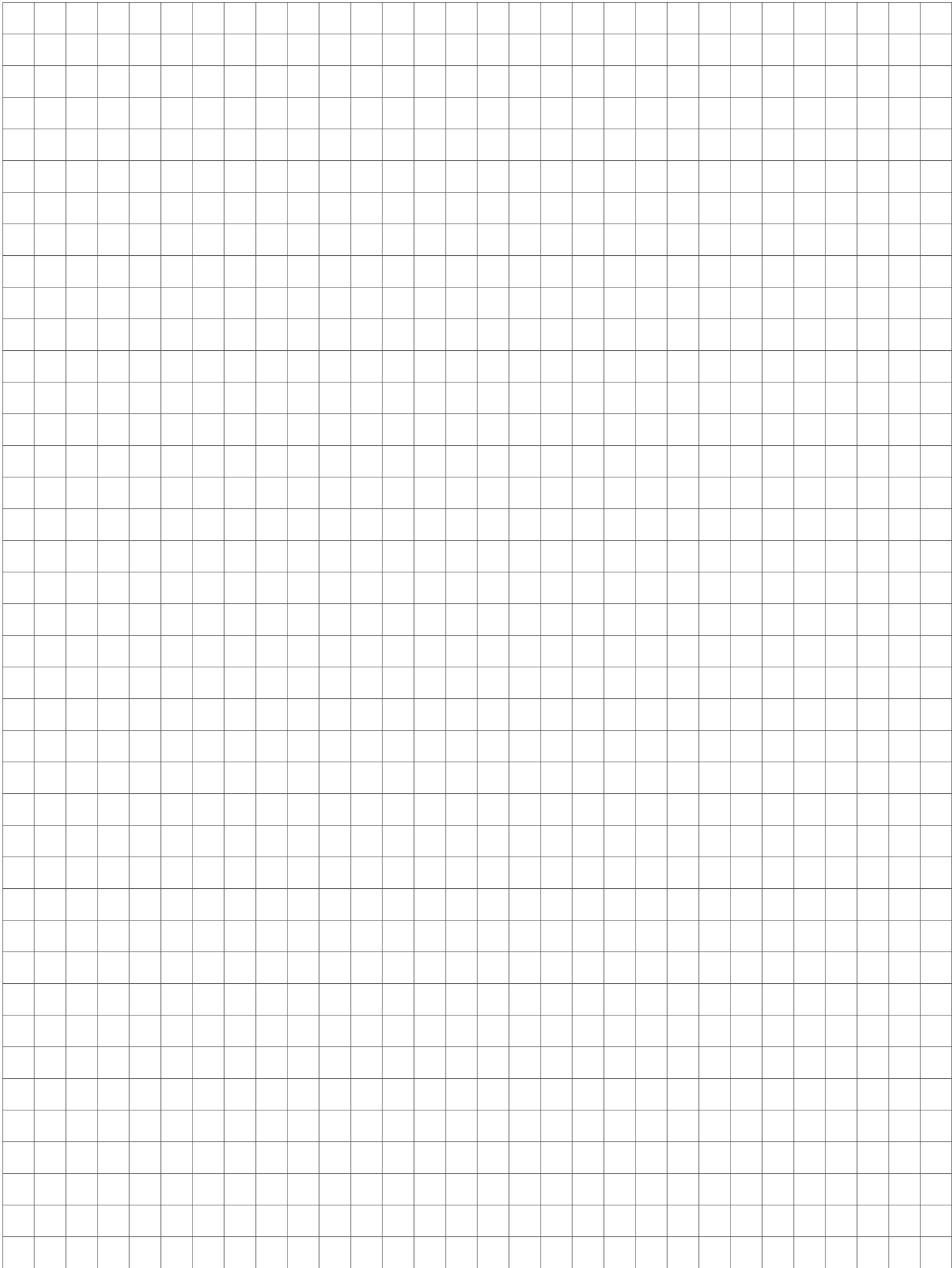
* Extra width allowed for outside edges.

Cut pieces for $2\frac{1}{2}$ " square a fraction of an inch larger than specified. Be extra careful the fabric doesn't shift while sewing and make sure the stitches end on the solid line.

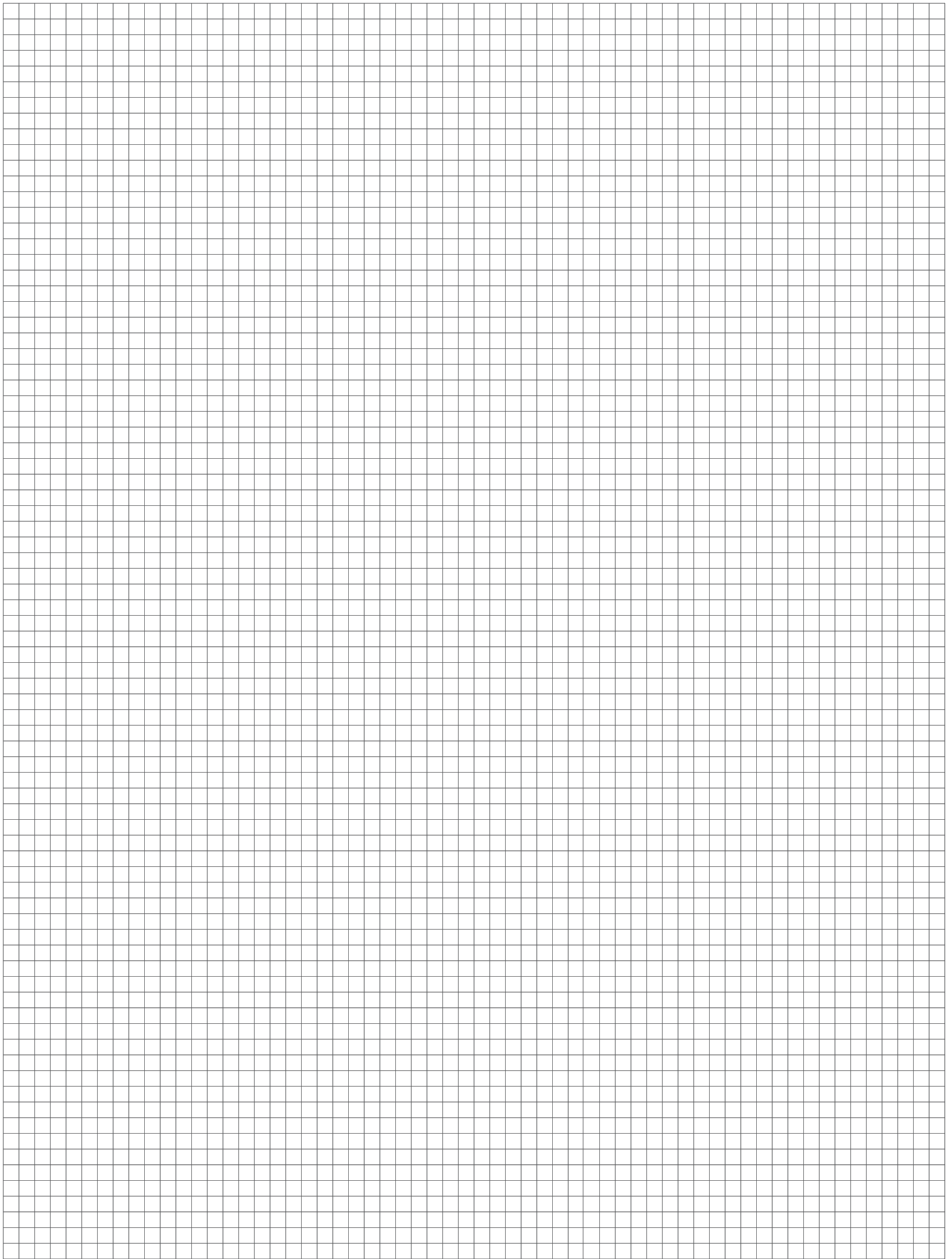
For 5" block, increase 200% on copy machine and adjust outside seam allowance by $\frac{1}{4}$ ".



These instructions are presented in good faith, but no warranty is given, nor results guaranteed. AMC Designs disclaims any liability for unfavorable results.







GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- *If the foundation copy paper you are using shrinks during the pressing process, increase the pattern to 101% when making copies.*
- *Make all copies for the same project on the same copy machine using the original block pattern. Do not make a copy from a copy.*
- *Make a sample block first before cutting all of the pieces for multiple blocks.*
- *Do not place iron directly on printed side of paper when pressing seams.*

MAKING FOUNDATION COPIES

1. Using a copy machine, make the number of copies needed for the desired block size.
2. Trim copies along the edge of the grid lines.

PREPARING & CUTTING FABRIC

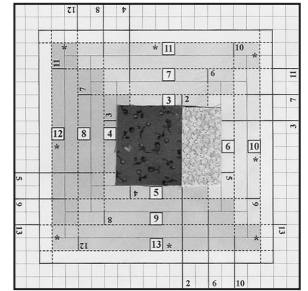
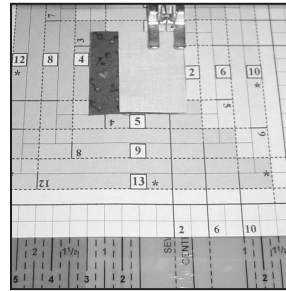
1. Prewash and iron fabric.
2. Rotary cut fabric strips across the width of the fabric. Cut strips into pieces the size needed for the desired block size. Stack pieces in separate piles in the order needed and label #1 thru #13.

PREPARING TO SEW

1. Place the **Ultimate Seam Guide** on the sewing machine. (Follow instructions to cut opening for needle and feed dogs.) Make sure the needle lines up with the red sewing line on the **Seam Guide** and tape in place.
2. Set sewing machine stitch length to 18-20 stitches per inch (1.5 on some sewing machines). Use an open toe walking foot for best results. If you are sewing with a Pfaff sewing machine with dual feed, use an open toe appliqué foot and engage the dual feed.
3. The dotted lines on the block patterns are the sewing lines. You will not be able to see these lines as you sew because the fabric will be covering them. The solid lines extending from the dotted lines will be used to line up the dotted lines with the needle and the red sewing line on the **Seam Guide**. The numbers beside these lines coincide with the same numbered fabric piece. The 1/4" space outside the shaded block area is the seam allowance for sewing the blocks together.

PIECING THE BLOCKS

1. Place the fabric for piece #1 right side up on the **printed** side of the paper. Place fabric piece #2 on top of piece #1, right sides together, along the joining seam line. Holding the fabrics in place, align the needle at the edge of the fabric on the short extended solid line #2. Align the long extended solid line with the sewing line on the **Seam Guide**. Sew seam, making sure the solid line stays on the sewing line of the **Seam Guide**. Repeat for each block without cutting the thread between them until pieces #1 and #2 are sewn on all blocks. Trim threads, open up piece #2 and press with a dry iron on cotton setting.



2. Rotate pattern 90° clockwise and place fabric piece #3 on top of pieces #1/#2, right sides together, along the joining seam line, making sure fabric stays within the seam allowance. Repeat **Step 1** using sewing line #3.
3. Repeat this process until all pieces are sewn, adding pieces in numerical order.
4. Turn the block over and use a square ruler and rotary cutter to trim to the finished block size plus 1/2" for seam allowances. If you can't see the lines on the back side of the paper, hold the paper up to a light and mark the corners with a pencil before trimming.

ASSEMBLING THE BLOCKS

1. Arrange blocks as desired and sew into rows using a 1/4" foot. Remove paper from seam allowances. Press seams in every other row in opposite directions.
2. Sew rows together. Remove paper from seam allowances and all inside blocks. Press seams in one direction.
3. Add borders. Press seams toward borders. Remove paper from remaining blocks. Carefully press all seams with a down-up motion. Do not slide iron across seams. Finish quilt as desired.

P102 LOG CABIN BLOCK

SUPPLIES NEEDED

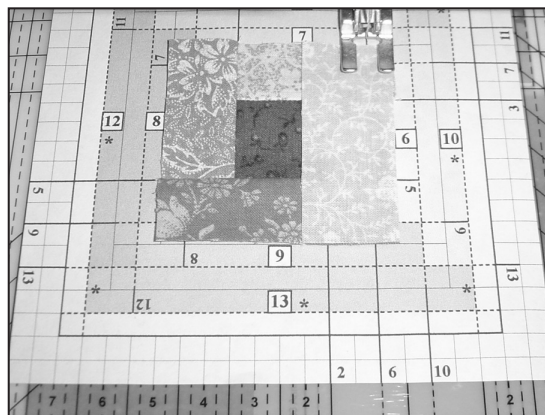
fast2sew™ Ultimate Seam Guide

Foundation Copy Paper

Open Toe Walking Foot

Fabric - 6 Light, 6 Dark, and 1 Center Square

Thread

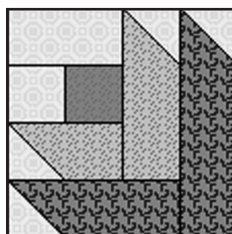
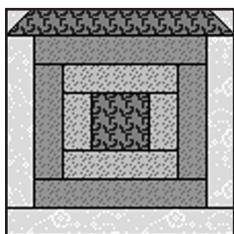
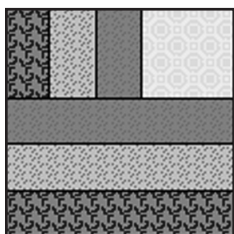
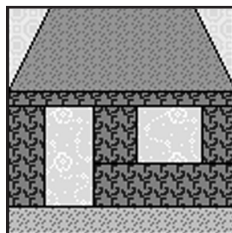
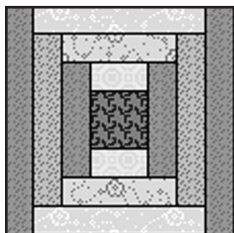
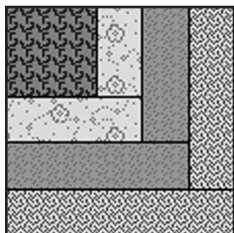


CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

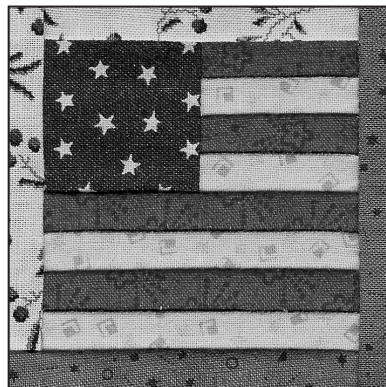
Finished Block Size	3"	4"	5"	6"
1 - Center Square	1 1/8" x 1 1/8"	1 1/2" x 1 1/2"	1 3/4" x 1 3/4"	2" x 2"
2 - Light	1 1/8" x 3/4"	1 1/2" x 1"	1 3/4" x 1 1/8"	2" x 1 1/4"
3 - Light	1 1/2" x 3/4"	2" x 1"	2 3/8" x 1 1/8"	2 3/4" x 1 1/4"
4 - Dark	1 1/2" x 3/4"	2" x 1"	2 3/8" x 1 1/8"	2 3/4" x 1 1/4"
5 - Dark	1 7/8" x 3/4"	2 1/2" x 1"	3" x 1 1/8"	3 1/2" x 1 1/4"
6 - Light	1 7/8" x 3/4"	2 1/2" x 1"	3" x 1 1/8"	3 1/2" x 1 1/4"
7 - Light	2 1/4" x 3/4"	3" x 1"	3 5/8" x 1 1/8"	4 1/4" x 1 1/4"
8 - Dark	2 1/4" x 3/4"	3" x 1"	3 5/8" x 1 1/8"	4 1/4" x 1 1/4"
9 - Dark	2 5/8" x 3/4"	3 1/2" x 1"	4 1/4" x 1 1/8"	5" x 1 1/4"
*10 - Light	2 5/8" x 1"	3 1/2" x 1 1/8"	4 1/4" x 1 1/4"	5" x 1 3/8"
*11 - Light	3 1/4" x 1"	4 1/8" x 1 1/8"	5" x 1 1/4"	5 7/8" x 1 3/8"
*12 - Dark	3 1/4" x 1"	4 1/8" x 1 1/8"	5" x 1 1/4"	5 7/8" x 1 3/8"
*13 - Dark	3 3/4" x 1"	4 3/4" x 1 1/8"	5 3/4" x 1 1/4"	6 3/4" x 1 3/8"

* Extra width allowed for outside edges.

OTHER POSSIBILITIES



BONUS BLOCK



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