

# REVERSE PAPER PIECING GEESE AMONG THE STARS

Foundation Paper Piecing Made Easy



Lap Size or Miniature  
Designed by Annis Clapp  
Machine Quilted by Donna Akins

fast2sew™ Ultimate  
Seam Guide



# GEESE AMONG THE STARS

Read all instructions carefully before starting.

- *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.*
- *If possible, use an inkjet all-in-one printer instead of a copy machine, and foundation paper made for inkjet printers that absorbs the ink for less ink transfer.*
- *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. Use a copy machine to make 80 copies of the 6" blocks for the 58" x 70" quilt (1 block per page) or 8 copies of the 3" blocks for the miniature quilt (2 blocks per page for a total of 16 blocks). ***Note:** When using a copy machine, you may find the photocopied blocks measure a fraction of an inch different in length than width. This is usually not a problem as the difference can easily be eased in when sewing the blocks together.*
2. Use a rotary cutter and ruler to cut out the copies on the outside solid lines. To staple them together and cut several at once, place on a light box or hold up to a bright light before stapling to be sure the blocks line up. Keep the A and B units separated.

## PREPARING & CUTTING FABRIC

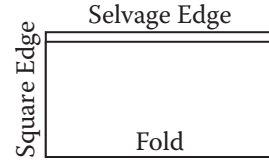
- *Prewash and iron fabric.*
- *Separate the light and dark fabrics.*
- *Due to the 45° angles and for easier cutting and piecing a slightly larger than needed seam allowance is added to all pieces except for Location #1 on the 6" blocks.*

Cutting instructions for borders and binding are on page 6.

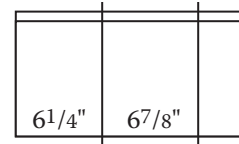
*Cover photo by Blauvelt Photography.*

For the 58" x 70" quilt (6" blocks)

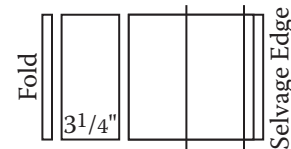
1. Fold fat quarters in half, wrong sides together as shown leaving the selvage edge exposed. This will give you a right and left piece with each cut. Square the left edge before cutting the strips.



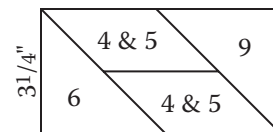
2. Layer 2 to 4 folded fat quarters, aligning the left edge and the fold. Cut 1 strip  $6\frac{1}{4}"$  wide and 1 strip  $6\frac{7}{8}"$  wide. Repeat for all fat quarters.



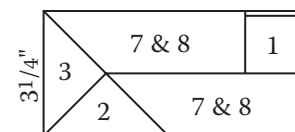
3. Starting at folded edge cut 3 rectangles  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " wide from each of the  $6\frac{1}{4}$ " and  $6\frac{7}{8}$ " strips.



4. From each end of the  $3\frac{1}{4}" \times 6\frac{1}{4}"$  rectangles cut one  $3\frac{1}{4}"$  triangle as shown for Locations #6 and #9. Cut remaining fabric in half lengthwise making  $1\frac{5}{8}"$  wide strips for Locations #4 and #5. Half will be mirror images.

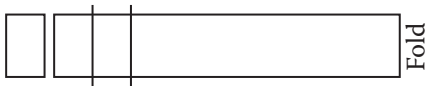


5. From one end of the  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x  $67\frac{7}{8}$ " rectangles cut one  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " triangle as shown. Cut in half for Locations #2 and #3. Cut remaining fabric in half lengthwise making  $1\frac{5}{8}$ " wide strips for Locations #7 and #8. Half will be mirror images. Cut a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " square from the end of each longer strip for Location #1.

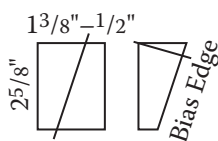




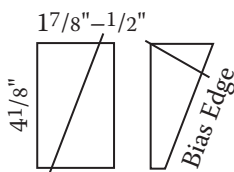
6. From each of the navy and yellow star fabrics cut 4 strips  $2\frac{5}{8}$ " wide and 5 strips  $4\frac{1}{8}$ " wide. With fabric strips folded wrong side together for right and left pieces, cut 80 pieces  $1\frac{7}{8}$ " x  $2\frac{5}{8}$ " and 80 pieces  $2\frac{3}{8}$ " x  $4\frac{1}{8}$ " from each fabric.



7. Cut the  $1\frac{7}{8}$ " x  $2\frac{5}{8}$ " pieces in half as shown in the diagram starting  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the top right corner and ending  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the bottom left corner for Locations #10 and #11. Half will be mirror images. Using Template 1 trim the corners as shown. You will be sewing on the bias edge.



8. Cut the  $2\frac{3}{8}$ " x  $4\frac{1}{8}$ " pieces in half as shown in the diagram starting  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the top right corner and ending  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the bottom left corner for Locations #12 and #13. Half will be mirror images. Using Template 2 trim the corners as shown. You will be sewing on the bias edge.



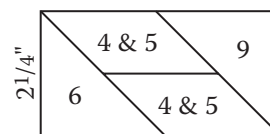
For the 18" x 18" miniature quilt (3" blocks)

*Note: If you want to make 2 miniature quilts as I did, cut twice as many pieces from twice as many fabrics and mix them up for sewing so each quilt will have a larger selection of fabrics.*

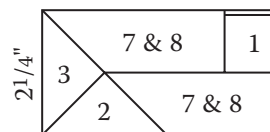
1. From each of 8 dark and 8 light fabrics cut 4 rectangles  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{4}$ ". If you are using strips of fabric, fold the fabric in half wrong sides together before cutting as shown in the diagram. Rectangles may be cut on the lengthwise or crosswise grain.



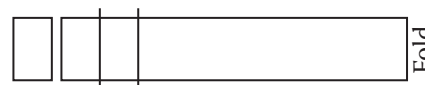
2. Layer 2 matching fabrics wrong sides together and cut one  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " triangle as shown from each end for Locations #6 and #9. Cut remaining fabric in half lengthwise making  $1\frac{1}{8}$ " wide strips for Locations #4 and #5. Half will be mirror images. Repeat for 2 of each fabric.



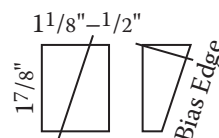
3. Layer 2 matching fabrics of remaining rectangles wrong sides together and cut one  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " triangle as shown. Cut in half for Locations #2 and #3. Cut remaining fabric in half lengthwise making  $1\frac{1}{8}$ " wide strips for Locations #7 and #8. Half will be mirror images. Cut a 1" square from the end of each longer strip for Location #1.



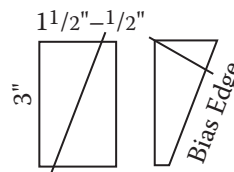
4. From each of the navy and yellow star fabrics, cut 1 strip  $1\frac{7}{8}$ " wide and 1 strip 3" wide. With fabric strips folded wrong sides together for right and left pieces, cut 16 pieces  $1\frac{5}{8}$ " x  $1\frac{7}{8}$ " and 16 pieces 2" x 3" from each fabric.



5. Repeat Step 7 of the larger quilt using  $1\frac{5}{8}$ " x  $1\frac{7}{8}$ " pieces and Template 3 for Locations #10 and #11.



6. Repeat Step 8 of the larger quilt using 2" x 3" pieces and Template 4 for Locations #12 and #13.



## PREPARING TO SEW

*Using an Ultimate Seam Guide will give you a smoother sewing surface and longer, easy to see seam allowance markings for more accurate piecing. It covers the uneven surface between the needle plate and sewing machine cabinet or tray so your fabric will feed smoothly and evenly. It also provides the line needed in front of the needle to make this piecing technique possible.*

1. Place the 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. The Extension 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.
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 dashed 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 dashed lines will be used to line up the dashed 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  $\frac{1}{4}$ " space outside the shaded block area is the seam allowance for sewing the blocks together.

## PIECING THE BLOCKS

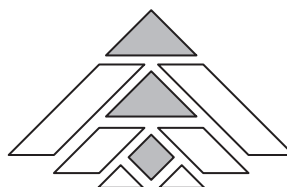
***Note:** Prefold the foundation paper for lines 10 thru 13. This will make it easier to trim the excess fabric before adding the star corners.*

If the paper pulls loose from the seams before you are finished, use tape sparingly to hold it in place. Do not let a hot iron touch the tape.

*You will have enough pieces to make 4 extra 6" blocks that could be used for a matching pillow.*

1. Separate the pieces for Units A and B. Unit A uses light background pieces and dark triangles and square and Unit B uses dark background pieces and light triangles and square. See Block Diagrams on page 5.

Unit A

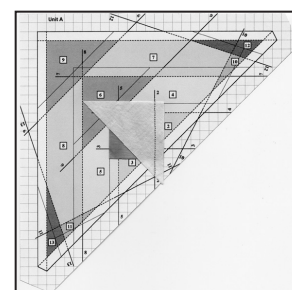
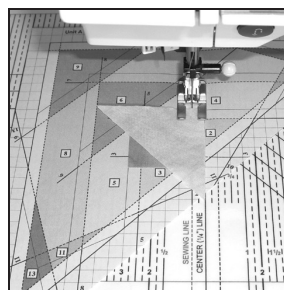


Unit B

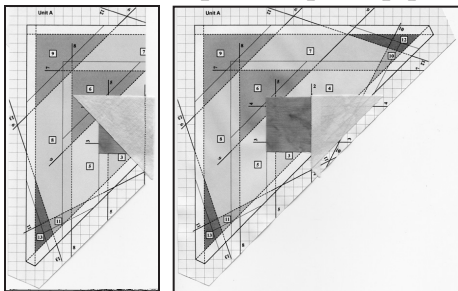


Use 1 light and 1 dark fabric for each block unit, mixing up the colors as desired. For faster piecing stack pieces 8 to 10 units at a time and chain piece. Work on Units A and B separately to avoid making mistakes in positioning the light and dark fabrics. Pay close attention that you are starting with the correct fabric as you start each piece. You may need to flip the stack over after trimming and pressing if they are in the wrong order.

2. 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. (***Tip:** As you near the end of the fabric, change your focus to the solid line at the edge of the fabric and eyeball the last few stitches, ending on the solid line.*) Repeat for each block without cutting the thread between them until pieces #1 and #2 are sewn on all blocks.



- Trim threads, fold paper back on seam line and trim seams as needed by placing the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " line of a ruler on the seam. (Trim to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance for larger quilt and  $\frac{3}{16}$ " for miniature quilt.) Open up piece #2 and

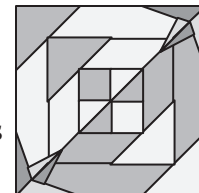


press with a dry iron on cotton setting.

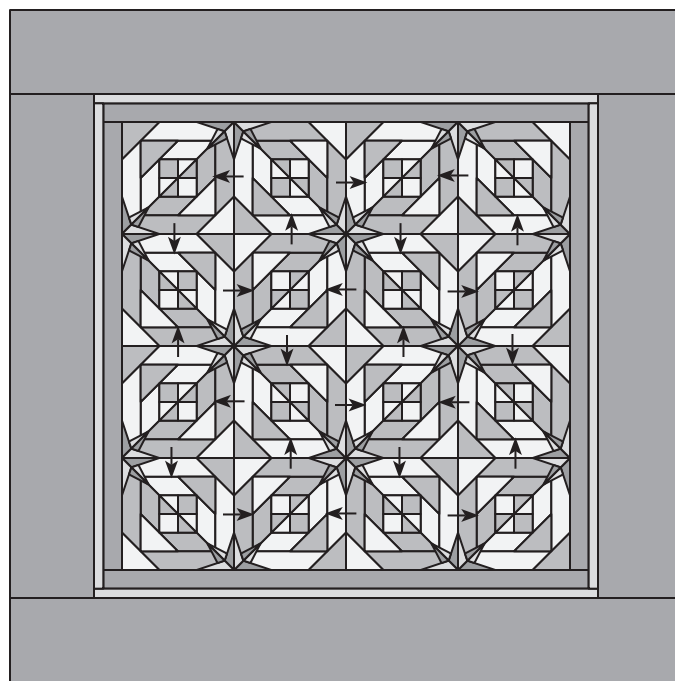
- Rotate pattern and place fabric piece #3 on top of piece #1 on opposite side, right sides together, along the joining seam line, making sure fabric stays within the seam allowance. Repeat Steps 2 and 3 using sewing line #3.
- Repeat this process until pieces 1 thru 9 are sewn, adding pieces in numerical order. (*Note: Before trimming seams, you will need to pull previously sewn seams loose from the paper at seam allowances. Be careful not to pull the stitches loose from the fabric.*)
- Fold paper back on lines 10 thru 13 and trim excess fabric leaving a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.
- Add the star corners, being careful to place the navy and yellow fabrics in the correct positions and using mirror images on opposite sides of the block units. Unit A uses the smaller yellow pieces for Locations #10 and #11 and larger navy pieces for Locations #12 and #13. Unit B uses the smaller navy pieces for Locations #10 and #11 and the larger yellow pieces for Locations #12 and #13.
- Turn the block units over and trim by placing the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " line of a ruler on the outside seam allowance. 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.
- Remove all paper except for Location #6. This will give you a place to label the blocks to keep them in order for assembly. Removing the paper first will make it easier to pin and sew the block units together and will avoid the need to remove tiny pieces of paper from seam allowances, especially for the miniature blocks.

## ASSEMBLING THE BLOCKS

- Sew one Unit A and one Unit B together with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance to complete each block. Mix all of the colors when sewing the units together. You may want to arrange the units on a design wall or other large surface first and label the units before assembly. Pinning the units at all matching points will result in more accurate piecing. Press seams open for less bulk or toward Unit B.
- Referring to the Quilt Top Diagram for the miniature quilt below or on page 5 for the larger quilt, sew the blocks together in groups of 4 pressing all seams counterclockwise and open at center. You will need to pull a few stitches loose from the previous seam allowance to press the center open.
- Sew four groups of 4 blocks together and press horizontal seams to the dark and vertical seams to the light, and open at center where blocks meet. Continue sewing and pressing in this way until all blocks are assembled. Remove remaining paper.



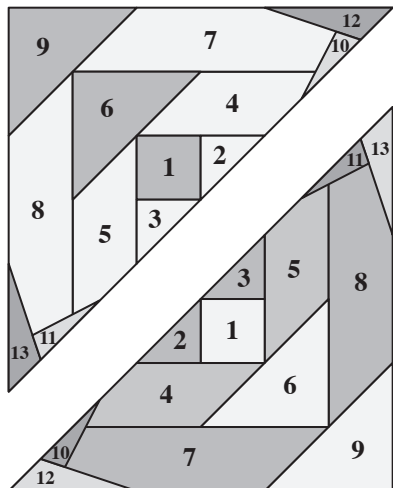
QUILT TOP DIAGRAM (Miniature Quilt)



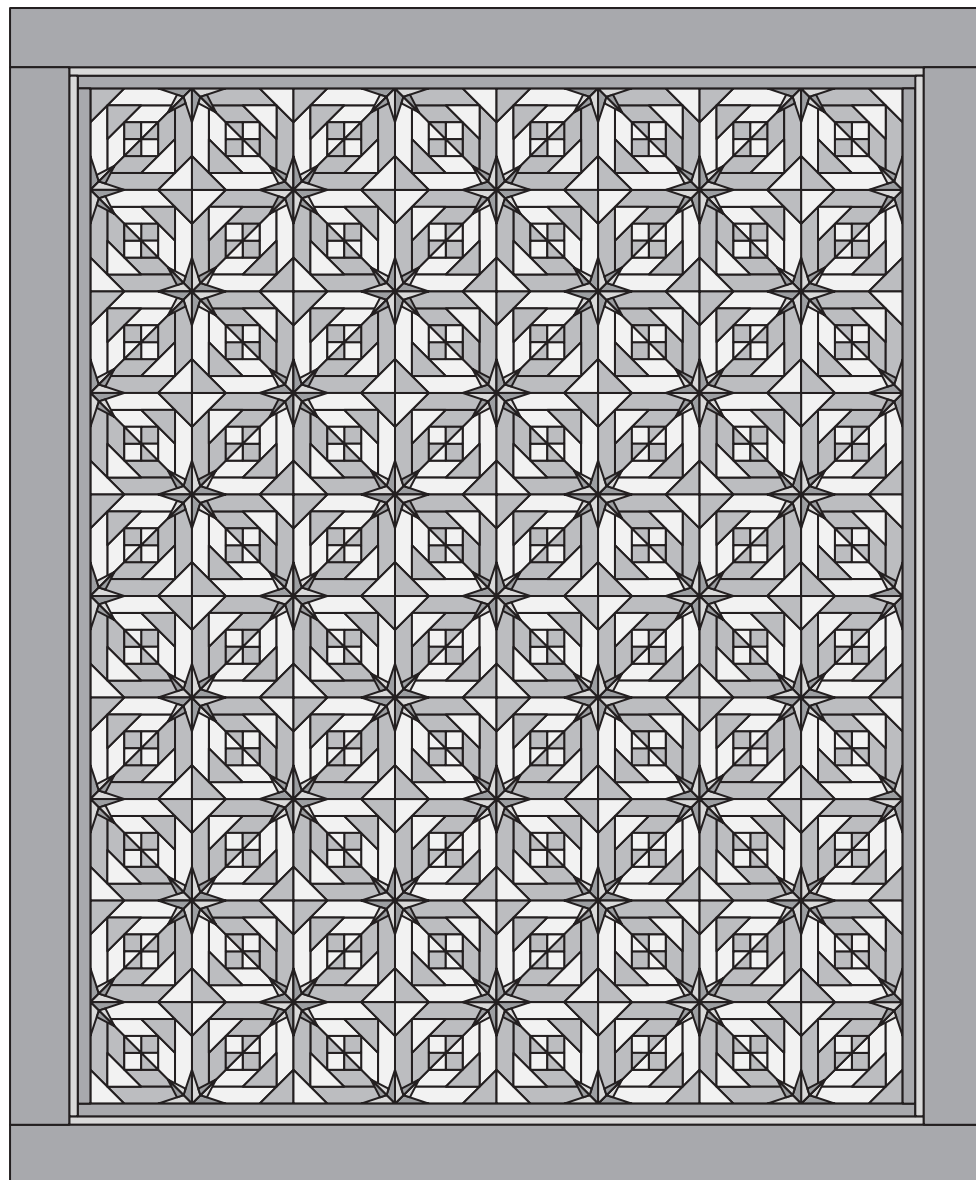
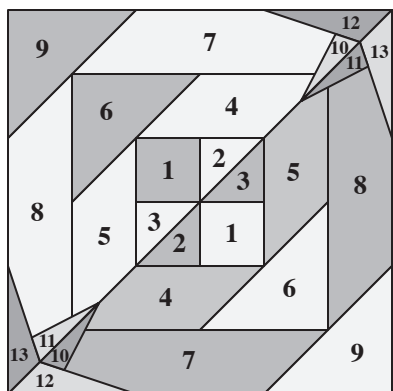
## BLOCK DIAGRAMS

## QUILT TOP DIAGRAM (58" x 70" Quilt)

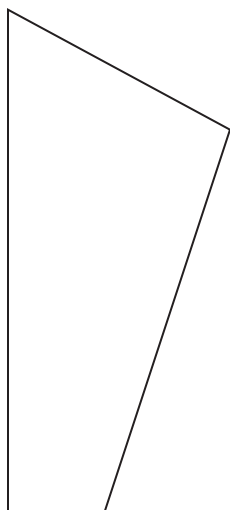
Unit A



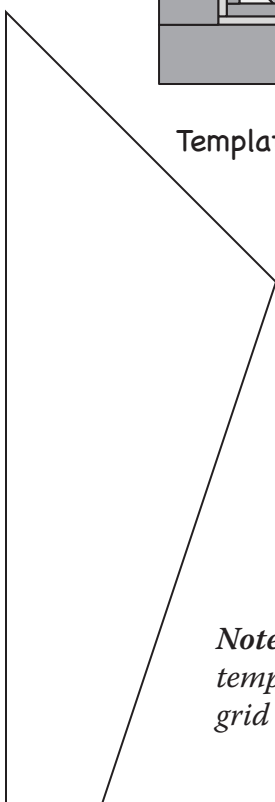
Unit B



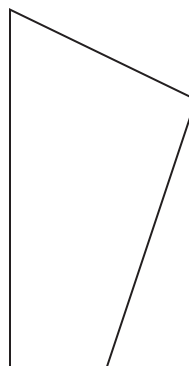
Template 1



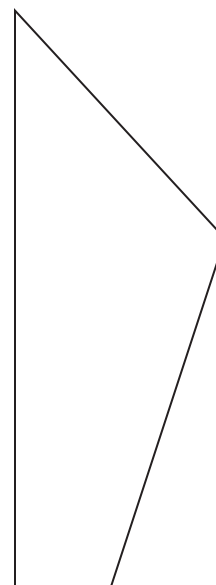
Template 2



Template 3



Template 4



**Note:** To assure that the paper foundation templates printed correctly, the background grid should measure  $\frac{1}{4}$ ".



## CUTTING BORDERS AND BINDING

For the 58" x 70" quilt

From multi-print border fabric, cut:

- 4 strips  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x length of fabric for inner border 1.
- 4 strips 4" x length of fabric for outer border.
- 4 strips  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " x length of fabric for binding.

From yellow fabric, cut:

- 7 strips 1" x 42" for inner border 2.
- 7 strips  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 42" for binding trim.

For the 18" x 18" miniature quilt

From multi-print border fabric, cut:

- 1 strip  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x length of fabric for inner border 1.
- 1 strip  $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x length of fabric for outer border.
- $1\frac{1}{4}$  strips  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " x length of fabric for binding.

From yellow fabric, cut:

- 2 strips  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 42" for inner border 2.
- 2 strips  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 42" for binding trim.

## ADDING BORDERS

1. Diagonally piece borders as needed. Measure the length of the quilt top through the center. Cut and add Inner Border 1 to sides of quilt. Measure the width of the quilt top including the borders just added. Cut and add Inner Border 1 to top and bottom of quilt.
2. Sew Inner Border 2 and Outer Border to quilt in the same manner.

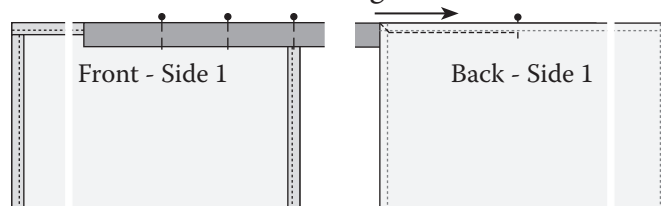
## QUILTING

1. Cut and piece the backing fabric, making it 3" larger than the quilt top on all sides for longarm quilting or 2" for hand or machine quilting.
2. For hand or machine quilting, layer quilt top with backing and batting. Baste and quilt as desired.

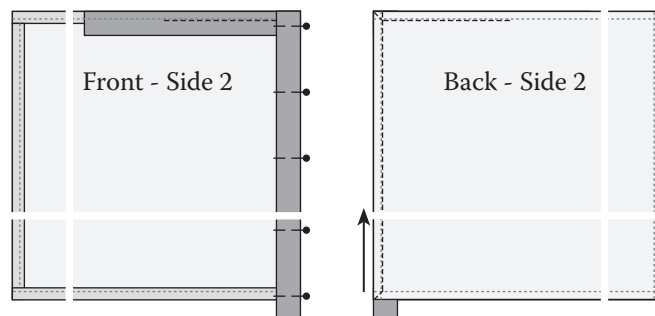
## BINDING AND FINISHING

1. Diagonally piece the binding strips and binding trim as needed. Trim seams and press open. Fold binding and binding trim in half lengthwise and press.

2. With raw edges matching, add binding trim to quilt sides using a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Be exact with your stitching as you will be using the seam on the back side of the quilt as a guide for adding binding. Repeat to add binding trim to top and bottom of quilt. Trim excess batting and backing fabric.
3. With raw edges matching, add binding to quilt starting near the center of any side. Leave the first 6-8" unsewn. Pin binding to corner. Sew on the back side of the quilt next to the seam for the binding trim in the direction shown, starting at the corner.



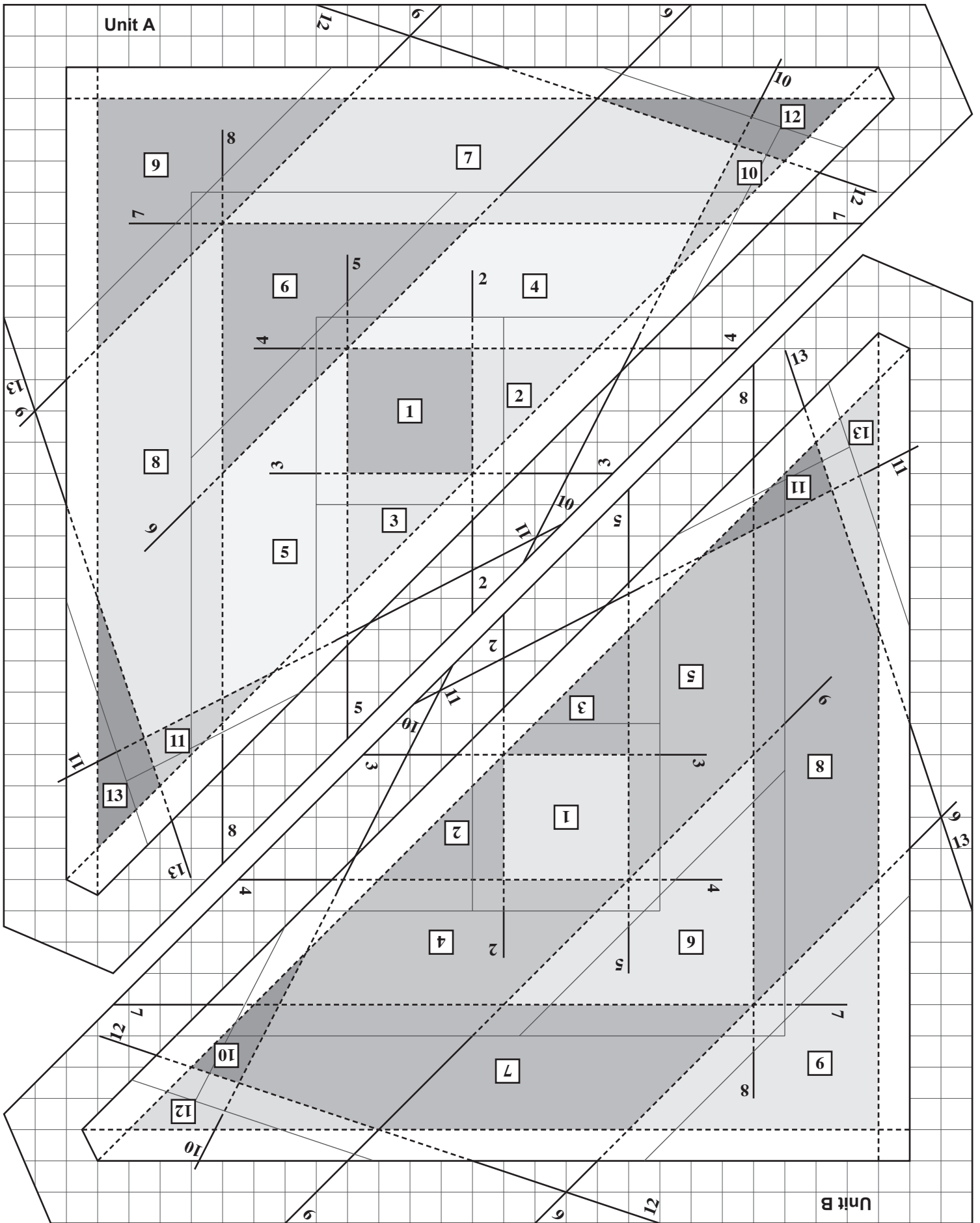
4. Pin and sew next side mitering the corner. Sew from next corner to the previous sewn corner in the direction shown.



5. Repeat around. Leave last 6-8" unsewn on beginning side (12-16" counting first 6-8"). Overlap binding strips and trim excess so the overlap is  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " (the same width as the binding strips). Unfold and diagonally piece the ends, trim seam and press open. Refold, pin and sew remaining binding to quilt on the back side. Press binding away from quilt center.
6. Fold binding to back of quilt and blind stitch in place.
7. Sew beads to center of stars with monofilament thread if desired.
8. Sign and date your quilt.

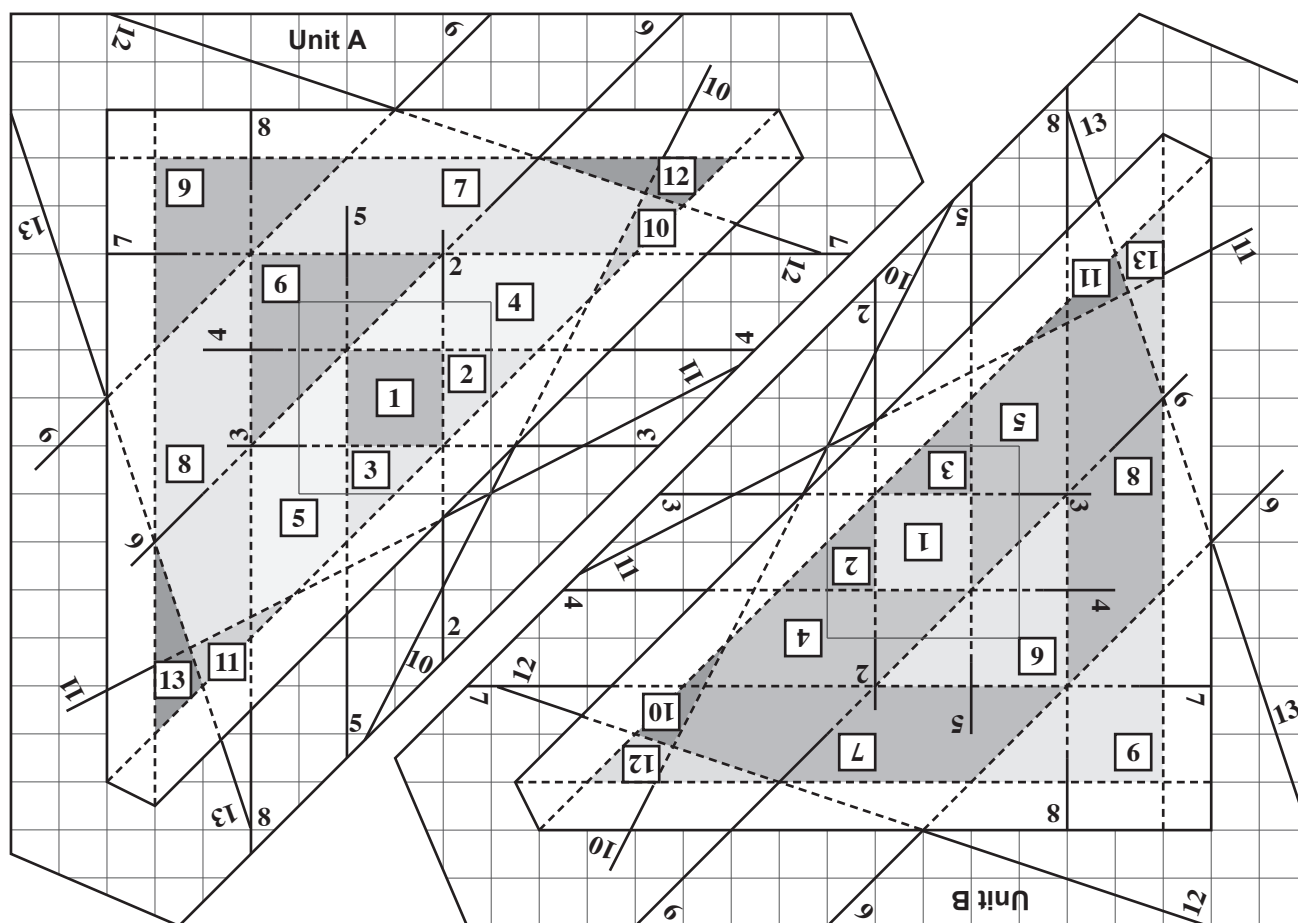
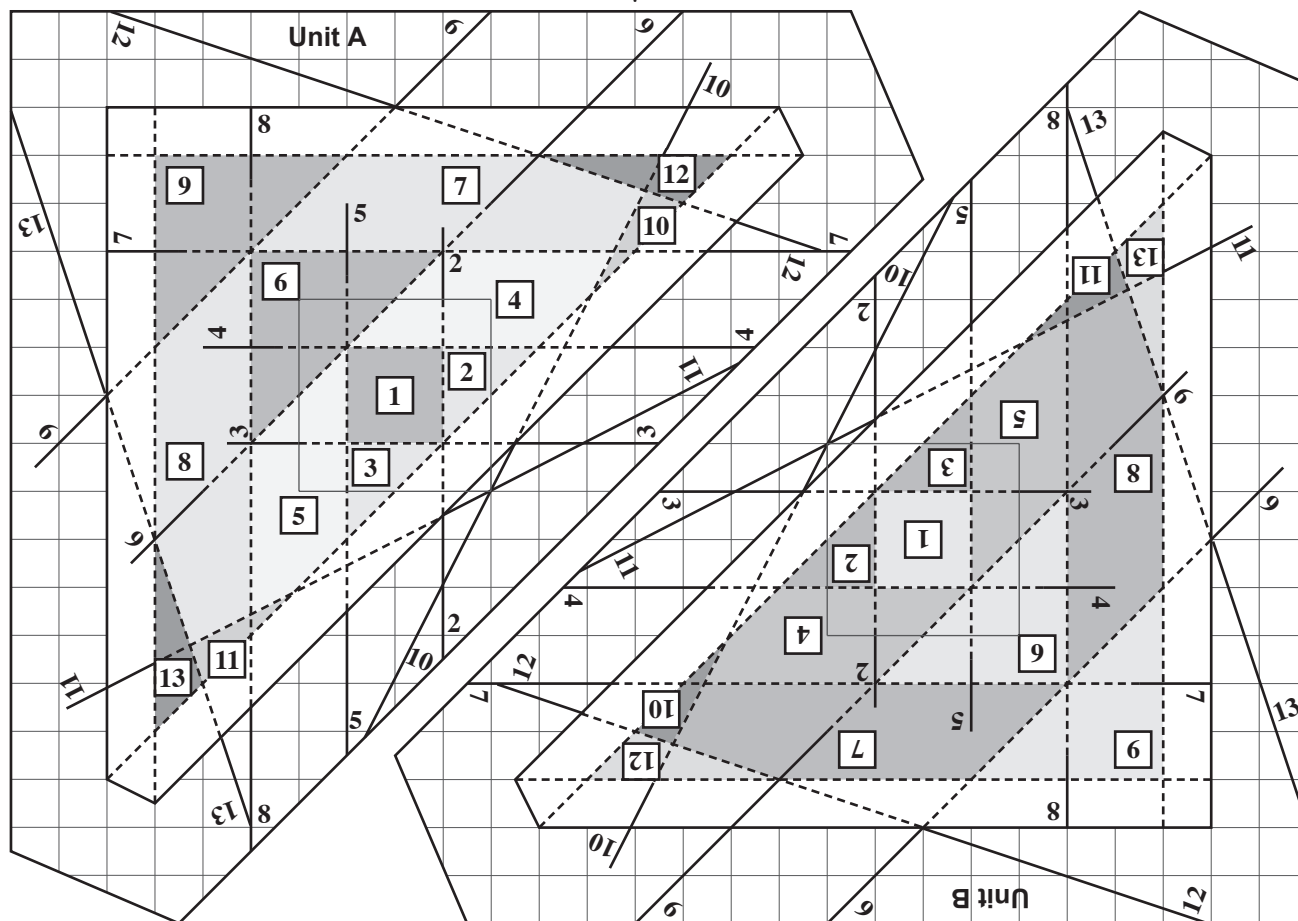
These instructions are presented in good faith, but no warranty is given, nor results guaranteed. AMC Designs disclaims any liability for unfavorable results.

# Master Template (6" Block)





# Master Template (3" Block)



# P115 GEESE AMONG THE STARS

Lap Size: 58" x 70"

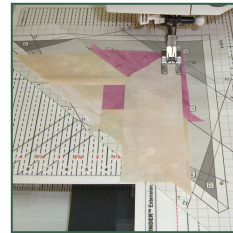
Miniature Size: 18" x 18"

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 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 close to the exact size needed for less fabric waste. Choose a variety of fat quarters in lights and darks to make the quilt shown or use a large selection of leftover fabrics for a scrappier look. Each fat quarter will make three 6" blocks and up to four 3" blocks. For easy fabric selection choose fabrics to coordinate with a multi-colored border. The yardage given is enough fabric to make both the lap size and miniature quilts.

## FABRIC AND SUPPLIES

*Yardage is based on 42" usable fabric width.*

- 14 light fat quarters for blocks
- 14 dark fat quarters for blocks
- 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> yds navy for star corners
- 1<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> yds yellow for star corners,  
inner border 2 and binding trim
- 2 yds multi-color for inner border 1,  
outer border and binding
- 3<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> yds backing fabric (pieced crosswise)
- 62" x 74" batting for lap quilt
- 22" x 22" backing and batting for  
miniature quilt
- Small beads for star centers (optional)
- fast2sew™ Ultimate Seam Guide
- \*Foundation Copy Paper
- Open Toe Walking Foot
- Rotary Cutter, Mat & Rulers



*\*My favorite foundation paper is a translucent vellum from Office Depot, Item 345-854 (11 x 17) or 345-644 (8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 11). It's see-through, feeds through my inkjet printer with no paper jams, no shrinkage, no ink transfer, and is easy to remove.*

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*Note: Seam guide shown in photographs is discontinued. A new seam guide is available through C & T Publishing.*