

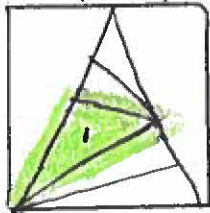
MYSTERY AT THE QUILT RETREAT

Pine Tree Paper Piecing and Pinwheel Blocks

Welcome to second segment of the Mystery Quilt Project. This month foundation piecing will be used to complete the pine tree blocks. Foundation piecing uses a technique where fabric is placed against a numbered, printed outline (template). The fabric is attached by stitching along the lines. There are two sizes of trees. Two (2) blocks will be made using the 6 ½ by 6 ½ template. The larger block should measure 6 ½ by 8 ½. Make sure your template matches the dimensions indicated. This is important for the block to fit into the final quilt design. Regular printer paper can be used to copy the template. I like to use a tracing wheel in the block construction. The pointier the wheel tines the better. Using the tracing wheel will assist in the paper removal once the block is complete. Wait to remove the paper until final quilt construction.

Select at least three coordinating fabrics to construct the pine tree. Choose a contrasting fabric or the background fabric. Three different colors are used on the pattern to indicate placement of the three coordinating fabrics. The contrasting fabric will be used for pieces 6 and 7.

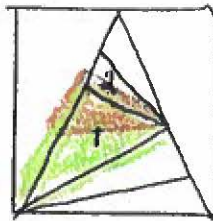
The WRONG side of the paper will be used for the construction. If using the tracing wheel, trace on either side of shape #1. Now turn the template WRONG side up. Place the WRONG side of the first piece of fabric against the WRONG side of the paper. The holes from the tracing wheel will help with placement. The fabric should extend at least ¼ inch beyond the shape it is covering. Pin in place. Turn template to the right side and trace the line between shape #1 and #2 again, pushing the spokes through the fabric on the back. This will help with placement of the second piece of fabric.



Wrong side of
Template

Select the second piece of fabric, making sure that it is large enough to extend beyond the ¼ inch seam allowance as well as the entire shape of piece #2. To make sure it is large enough place the second fabric WRONG side down on the template and arrange it to cover the designated area. Now flip it over so it is RIGHT SIDE TOGETHER with the first fabric. You may either pin the two pieces of material together or use a little fabric glue on the seam allowance. The stitching will be done with the fabric on the throat plate of the sewing machine, and stitching on the paper to make sure the stitches are placed correctly.

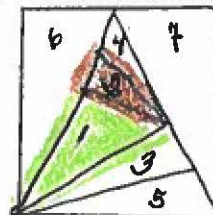
Wrong side of
paper template



Right sides of
fabric together

Press the second piece of fabric away from the first along the stitching line using a hot iron but NO STEAM. Using steam can distort the template. Trim excess fabric along the seam allowance to ¼ inch. Allow the second piece of fabric to extend over piece #4 until that section is sewn. (Do not wait to trim the seam allowances. It will be difficult to get to it once piece #4 is added. Trimming now will decrease bulk and bubbles.)

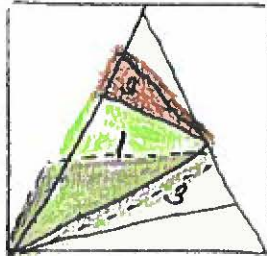
Wrong side of
Template



* after
pressing

It is now time to add shape #3 using the same steps as piece #2. Trace the lines between piece #1 and #3 to help with placement. After making sure the chosen fabric is large enough to cover #3, place **RIGHT SIDE TOGETHER** with first fabric. Again, stitch with the paper template facing the needle on the line between section #1 and #3. Press and trim the seam allowance.

Wrong side
of template



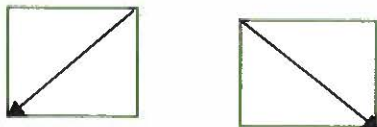
Right sides of
fabric together

Repeat the steps using the tracing wheel, checking fabric placement, sewing on the template line, pressing and trimming the seam allowance to complete sections #4, #5, #6 and #7. Make sure all the segments extend beyond the seam allowance. Once the template is covered the excess will be trimmed. Trim the excess fabric with the paper facing towards you. The finished block will be a **MIRROR IMAGE** of the initial template, because the fabric was sewn on the wrong side.

PINWHEEL BLOCKS

Four pinwheel blocks will be constructed. Choose two contrasting fabrics. A dark and a light fabric will provide the best contrast. The light fabric can be the background fabric if desired.

- 1). Cut (8) 3 inch squares from the dark fabric and (8) 3 inch squares from the light or background fabric.
- 2). Mark a diagonal line from one corner to the other on the wrong side of the light fabric. If a directional fabric is used make sure half of the diagonal lines go one way and the other half goes the opposite direction.



- 3). Place a light square on each of the dark squares.
- 4). Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ inch away on each side of the marked diagonal line.

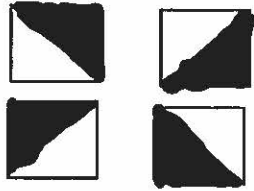


- 5). Cut on the marked line. This yields two (2) half-square triangle units.

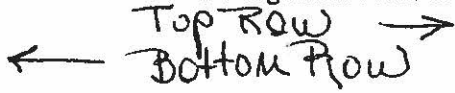


- 6). Press the seam towards the dark fabric. Square to $2 \frac{1}{2}$ inches.

7). Place (4) half-square triangle units so the dark triangles form a pinwheel.



8). Sew the units in each row together. Press in alternate direction.



9). Sew the top row to the bottom to make (4) pinwheel squares that measure $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches with the seam allowance.

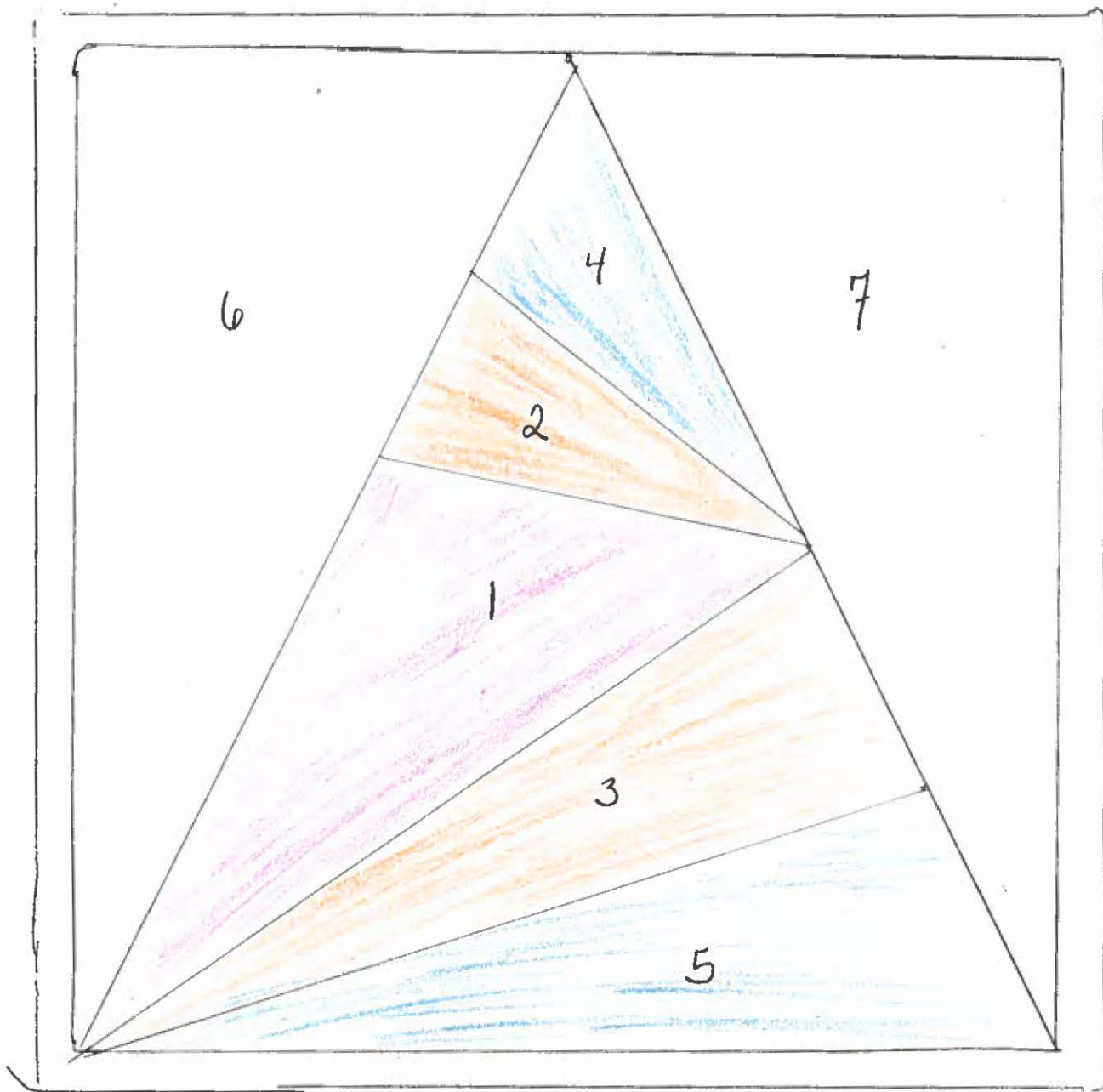


10). Sew the pinwheels together vertically.

Tip: To make a four patch less bulky, after sewing the top row to the bottom, remove the 2-3 stitches from the vertical seam. This will allow $\frac{1}{2}$ of the seam to be pressed in one direction and the other half in the opposite direction.

Pine Tree Block

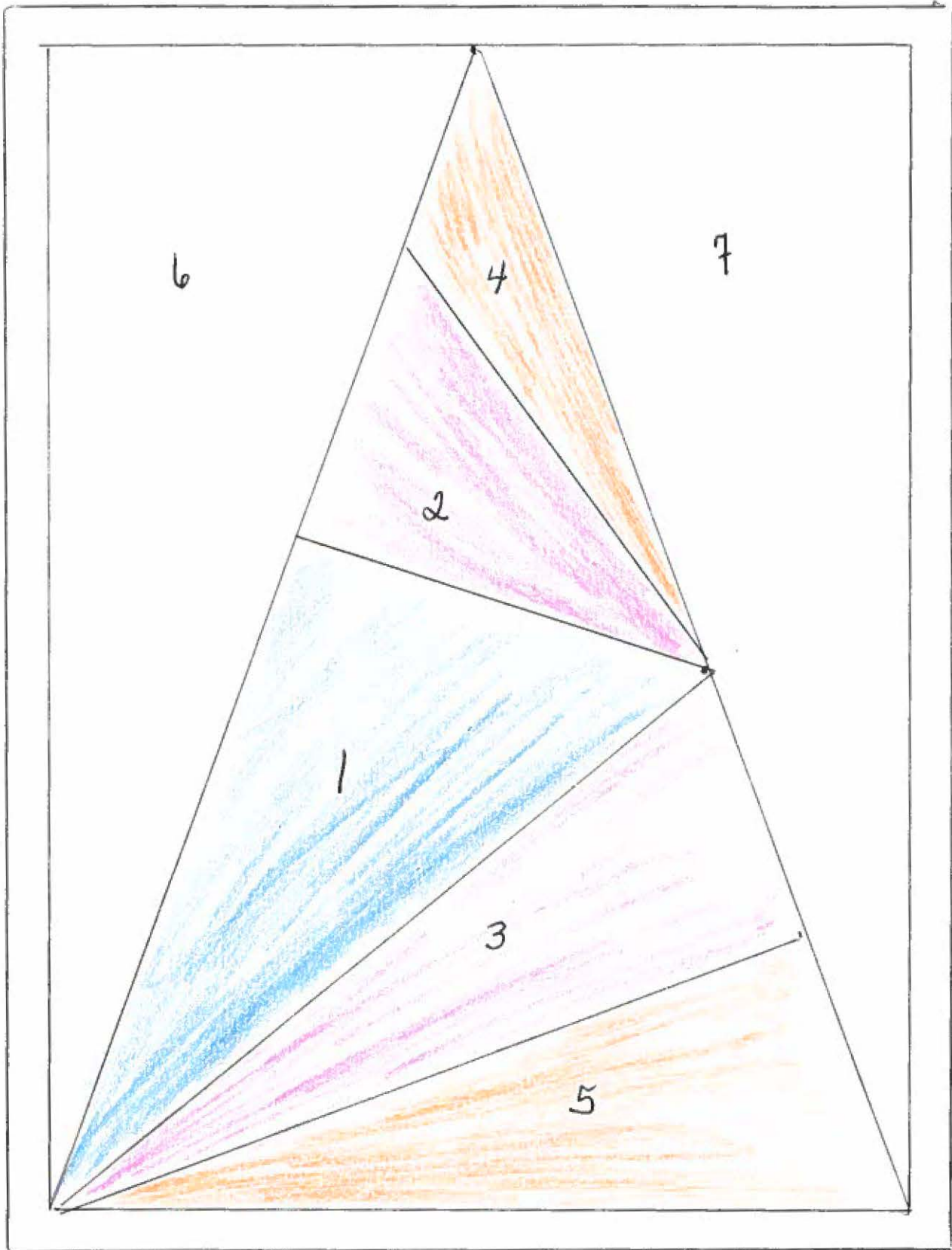
6½ x 6½ w seam allowance



* Use this pattern to make
2 Blocks

Pine Tree Block

6 1/2 x 8 1/2 w seam allowance



* Make one