



How To Quilt™

a start-to-finish video course

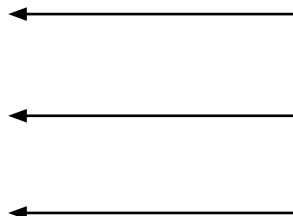
ARROWS QUILT BLOCK

This classic quilt block calls to mind the American frontier, where scraps of fabric that might otherwise be discarded could be combined to make functional works of art in the form of quilts. These strips can be cut to width and trimmed-as-you go, or cut ahead of time for easy assembly, making this an ideal first quilt block. Balancing light vs dark fabrics creates the effect of shadow across the block and invites creativity!

STEP-BY-STEP VIDEO: [HowToQuilt.video](#)

UPGRADE TO PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP FOR BONUS TIPS & FULL QUILT PATTERNS

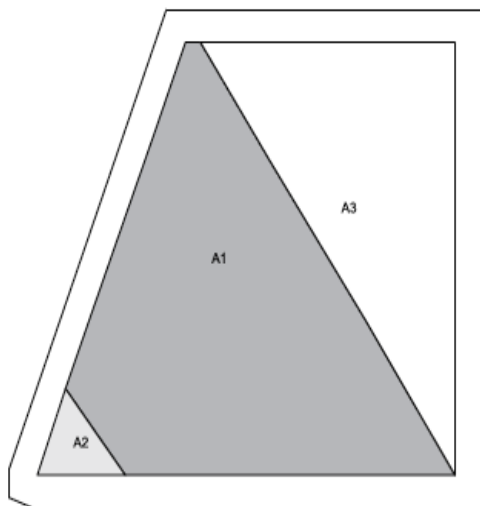
FABRIC REQUIREMENTS & CUTTING LIST



small cuts of each fabric, ranging in size from 2" x 2" to 12" x 6"--these can be irregular scraps or leftover bits from other blocks

NOTE: your color selections may vary; see the Completed Block graphic compared to the images on the HTQ site for examples!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSEMBLY



ABOUT FOUNDATION PIECING

This block is foundation pieced, which is a technique that involves placing fabric against a numbered, printed outline and stitching along the lines. It allows us to achieve much smaller dimensions for individual segments of the block without needing to piece them, and to work with irregular bits of fabric that might otherwise be wasted.

Begin by printing the templates and taking care that they are to scale--this is essential to the finished unit fitting the final block. Most quilters use basic printer-weight paper, but some printers can handle thinner paper that tears easily, and other quilters prefer to trace the printed template to tracing paper.

One of the great benefits of foundation piecing is that it requires smaller pieces that can be cut to unusual or irregular sizes, so it uses up a lot of scraps while creating more demanding shapes than we can achieve from traditional piecing. For this block, feel free to use fat quarters or large pieces, or even to raid your scrap basket and infuse your final block with some variety. Each scrap you select, however, must be at least 1/4" larger on all sides than the portion of the template it will cover.

Sew your blocks with a neutral thread color, like off-white or grey.





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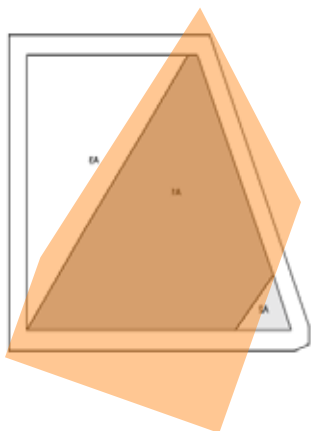
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ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

The following instructions apply in general to all foundation-pieced blocks, so only the SAMPLE SEGMENT will be illustrated. This segment is NOT part of the current pattern, but instead is a PRACTICE PATTERN that will allow you to hone your skills. If you already have experience with foundation piecing, feel free to skip this step; these sample steps are IDENTICAL to the May pattern, but the units are NEW. Continue with each segment to complete all the parts of the block before moving on to the next step, where the portions will be assembled.

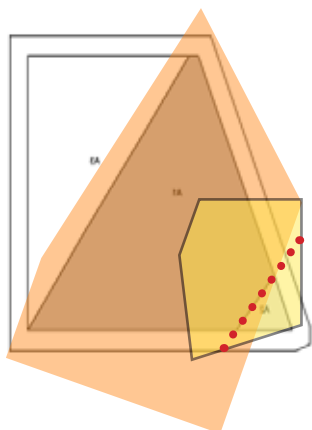
Begin by printing the templates on Page 4 to scale, measuring the 2" square (found on page 6) to be sure they are sized correctly. Separate the segments from one another according to letter, and work with one lettered segment at a time; some units have a single letter, in which case there are no segments to assemble at the end. Use a neutral-colored thread to sew all seams; these stitches will not be visible in the finished block. Press all fabric before beginning to sew.



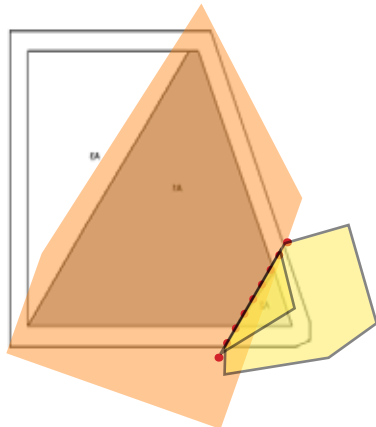
With the template WRONG side up, place your first piece of fabric RIGHT side up (shown here as transparent for the purposes of clarity). Hold the paper up to a light source to clearly identify the edges of the shape, and verify that all the edges of the fabric extend beyond the line indicating the seam allowance by at least 1/4" as well as covering the entire shape indicated by A1. Use a small amount of glue stick to anchor this piece in place.

TIP

Write the name of the fabric or the color of each section on the paper of the template to help keep organized as you sew and avoid mistakes!



Select the second piece of fabric, ensuring that it is large enough to extend beyond the 1/4" seam allowance as well as the entire shape for A2. Place this fabric WRONG side down on the template, arranging it to cover all the desired area, then flip it over so it sits RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER with the first section (A1). This may leave the A2 section partially exposed--as long as there is enough fabric beyond the line dividing A1 from A2, this is OK. Set your machine to a slightly shorter stitch length--around 1 or 1.5--for easier removal later. Stitch ON THE LINE between the two sections, as indicated to the left--you will place the fabric down on the machine and sew with the paper on top to ensure proper placement of your stitches.



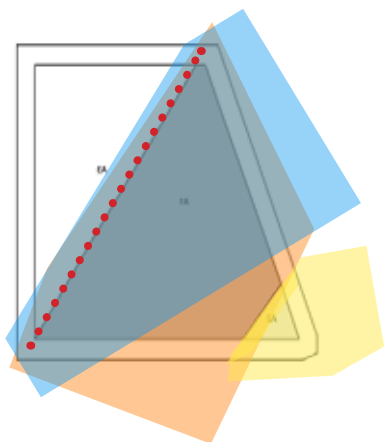
Press this second section of fabric away from the first along the stitch line, using a hot iron but NO STEAM, which can distort the template. Taking the time to get a clean, crisp press here can make a huge difference! Trim away any excess fabric along the seam allowance to 1/4" beneath the A2 shape, but allow fabric to extend beyond the edges of the segment as a whole until all sections are sewn. (Don't wait to trim the seam allowances! They can be tricky to reach once the next seam is sewn--trimming now prevents bulk and bubbles later.)



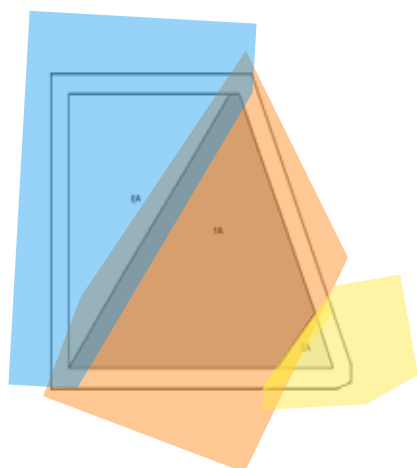
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ARROWS QUILT BLOCK



Repeat the previous step with the next section, taking care that the fabric for the new section covers all of it, and that there is a full 1/4" seam allowance that extends beyond the stitch line. Stitch right sides together ON the line that divides A1 from A3.



Press A3 away from A1, and trim the seam allowance to 1/4" as before. If any portion of the shape to be covered remains exposed, remove the seam and re-sew with the fabric shifted or a larger scrap. Repeat until all sections of the segment are completely covered with a 1/4" seam allowance on all sides of the paper shape--note how there is some additional fabric beyond the outer border of the segment, which will be trimmed off in the next step.



Trim around the ENTIRE shape from the right side of the paper, using the 1/4" seam allowance lines as a guide. This is the completed segment.

The finished segment will be a MIRROR IMAGE of the initial template, since pieces were sewn to the wrong side. This is by design! Set Segment A aside and repeat each step with the remaining segments, working sequentially through the numbered sections starting at Section 1.

TIP

If this is your first experience with foundation piecing, be patient with yourself! It's a combination of attention to detail and organic block development. Remember that if you get frustrated or need to start again, you can simply re-print the template, re-use the fabric, and start over! No harm, no foul.

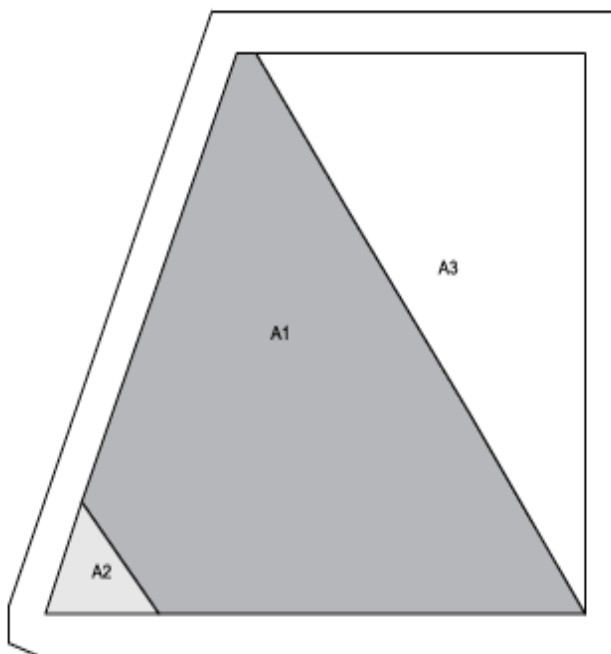


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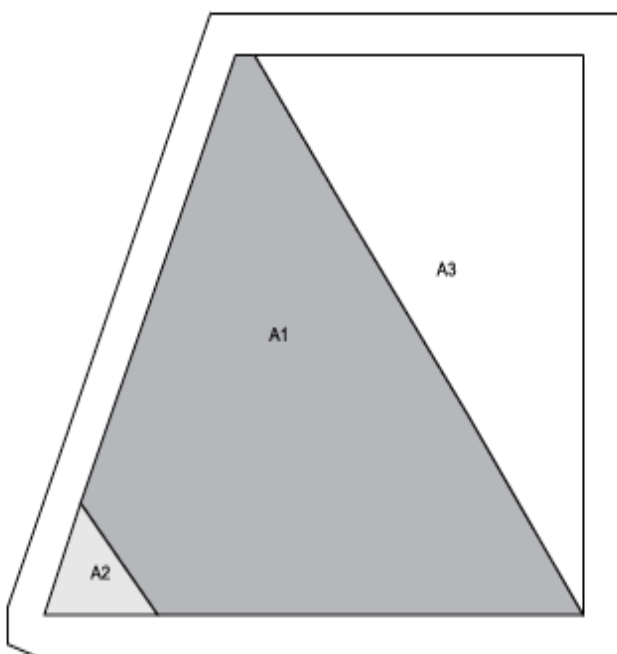
ARROWS QUILT BLOCK

PRACTICE SEGMENT



Use the instructions on pages 2-3 and a printed version of the template (printed twice here, to save paper should you want more than one) to practice your foundation piecing skills before moving on to the June pattern on the following pages.

Be sure to set your printer to 100% or “no scaling” prior to printing your templates.



when printed correctly,
this square measures

30mm

2"



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ARROWS QUILT BLOCK

Most foundation-pieced blocks have multiple units or segments that are sewn together to create the finished design.

To assemble the block, first stitch each fabric to the foundation as indicated by the text on the template. From there, assemble the unit in the following order:

Sew B to C.
Then, sew the B/C unit to A.
Sew A/B/C to D.

Sew E to F.
Sew E/F to A/B/C/D.

Sew G to A/B/C/D/E/F.

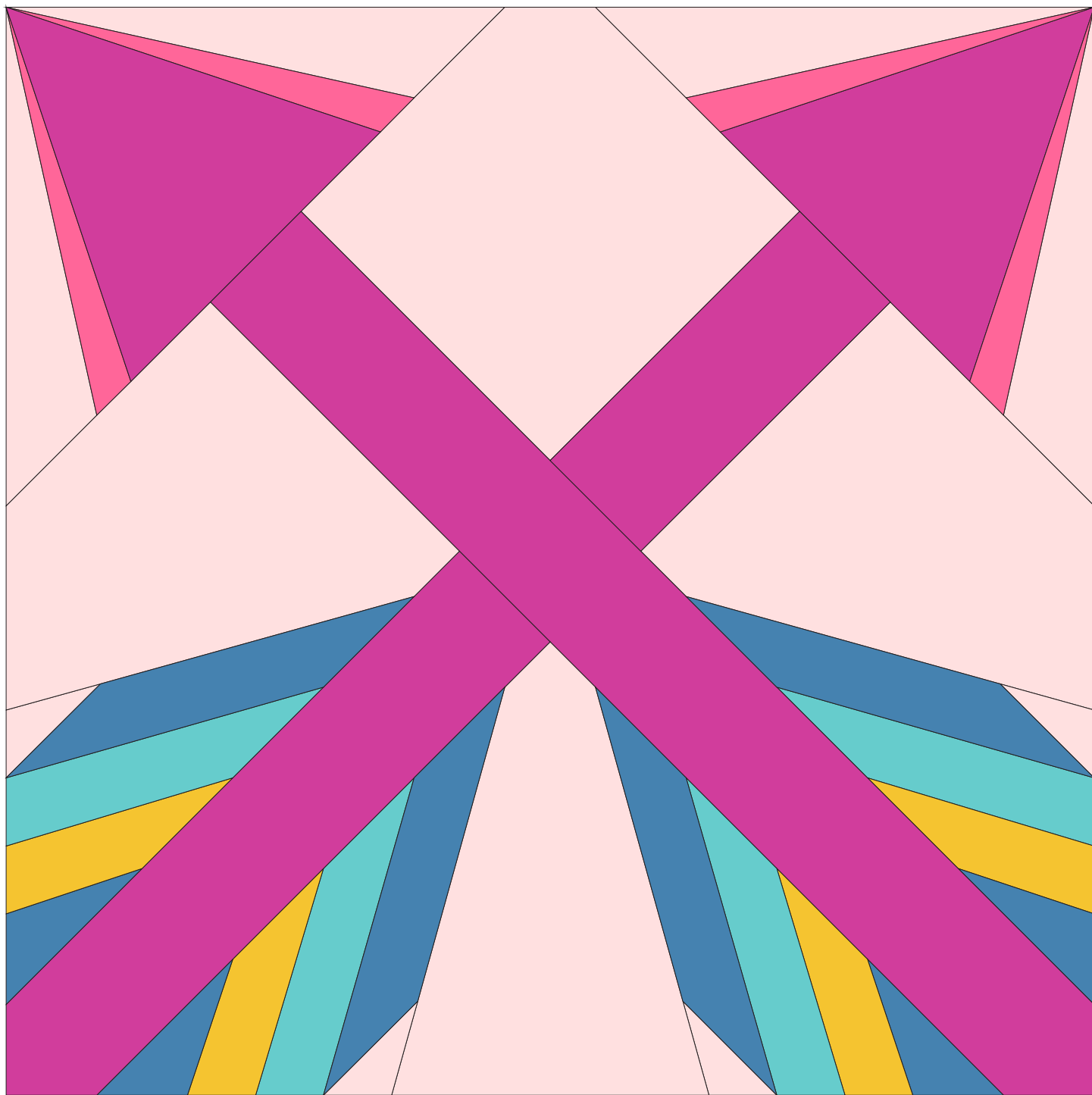
Sew H to A/B/C/D/E/F/G.

Press the completed block. Leave the paper on the back of the block until ready to assemble the blocks into the quilt top.



12.5" x 12.5"

COMPLETED BLOCK

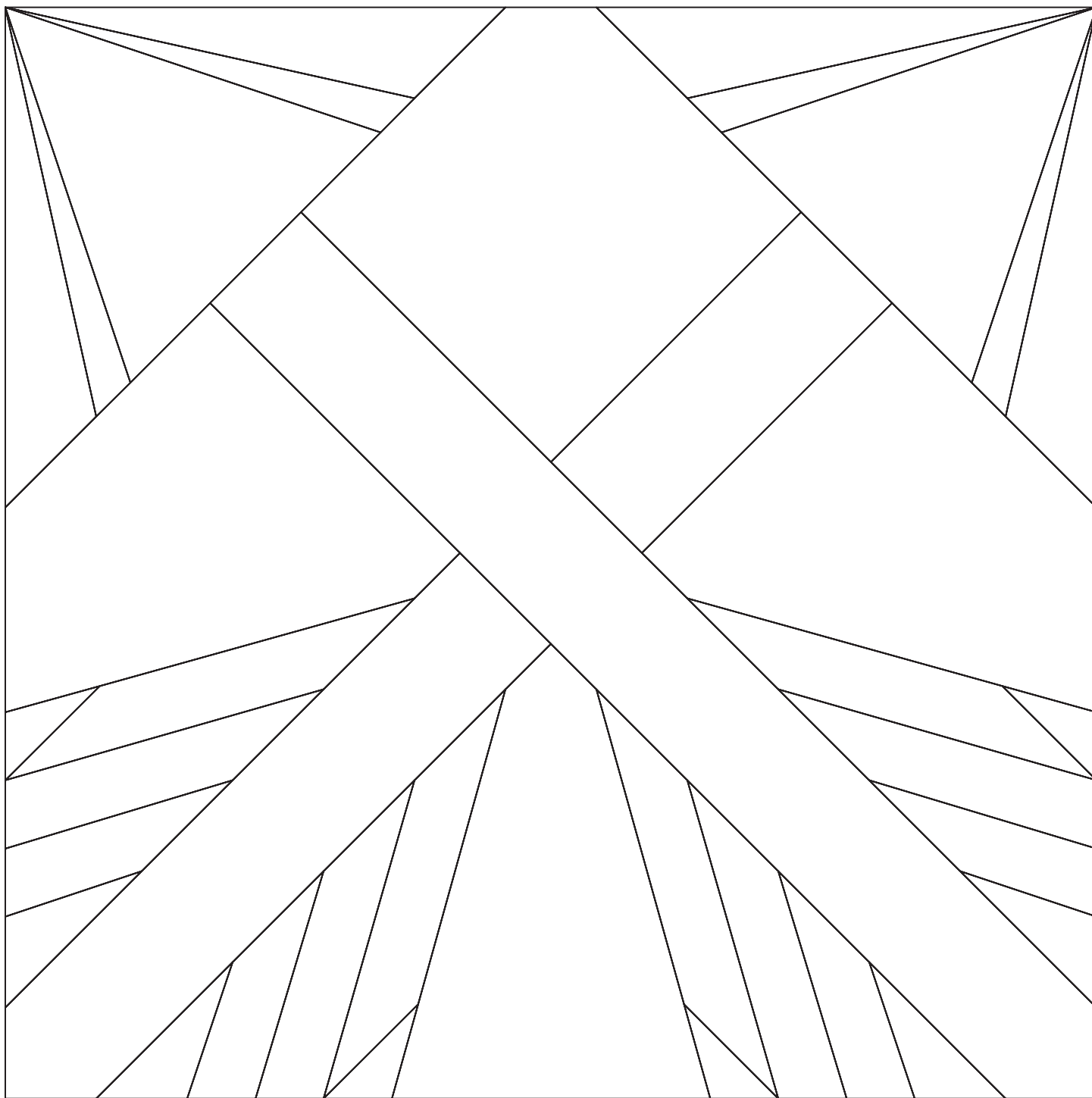


View of Fabric side



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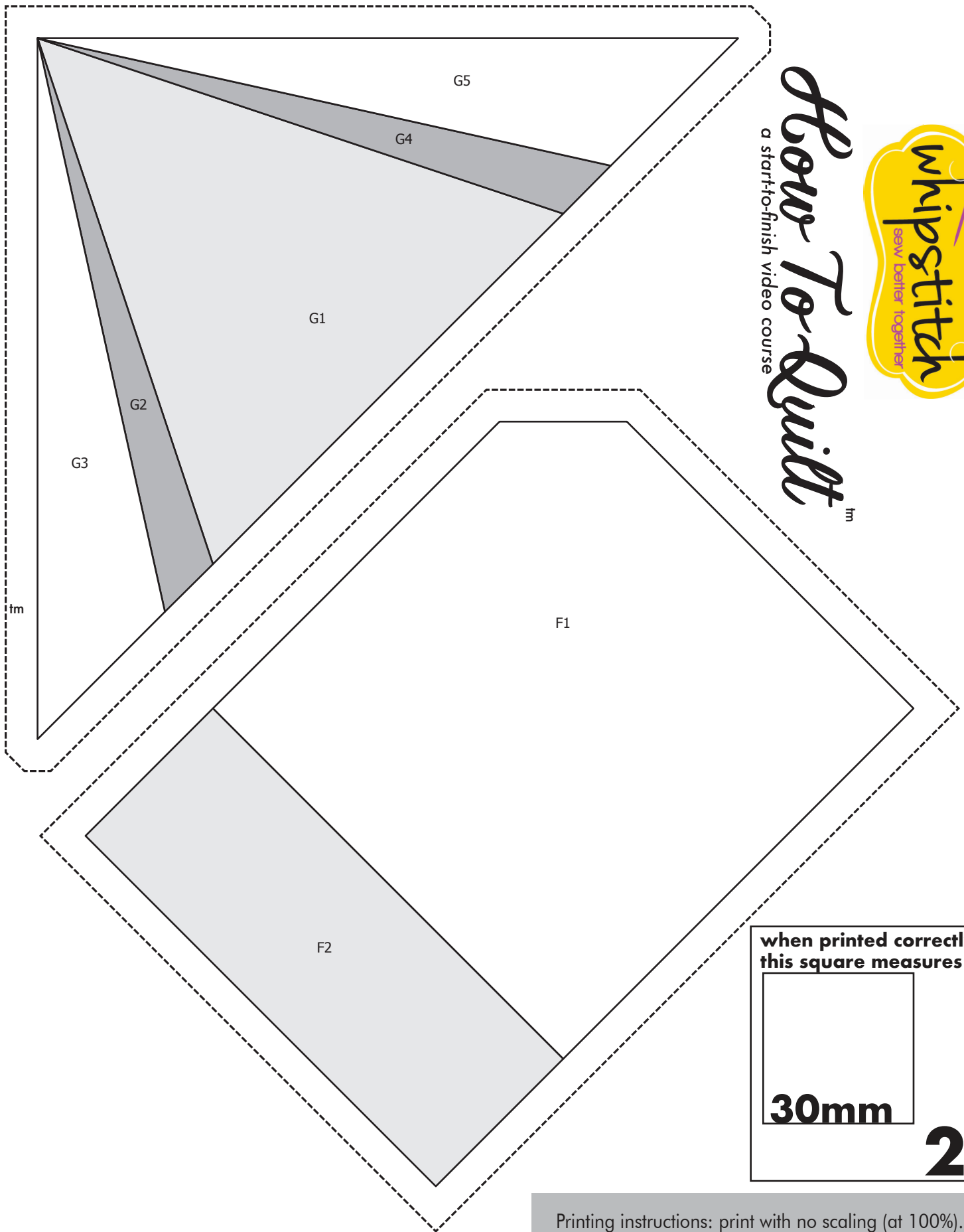


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coloring page

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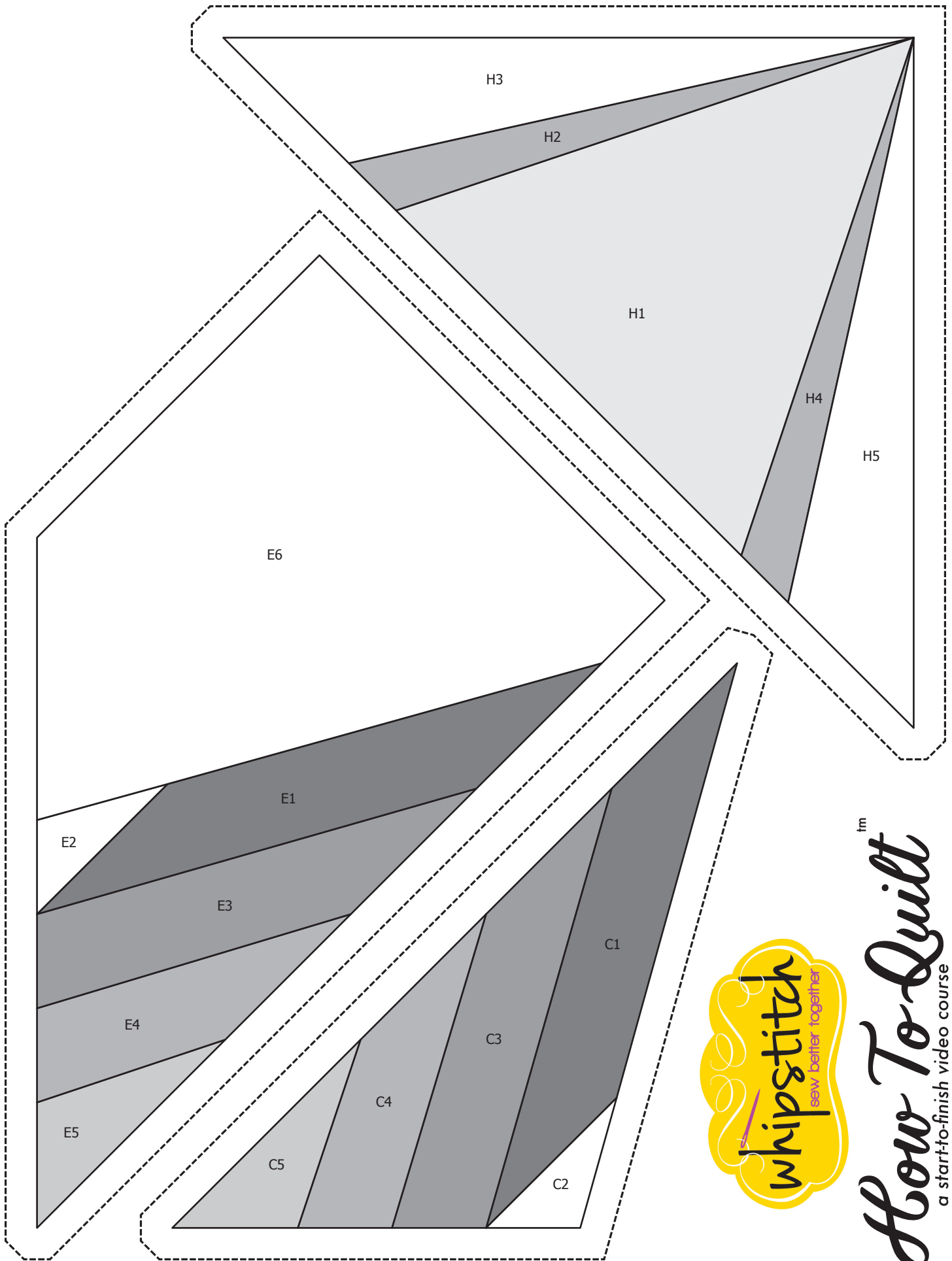


when printed correctly,
this square measures

30mm

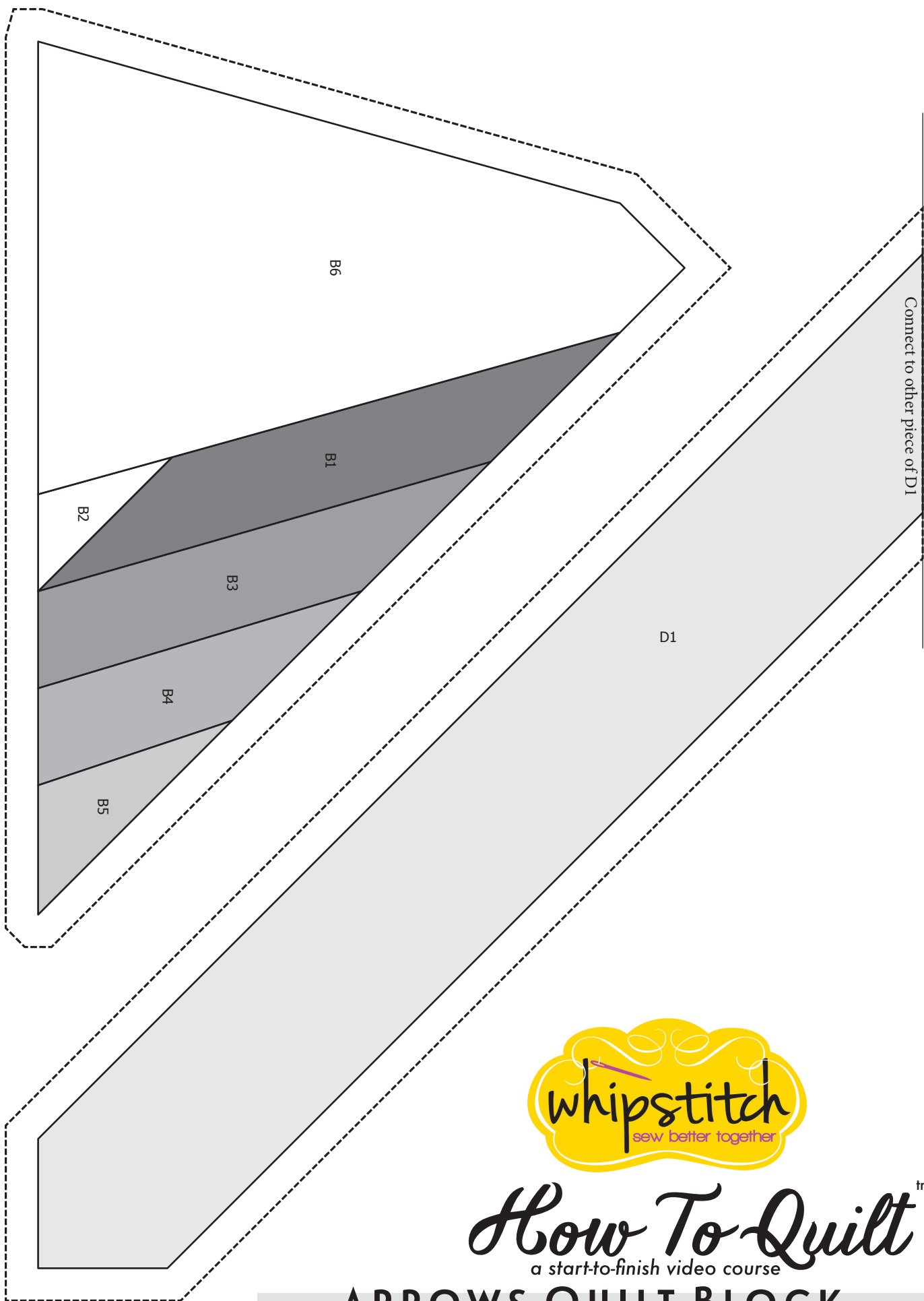
2"

Printing instructions: print with no scaling (at 100%).
Use paper scissors to roughly separate templates, then
stitch the required fabric to the REVERSE of the paper
templates. Shaded areas represent required colors.



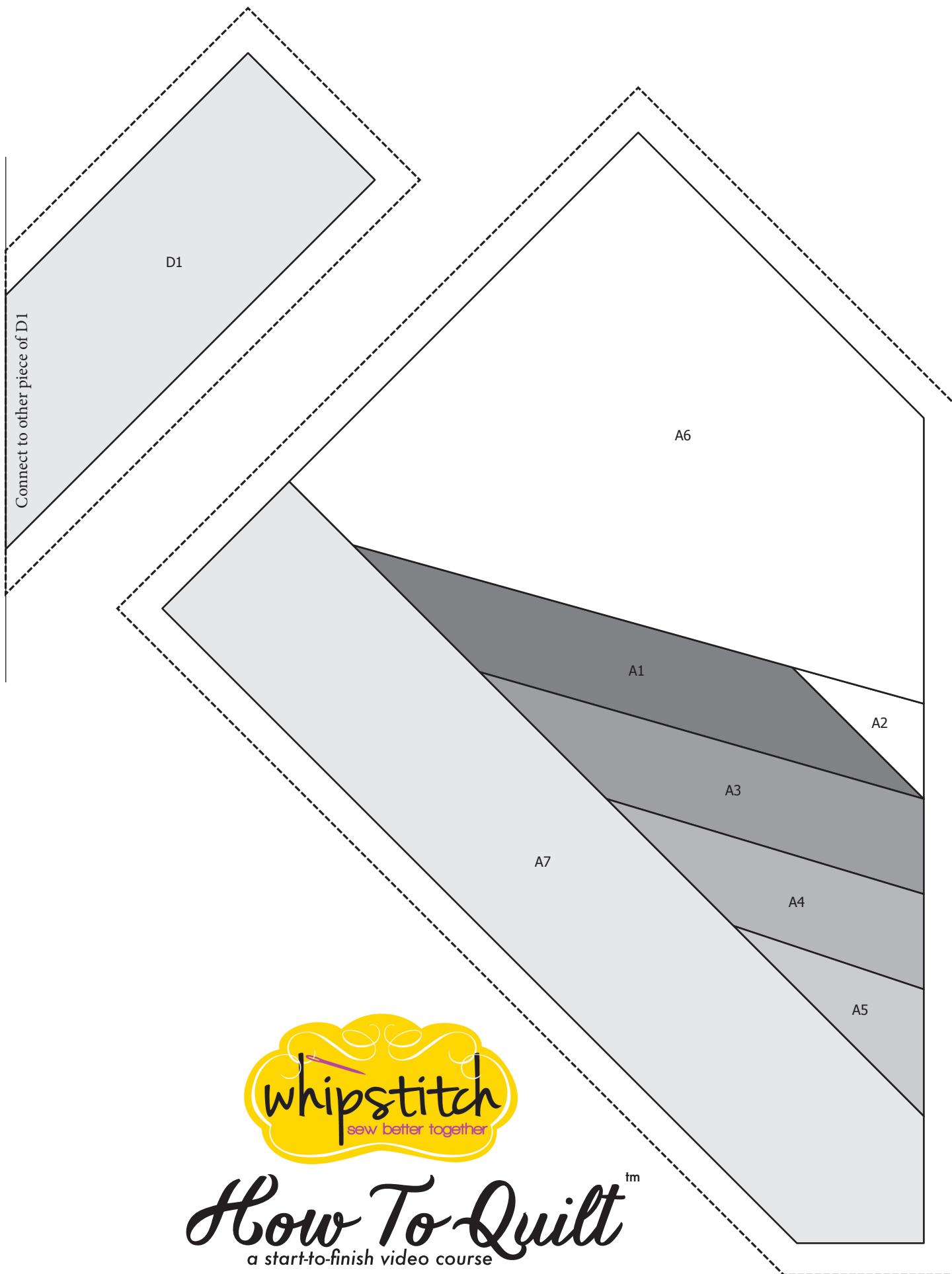
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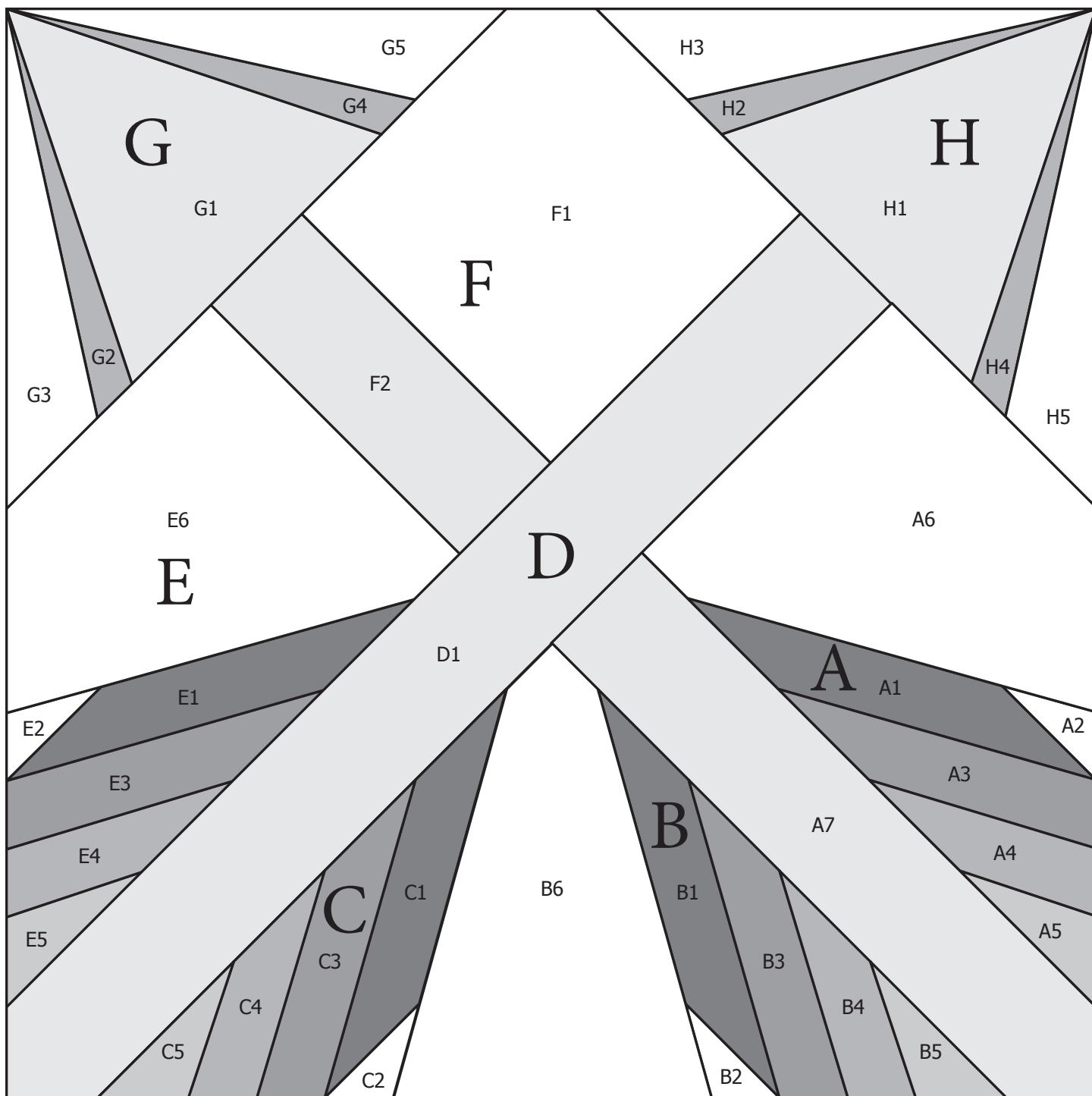
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View of Paper side



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