Bouillabaisse

A colorful string-pieced quilt for a double bed

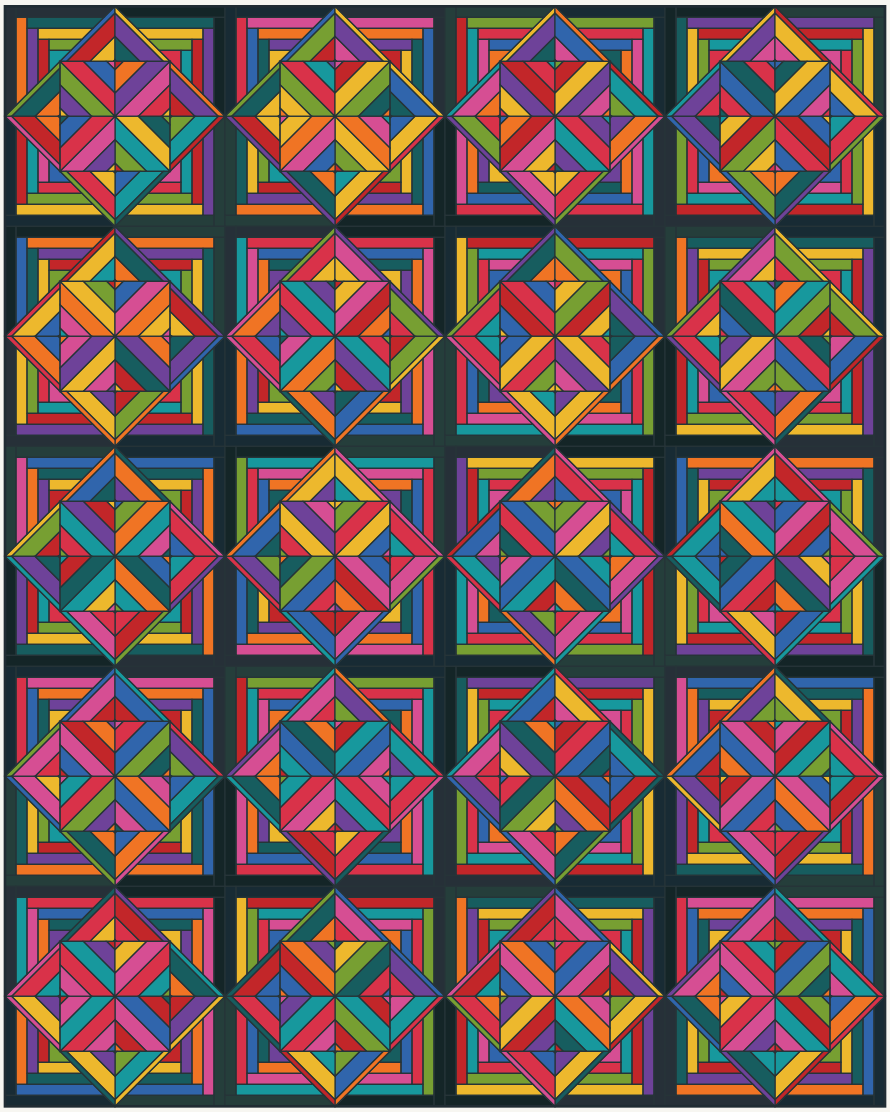


Diagram of this adaptation; fabric placement will vary.

80 x 100 in

Approx. 203 x 254 cm

20 blocks | 20 in finished
Cutting charts, assembly diagrams and actual-size paper templates

Before you begin

Finished dimensions, working conventions and a guide to the pages ahead.

This guide reconstructs the visual structure in the supplied photographs using four corner units per block. It is a photo-based adaptation with independently drafted dimensions and assembly instructions; it does not reproduce the original commercial pattern.

Project	Specification
Nominal finished design	80 x 100 in / 203.2 x 254 cm
Layout	4 blocks across x 5 blocks down; no added sashing or border
Block	20 in finished; 20 1/2 in before joining
Quadrant	10 in finished; 10 1/2 in before joining
Seam allowance	1/4 in throughout, except 1/2 in for backing seams
Experience	Intermediate: diagonal strings and foundation paper piecing

Bed fit: on a 54 x 75 in full mattress this gives about 13 in of side drop and 25 in of extra length. On a 138 x 188 cm mattress, side drop is about 32.6 cm. Measure your mattress and allow for quilting and wash shrinkage; this size does not include a separate pillow tuck.

DRAFTING STATUS

The geometry and counts have been checked digitally. This adaptation has not been sample sewn. Sew one complete test block before cutting the full quilt.

PAGE GUIDE

Plan and cut	3-5
Make strings, centers and arms	6-7
Piece the outer triangle and quadrant	8-11
Build blocks and quilt top	12-14
Finish, troubleshoot and track	15-18
Actual-size masters: O-L, O-R, T and string blank	19-22

Reading the photographs

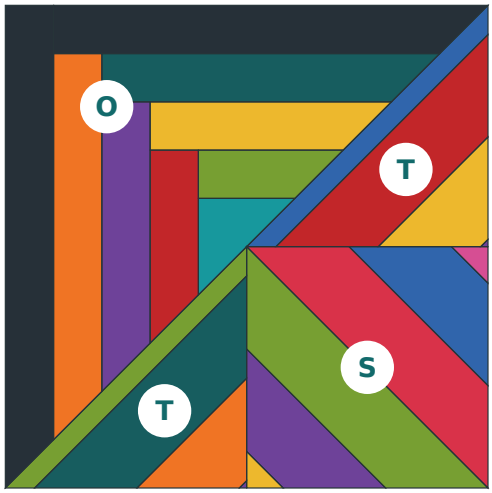
The same geometric structure, with an individual mix of scraps in every block.



Reference A: dark framing.



Reference B: more varied outer strips.



ONE QUADRANT = THREE PART TYPES

O - one large log-strip triangle with two black outside strips.

T - two bright triangular arm pieces.

S - one bright diagonal-string center square.

Rotate four quadrants around the center to make each 20 in block. The interlocking diamond effect comes from the direction of the strings and the contrast of the outside logs.

Name attribution: Bouillabaisse is also documented as a pattern by Pie In The Sky Quilts in the maker's account, My Quilt Parade, May 2010. This document is a separately drafted adaptation. Reference photographs were supplied by the user.

Fabric and supplies

All yardage assumes at least 40 in of usable width after removing selvages.

Material	Plan for	Use
Assorted bright quilting cottons	17 1/2 yd total (about 16 m)	String blanks, O1 seed pieces and O2-O7 logs
Black or very dark cotton	4 yd total (about 3.66 m)	O8-O9 logs plus binding; reserve 1 yd for binding
Regular-width backing	9 1/2 yd (about 8.69 m)	Three panels, each 40 x 109 in
OR 108 in wide backing	3 1/4 yd (about 2.97 m)	Cut one backing at least 89 x 109 in
Batting	At least 89 x 109 in (about 226 x 277 cm)	A 90 x 110 in piece allows trimming room

The bright-fabric allowance is intentionally generous for the oversized cuts on page 5. Net cut-piece area is about 15 yd at 40 in usable width; the extra covers layout waste and trimming. Short, irregular scraps need more allowance. These estimates apply to this adaptation only.

TOOLS

Rotary cutter and mat; 6 1/2 in and at least 10 1/2 in square rulers; a ruler with a 45-degree line; sewing machine; neutral thread; iron; fine pins; paper scissors; fabric scissors; removable foundation paper; a light source; clear template plastic or card; low-tack tape.

PAPER PLAN

Make 160 paper squares, each 6 1/2 x 6 1/2 in, for the string blanks. For O, assemble the two master pages (19-20) and make 80 complete foundations, or trace the assembled master onto larger lightweight paper. Pages 21-22 supply reusable trimming guides.

UNITS AND FABRIC PREPARATION

Use inches for cutting; 1 in = 2.54 cm and 1 yd = 0.9144 m. Press fabric before cutting. Use the same prewashing approach for the whole project and purchase extra if your fabric shrinks substantially.

Master cutting chart

All measurements below are CUT sizes, including working allowance.

A. STRING BLANKS - 160 TOTAL; SEVEN STRIPS PER BLANK

Position in each blank	Cut size	Per blank	Total
Center strip	2 x 10 1/2 in	1	160
First pair, either side of center	2 x 9 in	2	320
Second pair	2 x 6 in	2	320
Outer pair	2 x 3 1/2 in	2	320

B. OUTER TRIANGLE O - MAKE 80

Foundation section	Cut size	Total
O1: seed triangle, bright	Cut 40 squares, 3 1/2 x 3 1/2 in; cut each once diagonally	80 triangles
O2 / O3: bright	1 3/4 x 4 1/2 in / 1 3/4 x 5 1/2 in	80 of each
O4 / O5: bright	1 3/4 x 6 1/2 in / 1 3/4 x 7 1/2 in	80 of each
O6 / O7: bright	1 3/4 x 8 1/2 in / 1 3/4 x 9 1/2 in	80 of each
O8 / O9: black	1 3/4 x 10 1/2 in / 1 3/4 x 11 1/2 in	80 of each

Binding: cut 10 strips, 2 1/2 in x usable width of fabric (at least 40 in). Backing cuts are on page 15. The O log cuts are oversized in width and length for paper piecing; the paper sewing lines determine the finished size.

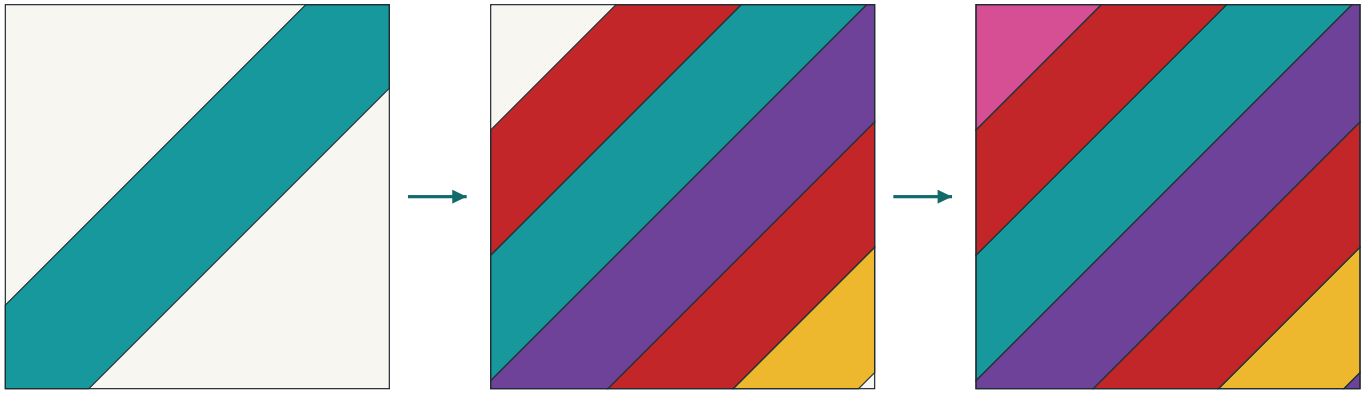
CUT IN BATCHES

First cut for one block: 8 string blanks, 4 O seed triangles, and 4 of each O2-O9 strip. Confirm the first block measures 20 1/2 in square; then continue in batches.

1. Make the diagonal strings

Make 160 string blanks. The blank is a working square, not a finished quilt unit.

Draw one corner-to-corner diagonal on a 6 1/2 in paper square. Place the 2 x 10 1/2 in center strip right side up over this line, with equal overhang at both ends. Work on the fabric side of the paper.



Center one long strip **Add strips to both sides** **Cover and trim the blank**

1. Lay a 2 x 9 in strip right sides together along one long edge of the center strip. Sew a 1/4 in seam through fabric and paper. Press the new strip open. Add its matching 9 in strip to the opposite side.

2. Add a 2 x 6 in strip to each side, followed by a 2 x 3 1/2 in strip to each side. Center each strip over the exposed edge. Before sewing, flip it into its final position to confirm it covers the paper, including both ends.

3. Keep adding in parallel rows; use the 1/4 in allowance consistently. If a scrap is short, piece it lengthwise first or use a longer strip. There must be no uncovered paper at a corner.

4. With the paper side up, trim to the 6 1/2 in paper outline. Remove the paper gently, supporting the stitches. Keep the blank flat; do not stretch its bias edges.

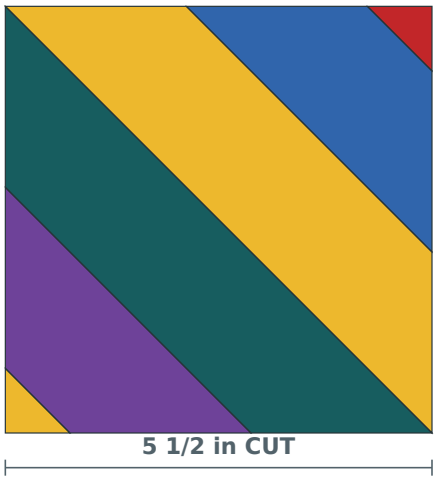
MEASURE BEFORE CONTINUING

All 160 blanks must cover a full 6 1/2 in square. Put 80 aside for S centers and 80 aside for pairs of T arms.

2. Cut the centers and arms

Use the actual-size guides on pages 21-22. Do not add any extra seam allowance.

CENTER S - 80 PIECES



Center the 5 1/2 in trimming square over a string blank. Keep the strings diagonal and trim away the excess. Each S is 5 1/2 in square cut, finishing at 5 in.

The extra working size allows you to remove uneven edges without losing the seam allowance.

ARM T - 160 TRIANGLES FROM 80 BLANKS



Cut ON the strip-parallel diagonal.

Cut each remaining 6 1/2 in blank once diagonally, parallel to the strings, to make two rough triangles. Place the T template over each triangle, with its right-angle corner toward the fabric's right-angle corner. Rotate the fabric as needed.

Trim both triangles to the solid outer line of the T template. The dashed triangle shows the 5 in finished shape. Keep its marked sewing endpoints; these are more useful than the projecting dog ears.

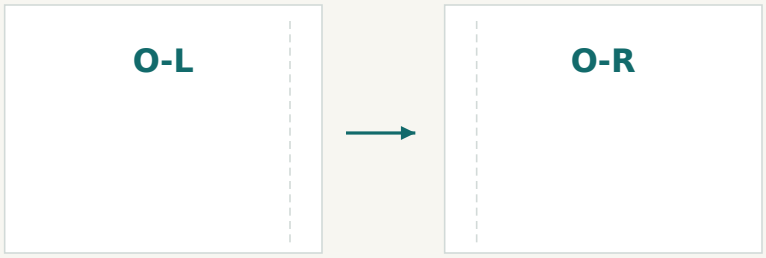
IMPORTANT TRIANGLE DIMENSION

T finishes with two 5 in perpendicular legs. Its raw legs are about 5.854 in because of the diagonal seam allowance. Do not cut a 5 in triangle or halve a 5 1/2 in square. The full-size T guide supplies the correct geometry.

3. Prepare the O foundation

Outer triangle O is sewn on paper to hold the long diagonal edge accurately.

Print pages 19 and 20 at 100% / Actual Size. Disable Fit, Shrink and borderless enlargement. Confirm the 1 in test square on each page with a ruler before making copies.



Trim L on its JOIN line.
Align it with the JOIN line on R.
Match both registration ticks and tape.

The triangle is rotated on the template pages so it fits on two sheets. The joined master has a 10 in finished right triangle inside a full 1/4 in perimeter seam allowance. Do not join two sewn fabric halves at the paper tile line. Tape the paper first and sew O as one continuous section.

Make 80 joined foundations. You may instead trace the assembled sewing lines, cut line and O1-O9 labels onto a larger sheet of lightweight paper. Preserve the full scale and all perimeter allowance.

PAPER PIECING: THE REPEAT

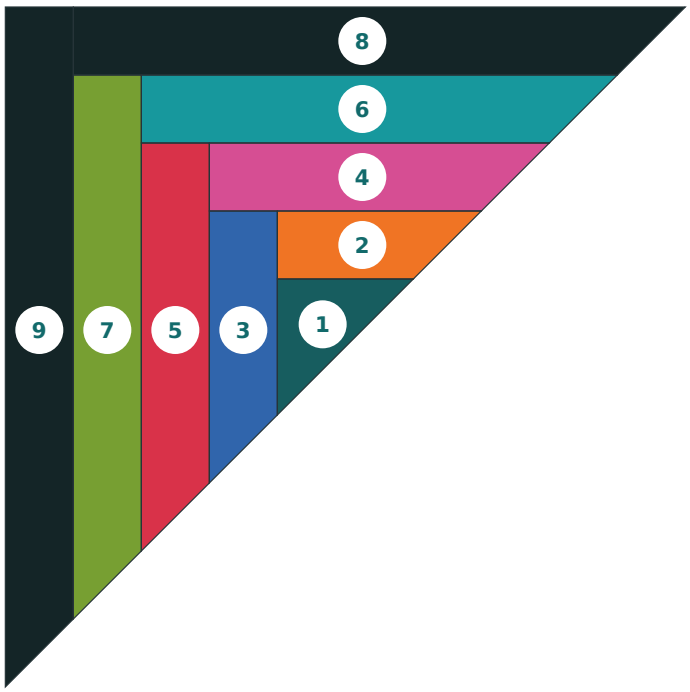
Place fabric against the unprinted back of the paper. Read and stitch on the printed side. Keep fabric right sides together at each new seam, then press the added strip open on the fabric side. A stitch length around 1.6-1.8 mm usually makes paper removal easier; check your paper first.

BEFORE EVERY SEAM

Fold the paper on the next sewing line. Trim the current fabric to 1/4 in beyond that fold, unfold, add the next strip and test-flip it. It must cover its entire numbered area and the outer cut line wherever that area reaches the edge.

4. Sew O1 through O9

Make 80 outer triangles; the two longest logs are black.



Schematic shown in the convenient corner orientation.

O1 covers the central seed area. Its fabric must extend at least 1/4 in beyond both first sewing lines and reach the diagonal cut line.

Add logs in numerical order. O2 and O3 form the first pair; O4 and O5 the next; O6 and O7 the last bright pair. O8 and O9 form the black outside frame.

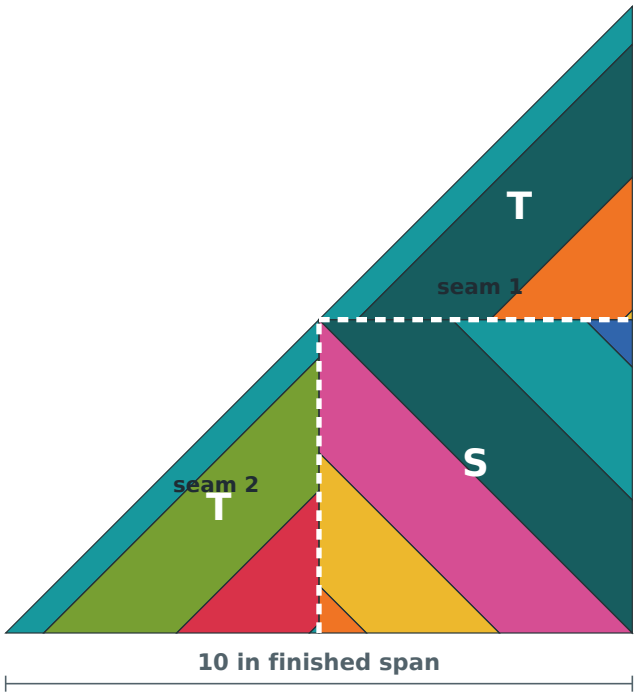
Sew	Fabric action
O1	Pin the bright seed triangle, right side up, to the unprinted side.
O2-O7	Add one bright log at a time. Stitch the full printed seam line, extending a few stitches beyond each end when inside the allowance. Press after every log.
O8-O9	Repeat with black strips. These form the two outside legs of the quadrant.
Trim	Trim ONLY the solid outer cut line, leaving all 1/4 in perimeter allowance. Keep the paper attached until after the long diagonal seam on page 11.

Foundation numbers are viewed from the paper side; the fabric side is mirrored. Turn the completed triangle so its two black legs occupy the outside corner of the quadrant. The shape fits in either mirrored fabric view.

5. Assemble the bright triangle

For each quadrant: one S square plus two T triangles. Make 80.

LAYOUT: FINISHED SHAPES ARE SHOWN; SEAM ALLOWANCES ARE OMITTED



1. Sew the horizontal leg of the upper T to the top of S. Match the 5 in finished leg to the top seam line of S. The triangle points upward and its right angle is at the upper right of S.

2. Sew the vertical leg of the second T to the left of S. Its right angle is at the lower left of S. The two T pieces touch at the top-left finished corner of S.

First rotate S so its strings run from upper left to lower right in this layout. The T strings run the opposite diagonal, parallel to the long sloping edge. Use 1/4 in seams and align the marked finished endpoints; do not force dog ears to match square corners.

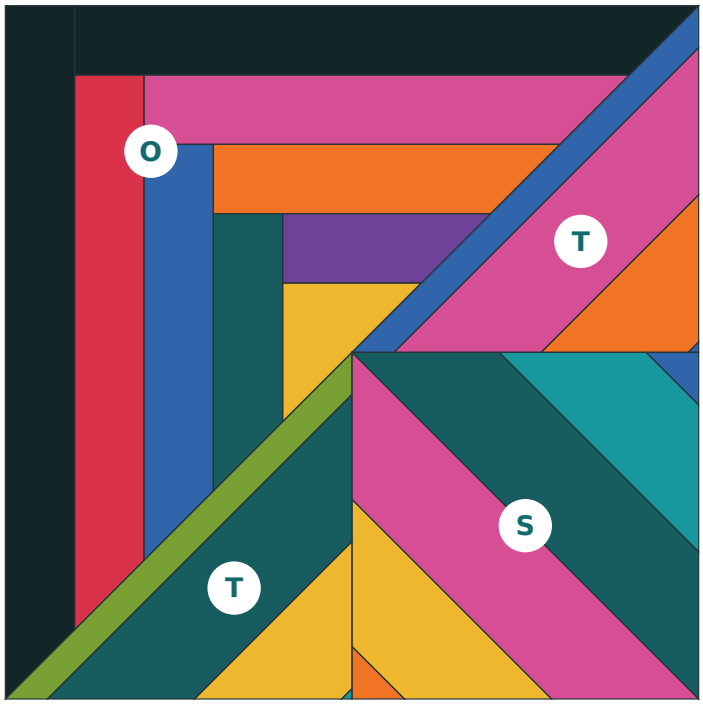
Press these two seams toward S, or open if bulk requires. The two T sloping edges must make one straight long diagonal. Trim protruding dog ears only after checking that all perimeter seam allowance is present.

QUANTITY CHECK

80 bright triangles = 80 S centers + 160 T arms. Each finished bright triangle occupies half of a 10 in square. Its full raw outline includes diagonal allowance and dog ears; do not square it to 10 in.

6. Complete one quadrant

Join one O outer triangle to one bright triangle along the long diagonal.



10 1/2 in CUT / 10 in FINISHED

1. Place O and the bright triangle right sides together along their long diagonal edges. Match both finished seam endpoints, not the dog-ear tips. Pin the center, then the ends.

2. With the O paper side up, stitch exactly on the dashed diagonal finished boundary of O, 1/4 in inside its outer cut line. This seam attaches the two halves.

3. Press the long seam open. Remove O paper gently and flatten without pulling the diagonal. The black logs must occupy the outside corner.

4. Square the joined quadrant to 10 1/2 x 10 1/2 in. Keep a 1/4 in allowance outside all four 10 in finished boundaries. Align the ruler's 45-degree line with the long diagonal seam: that seam runs between the two opposite raw corners. The finished seam endpoints sit 1/4 in inside those corners.

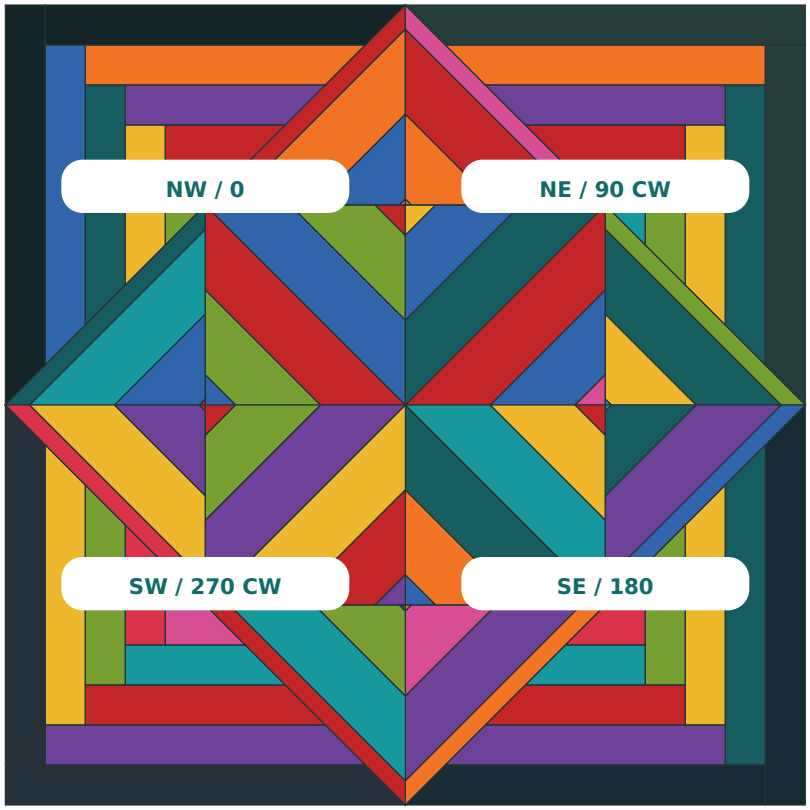
A USEFUL SQUARING CHECK

With black logs at the top and left, the internal T-to-S seams meet at a point 5 1/4 in from the raw right edge and 5 1/4 in from the raw bottom edge. Keep this position and the outside allowance when squaring. Do not cut into the points to make an undersized unit fit.

Continue until you have 80 accurate quadrants. Group them in sets of four with a balanced mix of colors; the black corners will rotate around each block.

7. Build a 20 in block

Four identical quadrant shapes; four rotations around the center.



20 1/2 in CUT / 20 in FINISHED

Black outer logs must run along the four outside corners of the complete block. Bright S squares meet in a four-patch at the center.

Sew NW to NE to make the top row. Sew SW to SE to make the bottom row. Use 1/4 in seams and press the row seams in opposite directions.

Join both rows, matching the center and the points where the diagonal seams reach the joining edges. Press the final seam open if needed.

Each quadrant measures 10 1/2 in before joining. A pair measures 20 1/2 x 10 1/2 in. After the row join, the block measures 20 1/2 in square, including its outside seam allowance.

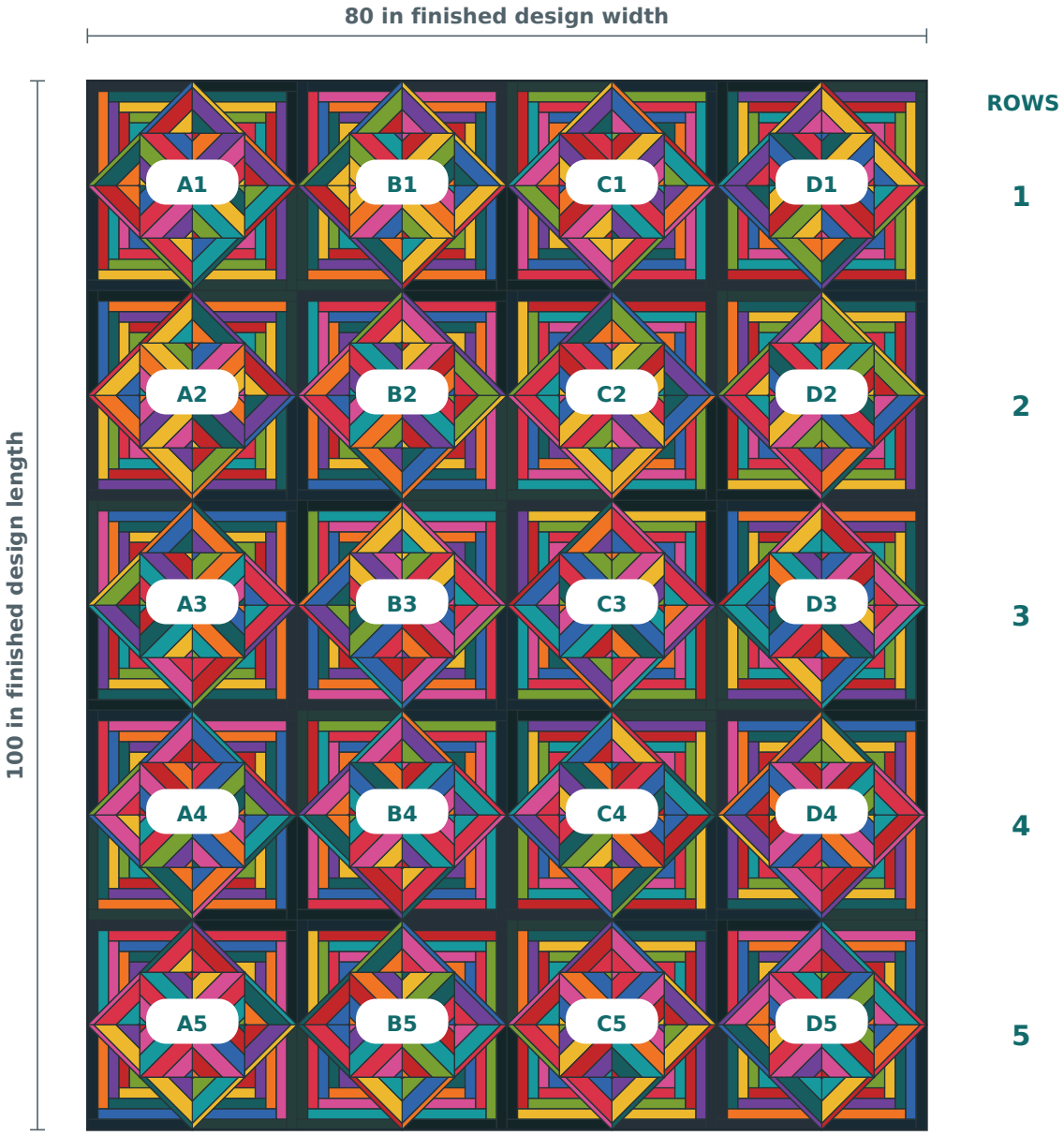
MEASURE BEFORE CONTINUING

Make 20 blocks. Keep the outside points at least 1/4 in inside the raw edge; that allowance will be used when blocks are joined.

Pressing option: if the center is very bulky, open the short crossing allowances at the center and fan them carefully. Do not cut through the permanent sewing stitches.

8. Arrange the quilt top

Place 20 blocks in four columns and five rows. There are no extra sashing strips.

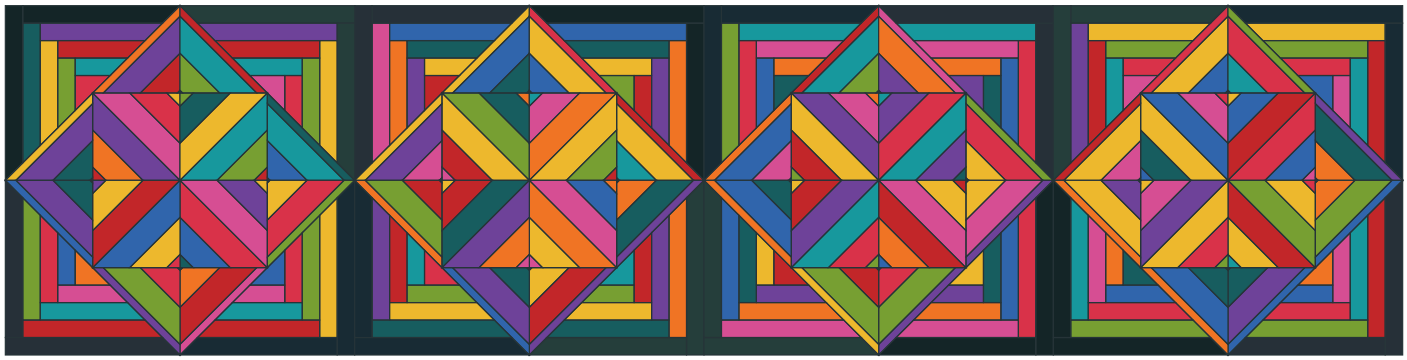


A1-D1 form the top row; A5-D5 form the bottom row. Distribute warm and cool colors before sewing. The printed colors are an example, not a placement chart for particular fabrics.

The dark frames are built into O8-O9. Do not add black strips between blocks; that would change both the size and the visual connections.

9. Join the rows accurately

The point-matching method matters more than the order of your colors.



One sewn row: 80 1/2 x 20 1/2 in, including outside allowance

1. Join the four blocks in each row with a 1/4 in seam. Pin the ends, block centers and any visible point intersections. Press joining seams toward alternating directions in adjacent rows, or press open consistently if the black logs create bulk.

2. Join rows 1 and 2, matching the block joins first. Then pin the halfway points and the ends. Continue adding rows in order. Do not stretch a long row to fit another; recheck block sizes if they differ.

3. Where a diagonal point reaches a joining edge, stitch through the intersection of the existing seam lines. A pin pushed vertically through both intersections is useful for alignment; place a second holding pin beside it, then remove the vertical pin before sewing.

SIZE MATH

Row width: (4 x 20 1/2) - (3 x 1/2) = 80 1/2 in.
Top height: (5 x 20 1/2) - (4 x 1/2) = 100 1/2 in.
The nominal 80 x 100 in design lies inside the outer 1/4 in binding allowance.

Staystitch around the top within the outside allowance, about 1/8 in from the edge, to secure bias intersections. Press the completed top flat and remove stray threads before layering.

10. Prepare backing and binding

A minimum 4 in margin around the unquilted top is allowed here, rounded up.

Item	Cut / target
Quilt top before quilting	80 1/2 x 100 1/2 in
Backing and batting minimum	89 x 109 in; increase if your quilter requests it
Regular-width backing option	Three panels, each 40 x 109 in; sew long sides with 1/2 in seams
Wide backing option	One piece at least 89 x 109 in from 108 in wide fabric
Binding	Ten strips, each 2 1/2 x at least 40 in; join with diagonal seams

BACKING

For regular-width backing, remove selvages before measuring the 40 in width. Three panels with two 1/2 in seams produce about 118 x 109 in; center the top and trim the excess to at least 89 x 109 in. Press the backing seams open.

BINDING

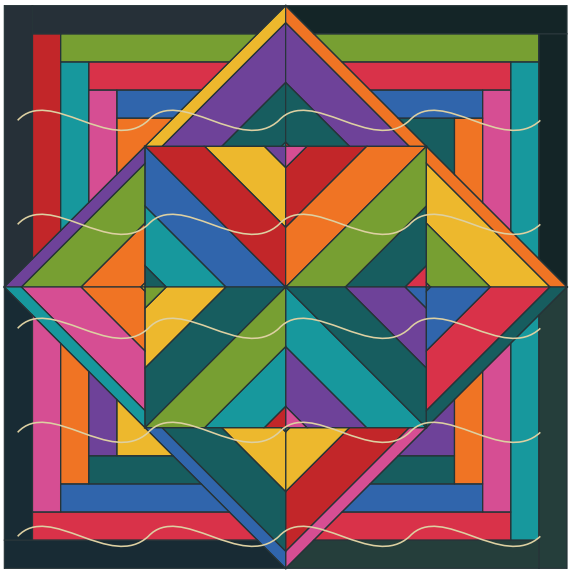
Join ten strips end to end with 45-degree diagonal seams. Trim each seam to 1/4 in and press open. Fold the long strip in half lengthwise, wrong sides together, and press. Use a 2 1/2 in double-fold binding.

Length check: 10 x 40 in = 400 in. Nine diagonal joins use about 22 1/2 in, leaving approximately 377 1/2 in. The raw top perimeter is 362 in; add 12 in for corners and the final join, for a working minimum of 374 in.

If your usable fabric width is less than 40 in, cut an extra binding strip and recalculate. Check your quilter's backing and batting requirements before buying or cutting.

11. Quilt and finish

Choose quilting that keeps the many strip seams secure without flattening the texture.



Layer. Lay the backing wrong side up, then batting, then the quilt top right side up. Keep all layers flat and centered. Baste securely using your preferred method.

Quilt. A loose allover curve or meander works well across the busy strings. Use a spacing compatible with your batting manufacturer. You may echo the large diamonds, but avoid pulling on their bias edges.

Square. After quilting, trim the backing and batting even with the top. Preserve the outer 1/4 in design allowance. If necessary, ease minor waviness with steam according to the fabric's care instructions, without stretching.

Bind. Attach the binding to the front with a 1/4 in seam and miter the corners. Leave tails for the final diagonal join. Fold to the back and finish by hand or machine, ensuring the folded edge covers the attachment seam.

Finish. Add a quilt label with the date and fabric care information. Remove basting and inspect for loose seams before washing. Wash gently according to your fabric and batting instructions; use color-catching sheets if your fabrics require them.

FINAL SIZE

80 x 100 in is the nominal drafted design. Binding take-up, quilting density and washing can change the measured finished size. The 80 1/2 x 100 1/2 in pre-quilting top includes the outside seam allowance.

Checks and troubleshooting

Fix sizing issues in the first block before repeating the full set.

Checkpoint	Correct measurement
String blank after paper trimming	6 1/2 x 6 1/2 in
S center, before assembly	5 1/2 x 5 1/2 in
T finished leg / template cut leg	5 in / about 5.854 in
O finished leg / template cut leg	10 in / about 10.854 in
Completed quadrant, squared	10 1/2 x 10 1/2 in
Two-quadrant row / full block	20 1/2 x 10 1/2 in / 20 1/2 in square
Four-block row / complete top	80 1/2 x 20 1/2 in / 80 1/2 x 100 1/2 in

Problem	What to check
The star/diamond does not read clearly	Check quadrant rotations and keep O8-O9 dark. Keep the T strings parallel to their long diagonal.
The bright triangle is too small	Did you halve a 5 1/2 in square? Use the larger string blank and the exact T template, including diagonal allowance.
O is too small or tiles do not match	Recheck printer scale and both 1 in test squares. Match the JOIN lines, not the page edges.
Points disappear after joining	Keep 1/4 in outside finished points. Pin through seam intersections; do not square by cutting into the points.
Bias edges ripple	Support the piece flat, press instead of sliding the iron, and avoid pulling while sewing.

For a small variation, unpick and correct the inaccurate seam. Do not compensate for a significantly undersized unit by shrinking every other block; that changes the planned bed size.

Project checklist

Print this page once and track the full double-bed quilt.

Preparation / unit	Target	Done
Printer scale checked on pages 19-22	1 set	_____
Complete test block measured	20 1/2 in square	_____
String blanks made and paper removed	160	_____
S centers trimmed	80	_____
T arms trimmed	160	_____
O foundations pieced	80	_____
Quadrants joined and squared	80	_____
Blocks assembled and checked	20	_____
Top joined and pressed	80 1/2 x 100 1/2 in	_____
Backing / batting prepared	At least 89 x 109 in	_____
Binding prepared / quilt finished	At least 374 in binding	_____

BLOCK CHECKS - MARK EACH AFTER MEASURING

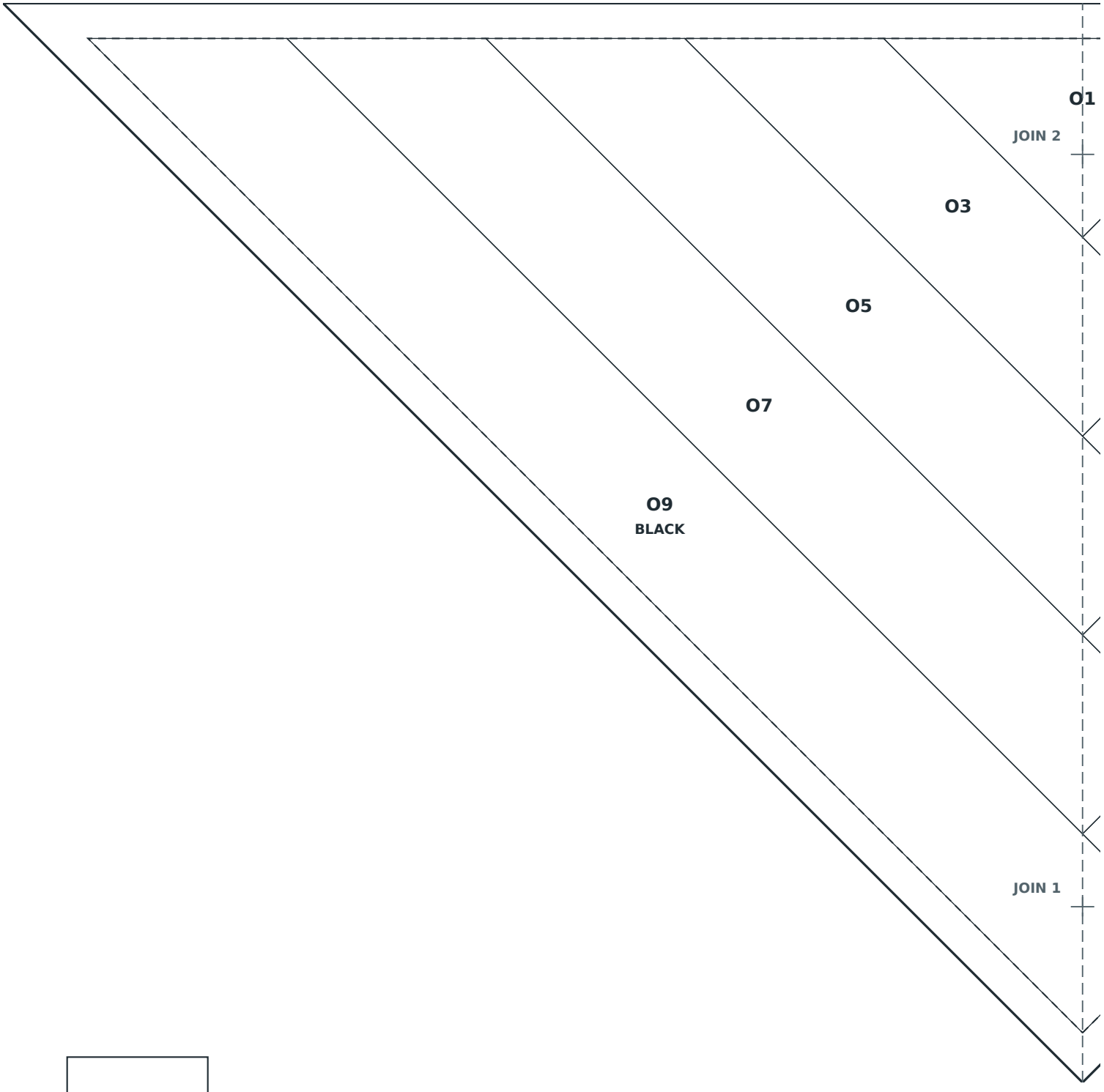
- ☐ A1 20 1/2 in
- ☐ A2 20 1/2 in
- ☐ A3 20 1/2 in
- ☐ A4 20 1/2 in
- ☐ A5 20 1/2 in
- ☐ B1 20 1/2 in
- ☐ B2 20 1/2 in
- ☐ B3 20 1/2 in
- ☐ B4 20 1/2 in
- ☐ B5 20 1/2 in
- ☐ C1 20 1/2 in
- ☐ C2 20 1/2 in
- ☐ C3 20 1/2 in
- ☐ C4 20 1/2 in
- ☐ C5 20 1/2 in
- ☐ D1 20 1/2 in
- ☐ D2 20 1/2 in
- ☐ D3 20 1/2 in
- ☐ D4 20 1/2 in
- ☐ D5 20 1/2 in

Template pages follow. Print only the pages you need at 100% / Actual Size. A4 is acceptable if the entire page prints without scaling or clipping; US Letter is the native page size.

ACTUAL-SIZE MASTER / PRINT AT 100%

Outer O / tile L

Join O-L and O-R on the marked line before using. Make 80 complete O foundations.



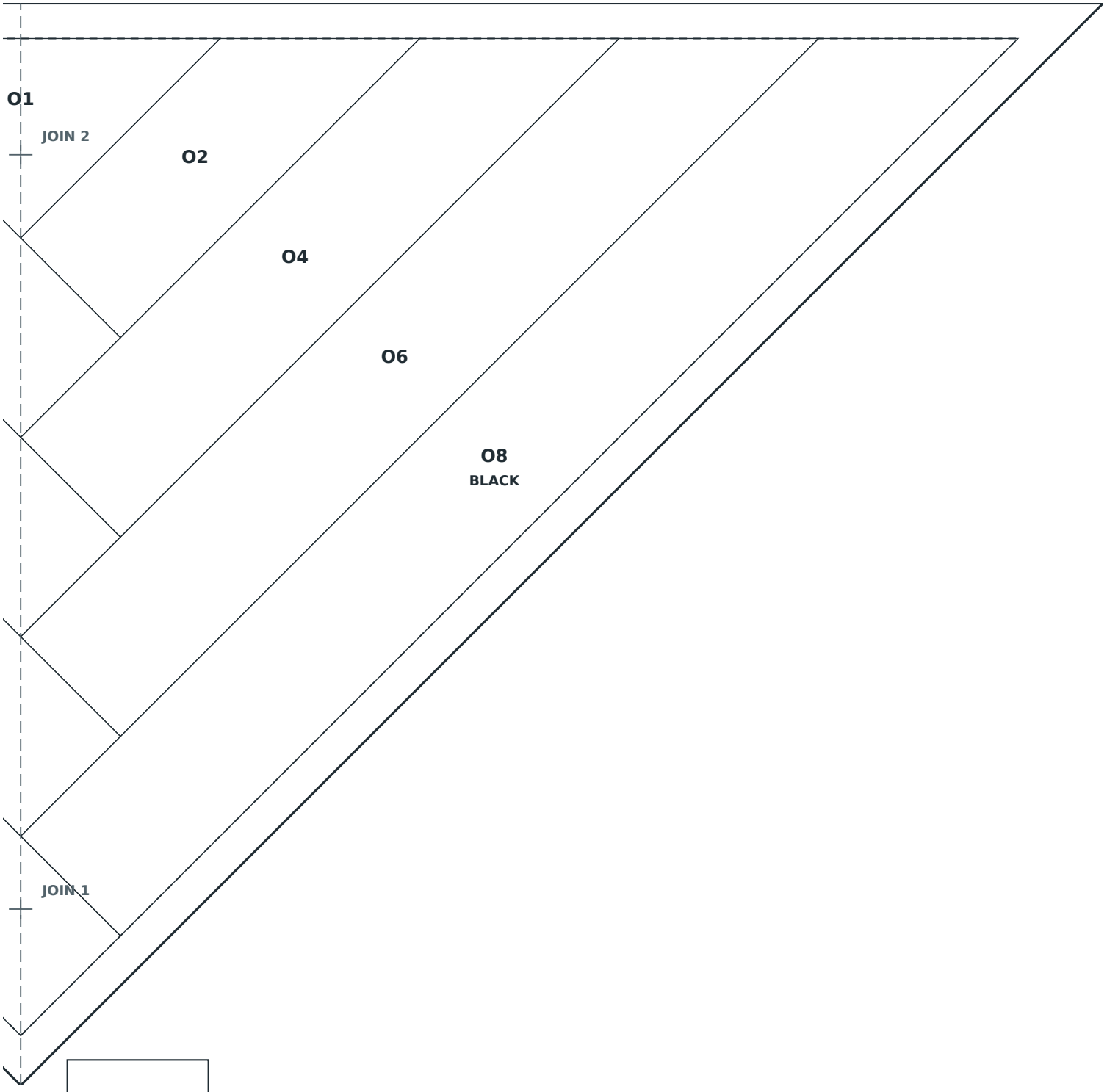
1 in

Solid outer line = CUT. Dashed triangle = finished boundary / long joining seam. All other internal lines = SEW in number order. Each finished outer leg is 10 in. Keep the 1/4 in outside allowance.

ACTUAL-SIZE MASTER / PRINT AT 100%

Outer O / tile R

Join O-L and O-R on the marked line before using. Make 80 complete O foundations.



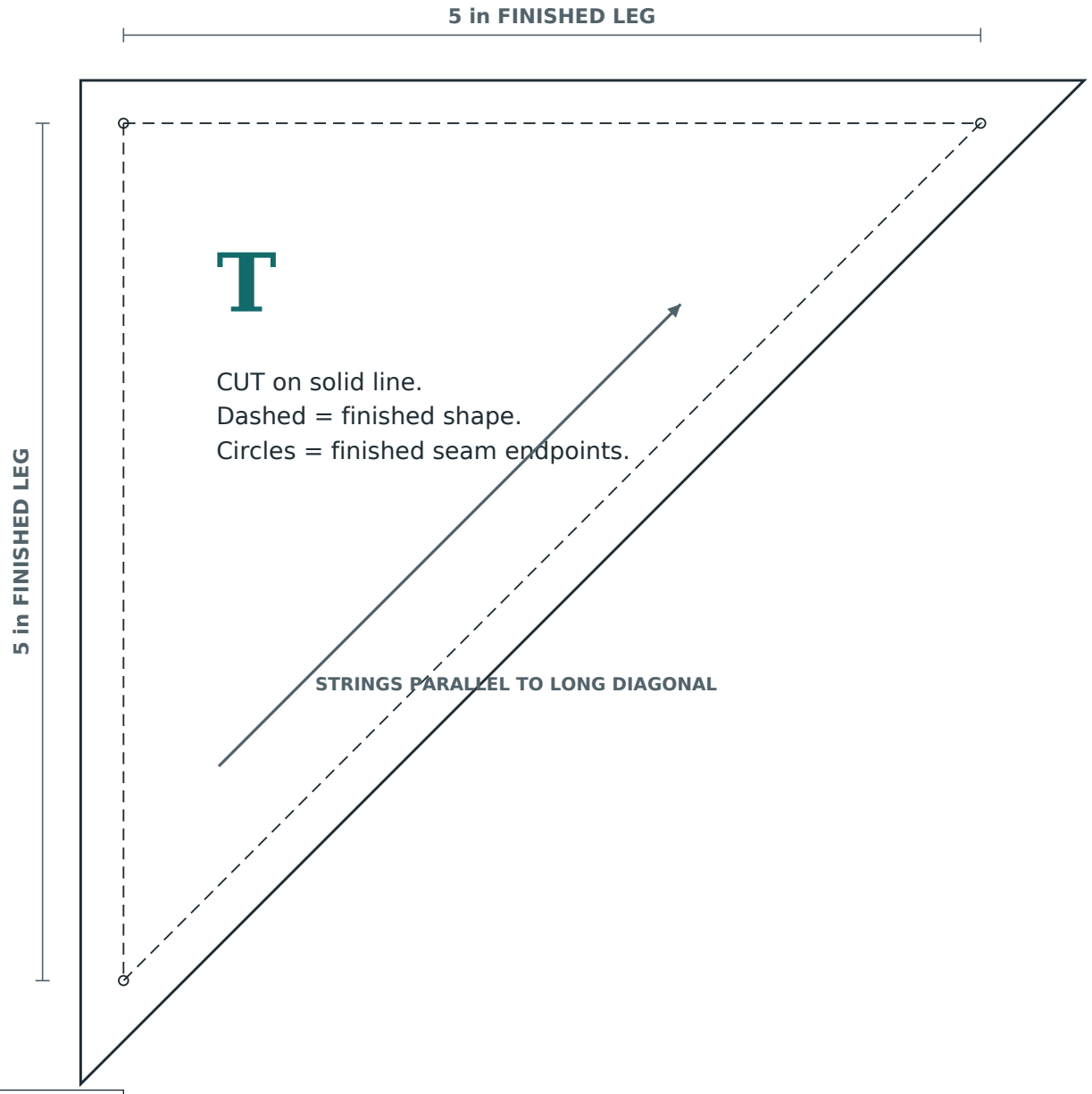
1 in

Solid outer line = CUT. Dashed triangle = finished boundary / long joining seam. All other internal lines = SEW in number order. Each finished outer leg is 10 in. Keep the 1/4 in outside allowance.

ACTUAL-SIZE MASTER / PRINT AT 100%

Arm T / trimming template

Reusable cutting guide: 160 T arms total. No extra allowance is needed.



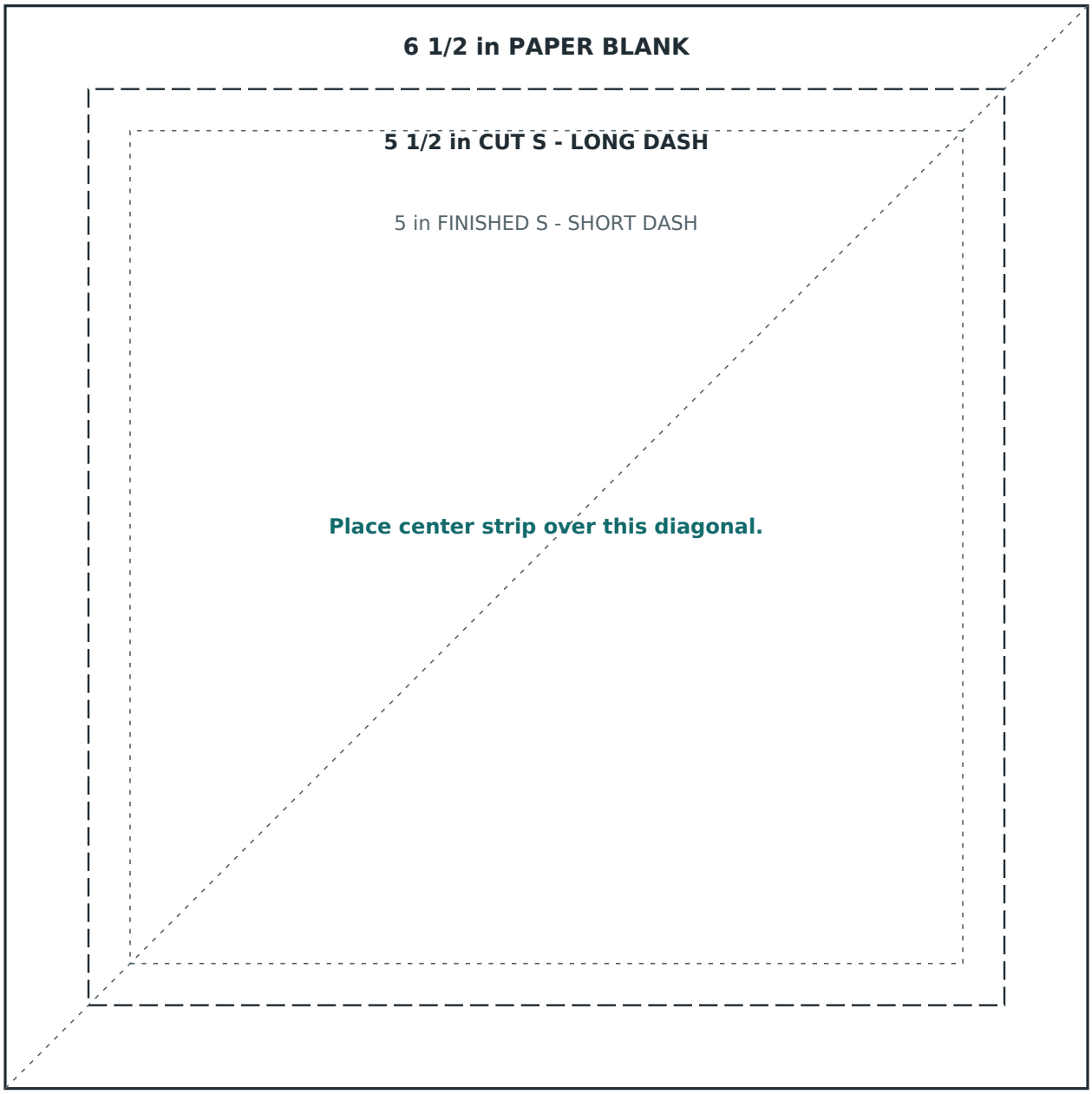
1 in

The perpendicular CUT legs are about 5.854 in; the template includes a true 1/4 in allowance on all three sides. Retain the full outline or transfer it to template plastic. Mark the finished endpoints before assembly.

ACTUAL-SIZE MASTER / PRINT AT 100%

String blank and center S

Use the outside square for paper blanks. Use the middle square to trim S centers only.



1 in

Make 160 blanks at the 6 1/2 in OUTSIDE size. Trim 80 to the 5 1/2 in S size after piecing. Keep the other 80 at 6 1/2 in until you cut them diagonally and trim their halves with the separate T guide.