Inverse Illusion Quilt Block

One diagonal seam turns three straight bands into a stepped pinwheel. Use a light solid and a densely colored floral print to bring out the small points at its center.



ONE BLOCK

6″ × 6″ finished

6½″ × 6½″ before joining

The photograph at left is the starting orientation. The cream band runs down the left edge and the floral band runs across the bottom.

CUTTING CHART / ONE BLOCK

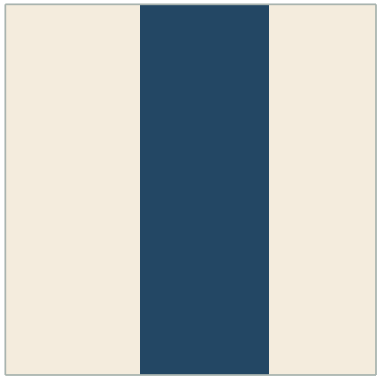
Cut one rectangle of each size from each fabric. Measurements include ¼″ seam allowances. Keep the widths in the order shown.

Strip position	Light solid	Dark floral print
Wide outer edge	1 at 2⅝″ × 6½″	1 at 2⅝″ × 6½″
Middle band	1 at 2¾″ × 6½″	1 at 2¾″ × 6½″
Narrow inner edge	1 at 2⅛″ × 6½″	1 at 2⅛″ × 6½″

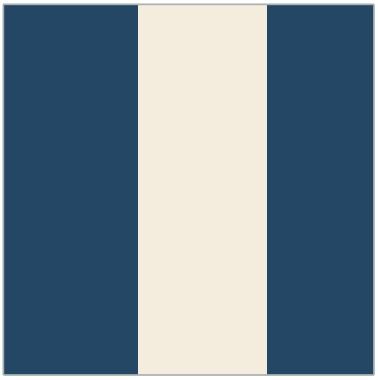
The reference gives a 6″ finished block and describes 2½″ × 6½″ units. Its quilt photo shows unequal bands. The cut widths above are reconstructed from the visible proportions. Make one sample and compare it with the full-size guide on page 5.

Piece the two panels

Work with a ¼″ seam allowance. Each diagram shows the strips in position after pressing. Keep the wide outer edge on the left in both panels.



Panel A · right side up



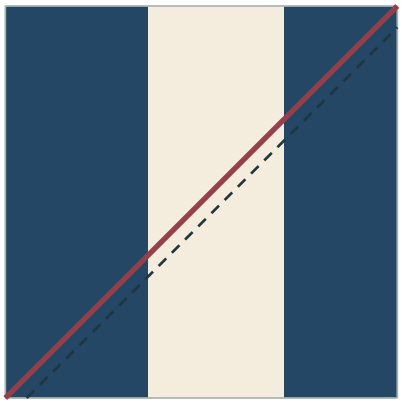
Panel B · right side up

Join the long edges in the order shown on page 1. Press panel A seams toward the outer bands and panel B seams toward the middle.

Each pressed panel measures 6½″ square.

1 STACK AND MARK

Lay A right side up. Turn B over from top to bottom, keeping its wide strip on the left. Place B on A, right sides together. Nest the vertical seams and pin. On the wrong side of B, draw a line from the bottom-left corner to the top-right corner.



Solid line = stitch

Dashed line = trim

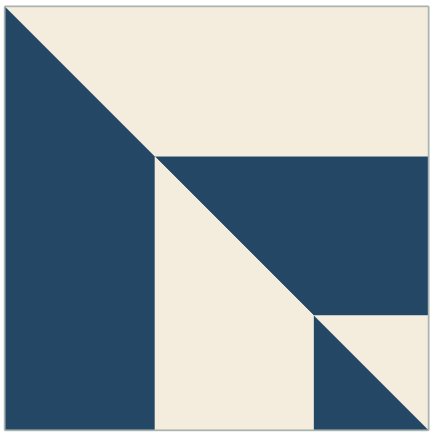
2 STITCH, CHECK, THEN TRIM

Sew on the marked line. Fold the upper-left triangle of B across the seam to cover A’s lower-right corner. The floral band should now run along the bottom. Confirm that all four edges align.

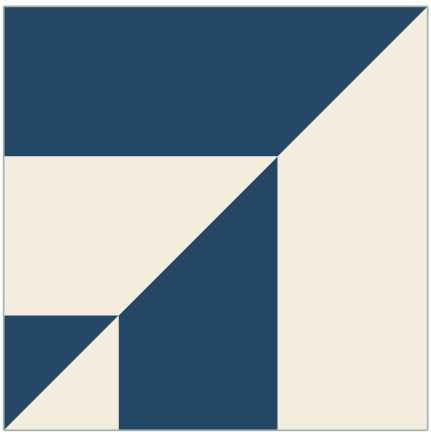
Unfold B. On the lower-right side of the stitching, trim both layers ¼″ from the seam. Open B again and press gently. Check for a 6½″ square with the diagonal running corner to corner.

Turn four blocks into a pinwheel

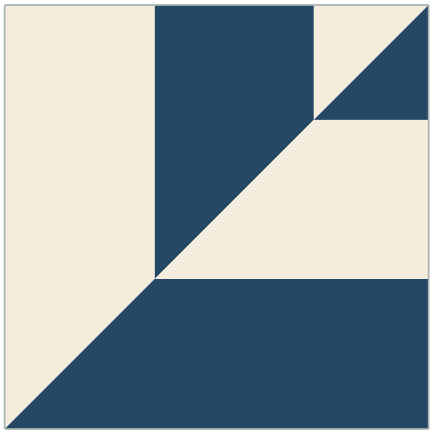
Make four matching blocks for a 12″ finished pinwheel. Lay them right side up. The narrowest two-color corners meet in the middle.



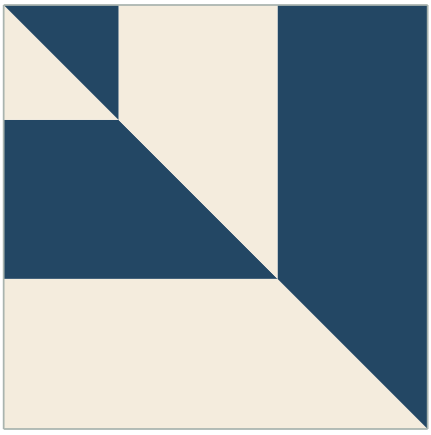
¼ turn clockwise



½ turn



Starting orientation



¼ turn counterclockwise

JOIN THE PAIRS

Sew the top pair together, then the bottom pair. Each pair measures 12½″ × 6½″. Press the top seam to the right and the bottom seam to the left. Nest the center seams, pin through the meeting point, and sew the rows together.

The four-block unit measures 12½″ square before it is joined to its neighbors.

Lay out the quilt top

For the photographed layout, make 24 standard blocks and 24 inverse blocks. To make an inverse block, swap the light and floral fabrics in every step on page 2. Use the same rotations on page 3 for both pinwheels.

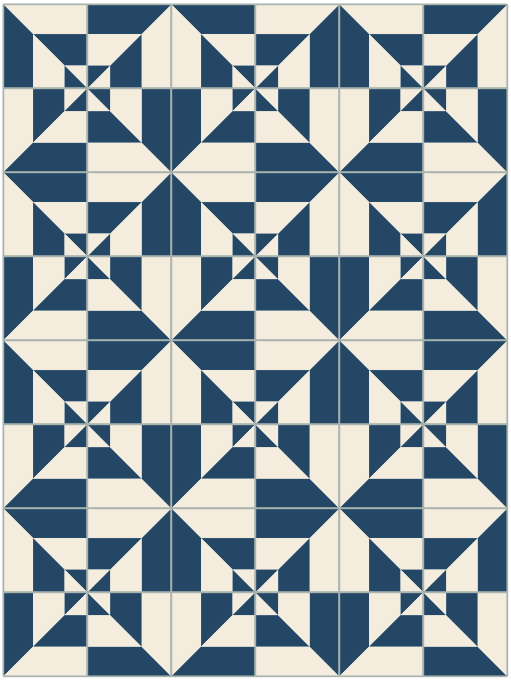


PHOTO LAYOUT / 36″ × 48″

Arrange three pinwheels across and four down. Start with a standard pinwheel in the upper-left corner. Alternate standard and inverse pinwheels across each row and down each column.

Join the units in rows with ¼″ seams. Press alternate rows in opposite directions, match the intersections, and join the rows. The unbound top measures 36½″ × 48½″.

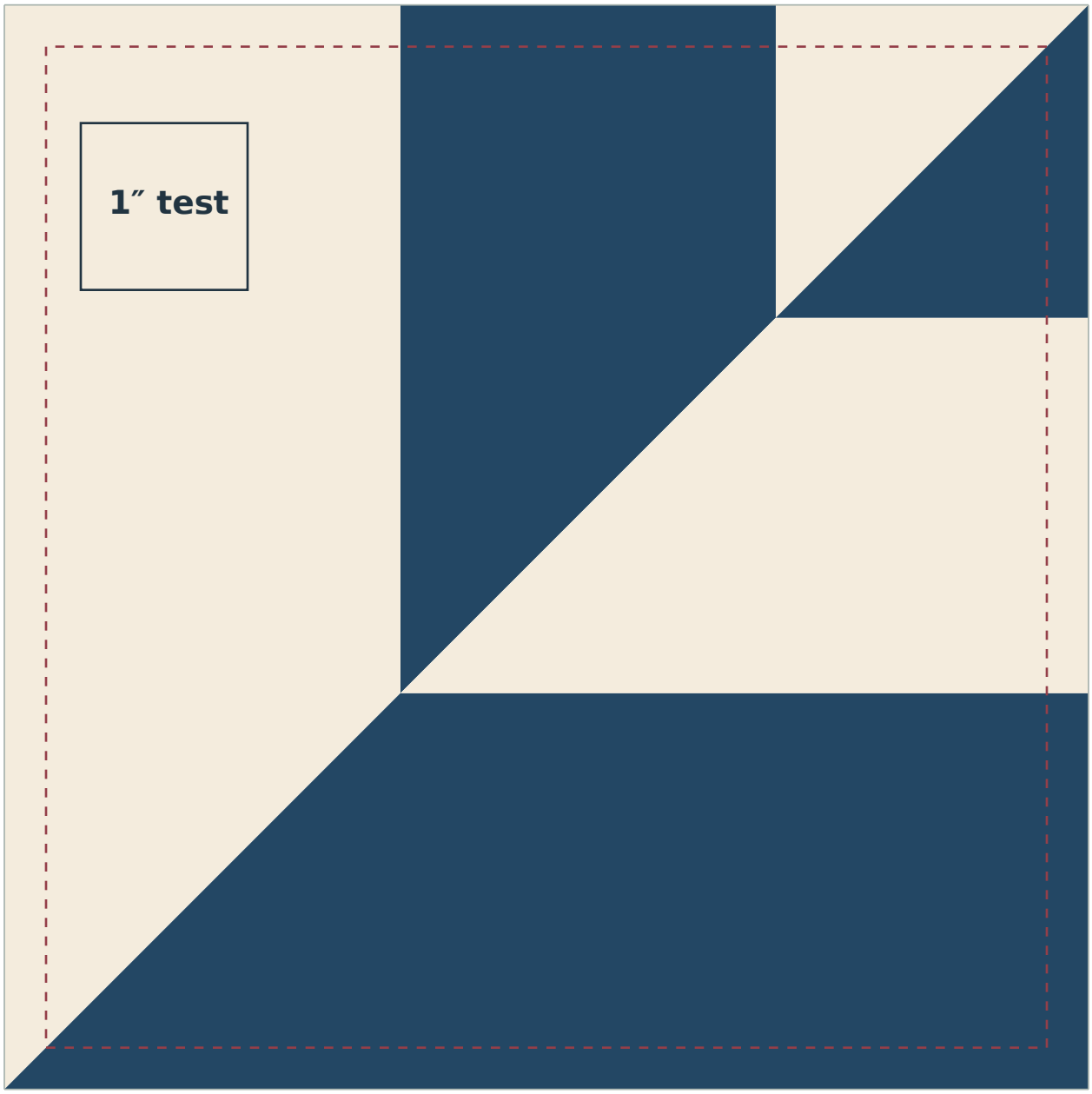
SIZE AND FABRIC PLANNER

Layout	6″ blocks (W × H)	Finished top	Each fabric[1]
Baby	5 × 7	30″ × 42″	1⅜ yd
Photo	6 × 8	36″ × 48″	1¾ yd
Throw	8 × 12	48″ × 72″	3½ yd
Twin	12 × 16	72″ × 96″	6¾ yd
Queen	15 × 17	90″ × 102″	9⅛ yd
King	18 × 19	108″ × 114″	12 yd

[1] Cutting plan and allowance on page 5. Odd block counts end with partial pinwheels.

Full-size block check

Print this page at 100% or Actual Size. Measure the test square first. Lay your pressed block over the guide with the wide cream strip on the left.



Outer edge 6½″ square **Dashed stitching line 6″ square**

Yardage basis. With 40″ of usable fabric width, one strip of each cut width yields six blocks per fabric when subcut into 6½″ lengths. Buy 7½″ of length per set of six blocks, round the sets up, add 3″ for straightening, then round up to the next ⅛ yard. Yardage covers the pieced top only.