Taos Quilt Pattern

A turquoise-and-copper medallion with a faceted diamond border



FIG. 1 / Finished layout of this adaptation

50 x 50 in finished / 127 x 127 cm

Raw-edge fusible appliqué and straight-sewn borders. This photo-based interpretation uses drafted shapes, an assigned scale and a construction method developed for this guide. The photograph alone does not establish the original measurements or seams.

Read the design



01 Supplied reference photograph



02 Sewing layout

Fabric and supplies

Choose quilting cotton with at least 40 in of usable width. Allow 2 1/2 yd ivory for the foundations, 3/4 yd deep teal, 3/4 yd charcoal, 1/2 yd turquoise, and 1/2 yd each of rust, ochre and sand. Estimates allow room for tracing and test pieces. Use small-scale batiks for the mottled look in the photograph.

Ivory	Turquoise	Deep teal	Charcoal	Rust	Ochre	Sand

Also gather 3 1/2 yd backing (40 in usable width), 58 x 58 in batting, 1/2 yd binding, lightweight paper-backed fusible web (about 5 yd at 18 in wide), appliqué pressing sheet, fine thread, removable marker and a walking foot.

Print the templates single-sided at Actual Size / 100%. Use the 1 in check square on each template page. A ruler, tape and a light source help when assembling and tracing the master.

Cut the foundations and borders

All measurements are in inches. Strip and foundation sizes below are cut sizes. Use a 1/4 in seam allowance for all pieced joins. The appliqué shapes are cut on their outlines.

Ivory foundations

Center: cut one 38 x 38 square. Diamond rails: cut four 5 x 41 strips along the length of the remaining yardage. Corners: cut four 5 x 5 squares. These pieces are oversized for stitching; the trim sizes are on pages 4 and 5.

Frames and outer edge

From charcoal cut nine 1 in x width-of-fabric strips. From turquoise cut four 1 1/2 in x width-of-fabric strips. From deep teal cut six 1 1/2 in x width-of-fabric strips. Reserve all remaining fabric for appliqué.

Binding and backing

Cut six 2 1/2 in x width-of-fabric binding strips. Cut backing into two 62 in lengths. Remove selvages, join long edges with a 1/2 in seam, press open and trim to 58 x 58.

Appliqué cutting

Use the full-size pages to cut four sets of the quadrant shapes, twenty rail units and four corner motifs. Cut only colored regions; ivory is the exposed foundation. Trace one paper set first and use it to keep track of shapes as you work.

Make a stitch sample

Fuse a small fabric diamond to a scrap of ivory using the web manufacturer's settings. Test a narrow zigzag or blanket stitch. Adjust stitch width so one swing just catches the background. Keep this sample for checking thread and tension.

Build the central medallion

Assemble pages 7-15 in the grid below. Trim to the edges of the colored 6 in squares and tape matching edges from the back. The assembled master measures 18 x 18 in. Its upper left is the outside corner; its lower right meets the quilt center.

A1	A2	A3
B1	B2	B3
C1	C2	C3

Tile map



Assembled quadrant

01 Mark the foundation

Fold the 38 in square in half each way and press lightly. Mark a centered 36 in square, leaving 1 in all around. Place the master beneath the upper-left quarter, matching the two inner edges to the center creases. Trace placement lines lightly. Rotate the master a quarter turn for each remaining corner.

02 Trace and fuse

Turn the assembled master face down and trace the shapes in reverse onto the paper side of fusible web. Label each with its color and location. Rough-cut outside the lines, fuse to the wrong side of fabric, then cut on the lines and peel the paper. For each small star, trace the rays as one silhouette if using a single color, or trace rays individually. Cut center accents separately to layer on top.

03 Stitch and square

Place shapes on the marked front, matching shared edges. Where points meet the center creases, join adjacent partial shapes on the paper to cut a single motif or butt the segments on the fabric. Fuse a section at a time. Stitch around every raw edge, working from base shapes to accents. Press and trim to 36 1/2 in square, leaving 1/4 in beyond the marked outline.

Set the borders

Sew opposing side strips first, then the top and bottom. Join strips end to end as needed before subcutting. Press each seam toward the new border. Pin at the ends, midpoint and quarters to distribute the length evenly.

BORDER	SIDE x 2	TOP/BASE x 2	RAW SIZE
Charcoal inner line	36 1/2	37 1/2	37 1/2
Turquoise frame	37 1/2	39 1/2	39 1/2
Charcoal outer line	39 1/2	40 1/2	40 1/2
Deep teal edge*	48 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2

*Add the deep teal edge after the diamond border. The raw size is the width of the square including its outer seam allowances.

Make four diamond rails

On each 5 x 41 ivory strip mark a centered 4 x 40 rectangle. Divide its length into five 8 in repeats. Use page 16 for the full-size shapes. Facing the rail with its outer edge at the top, arrange the colorways A, B, C, mirrored B, mirrored A. Flip the placement master left to right for the last two repeats. The ivory diamond in A is exposed background.

Fuse, edge-stitch and press as for the center. Trim each rail to 4 1/2 x 40 1/2, keeping 1/4 in outside the marked rectangle. Orient the rails as if rotating the upper border around the quilt. Sew one rail to each side of the framed center.

Add the four corners

Center the 4 in motif from page 17 on each 5 in square. Fuse and stitch, then trim to 4 1/2 in square. Sew a corner to each end of the two remaining rails. Each assembly measures 4 1/2 x 48 1/2. Match the corner seams to the side rails and attach top and bottom. Add the deep teal edge using the lengths above.

Quilt and bind

Layer and baste

Press the completed top from the back and remove loose threads. Lay the backing right side down, smooth the batting over it and center the top right side up. Baste from the center outward, keeping the border strips straight.

Follow the medallion

Secure the three narrow frames first by quilting in the ditch. Outline the turquoise center and the long copper chevrons, then echo the diamond rails. Fill the ivory areas with evenly spaced lines. Follow the batting label for the maximum distance between quilting lines.

Finish the edge

Square the quilt, trimming the backing and batting flush with the top. Join binding strips with diagonal seams, trim the seams to 1/4 in and press open. Fold the binding lengthwise, wrong sides together. Sew it to the front with a 1/4 in seam, miter each corner, join the tails and stitch the fold over the seam on the back.

Before cutting your appliqué fabric

Print page 7 and measure its check square in both directions. Assemble one quadrant on paper and try the smallest star in scraps. The diagrams have been drafted to scale; this adaptation has not been test-sewn.



Template index

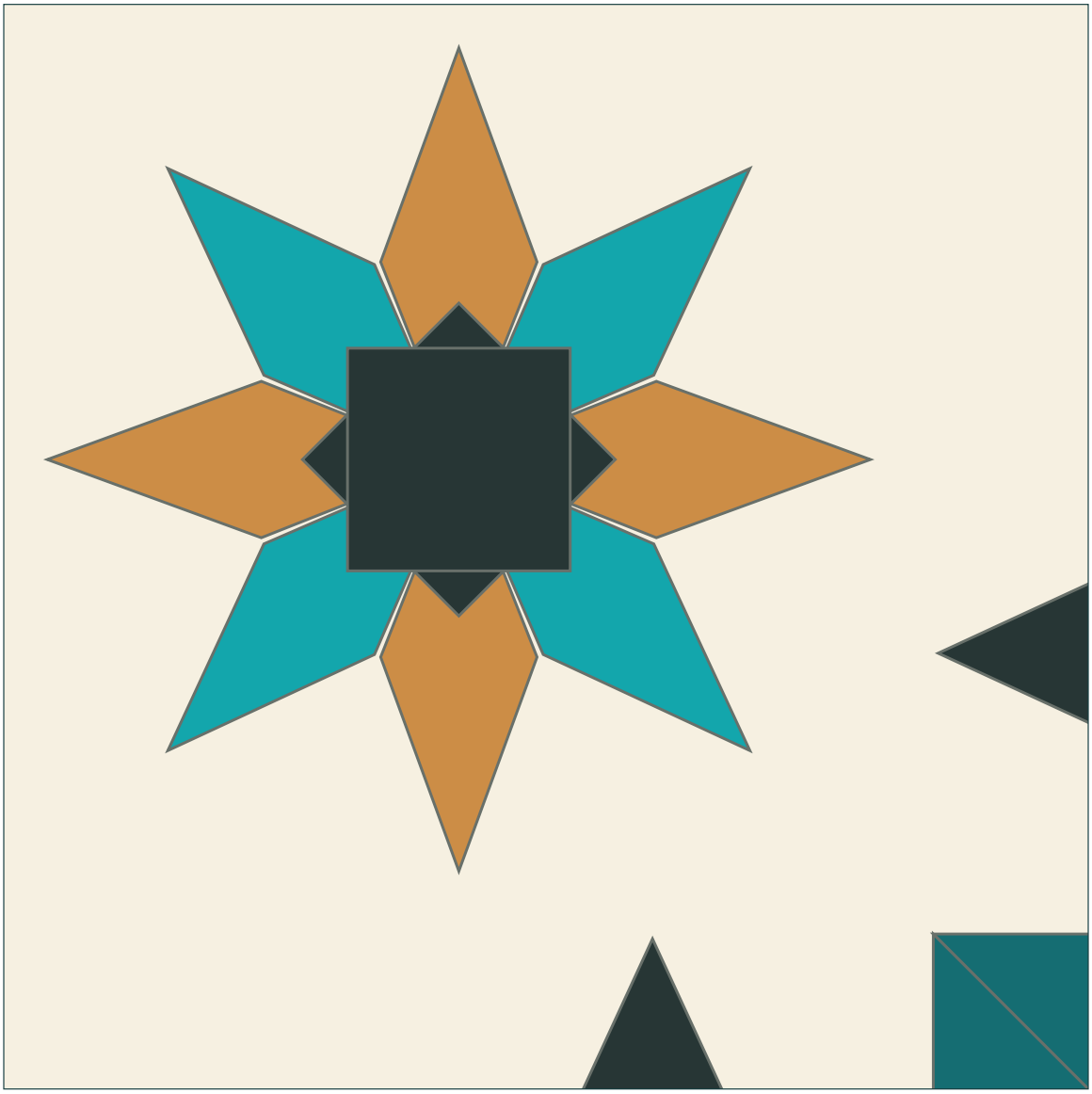
07-15 Nine center tiles, 6 x 6 in each

16 Diamond rail repeat, 8 x 4 in

17 Corner star, 4 x 4 in

Quadrant tile A1

Row 1 of 3 / Column 1 of 3 / 6 x 6 in



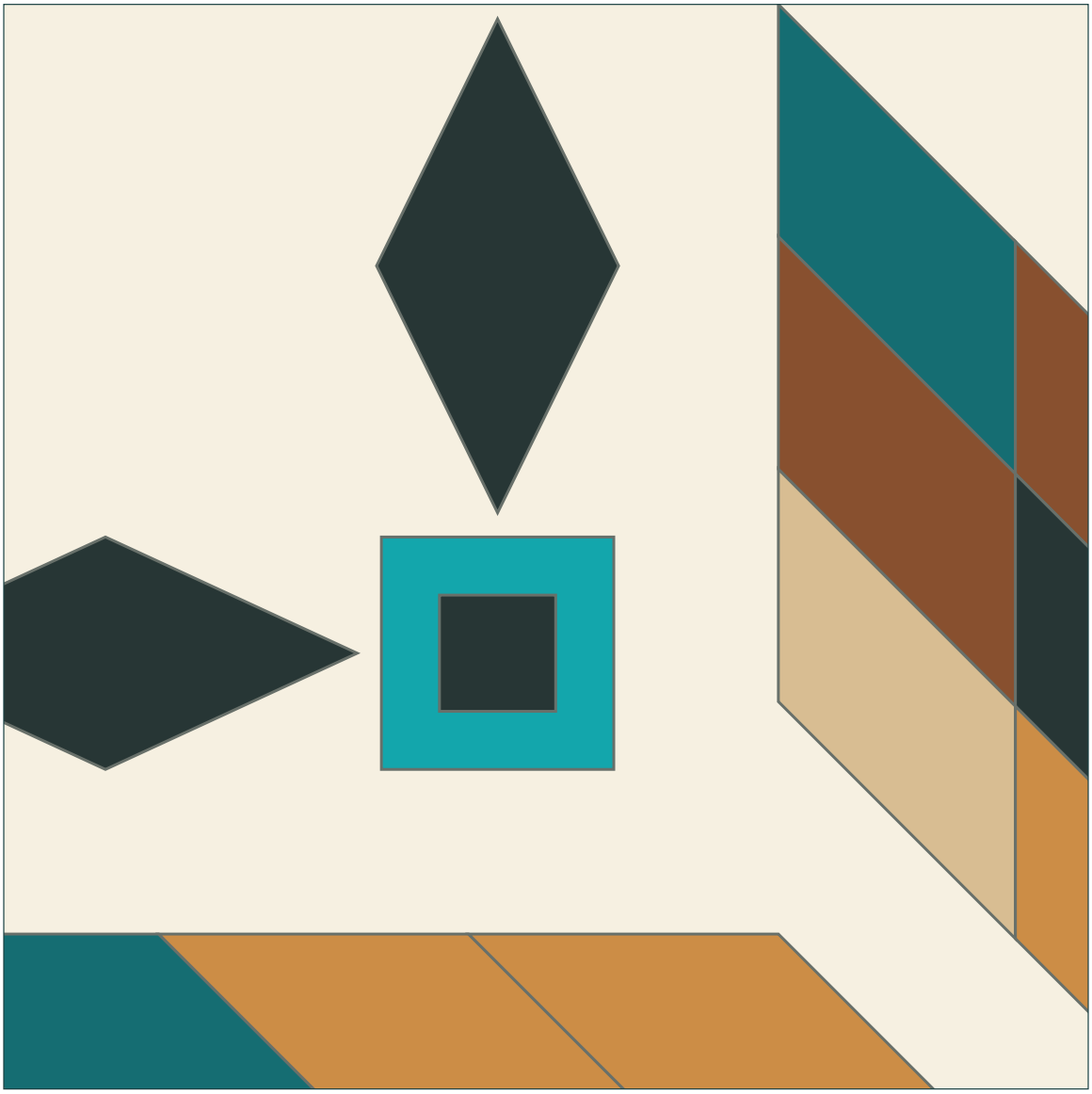
1 inch

Print at 100% and measure both sides.

Solid outlines mark finished appliqué edges.

Quadrant tile A2

Row 1 of 3 / Column 2 of 3 / 6 x 6 in



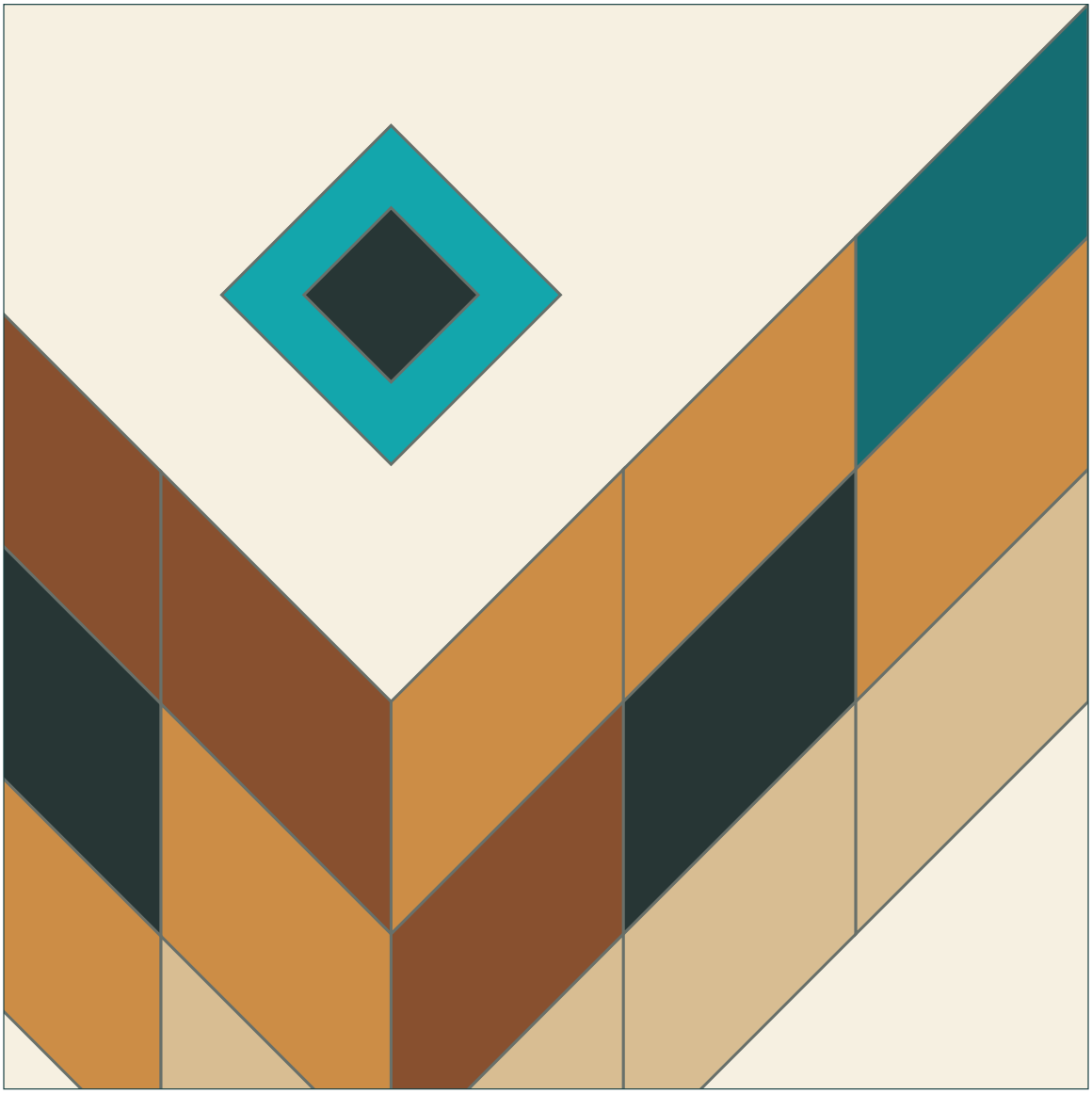
1 inch

Print at 100% and measure both sides.

Solid outlines mark finished appliqué edges.

Quadrant tile A3

Row 1 of 3 / Column 3 of 3 / 6 x 6 in



1 inch

Print at 100% and measure both sides.

Solid outlines mark finished appliqué edges.

Quadrant tile B1

Row 2 of 3 / Column 1 of 3 / 6 x 6 in



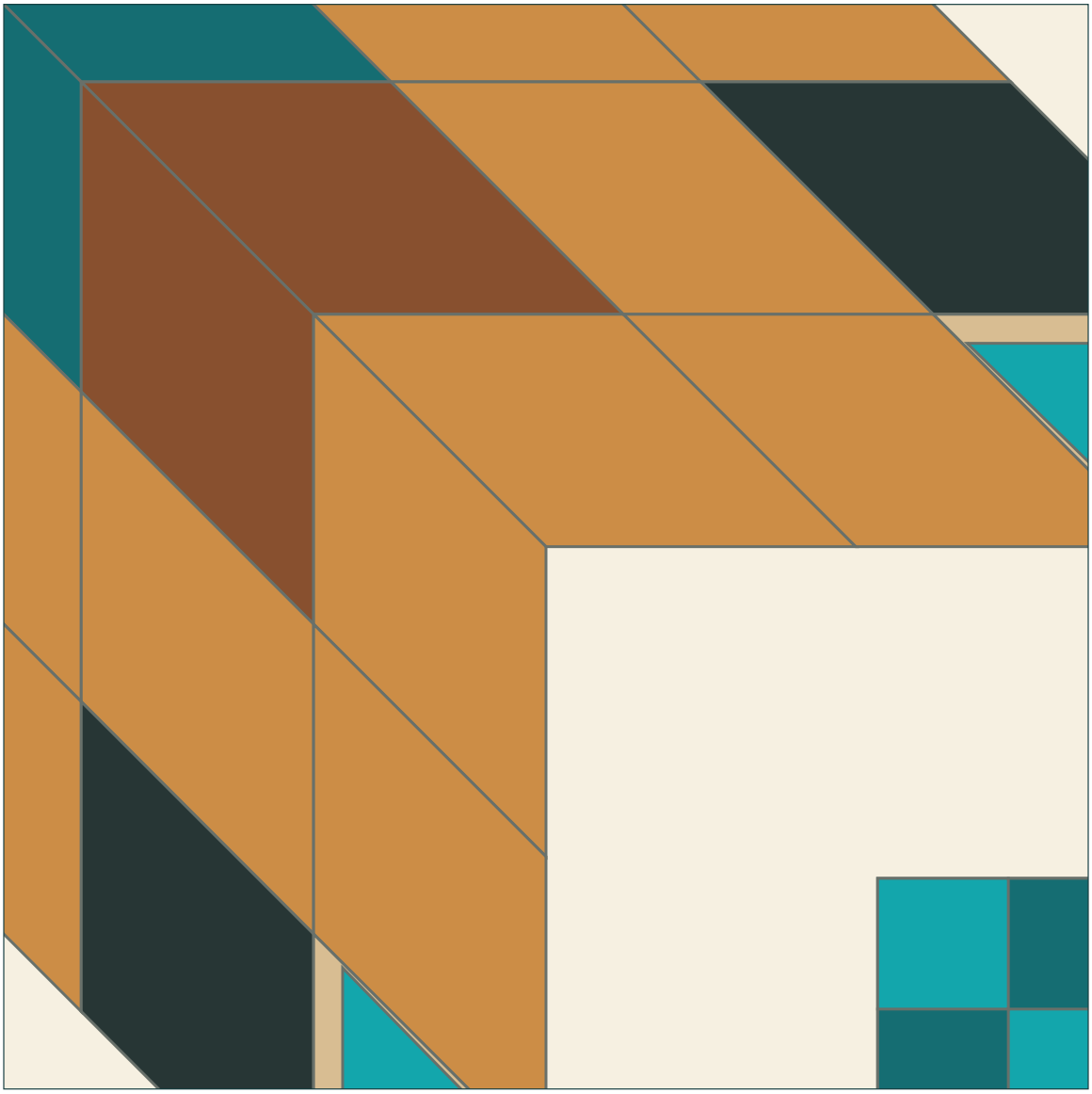
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Print at 100% and measure both sides.

Solid outlines mark finished appliqué edges.

Quadrant tile B2

Row 2 of 3 / Column 2 of 3 / 6 x 6 in



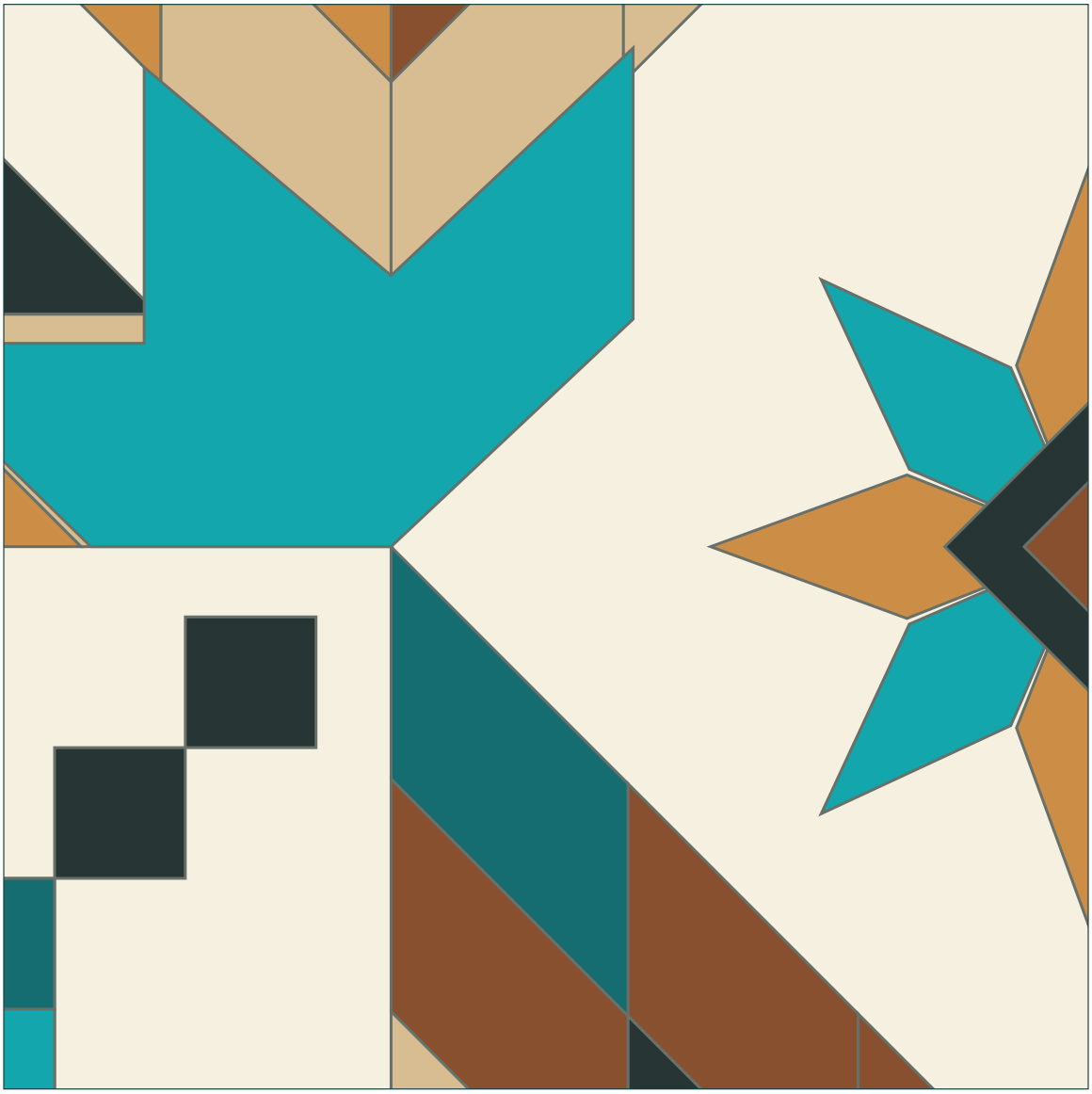
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Print at 100% and measure both sides.

Solid outlines mark finished appliqué edges.

Quadrant tile B3

Row 2 of 3 / Column 3 of 3 / 6 x 6 in



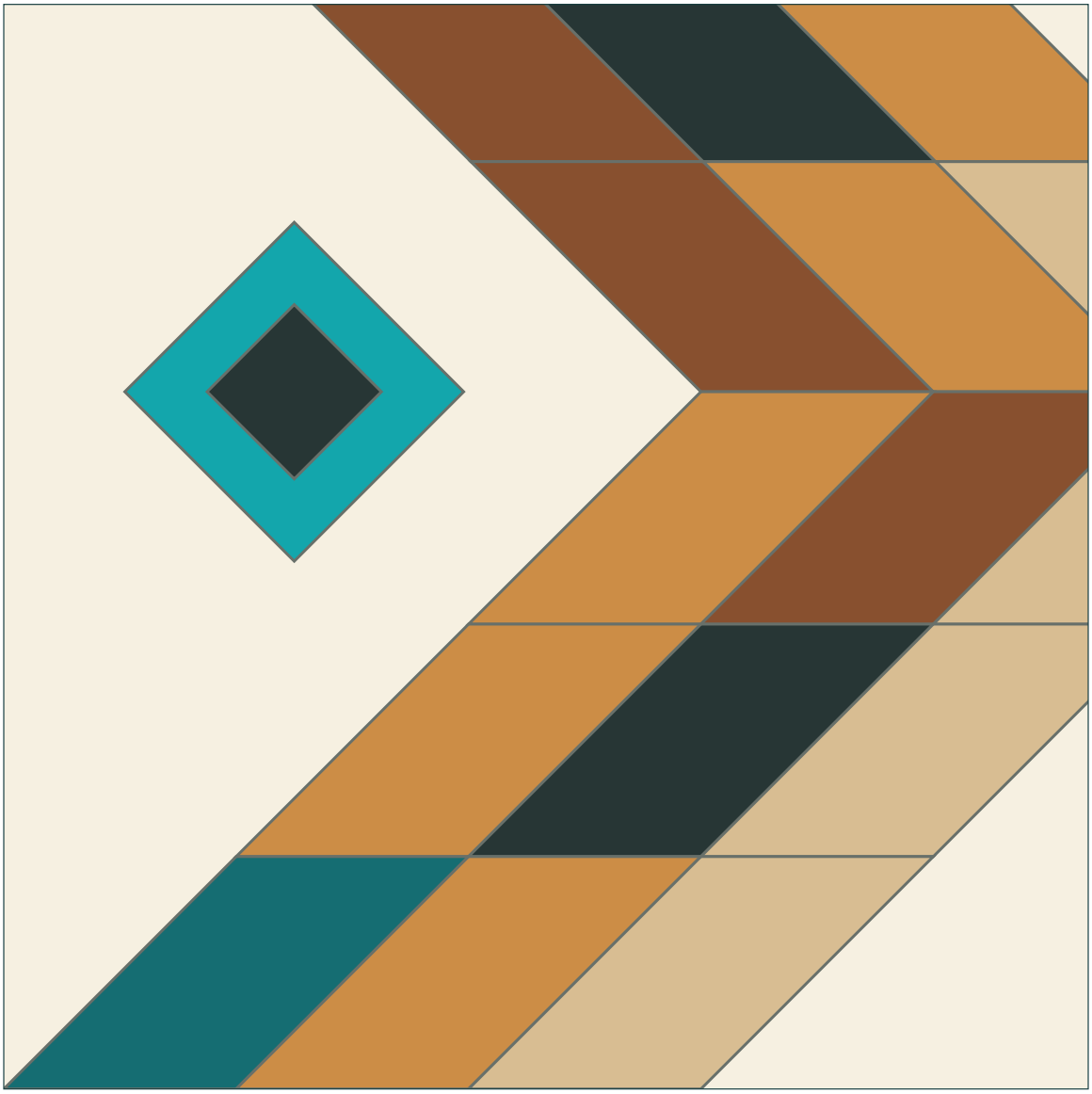
1 inch

Print at 100% and measure both sides.

Solid outlines mark finished appliqué edges.

Quadrant tile C1

Row 3 of 3 / Column 1 of 3 / 6 x 6 in



1 inch

Print at 100% and measure both sides.

Solid outlines mark finished appliqué edges.

Quadrant tile C2

Row 3 of 3 / Column 2 of 3 / 6 x 6 in



1 inch

Print at 100% and measure both sides.

Solid outlines mark finished appliqué edges.

Quadrant tile C3

Row 3 of 3 / Column 3 of 3 / 6 x 6 in



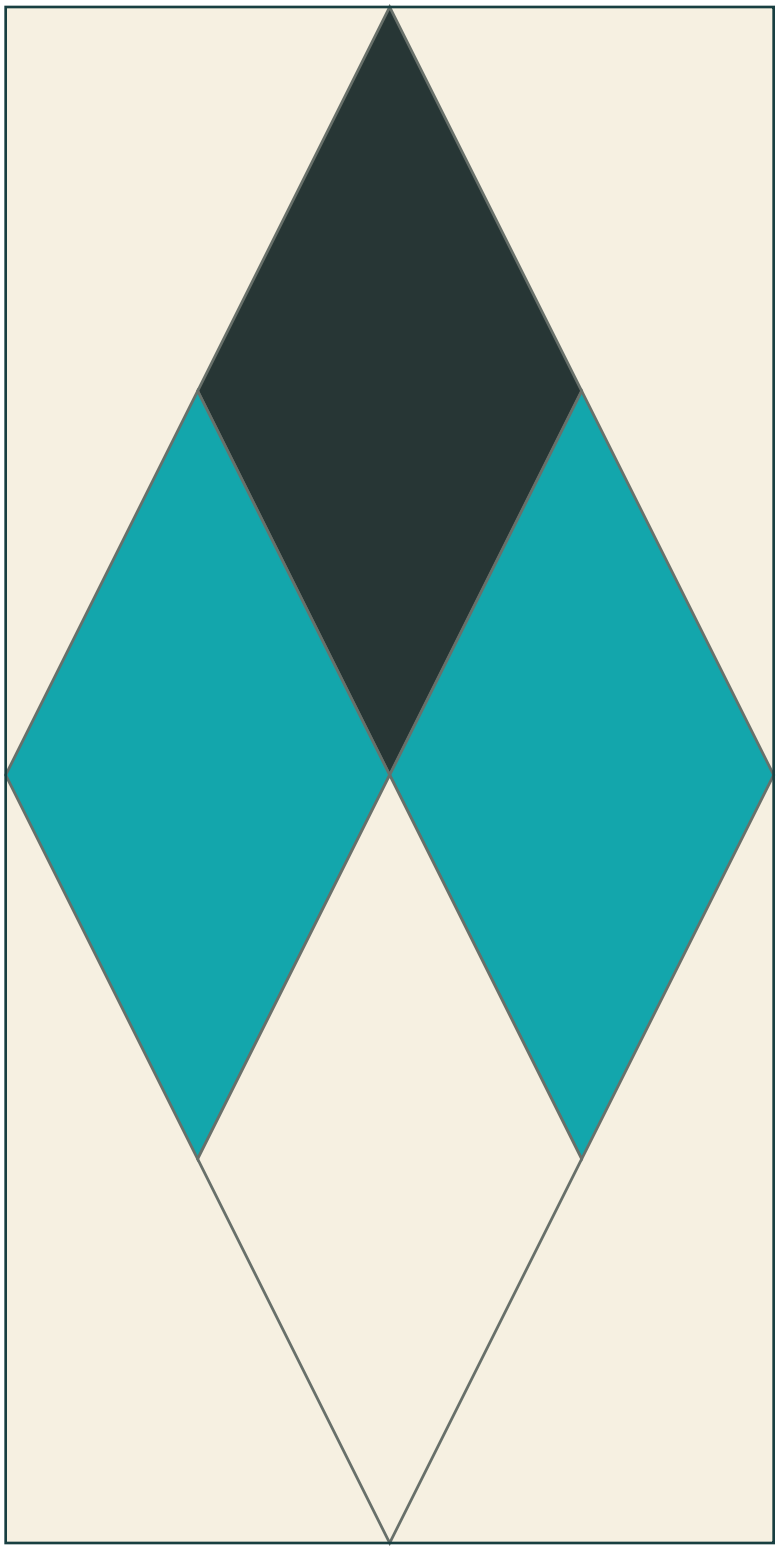
1 inch

Print at 100% and measure both sides.

Solid outlines mark finished appliqué edges.

Diamond rail repeat

Outer edge is at left. Rotate the page counterclockwise to view the horizontal rail.



A / Ends

Charcoal single, turquoise pair, ivory single.

B / Warm

Rust single, ochre pair, sand single.

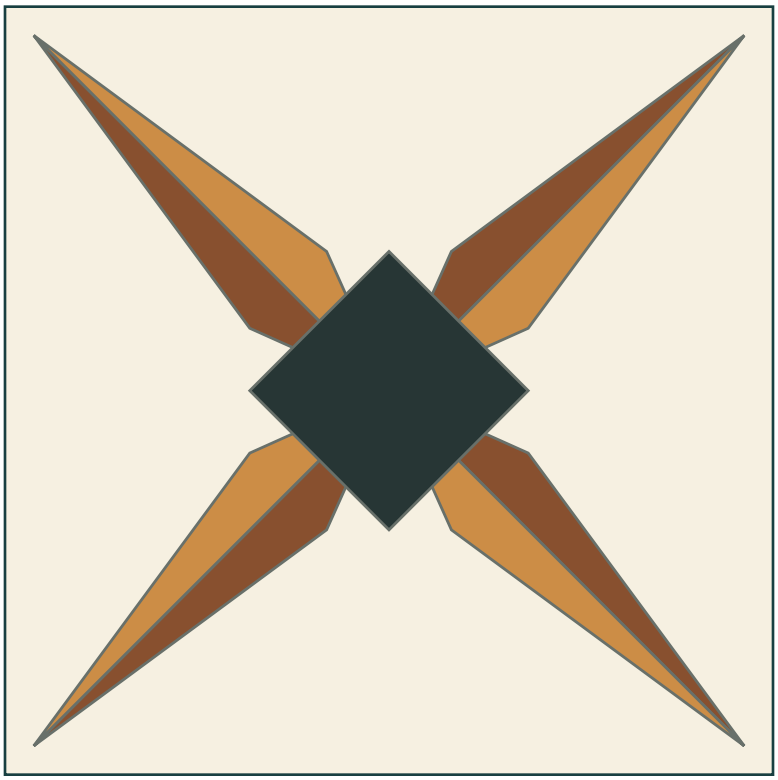
C / Center

Charcoal single, deep teal pair, deep teal single.

1 inch

Corner star

Make four. The outside square is the 4 in finished placement boundary. On the fabric, leave 1/4 in beyond that square when trimming. Use the same orientation in all corners, rotating the rail assemblies as shown on page 1.



Trace the two colored halves of each long point. Position all eight halves on the ivory square, add the charcoal center diamond, then fuse and edge-stitch.

1 inch

Print at 100% and measure both sides.

Solid outlines mark finished appliqué edges.