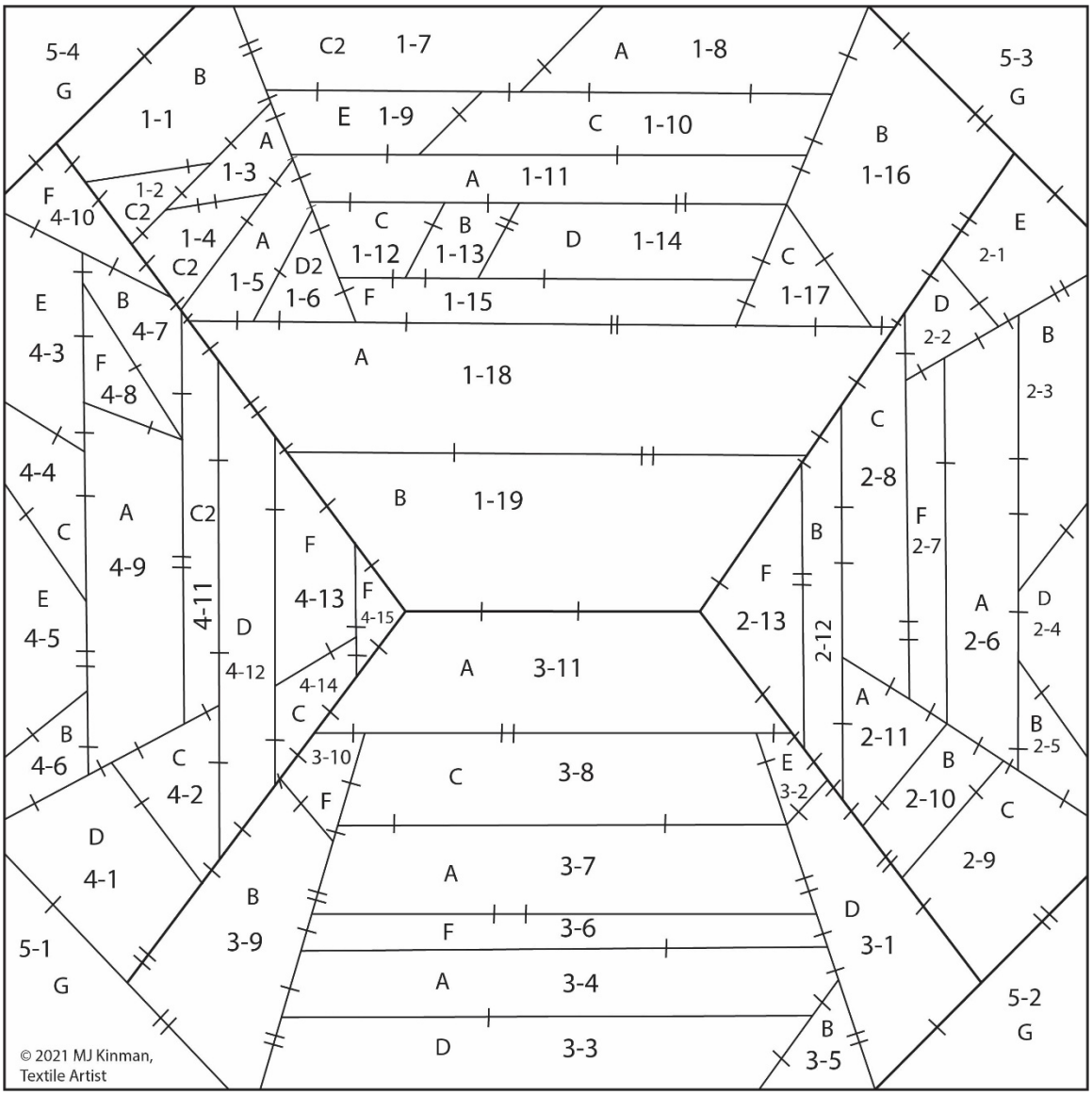
TINY TREASURES CLUB:
MAY'S "SUNRISE SAPPHIRE" (9" PATTERN)



May's Tiny Treasures Club pattern is inspired by this stunning 2.53-carat emerald-cut sapphire from the collection of Mayer & Watt. Mayer and Watt is owned by Laurie and Simon Watt, international gem dealers and people I'm lucky to call friends.

Are you surprised that this is a sapphire? Like so many other gems, sapphires are found in a wide variety of colors. Sometimes called "parti sapphires" (also known as polychrome sapphires), these stones are a rare type of *corundum* that cannot be replicated in the lab. They include two or three colors in blues, greens and yellows, emulating similar iridescent colors of peacock feathers. Just like this beauty!

The challenge of this block is the two set-in seams between the sections. No worries! I'll walk you through the process.

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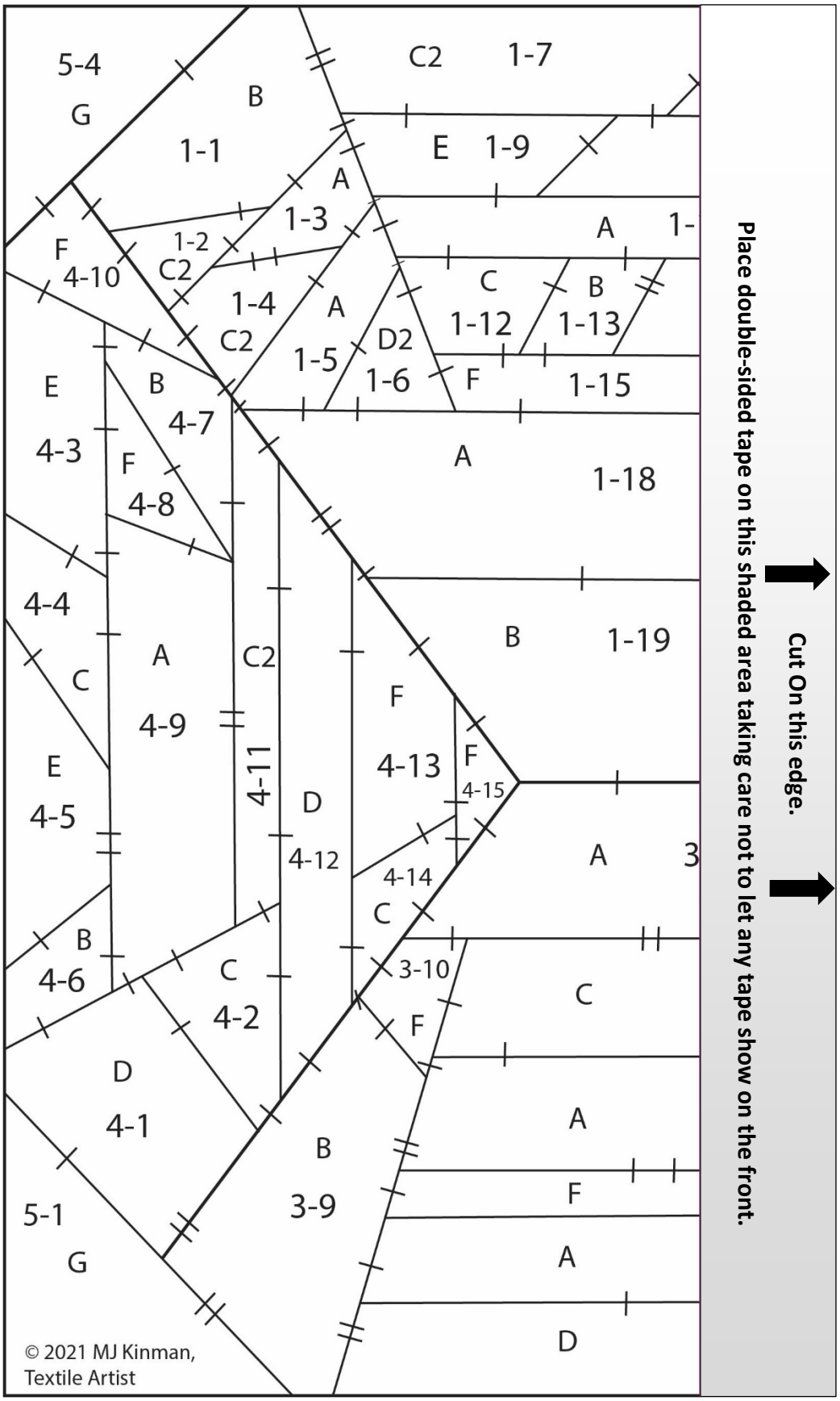

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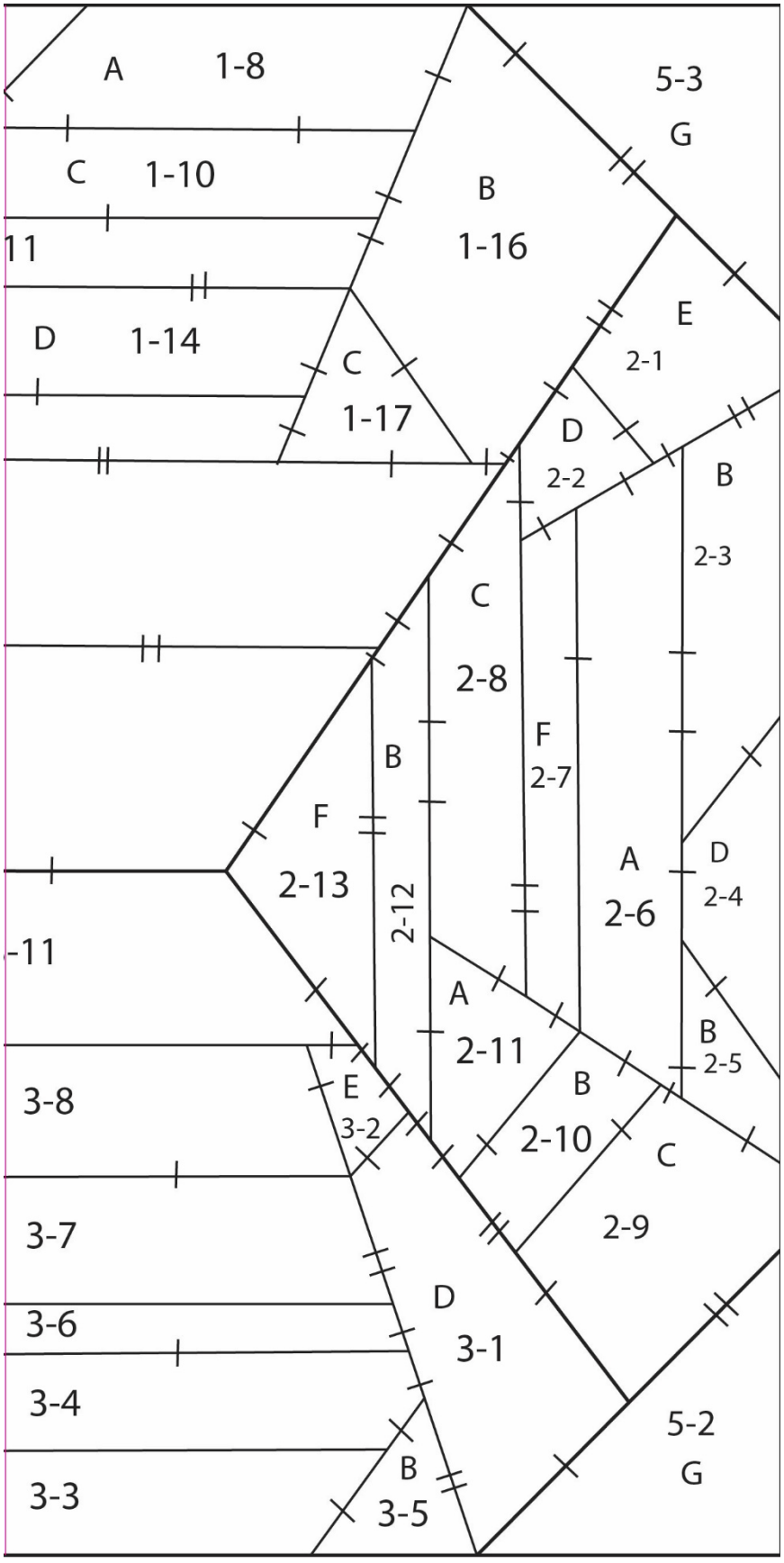

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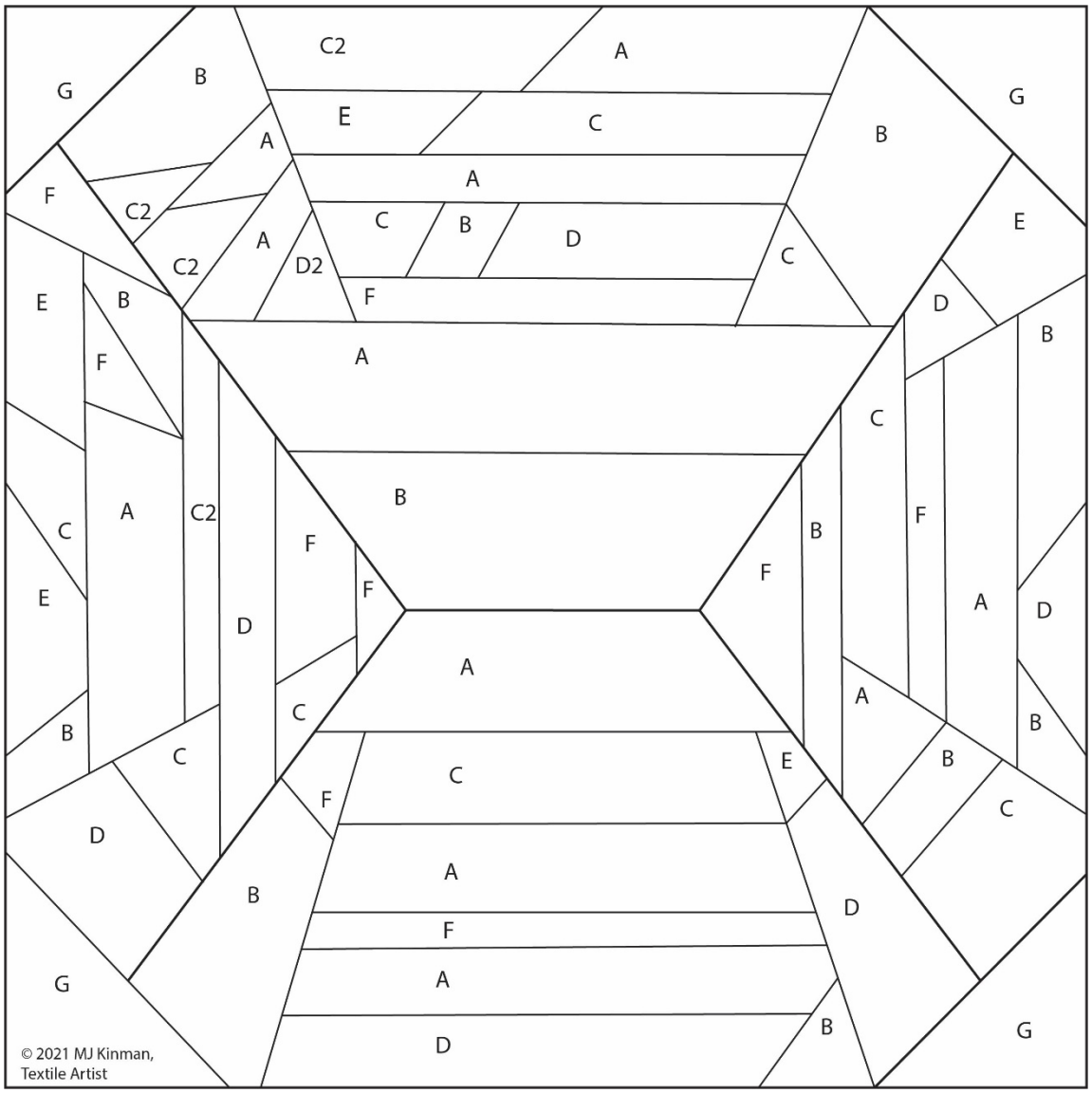
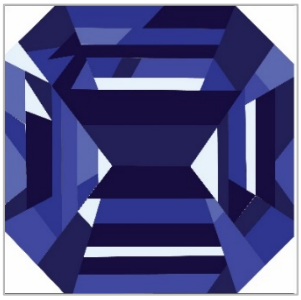
COLOR PLAY CHART





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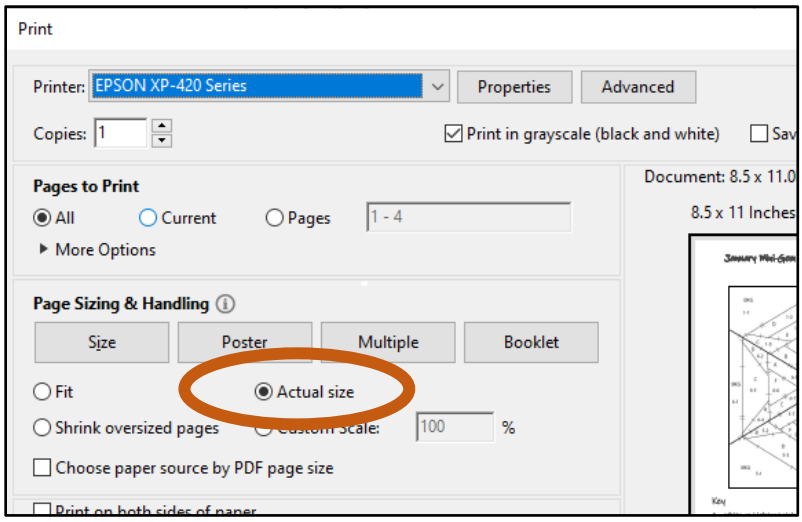
INSTRUCTIONS

Preparation

1. Print pages 2 and 3 of this document with the "Actual Size" print option selected onto a piece of 8.5" x 11" freezer paper. Printing "Actual Size" will ensure that your block will be exactly 9" square.

   You can either purchase packs of pre-cut freezer paper OR you can purchase a roll of freezer paper and cut out a rectangle that is 8.5" x 11". This is the chart you will cut up.



2. Print pages 2 and 3 of this document onto regular copy paper. This will be the copy you will pin or tape to your quilt room wall. It will be your cheat sheet to help you put your block back together.

3. Identify 7 fabrics in a range of values to use in your block. This includes a background "G" color. If you want your background "G" to be the same as one of your gem colors, you'll only need 6 colors.

4. Attach a snippet of fabric next to each code of the corresponding value (i.e., light, medium, dark) OR label your fabric by writing the code on the selvedge edge or corner of the corresponding fabric.

5. Gather 7 business size envelopes or plastic baggies in which you'll store your facets once cut apart. (You'll need 7 envelopes or baggies, because there are 7 colors needed for this gem.) Label them with the letters A, B, C, D, E, F and G to correspond to your fabric codes.

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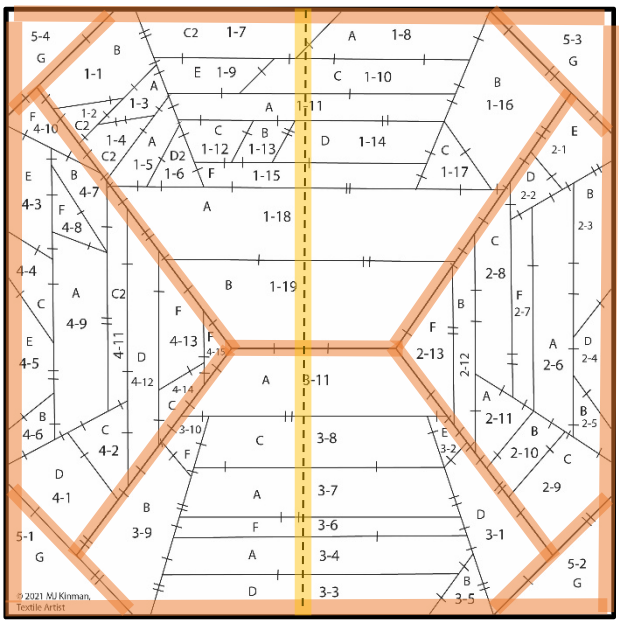
Cutting Your Fabric Facets

6. Cut out the two halves of the freezer paper pattern and join them using one of two ways:
    - Place double-sided tape on the tab, making sure that no double-sided tape is visible on the front side. (If the tape is visible, it will melt on your iron plate when you iron the facet to fabric.) Align the halves by matching up the facet lines.
    - Align the halves by matching up the facet lines and secure with Washi tape.

7. With the first highlighter pen, mark the line where the two halves come together. This is your visual clue that you will not cut apart the facet on these lines. (See yellow line on the image below.)

8. With a different color highlighter pen, trace the inside edge of the block on your FREEZER PAPER. This is the visual clue that will remind you to put the edges of these pieces on the straight of grain when you're ironing on the facets to the fabric. (The straight of grain is the grainline that runs parallel to the selvedge edge.) This step gives the block more stability.

9. Using your highlighter pen, also trace on each side of the diagonal lines that separate the various sections of the block on your FREEZER PAPER. (Remember, you can tell the difference between the sections by the first number of the hyphenated number code.) Your freezer paper pattern will look like this.



10. With a ruler and rotary cutter, you reserve for cutting paper, cut apart the freezer paper template and sort facets into the envelopes or baggies by letter code. Be sure to pay attention to that yellow highlighter line; don't cut on that particular line, because that's simply where your 2 halves have come together to make a whole facet.

    Note: If your ruler slips off the line a little bit, no problem! **Just don't trim it up**. Just be sure that you can still see any hashmarks on either side of the cut.

11. Arrange facets on the RIGHT SIDE of the fabric that corresponds to their color code, allowing ¾" of space between each facet. Press with a hot iron, no steam. If the freezer paper isn't adhering very well to the fabric, try heating the fabric first and then laying the freezer paper piece on top of it and press it down. (If you have lots of sizing or dye in your fabric, you may want to pre-wash your fabric. Extra chemicals sometimes prevent freezer paper from sticking to fabric.)

12. Once all your facets are ironed to the RIGHT SIDE of the fabric, relabel 5 of your envelopes or baggies with the numbers 1 through 5, corresponding to the 5 sections of the block.

13. Using a rotary cutter and small ruler, cut out each facet with a 1/4" seam allowance. Take care to make these 1/4" seam allowances as accurate and consistent as possible. Place the fabric facets in your envelopes or baggies by section number (i.e., 1 through 4).

14. Once all your facets are cut out and stored in their respective envelopes, remove the facets from the envelopes one by one and lay them out in numerical order to make sure that one hasn't accidentally wandered away.

Piecing Your Gem

15. Arrange facets into their piecing order using the chart you put up on your quilt room wall as your guide.

    NOTE: I have created a "Piece Plan" that provides a step-by-step process to assemble the block. You'll find it at the end of this document.

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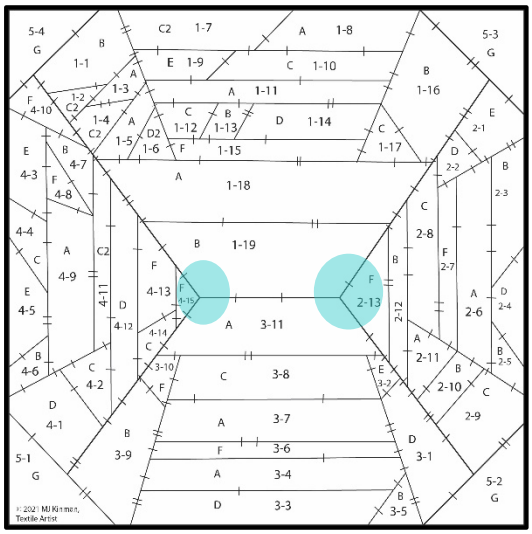
Block Challenge: Create a Perfect Emerald-Cut Gem Using Set-In Seams

Set-in seams occur when 3 facets and 3 seams join in one spot. The 3 seams coming together create the shape of the capital letter "Y". Most seams in quilting are sewn edge to edge, but set-in seams are the exception. These seams must start and stop exactly 1/4'' from the edge of the fabric where all 3 seams meet. I'll walk you through it in the Piece Plan below.



The blue circles highlight the 2 set-in seams in this pattern. The 3 seams make a capital letter "Y" shape.

16. To piece your facets, place RIGHT SIDES together (freezer paper will be inside the fabric sandwich).

17. Peek inside the seam allowance and line up the hash marks on each side of the two pieces. Ensure that the corners of each facet line up together.

18. Pin carefully along the seam OR use a clip OR use a glue product to secure the 2 pieces together.

19. Identify the 1/4" seam guide on your machine's plate.

20. Position the pair of pinned facets under the presser foot so that the edge of your fabric sandwich is just a needle-width to the left of the 1/4" seam guide. This will prevent you from sewing into the freezer paper on the inside.

21. Stitch the seam line using a regular stitch length (i.e., 2.5). I backstitch at the beginning and the end only because it's been my habit to do so for 20 years.

22. Open the facets with both seams to one side. (Press to the darkest side OR the side that has the fewest intersecting seams.)

    - If there is a gap between the edges of your freezer paper, you can either resew a little bit closer to the ¼" seam guide OR you can pick up one of the templates and iron it next to the seam. Just be sure to trim the seam allowance down to ¼".

    - If you have sewn into the freezer paper, give the two pieces a little tug to see if this frees the freezer paper. If you've really munched the freezer paper, consider ripping that section and resewing. Gaps and tucks change the position of the hashmarks along the sides of the 2 facets, which makes it a bit confusing when trying to match it up to its adjoining unit. In the end, though, perfection is NOT a priority and, once you've removed all the paper from your gem, no one will know the difference!

23. Continue to stitch the facets together, retaining the freezer paper on the front of each piece.

24. If facets come loose, simply iron back on.

TIP: If you want to remove the freezer paper after piecing major sections together, be sure to draw the hash marks onto the seam allowance **before removing the freezer paper**.

25. Once the gem is complete, remove the remaining freezer paper pieces and store them in your envelopes or baggies by color code if you plan on using them again. You can typically get 2 uses out of regular freezer paper, but I know some people who can squeeze 3 and even 4 uses out of their freezer paper pieces!

26. If little bits of freezer paper are stuck in the seam line, use a pair of tweezers to remove. If they are stubborn, try using seam ripper to remove them by pushing the bit of paper from the front to the back side of the fabric. Use tweezers to pull from between the seams.

CONGRATULATIONS!

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PIECE PLAN FOR 'SUNRISE SAPPHIRE"

Section 1

- Sew together 1-1 and 1-2 (to create Unit 1:2)
- Sew together 1-3 and 1-4 (to create Unit 3:4)
- Sew together 1-5 and 1-6 (to create Unit 5:6)
- Sew together Unit 1:2, Unit 3:4 and Unit 5:6 (to create Unit 1:6)
- Sew together 1-7 and 1-8 (to create Unit 7:8)
- Sew together 1-9 and 1-10 (to create Unit 9:10)
- Sew together Unit 7:8 and Unit 9:10 (to create Unit 7:10)
- Sew together 1-11 to Unit 7:10 (to create Unit 7:11)
- Sew together 1-12, 1-13 and 1-14 (to create Unit 12:14)
- Sew together 1-15 to Unit 12: 14 (to create Unit 12:15)
- Sew together Unit 7:11 and Unit 12:15 (to create Unit 7:15)
- Sew together 1-16 and 1-17 (to create Unit 16:17)
- Sew together Unit 1:6, Unit 7:15 and Unit 16:17 (to create Unit 1:17)
- Sew together 1-18 to Unit 1:17 (to create Unit 1:18)
- Sew together 1-19 to Unit 1:18 (to complete Section 1)

Section 2

- Sew together 2-1 and 2-2 (to create Unit 1:2)
- Sew together 2-3, 2-4 and 2-5 (to create Unit 3:5)
- Sew together 2-6 and Unit 3:5 (to create Unit 3:6)
- Sew together 2-7 and Unit 3:6 (to create Unit 3:7)
- Sew Unit 1:2 and Unit 3:7 (to create Unit 1:7)
- Sew together 2-8 and Unit 1:7 (to create Unit 1:8)
- Sew together 2-9, 2-10 and 2-11 (to create Unit 9:11)
- Sew together Unit 1:8 and Unit 9:11 (to create Unit 1:11)

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- Sew together 2-12 and 2-13 (to create Unit 12:13)
- Sew together Unit 1:11 to Unit 12:13 (to complete Section 2)

Section 3

- Sew together 3-1 and 3-2 (to create Unit 1:2)
- Sew together 3-3 and 3-4 (to create Unit 3:4)
- Sew together 3-5 to Unit 3:4 (to create Unit 3:5)
- Sew together 3-6, 3-7 and 3-8 (to create Unit 6:8)
- Sew together Unit 3:5 and Unit 6:8 (to create Unit 3:8)
- Sew together 3-9 and 3-10 (to create Unit 9:10)
- Sew together Unit 1:2, Unit 3:8 and Unit 9:10 (to create Unit 1:10)
- Sew together 3-11 and Unit 1:10 (to complete Section 3)

Section 4

- Sew together 4-1 and 4-2 (to create Unit 1:2)
- Sew together 4-3, 4-4, 4-5 and 4-6 (to create Unit 3:6)
- Sew together 4-7, 4-8 and 4-9 (to create Unit 7:9)
- Sew together Unit 3:6 and Unit 7:9 (to create Unit 3:9)
- Sew together 4-10 and Unit 3:9 (to create Unit 3:10)
- Sew together 4-11 to Unit 3:10 (to create Unit 3:11)
- Sew together Unit 1:2 and Unit 3:11 (to create Unit 1:11)
- Sew together 4-12 to Unit 1:11 (to create Unit 1:12)
- Sew together 4-13 and 4-14 (to create Unit 13:14)
- Sew together 4-15 to Unit 13:14 (to create Unit 13:15)
- Sew together Unit 1:12 and Unit 13: 15 (to complete Section 4)

Sewing Sections Together With "Y" Seams

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- Sew together Section 1 and Section 3 along their adjoining seam line, ensuring that you start and stop your stitching 1/4" inside the edges. This leaves the seam allowance free so that you can ease in the remaining sections.
- Place the Section 2 on top of Section 3, aligning their adjoining seam line on the right side. Start your stitch line 1/4" from the upper edge. You might want to either mark the starting point with a marker or a pin. Sew all the way to the bottom edge of the seam.
- Open and lay Section 2 flat between Section 1 and 3.
- Fold Section 2 over Section 1, aligning their adjoining seam line. Turn over the fabric sandwich so that you're starting the stitch line at the point where the 3 seams come together forming the "Y" seam. Mark the starting point 1/4" from the edge with a marker or a pin. Drop your needle at that starting point and sew all the way to the edge of the seam.
- Lay Section 2 flat between Section 1 and 3. Press seams toward Sections 1 and 3.
- Place the Section 4 on top of Section 1, aligning their adjoining seam line. Start your stitch line 1/4" in from the upper edge. You might want to either mark the starting point with a marker or a pin. Sew all the way to the edge of the seam.
- Open and lay Section 4 flat between Section 1 and 3.
- Fold Section 4 over Section 2, aligning their adjoining seam line. Turn over the fabric sandwich so that you're starting the stitch line at the point where the 3 seams come together forming the "Y" seam. Mark the starting point with a marker or a pin. Drop your needle at that starting point and sew all the way to the edge of the seam.
- Lay Section 4 flat between Section 1 and 3. Press seams toward Sections 1 and 3.

Sewing Remaining Background Facets to the Sapphire

- Sew 5-1 along the outside edge of Sections 4 and 3.
- Sew 5-2 along the outside edge of Sections 3 and 2.
- Sew 5-3 along the outside edge of Sections 2 and 1.
- Sew 5-4 along the outside edge of Sections 4 and 1.

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