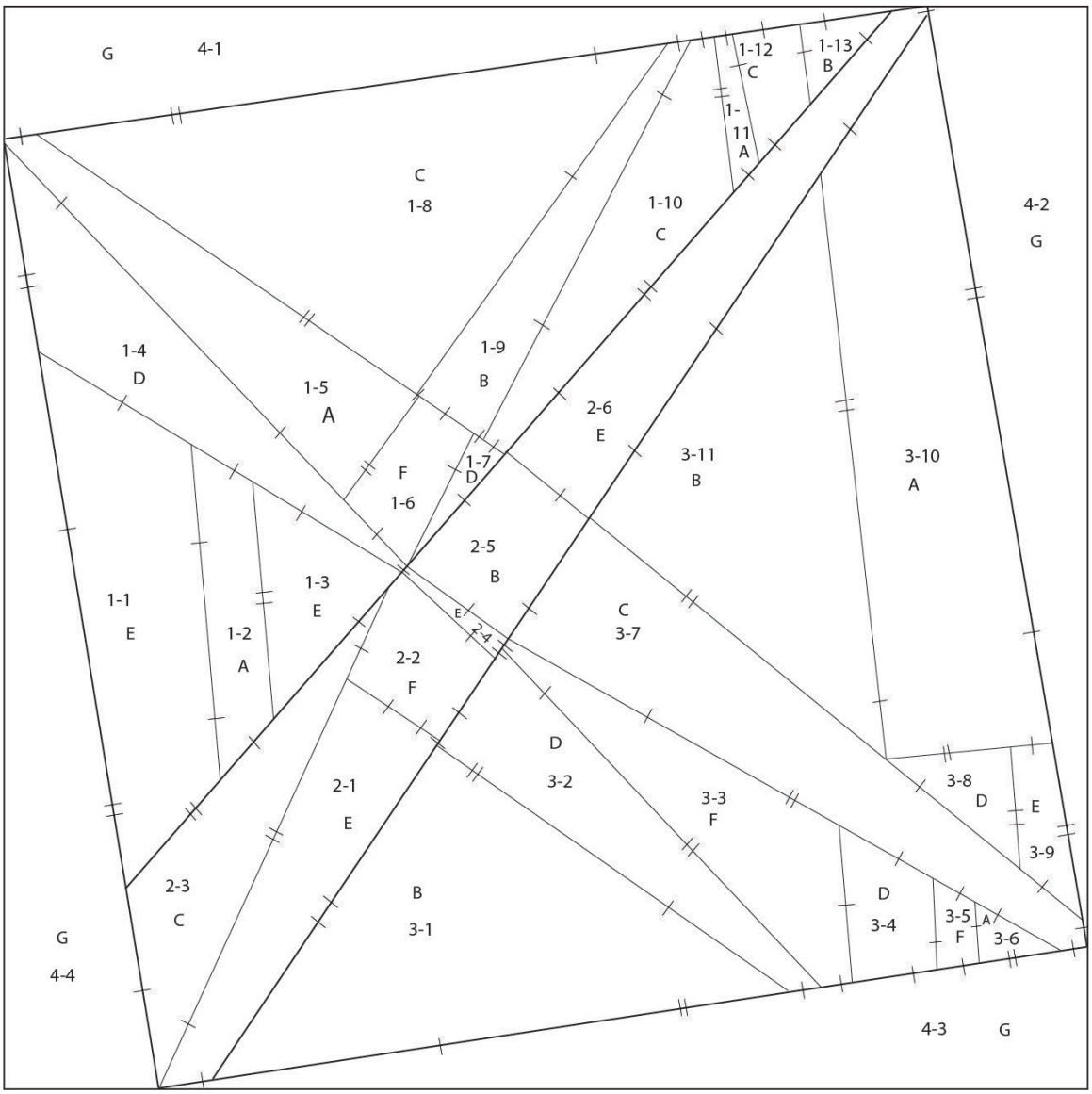
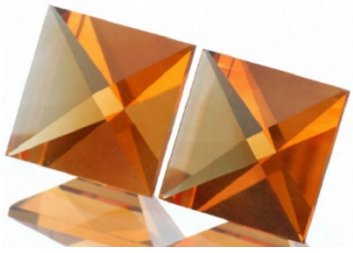
Tiny Treasures Club:
November's "November Star" (9" pattern)



November's Tiny Treasures Club pattern is inspired by a stunning pair of Context Cut citrines. I found these gems through the Wild & Petsch site, the gem cutters whose gems inspired one of my art quilts, "Between River & Sky".



I created several different colorways to get your creative ideas flowing. I used the same colors featured in previous months' blocks. This block has 6 fabrics plus a background fabric of either black or white…or whatever color you want to make it!

I'd never heard of a "context cut" before. As I did more research I ran into a name that I was already familiar with: Berndt Munsteiner. Mr. Munsteiner was the genius gem cutter who sculpted the Dom Pedro Aquamarine, part of the Smithsonian's National Gem Collection. He specializes in "fantasy" cuts, sculptural cuts that are out of the ordinary. And absolutely spectacular. I can't wait to share more about him in the presentation.

TINY TREASURES CLUB:
NOVEMBER'S "NOVEMBER STAR" (9" PATTERN)

COLOR PLAY CHART

A – Lightest Light or White

B – Light

C – Medium 1

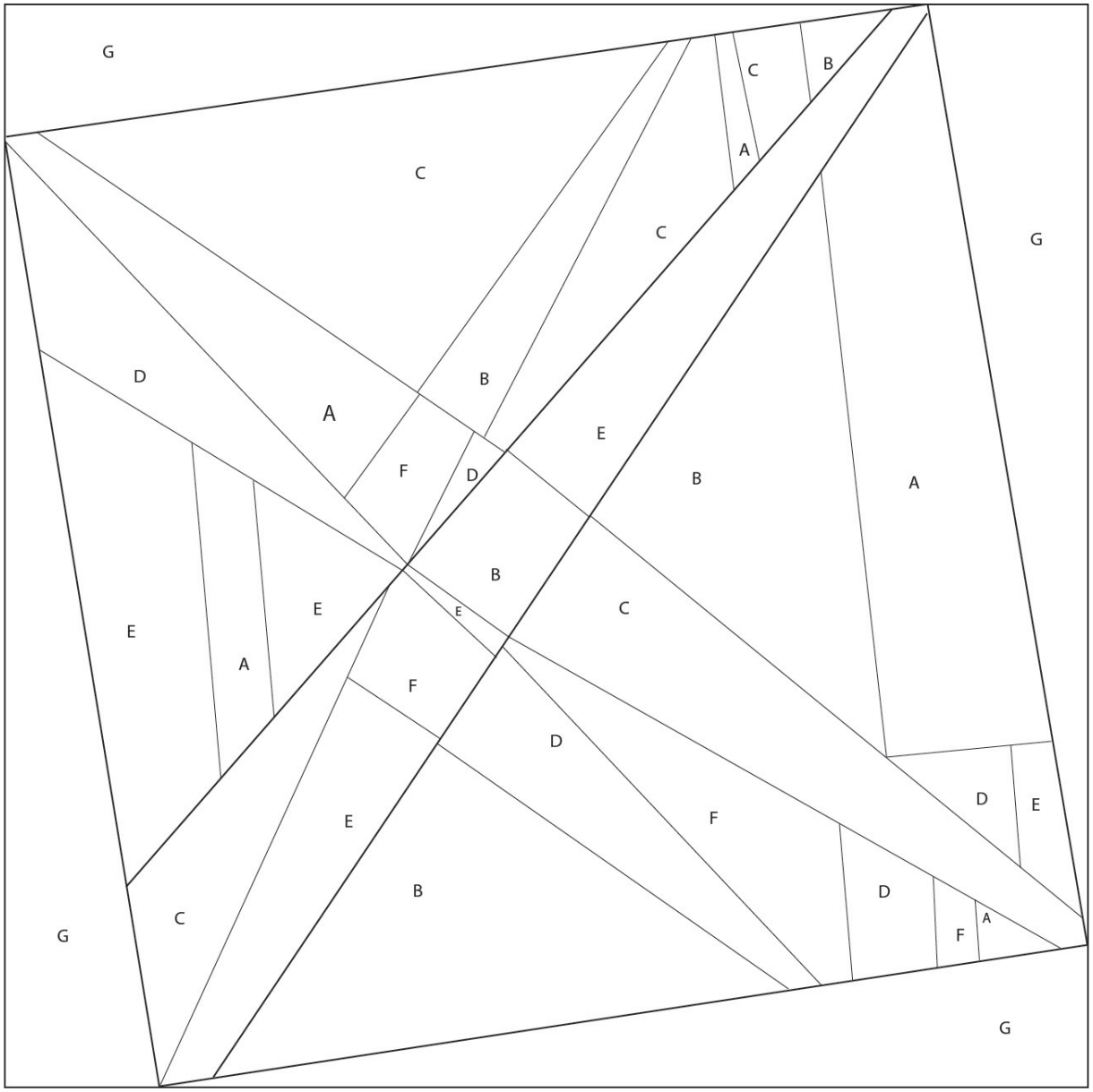
D – Medium 2

E – Dark

F – Darkest Dark or Black

G – Background (White or Black)

See the Colorways document for more inspiration.



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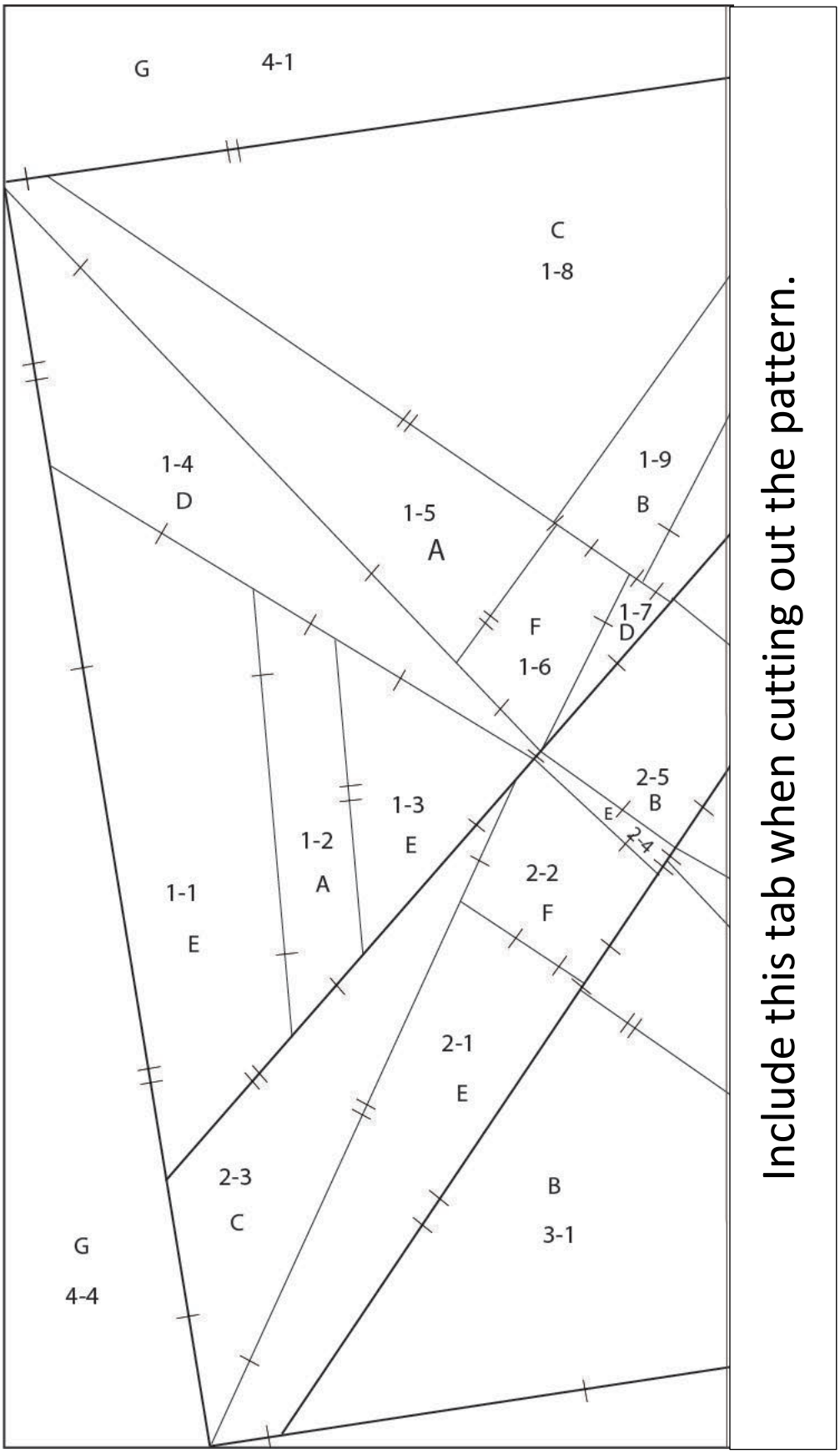

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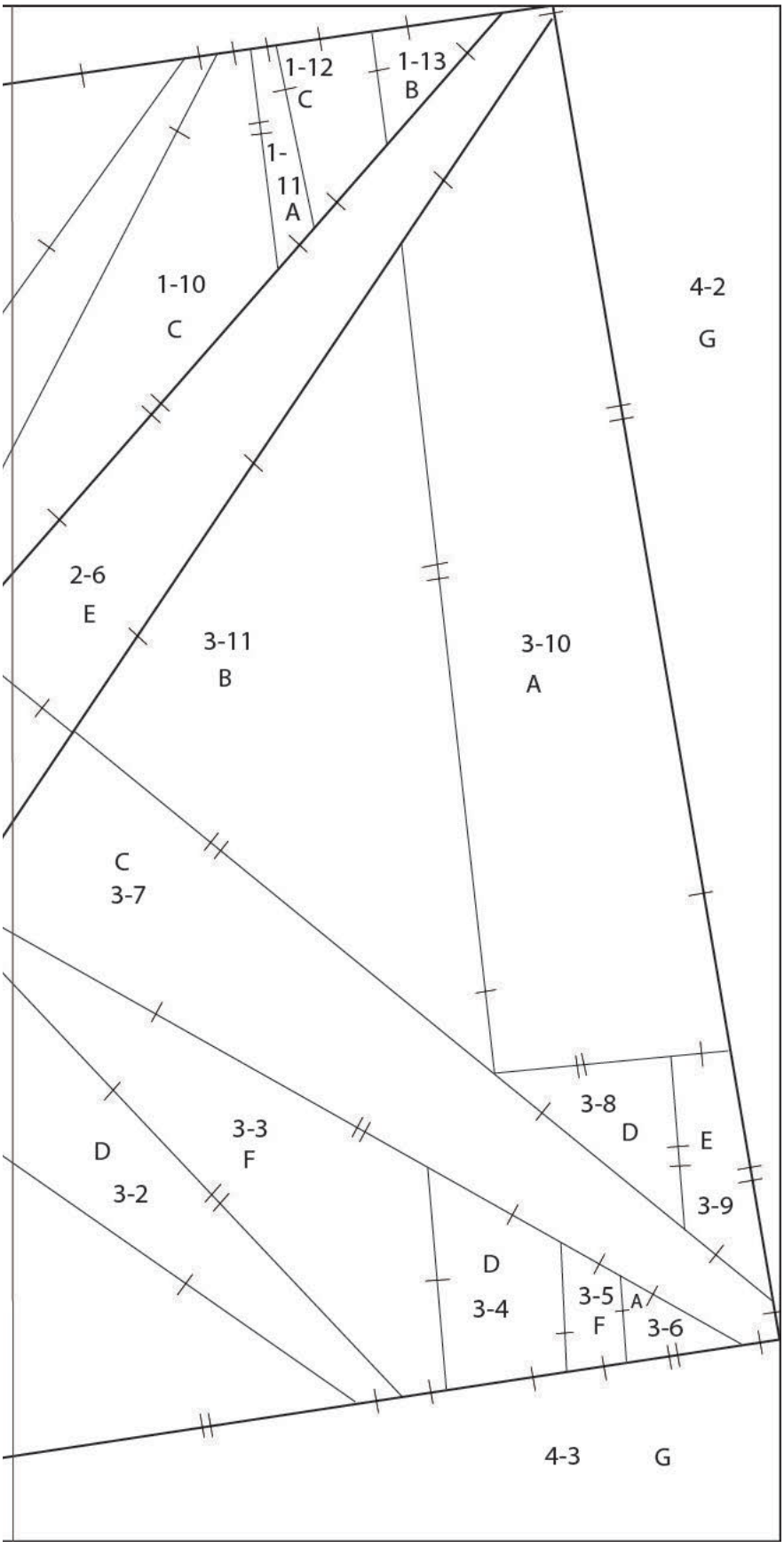


TINY TREASURES CLUB:
NOVEMBER'S "NOVEMBER STAR" (9" PATTERN)

SUPPLIES

- Freezer paper – You can purchase a roll of freezer paper from the grocery store (Reynold's Freeze Paper). Be sure that you're not purchasing wax paper or parchment paper. Neither of these products will work with this project. You can also purchase pre-cut sheets that are commercially available. One product is Quilter's Freezer Paper by C&T Publishing, available on Amazon.com.
- Highlighter pen in 3 colors
- Fabric marking chalk pen
- 18" or 24" ruler with a 1/4" measurement
- Small ruler (12") with a ¼" measurement
- 7 envelopes or plastic baggies to store your facets
- Domestic sewing machine and thread assortment (neutrals or colors that match your fabrics)
- Scissors and rotary cutting tools (cutters and mat) – We'll be cutting both paper and fabric, so if you prefer to use 2 rotary cutters (one with an old blade and one new one) that would be ideal.
- Iron and ironing pad (or board)
- Pins, clips, or fabric glue
- 7 Fabrics according to the colorway chart

INSTRUCTIONS

Preparation

1. Print pages 3 and 4 with the "Actual Size" print option selected onto a piece of 8.5" x 11" freezer paper. Printing "Actual Size" ensures that your block will be 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 3 and 4 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 (or 6 depending on whether you repeat the use of a fabric for the corner background pieces).

4. Attach a snippet of fabric next to each code of the corresponding value (OR label your fabric by writing the code on the selvedge edge or corner of the 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 color codes for this gem.) Label them with the letters A, B, C, D, E, F & G to correspond to your fabric codes.

Cutting Your Fabric Facets

6. Assemble the two halves of the pattern with double-sided tape, Washi tape, or by ironing the halves together along the freezer paper tab.

   If you're using double-sided tape, place the tape on the tab, making sure not to let any of the tape show on the white part of the pattern. If you do, this little bit of tape might melt onto your iron when you iron the facets onto your fabric. This is not a concern if you're using Washi tape to assemble your pattern.

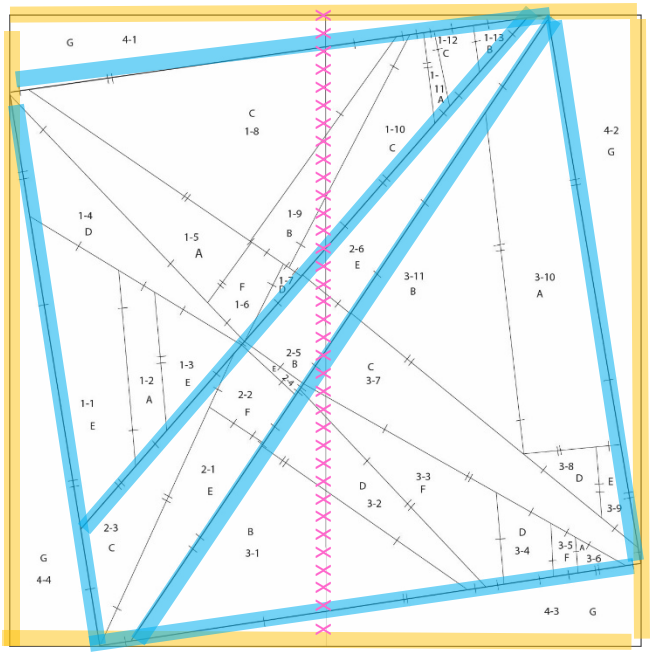
7. With the first highlighter pen (yellow in the example below), trace the inside edge of the block on your FREEZER PAPER. This is the visual clue that will remind you to do two things:

   1) Place 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.)

   2) Add extra seam allowance (suggestion: 3/4") to the outside edges of only your background pieces. Why? The many seams in these gem patterns shrink the block, making it tough to get a decent and consistent 1/4" seam allowance.

8. Using your second highlighter pen (blue in the example below), trace on each side of the 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.) In this pattern, you'll sew the sections inside the square gem first and then add the triangular background pieces at the very end.

9. With your third highlighter pen (pink in the example below), place "X" marks along the join line that you aligned with double-sided tape (or Washi tape or you ironed together on the tab). This is your visual clue that you won't cut on this line. 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.

    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. The one exception to this rule is for facet edges that are highlighted in your first highlighter color. (See yellow highlights in the image above.) These are the edges you will be cutting out with a full 1/2" seam allowance. Therefore, you'll want to be sure to allow extra space between the facet edges with this highlighter color on them.

12. 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.)

13. Once all your facets are ironed to the RIGHT SIDE of the fabric, relabel 4 of your envelopes or baggies with the numbers 1 through 4, corresponding to the 4 sections of the block.

14. 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).

    The one exception to the quarter-inch rule is for facet edges that are highlighted in your first highlighter color. (See yellow highlights in the image above.) Please cut these edges with a 1/2" seam allowance. This will provide with a generously-sized block that will allow you to trim to 9.5" when finished.

15. 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 Facets

16. 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.

17. To piece your facets, place RIGHT SIDES together (freezer paper will be inside the fabric sandwich). 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 a glue product to secure the two pieces.

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).

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.

PIECE PLAN FOR "NOVEMBER STAR"

Section 1

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

Section 2

- Sew together 2-1 and 2-2 (to create Unit 1:2)
- Sew together 2-3 and Unit 1:2 (to create Unit 1:3)
- Sew together 2-4, 2-5 and 2-6 (to create Unit 4:6)
- Sew together Unit 1:3 and Unit 4:6 (to complete Section 2)

Section 3

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

Sewing Sections Together

- Sew together Sections 1, 2 & 3
- Sew together 4-1, 4-2, 4-3 and 4-4 to the pieced central gem (Sections 1, 2 & 3)
- Trim to 9 1/2" square