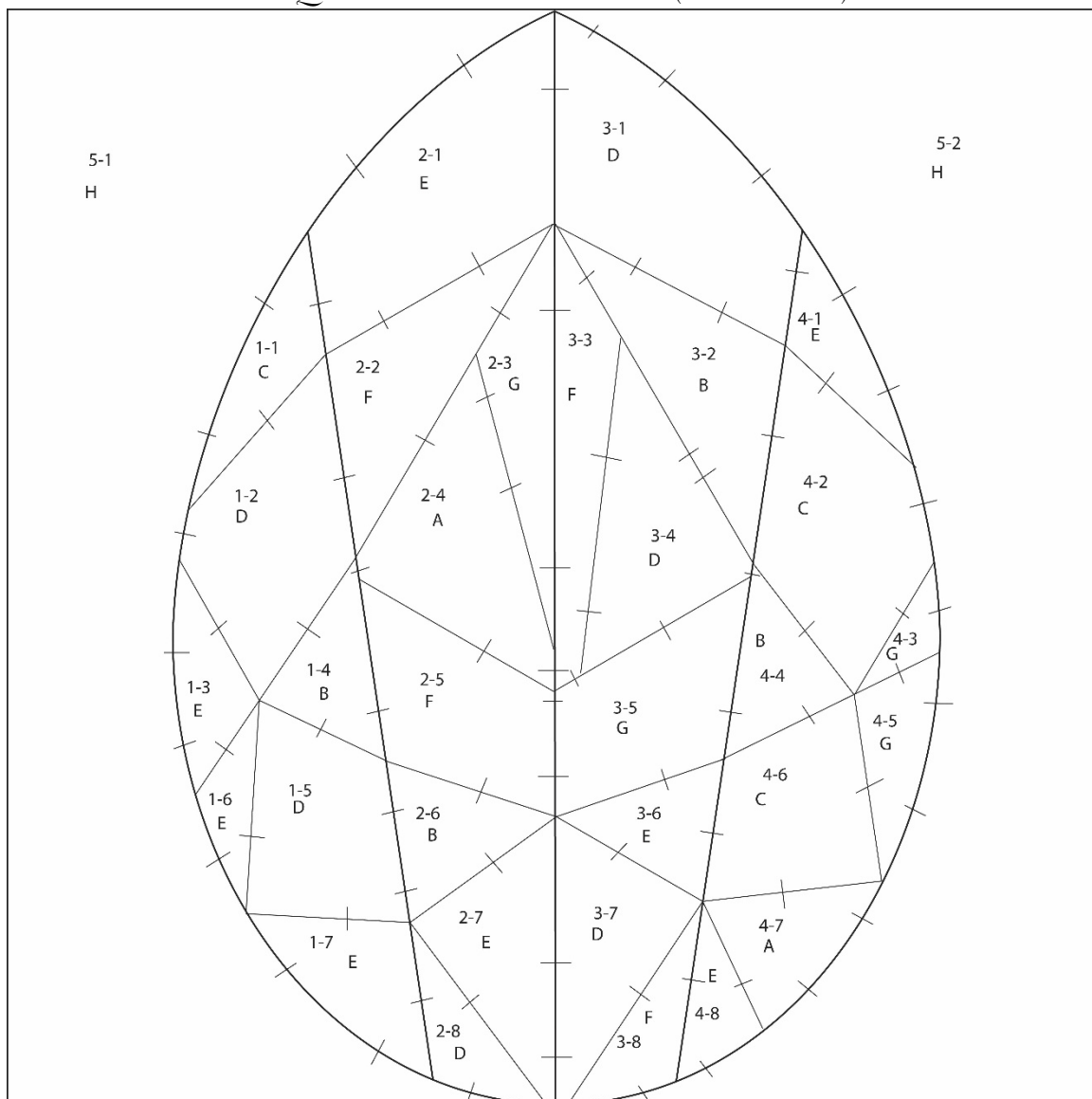


# FIERY FRIDA:

DIAMOND & DRAMA QUEENS SEPTEMBER 2022 (6" PATTERN)



Our *Diamonds & Drama Queens* pattern for September is inspired by the national gemstone of Mexico, the Mexican Fire Opal. This stone was born in the ancient volcanic flows of Mexico. The Aztecs were among the first to discover it, calling it the Hummingbird stone (*vitzitziltecpal*) named for the iridescent color that resembled the plumage of a hummingbird.



Opals are called amorphous solid, because they do not have a crystalline structure organized in a definite pattern like diamonds, rubies, and emeralds. Such solids include glass, plastic, and gel. The most significant fire opals are mined in Mexico's largest site in Magdalena, Jalisco. Mexican fire opals are the only natural opal that can be faceted with precise calibration. Most opals are "cabbed", polished into shiny cabachon domes.

The "drama queen" we're going to meet this month is Frida Kahlo, one of the most significant artists of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Her life rivals legend, a perfect pairing with the Mexican Fire Opal. Enjoy!

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## COLORPLAY CHART

A – Lightest Light (or White)

E – Medium Dark

B – Light Bright

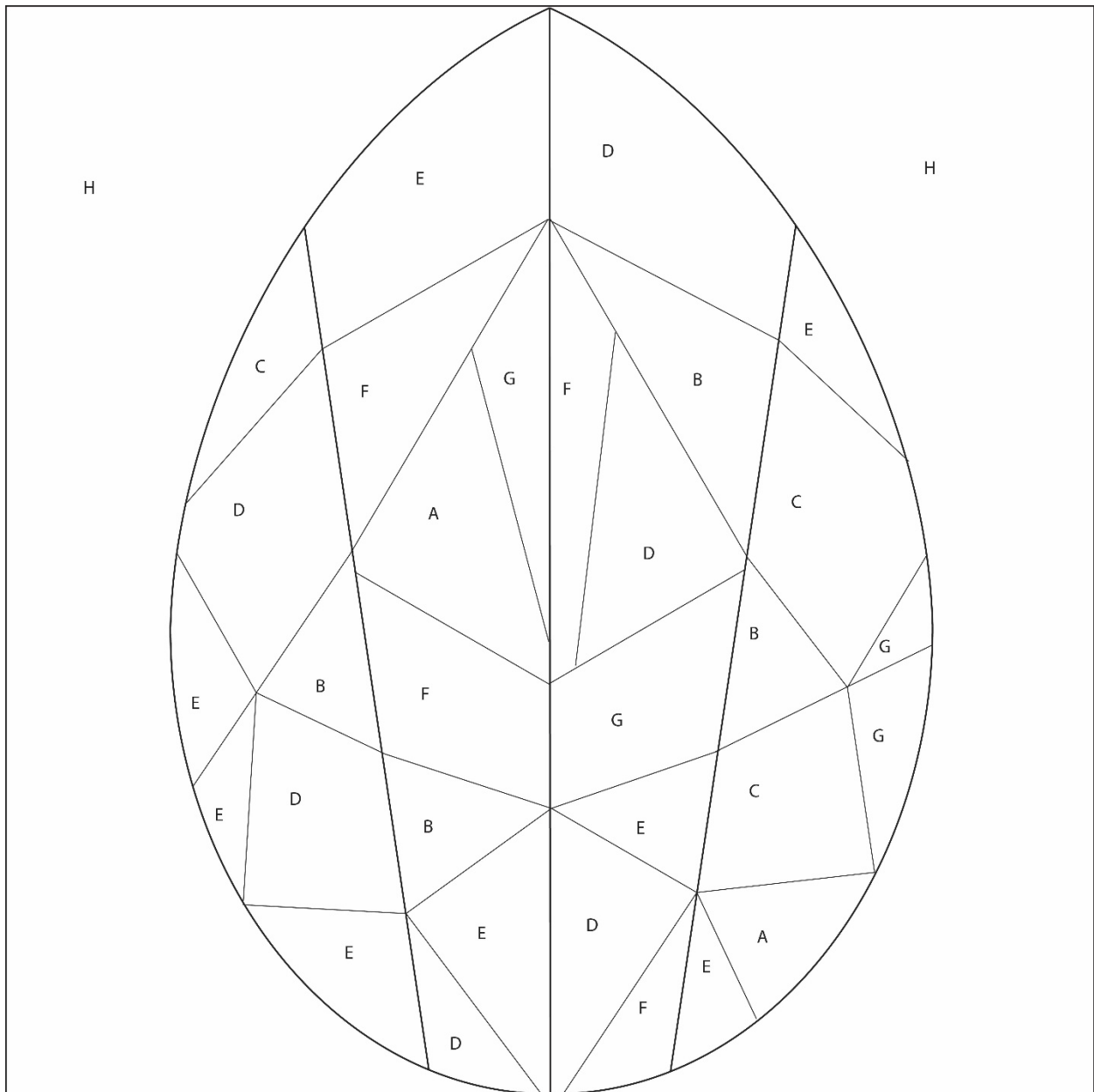
F – Dark

C – Medium 1

G – Darkest Dark

D – Medium 2

H – Background (White or Light)



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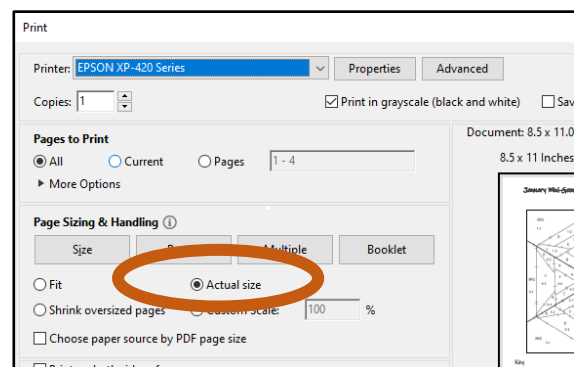
## DIAMOND & DRAMA QUEENS SEPTEMBER 2022 (6" PATTERN) SUPPLIES

- Freezer paper – You can purchase a roll of freezer paper from the grocery store (Reynold's Freezer 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 and is available on Amazon.com. I also have 50-sheet packs of freezer paper available to US customers on my website: <https://mjkinman.com/product/freezer-paper-packs-50-sheets/>
- Highlighter pen
- Fabric marking chalk or pen
- 18" or 24" ruler with a 1/4" measurement
- Small ruler (12") with a 1/4" measurement
- 8 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
- 8 Fabrics according to the colorway chart.

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Preparation

1. Print page 1 of this document with the "Actual Size" print option selected onto the matte side of a piece of 8.5" x 11" freezer paper. Printing "Actual Size" will ensure that your segments will print out so that your block will be exactly 6" square. This is the chart you will cut up.



2. Print page 1 of this document onto regular paper using the "Actual Size" setting. This will be the copy you will pin or tape to your quilt room wall. It will be your KEY to help you put your block back together.
3. Cut out the block sections.

# FIERY FRIDA:

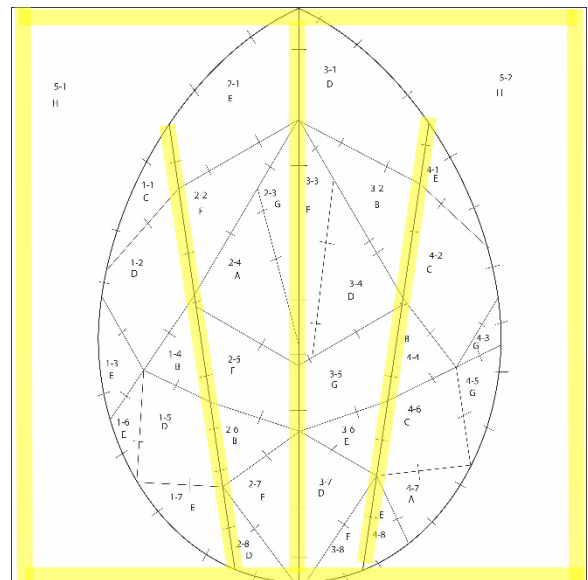
## DIAMOND & DRAMA QUEENS SEPTEMBER 2022 (6" PATTERN)

4. Identify 8 fabrics in a range of values to use in your block. On page 2, you'll find a pattern with just the color codes in place. Note: I'd suggest using a light or white fabric for the background. Since many of the darkest facets are placed on the edge of this design, they would "bleed" into the background if a black or dark fabric was used.
5. Attach a snippet of fabric next to each code of the corresponding value OR label your fabric by writing the code on the selvedge or corner of the fabric.
6. Gather 8 envelopes or plastic baggies in which you'll store your facets once cut apart. Label them with the letters A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H to correspond to your fabric codes.

**TIP: If you suspect your fabric has lots of sizing in it OR it has many different colors of dye, consider pre-washing. Freezer paper adheres much better to fabric that is free of extra chemicals. For that reason, don't use a starch product on your fabric either. You'll get much better results.**

### Cutting Your Facets

7. With your 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.
8. Using your highlighter pen, also trace on each side of the line between the printed sections on your FREEZER PAPER. Again, this is your visual clue to consider placing the highlighted edge (or the longest edge) on the straight of grain. Your freezer paper pattern will look like this:
9. With a ruler and rotary cutter you reserve for cutting paper, cut apart the gem and sort facets into the envelopes or baggies by letter code.



**TIP: 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.**

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## DIAMOND & DRAMA QUEENS SEPTEMBER 2022 (6" PATTERN)

10. Arrange facets on the RIGHT SIDE of the fabric that corresponds to their color code, allowing  $\frac{3}{4}$ " of space between each facet. Press with a hot iron, no steam.

Start by laying the larger pieces on your fabric first, working the smaller pieces in around them. Remember to place either the highlighted edge of a facet OR its longest side on the straight of grain – depending on which edge needs more stabilization – as you arrange the pieces on the fabric.

**TIP: 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.**

11. 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. (The two background pieces make up Section 5.)

12. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut out each facet with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Take care to make these  $\frac{1}{4}$ " 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).

**TIP: If you feel more comfortable using fabric marking tools to mark the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance on the convex and concave curves of the facets and background pieces, please do so! Those of you who are comfortable cutting a curve with a rotary cutter and ruler will be able to put those skills to work on this pattern. I have included a video on our Diamonds & Drama Queens web page that demonstrates how I like to cut curves using a rotary cutter and ruler.**

13. 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

14. Arrange facets into their piecing order using the KEY.

**TIP: 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.**

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

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## DIAMOND & DRAMA QUEENS SEPTEMBER 2022 (6" PATTERN)

16. 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.
17. Pin carefully along the seam OR use a clip OR use a glue product to secure the 2 pieces together.
18. Identify the 1/4" seam guide on your machine's plate. 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.
19. Stitch the seam line using a regular stitch length (i.e., 2.5).
20. Open the facets with both seams to one side. (Press to the darkest side OR the side that has the fewest intersecting seams.)

**TIP: If there is a gap between the edges of your freezer paper, you can either re sew a little bit closer to the 1/4" 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 1/4".**

**TIP: 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. Once you've removed all the paper, no one will know the difference!**

21. Continue to stitch the facets together, retaining the freezer paper on the front of each piece.
22. If facets come loose, simply iron back on.

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**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.**

23. The background pieces are the last to be sewn to the section. It's hard to piece curves with the freezer paper on the fabric, so remove the freezer paper before easing the curved background piece to the curved edge of the gem.

**However, be sure to draw the hash marks onto the seam allowance before removing the freezer paper. Those hashmarks will be extremely helpful as you ease the two curves together.**

24. 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.

25. 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!

# FIERY FRIDA:

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## PIECE PLAN FOR FIERY FRIDA

### Section 1

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

### Section 2

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

### Section 4

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

### Putting Sections Together

- Sew together Section 1 and Section 2 (to create the left half of the gem)
- Extend all hashmarks on the left half of the gem and 5-1 into the seam allowance
- Remove the freezer paper from the left half of the gem and 5-1
- Sew together 5-1 and the left half of the gem, easing in the curve
- Sew together Section 3 and Section 4 (to create the right half of the gem)
- Extend all hashmarks on the right half of the gem and 5-2 into the seam allowance
- Remove the freezer paper from the right half of the gem and 5-2
- Sew together 5-2 and the right half of the gem, easing in the curve
- Sew together the left and right half of the block