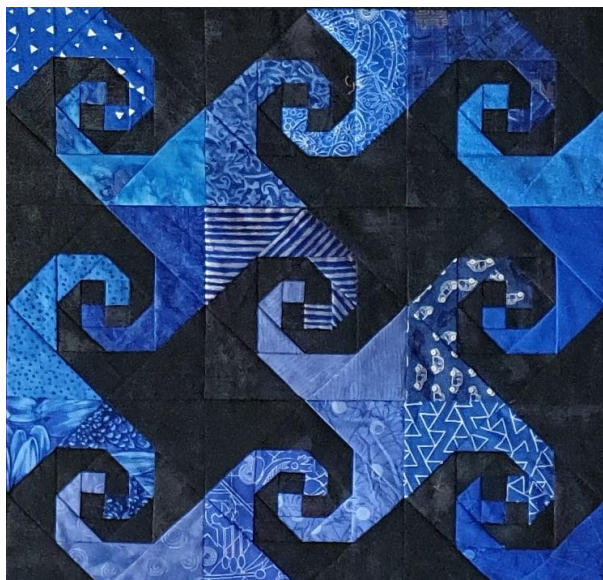


MODERN ART QUILTERS

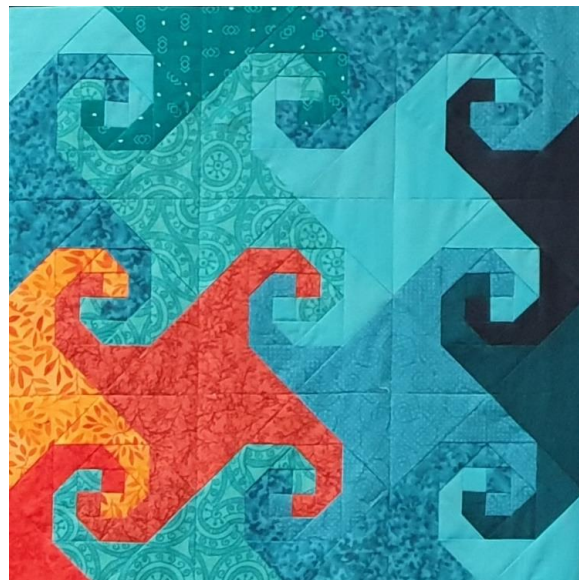
Block of the Month



Month 4: MONKEY WRENCH aka SNAILS' TRAIL



The dramatic positive/negative colourway in HH's version of this block creates an amazing feeling of movement



HB made a much more visually random colour placement which takes a bit more planning but is ultimately satisfying. More about this way later.

This 16-inch block is best made with all the sub-blocks the same size – changing the scale doesn't really work in this instance. Both HH and HB decided to make this into a giant Nine-Patch – if you want to do the same, use the larger of the two foundation templates provided which give sub-blocks which finish to 5½ inches square. Alternatively you might want to make sixteen sub-blocks each finishing to 4 inches square. Click on the links, right, to find the FPP templates

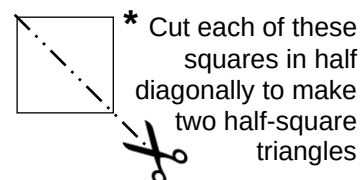
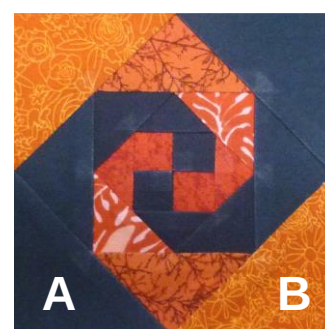
nine x 5½ inch sub-blocks
CLICK HERE and print 9 times or photocopy the page at the end of this pattern

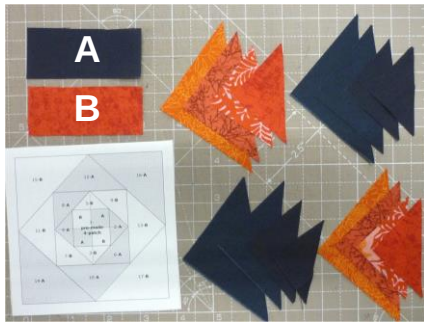
sixteen x 4 inch sub-blocks
CLICK HERE and print 8 times or photocopy the page at the end of this pattern

Please read through all the instructions before starting. Seams should be made by placing fabrics Right Sides Together (RST) and stitching ¼ inch from the edge. **Press all fabrics before cutting**

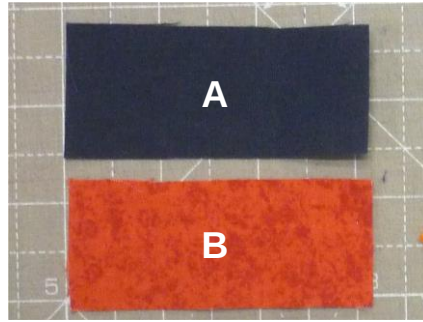
For one basic sub- block, choose two colours (or colour groups) and allocate a letter, **A** or **B**, to each colour. Cut the following pieces from each colour as shown

Finished Size	5½ inches square	4 inches square
Central 4-patch	Cut one A : 1½ x 3 inches* Cut one B : 1½ x 3 inches*	Cut one A : 1¼ x 2½ inches* Cut one B : 1¼ x 2½ inches*
Round one	Cut one A : 2 x 2 inches* Cut one B : 2 x 2 inches*	Cut one A : 1¾ x 1¾ inches* Cut one B : 1¾ x 1¾ inches*
Round two	Cut one: A 2¼ x 2¼ inches* Cut one B : 2¼ x 2¼ inches*	Cut one A : 2 x 2 inches* Cut one B : 2 x 2 inches*
Round Three	Cut one A : 2¾ x 2¾ inches* Cut one B : 2¾ x 2¾ inches*	Cut one A : 2½ x 2½ inches* Cut one B : 2½ x 2½ inches*
Round Four	Cut one A : 3¾ x 3¾ inches* Cut one B : 3¾ x 3¾ inches*	Cut one A : 3 x 3 inches* Cut one B : 3 x 3 inches*





1. Cut all the pieces you need for a block – see the table on page 1



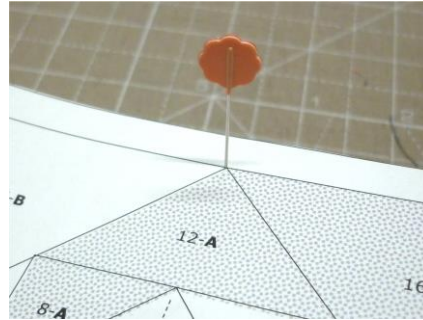
2. Stitch the two rectangles of fabric together and press to the dark side



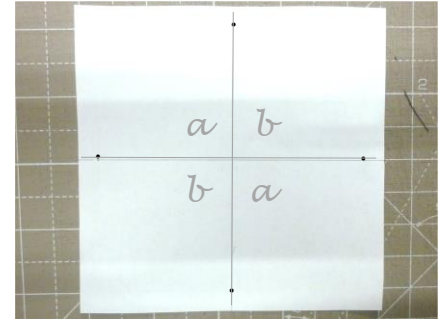
3. Cut the unit in half at right angles to the centre seam



4. Turn one half of the unit round and sew the two halves back together

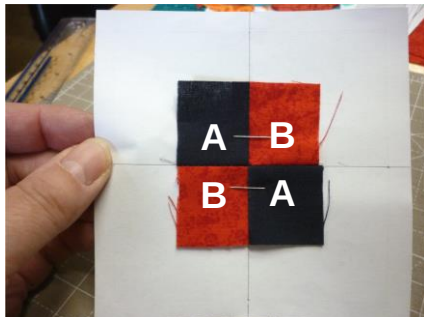


5. On the paper template, make a pin hole at the centre point of the solid line at the edge of the block

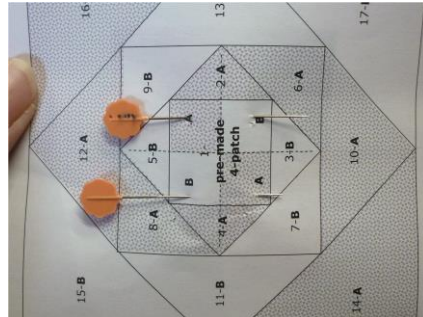


6. Draw a pencil line between opposite pin-holes to form a cross on the blank side of the paper

NOTE: Check which corner of the centre square should be **A** fabric and which is **B** fabric – it might be helpful to pencil it onto the blank side of the paper. Remember it appears in reverse order when you turn the paper over which can be confusing



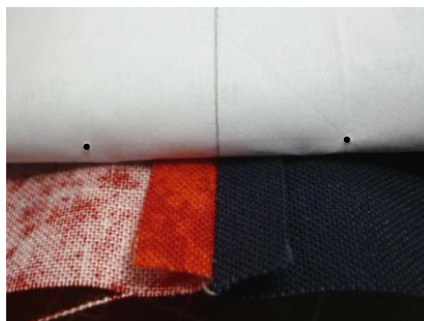
7. Position the pieced unit with the seams lined up on the pencil lines



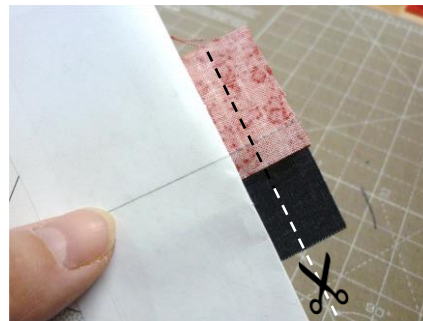
8. Pin securely in position from the printed side



9. Mark each end of the solid line between **section 1** and **section 2**



10. Fold the paper on the marked points and make a good crease

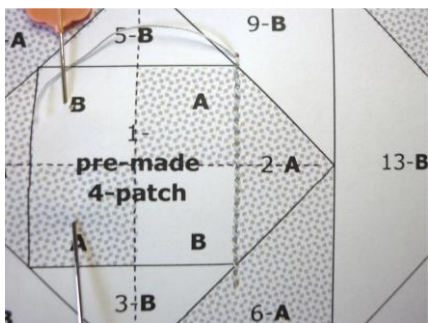


11. Trim the exposed fabric $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the folded paper



12. Check which fabric you need for **section 2** (**A** or **B**) and, line up the smallest triangle of that fabric RST with the long side on the edge you have just cut and the point with the centre seam on the pieced unit

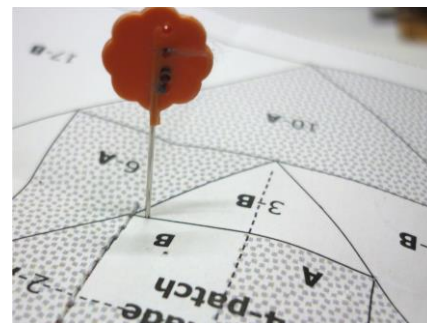
13. Hold the patch in place and unfold the paper. Pin the from the printed side.



14. With your sewing machine set to a very short stitch (half your normal length) sew directly on the line between **section1** and **section2**



15. Unpin and fold the patch over the seam. Finger press in position making sure there is no tuck at the seam



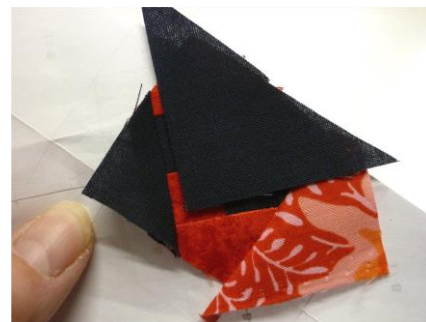
16. Mark each end of the next stitching line. As you have sewn through one end of this you will need make the mark slightly sort of the corner



17. Repeat steps 9 to 15 and add the next patch, choosing another of the smallest triangles of fabric – check if you need fabric **A** or **B**



18. Continue adding the next two patches in the same way to complete the first round



19. On the next round of triangular patches the point lines up towards the corner of the previous patches rather than with the seam

NOTE: Press your work with an iron as you complete each round of patches. Do not use steam as it will make the paper soggy and unworkable



20. Repeat the process with the next set of triangles to complete round two

DO NOT remove the papers yet



21. Repeat the process again with the next set of triangles to complete round three



22. Use the largest triangles to complete round four and press the finished block without steam

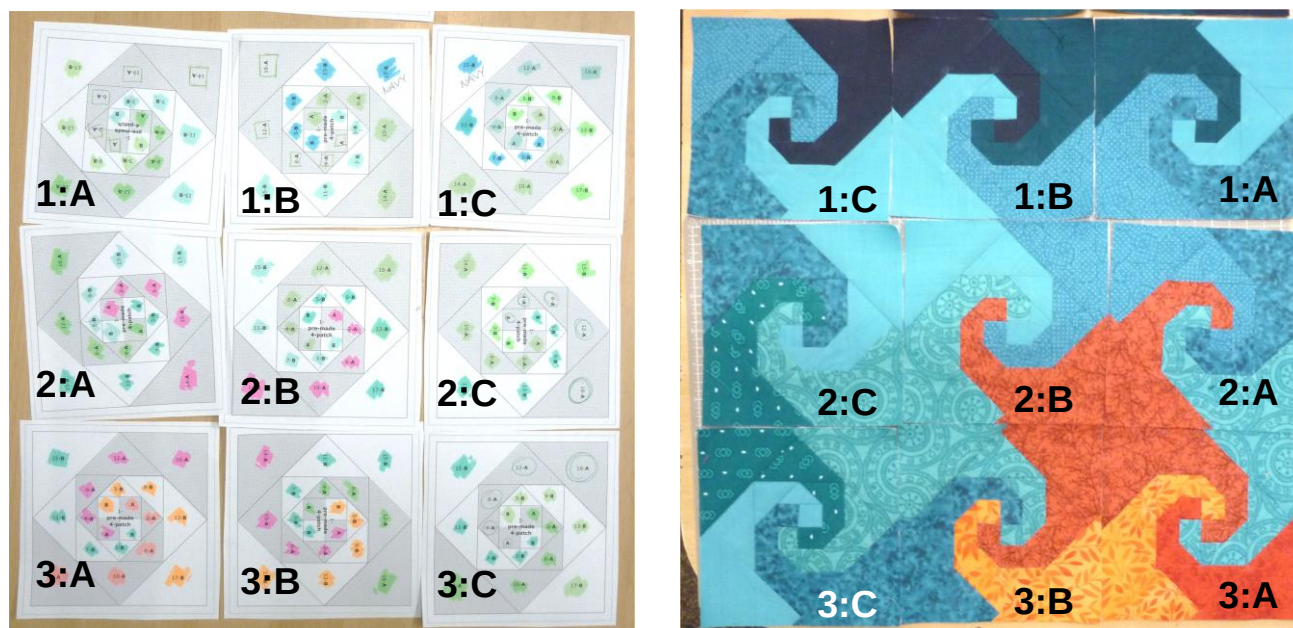
Trim the finished blocks with a rotary cutter and ruler $\frac{1}{4}$ inch outside the solid line at the edge of the block. Do not rely on the dotted line – it is there as a guide only.

When you are happy with your layout join the blocks by placing them RST and hold them in place with clips rather than pins which will distort the work with so many layers of stitching and paper.

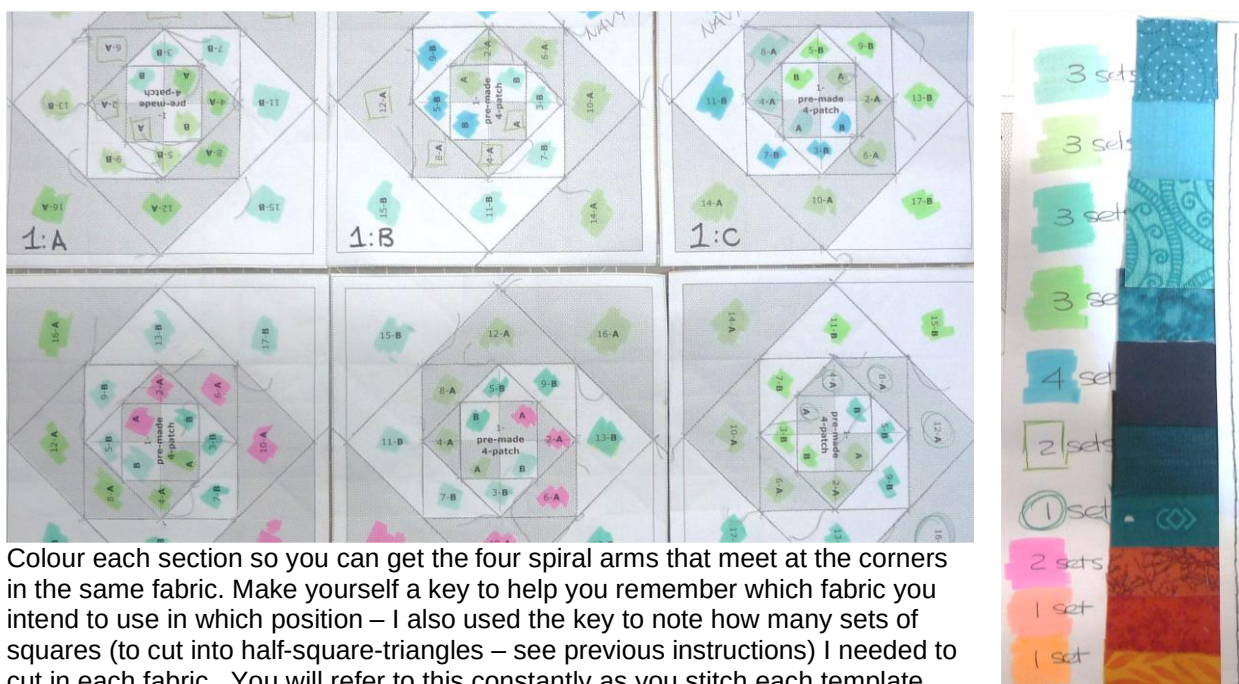
With your machine still set to a short stitch length, sew the blocks together with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam. Stitch from edge to edge of the paper.

Tear out the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of paper from the seam allowance and press the seam open. Work your way through the rows, then join the rows together in the same way.

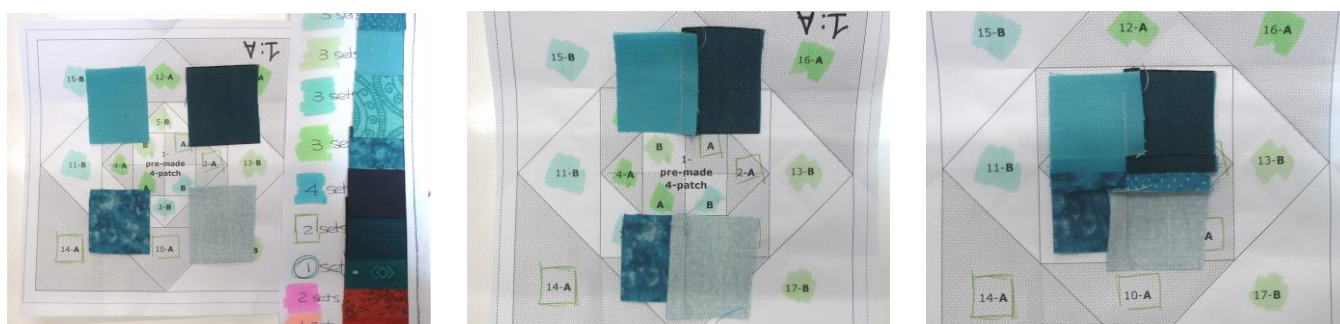
To make the more random version of this block, you will need to prepare your template papers before starting



Print off enough template papers for your chosen layout and trim each one on the dotted line. Lay the templates out and number each one so you know where they go in the layout when finished. REMEMBER that the finished fabric panel will appear as a mirror image of the paper layout viewed from the printed side



Colour each section so you can get the four spiral arms that meet at the corners in the same fabric. Make yourself a key to help you remember which fabric you intend to use in which position – I also used the key to note how many sets of squares (to cut into half-square-triangles – see previous instructions) I needed to cut in each fabric.. You will refer to this constantly as you stitch each template.



To make the centre four-patch, refer to your key for the four fabrics and place them **RIGHT SIDE DOWN (RSD)** on the printed side of the template. Sew the pieces together in pairs, press the seams in opposite directions, and return to the paper to check they are in the right order RSD

Join the pairs and press the seam open. Position the four-patch **RIGHT SIDE UP** on the **blank** side of the paper and continue as shown before

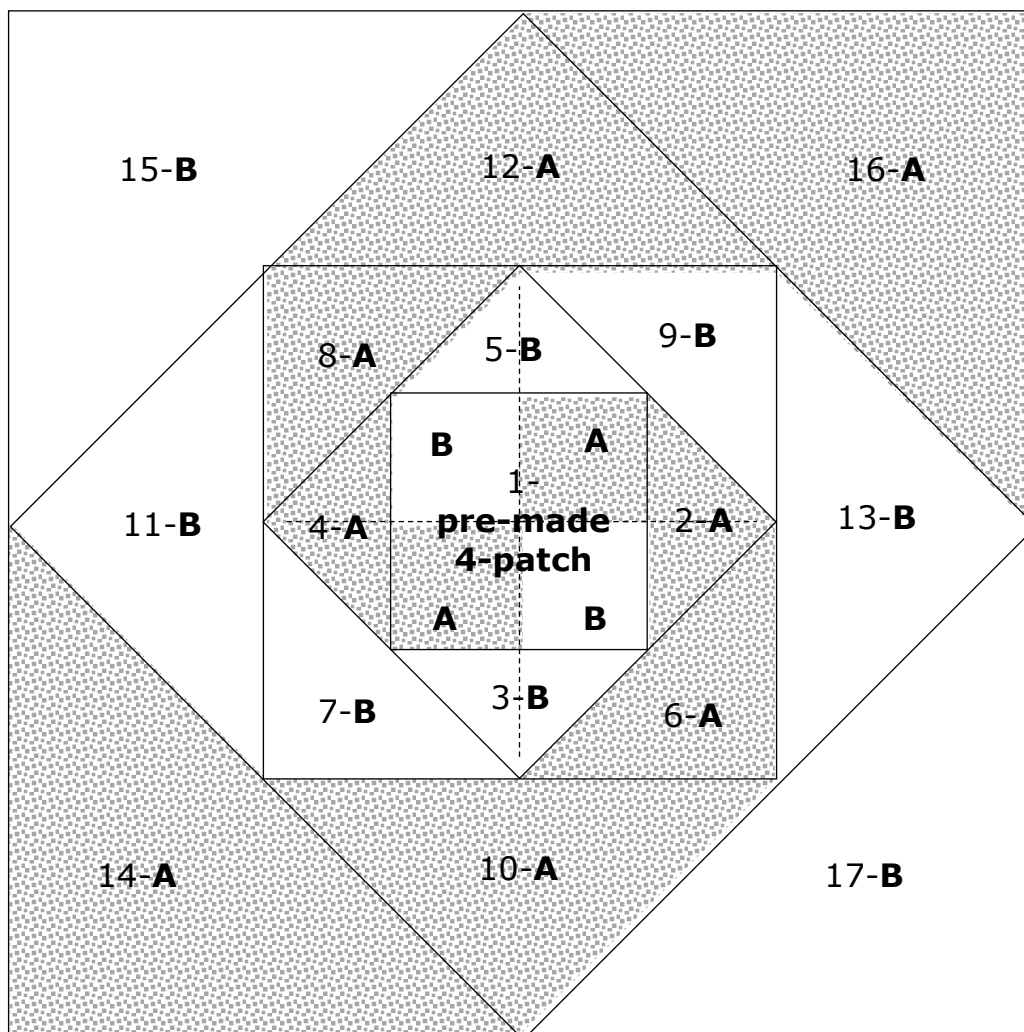
MAQ Block of the Month 4: MONKEY WRENCH – 5⅓ inch square

Print nine copies to finish with a 16 inch square block

TEST SQUARE:

When copying
or printing,
check this is
1 inch square

BLOCK OF THE MONTH MONKEY WRENCH 5⅓-inch © AitchBee 2023



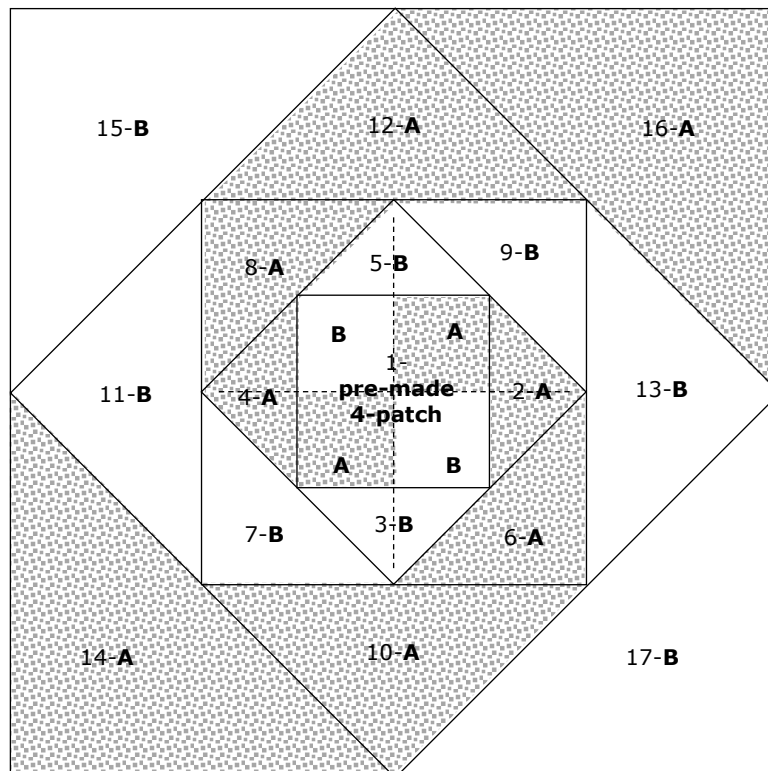
www.modernartquilters.co.uk

MAQ Block of the Month 4: MONKEY WRENCH – 4 inch square

Print eight copies (sixteen blocks) to finish with a 16 inch square block

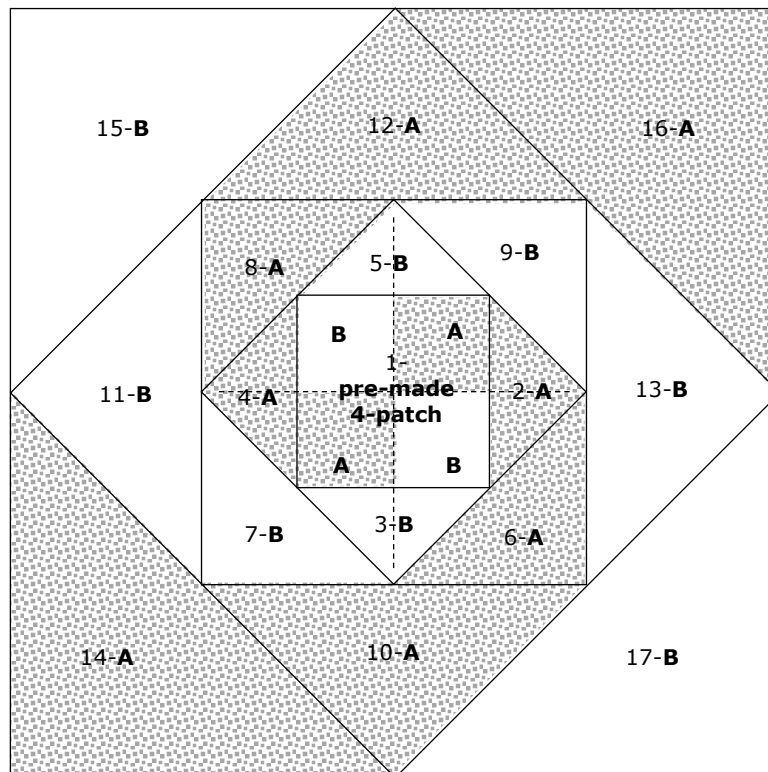
**TEST
SQUARE:**
When copying
or printing,
check this is
1 inch square

BLOCK OF THE MONTH MONKEY WRENCH 4-inch © AitchBee 2023



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