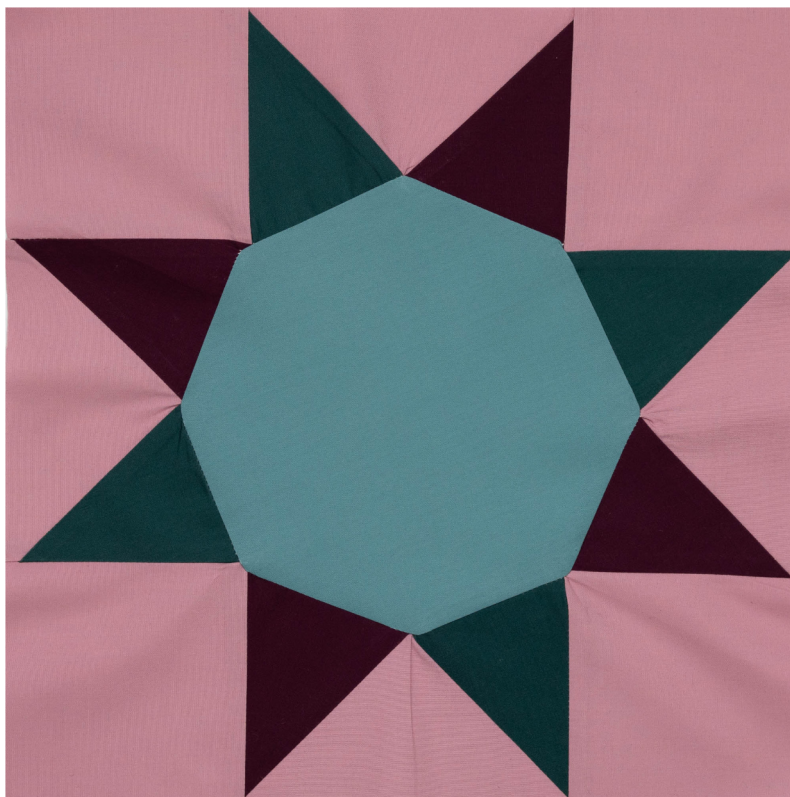




## Birthday Block of the Month Club #9



Designed by Georgia Bonesteel

"My original two Stars Over the Smokies quilts have passed on to family so this gives me a chance to welcome it back to the collection. Teaching flexi curve techniques in previous versions of the quilt called for using the center circle for mountain images. A straight line is a line of duty while a curved line is a line of beauty."

—Georgia Bonesteel

## Meet Georgia Bonesteel

Since 1978 when her television program, "Lap Quilting with Georgia Bonesteel," debuted on North Carolina Public Television, Georgia has been one of the most watched and notable teachers in quilting. Her methods and designs respect traditions and push quilters to explore creativity. Georgia's most recent book, Scrap Happy Quilts is both a memoir of her life in quilts and new projects and patterns for quilters of all skills. Today, Georgia lives a busy semi-retired life volunteering her master gardening skills to the community and her own garden, while continuing to create quilts projects on a daily basis.

georgiabonesteel.com | Facebook

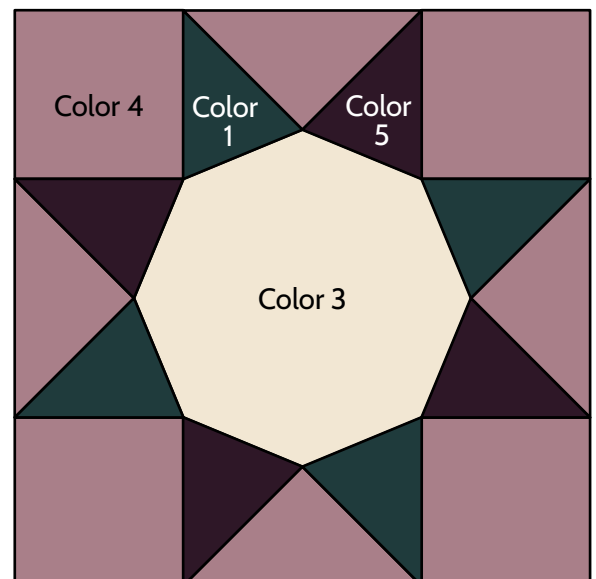
### Cutting Instructions

Fabric	Fabric Requirements	Quilt Colors Art Gallery Fabrics PURE Solids
Color 1	4 - 5" squares	Evergreen
Color 2	Not used (except in cover image)	Swimming Pool
Color 3	1 - 8" square	Creme de la Creme
Color 4	4 - 4" squares 1 - 6 1/4" square	Sweet Fig
Color 5	4 - 5" squares	Cabernet

NOTE: If you use freezer paper templates, you can cut Color 1 and Color 5 using less fabric than noted above by nesting the templates closely together.

### Notes:

- This block measures 12 1/2" square unfinished and 12" finished.
- Cutting instructions assume that width of fabric (WOF) is 42". All seams are 1/4" unless otherwise noted.
- This month's block is made using three block units — star units, corner squares, and the central octagon. The block will be assembled from the outside in, so pay particular attention to the instructions.
- The center octagon is an excellent place to bring in a focus fabric, like a special print or your favorite of the five colors in this block! Do not feel like you need to stick to the suggested color placements this month — have fun! Notice that the cover image colors differ from the diagram on the right.
- Unlike other blocks in this BOM, this block uses templates instead of cutting dimensions. The cutting instructions above are approximate sized fabrics to cut that will fit each template.



## Step 1: Create Template Shapes

1. Print the included templates on freezer paper or regular printer paper. Use the one inch square to make sure that the templates were printed at the correct size. If using freezer paper, press the paper onto your fabric. Cut carefully along the solid, outer edge of each template using a ruler and rotary cutter. Note that the templates include seam allowances — the dashed line inside the template shows the seam allowance. Once the templates are cut out, remove the paper from the fabric.

If you choose to print the templates onto regular printer paper but want a sturdy template, trace the templates onto thin cardboard like cereal boxes.

## Step 2: Create Star Units

1. Cut the 6 ¼" Color 4 square diagonally twice as shown in the diagram below. You will have four triangles.

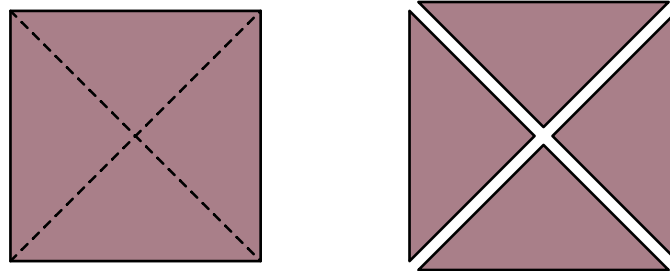


Diagram 2.1

2. Lay the star units out as shown below to stay organized.

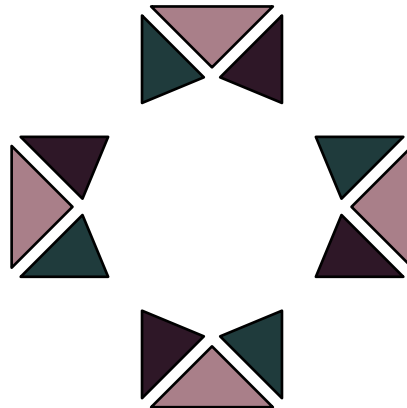


Diagram 2.2

3. Align the Color 1 and Color 5 template triangles on the short sides of a Color 4 triangle. Use one Color 1 and one Color 5 triangle for each star unit. Note that the 45° angles of the Color 1 and Color 5 triangles (the sharpest point) aligns with the 45° angle (the sharpest point) of the Color 4 triangle, forming a 90° angle. Only one long edge of the Color 1 and Color 5 triangles correctly aligns with the Color 4 triangle. Be sure that your pieces look identical to the diagram below.

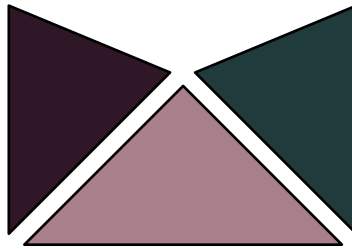


Diagram 2.3

4. Starting from the outside of the block, sew a Color 5 template triangle onto the Color 4 triangle. Sew towards the center, stopping ¼" before reaching the point of the Color 4 triangle.

TIP: Use a disappearing marker or chalk to mark the ¼" stopping line to increase accuracy. Backstitch at the end of this floating seam.



Diagram 2.4

5. Press the seam to either side (be sure to press towards a consistent side throughout this step) and repeat with the Color 1 triangle on the opposite side.



Diagram 2.5

6. Trim the dogears. The central dogears can be carefully trimmed by lifting up the Color 1 triangle and snipping them. There will be  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance space between the point of the Color 4 triangle and the central dogears.



Diagram 2.6

7. Repeat these steps to create three more star units.

### Step 3: Add the Corner Squares

1. Lay the star units and corner squares out as shown below.

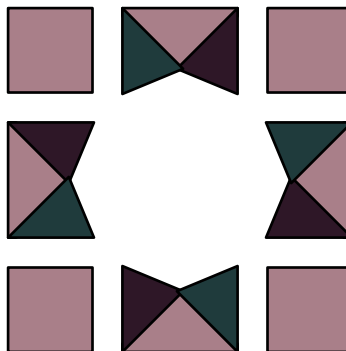


Diagram 3.1

2. Starting with the top row, sew one corner square to each side of the top star unit. Press the seam to either side throughout this step.

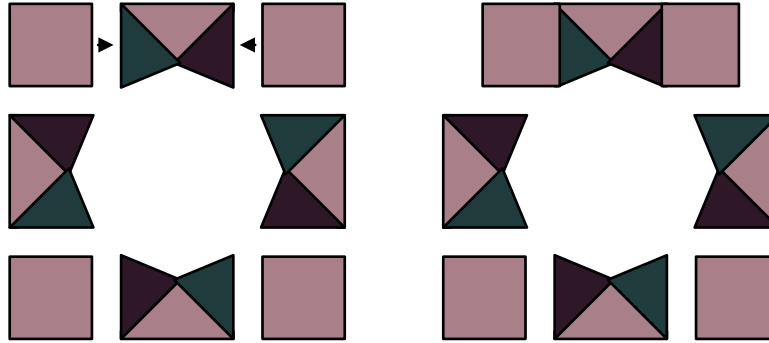


Diagram 3.2

3. Sew the two side star units to the upper right and left corner squares.

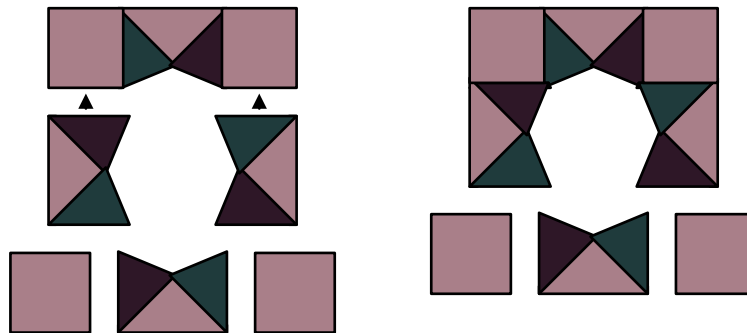


Diagram 3.3

4. In the bottom row, sew one corner square to each side of the bottom star unit.

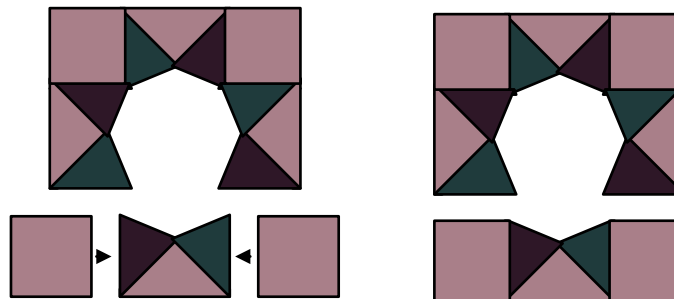


Diagram 3.4

5. Lay the bottom row on top of the middle row, right sides together. The bottom corner squares will align with the bottom of the two side star units. Sew the two aligned portions together. The outer ring of the block is now complete.

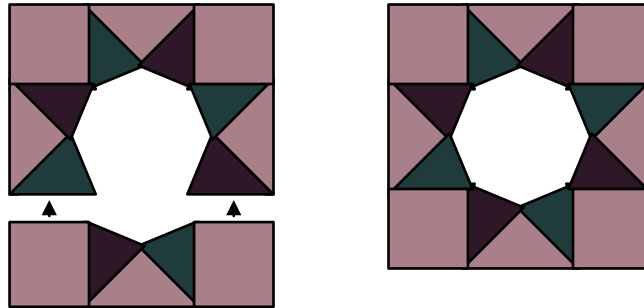


Diagram 3.5

### Step 4: Add the Central Octagon

1. Begin by marking lines on the central octagon using a disappearing ink marker or chalk. The marks needed are shown on Template 1.

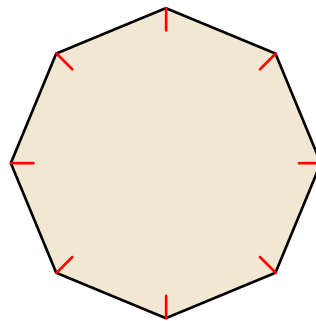


Diagram 4.1

2. Align the raw edge of one side of the octagon with one side of a template triangle as shown below.

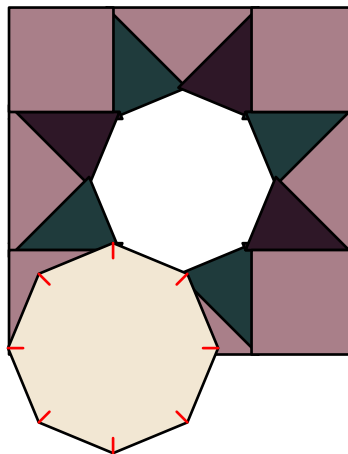


Diagram 4.2

3. Sew from one mark on the octagon to the next as shown below, backstitching at the beginning and the end.

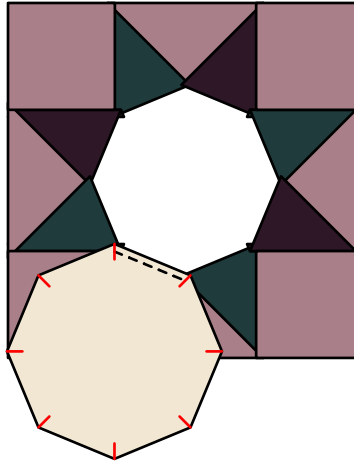
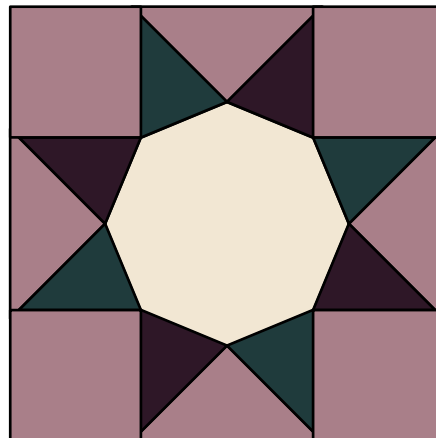


Diagram 4.3

4. Finger press the seam towards the octagon.

5. Repeat the steps above with the remaining seven sides of the octagon, ensuring that the fabric is always flat to avoid puckers. This may require some manipulation of the fabric.

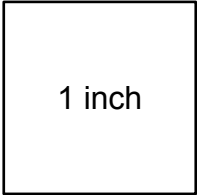
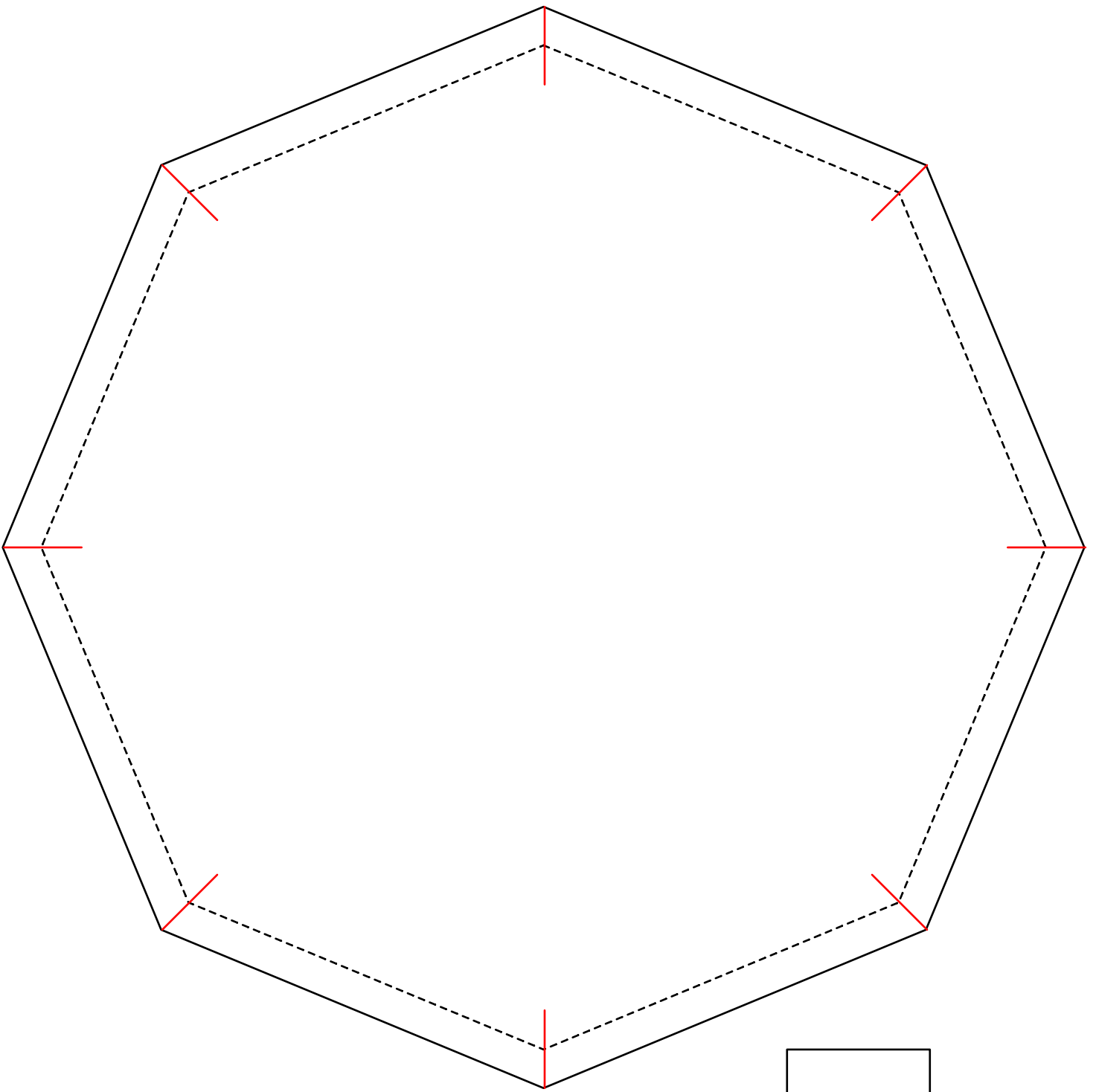


6. Press all seams in towards the center of the octagon.

Share your Quilt Alliance Birthday Block of the Month on social media! Be sure to tag [@quiltalliance](https://www.instagram.com/quiltalliance) and use the hashtag [#QuiltAllianceBOM](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/QuiltAllianceBOM). We can't wait to see and share your block!

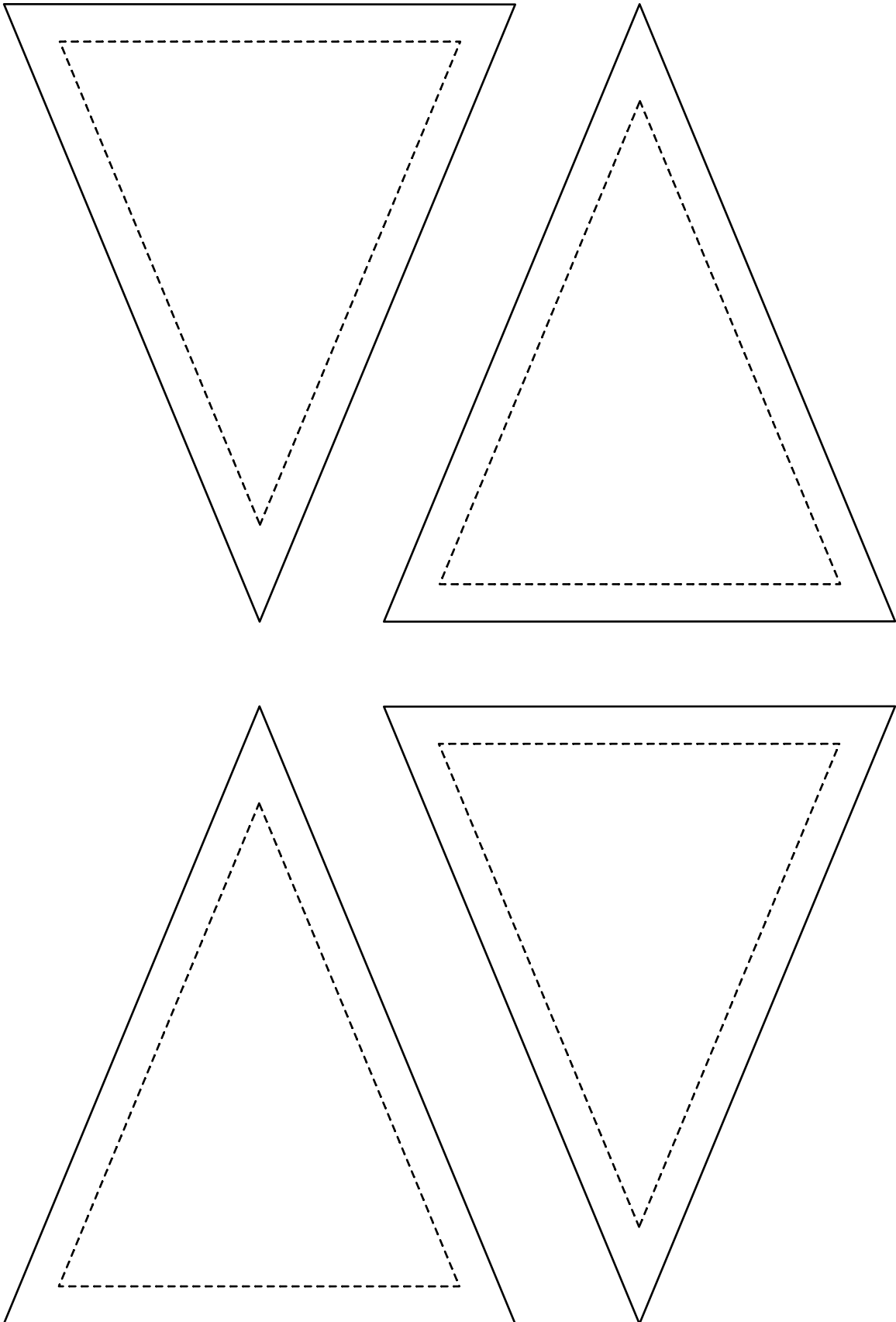


# Template 1



1 inch

# Template 2



# Template 2

