PROJECT: Color Wheel

A rainbow of appliquéd, assorted print wedges joins a novelty ribbon for a sweet, scrappy pincushion.

DESIGNER: Sachiko Aldous *(tearosehome.blogspot.com)*

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PINCUSHION

Finished size: 6¼" diameter

MATERIALS

Yardages and cutting instructions are based on 42" of usable fabric width.

- ❑ ⅓ yard light gray print (appliqué, foundation circle, pincushion)
- ❑ 12—3" squares assorted prints in rainbow colors (Dresden unit)
- ❑ 7" square thin batting or flannel
- ❑ 21¼"-long piece of measuring tape-motif ribbon
- ❑ Scrap of freezer paper
- ❑ Polyester fiberfill

CUT FABRICS

Cut pieces in the following order. Patterns A–C are on *pages 5–6*. To make templates of patterns, see "Make and Use Templates" on *page 7*. When cutting Pattern A center circle from fabric, be sure to add a ¼" seam allowance beyond drawn line.

From light gray print, cut:
- 1—1¾×21¼" strip
- 2 of Pattern C
- 1 of Pattern A

From *each* assorted print, cut:
- 1 of Pattern B

From batting or flannel, cut:
- 1 of Pattern C

MAKE CENTER CIRCLE APPLIQUÉ

Measurements include ¼" seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Press seams in directions indicated by arrows on diagrams. If no direction is specified, press seam toward darker fabric.

Instructions that follow use a freezer-paper method for preparing the A circle appliqué. To use this method, complete the following steps.

1) Layer freezer paper, shiny side down, over Pattern A. Use a pencil to trace pattern once. Cut out freezer-paper A circle template on drawn line.

2) Center freezer-paper A template with shiny side up on wrong side of light gray print A circle **(Diagram 1).** Using tip of a hot dry iron, press fabric seam allowance over edge of freezer paper, ensuring fabric is taut against template. Let cool; remove freezer paper to make center circle appliqué.

MAKE DRESDEN UNIT

1) Fold a print B piece in half, with right side inside and long edges aligned; finger-press fold **(Diagram 2).** Stitch about ¼" from top edge. To reduce bulk, trim away a small triangle at folded edge.

2) Turn Step 1 unit right side out; place unit right side down on a pressing surface. Using crease to center the point, press point flat and seam open to make a wedge **(Diagram 3).**

3) Using remaining assorted print B pieces, repeat steps 1 and 2 to make 12 wedges total.

4) Referring to **Diagram 4** for color order, lay out wedges in six pairs.

5) Sew together wedges in each pair; press seams open. Join pairs to make a Dresden unit **(Diagram 5).** Press seams open. The hole in the center of the Dresden unit will be covered later.

ASSEMBLE PINCUSHION TOP

1) Fold a light gray print C circle in half horizontally and vertically. Finger-press to make a foundation circle with placement guidelines; unfold. Referring to **Appliqué Placement Diagram,** center Dresden unit and center circle appliqué atop foundation circle; pin.

2) Using desired appliqué method, stitch Dresden unit and center circle appliqué atop foundation circle to make appliquéd pincushion top. Designer Sachiko Aldous hand-appliquéd her pieces using a neutral gray thread to match the foundation circle.

3) Layer appliquéd pincushion top and batting or flannel C circle. Quilt as desired. Sachiko hand-quilted a line down the center of each wedge. She quilted ¼" inside the center circle and ¼" around the outside of the Dresden unit.

ASSEMBLE PINCUSHION

1) Referring to **Diagram 6,** center and sew measuring tape ribbon atop light gray print 1¾×21¼" strip.

2) With right side inside, fold Step 1 strip in half widthwise. Sew short ends together to make a side unit. Press seam open.

3) With right sides together, pin quilted pincushion top to one edge of side unit. Sew together along pinned edges **(Diagram 7).** Make small clips around edges, being careful not to cut into seam.

4) With right sides together, pin and join remaining edge of side unit to remaining light gray print C circle, leaving a 2" opening **(Diagram 8).**

5) Turn right side out, using a chopstick or knitting needle to push out curved edges.

6) Stuff firmly with fiberfill through opening. Hand-stitch opening closed to complete pincushion.

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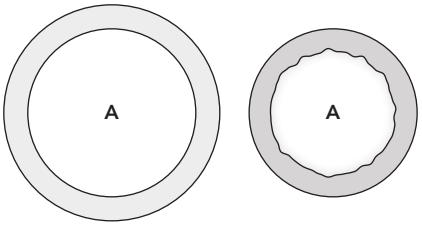

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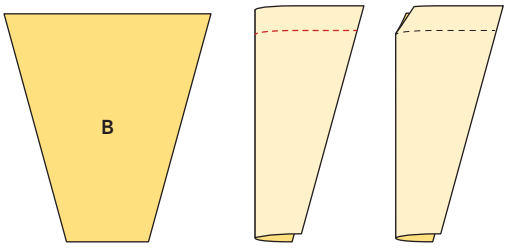
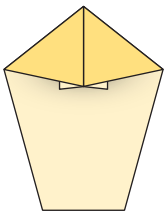


DIAGRAM 2



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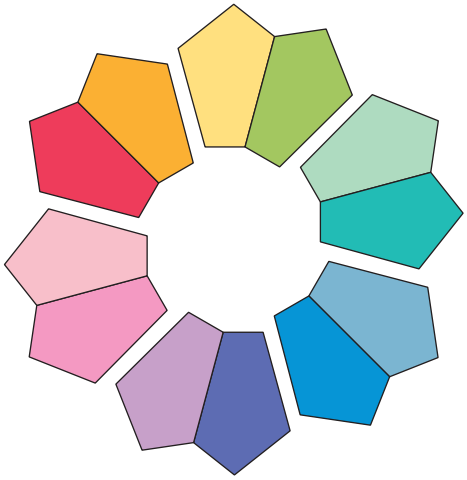

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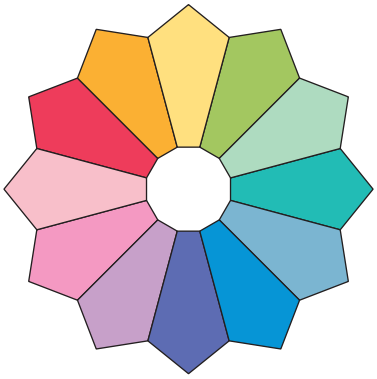
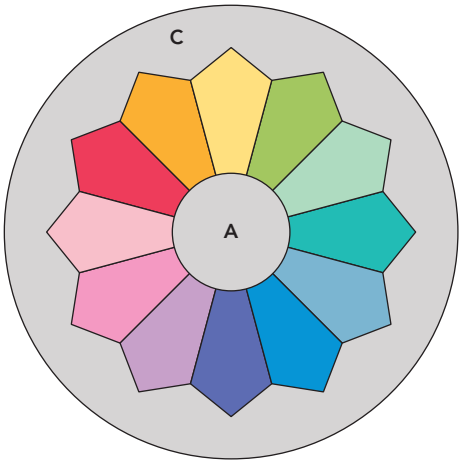


DIAGRAM 5



APPLIQUÉ PLACEMENT DIAGRAM

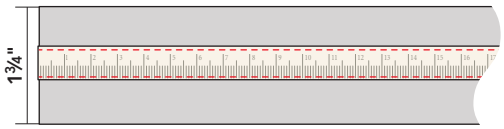


DIAGRAM 6

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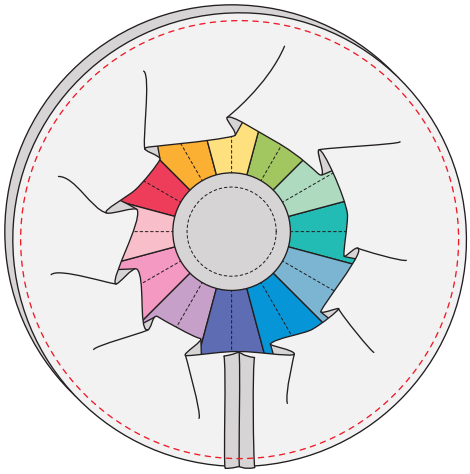
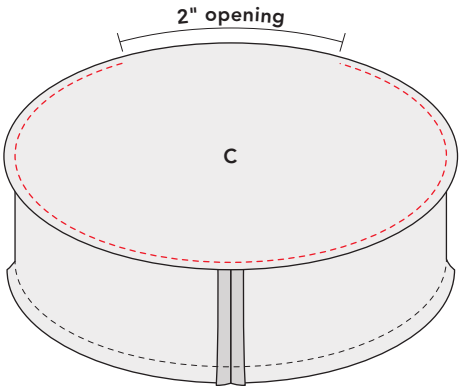


DIAGRAM 7



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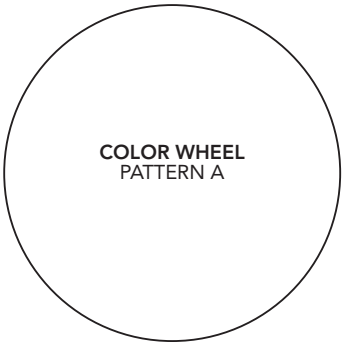

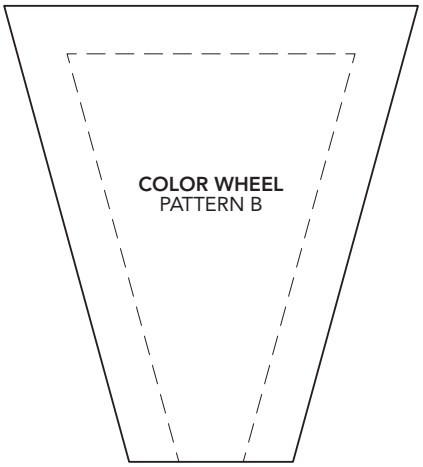

This box should measure 1".

NOTE:

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COLOR WHEEL
PATTERN C

This box should measure 1".

← 1" →

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MAKE TEMPLATES

A template is a pattern made from extra-sturdy material so you can trace around it many times without wearing away the edges. Acrylic templates for many common shapes are available at quilt shops. Or you can make your own by duplicating printed patterns on template plastic.

To make permanent templates, purchase easy-to-cut template plastic, available at quilt shops and crafts supply stores. Lay the plastic over a printed pattern. Trace the pattern onto the plastic using a ruler and a permanent marker to ensure straight lines, accurate corners, and permanency.

For hand piecing and appliqué, make templates the exact size finished pieces will be (without seam allowances). For piecing, this means tracing the patterns' dashed lines.

For machine piecing, make templates that include seam allowances by tracing the patterns' solid and dashed lines onto the template plastic.

For easy reference, mark each template with its letter designation, grain line (if noted on the pattern), and block name. Cut out the traced shapes on their outside lines. Verify each template's shape and size by placing it over its printed pattern. Templates must be accurate; errors, however small, will compound many times as you assemble a quilt. To check templates' accuracy, make a test block before cutting the fabric pieces for an entire quilt.

USE TEMPLATES

To mark on fabric, use a pencil, white dressmaker's pencil, chalk, or a special fabric marker that makes a thin, accurate line. Do not use a ballpoint or ink pen; it may bleed if washed. Test all marking tools on a fabric scrap before using them.

To make pieces for hand piecing or appliqué, place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template at least ½" away from the previous tracing **(Diagram 1),** trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines ¼" away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a ¼" seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a 3/16" seam allowance.

Because templates used to make pieces for machine piecing have seam allowances included, you can use common tracing lines for efficient cutting. Place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template without a space between it and the previous tracing **(Diagram 2);** trace again and repeat. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut pieces out, cutting precisely on the drawn lines.

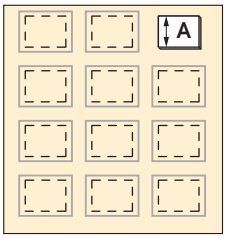

DIAGRAM 1

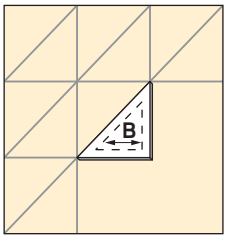

DIAGRAM 2

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