

Mariner's Compass

Booklet Seven: Chapter 8

Congratulations!! You are ready to assemble your quilt. I hope you have had as much fun making this quilt as I had designing it.

Setting the Units together: You will find the components fit and sew together very nicely. Most of the units were designed to intentionally avoid having to match up your seams between the different units (making precise accuracy relatively unimportant as you sew together your quilt top). However, there are a few points that do match, so pay attention to the instructions as you sew. I will locate these points for you as needed.

Instructions: The following set of instructions are more detailed for the initial joining of units. After the first (5) units are joined, only a brief description will be provided for the remaining units. The same process used for sewing the first five can be employed to assemble the rest. We have added a few registration points (small black dots on the foundation unit along the sew lines) on the foundation units that you will find very helpful when sewing the units together. It is important that you pay attention to these points as you assemble your pieces.

Curved Piecing: It is common that fabric stretches when sewing curved seams. However, if you use the registration points to match and pin the units together prior to sewing your seams, the likelihood of stretching is reduced considerably.

During our training workshops for the *Mariner's Compass* pattern, some of the instructors had issues with the stitches backing out on the rope units. These units have a lot of seams and as a result this could happen to you as well. The challenge has to do with how tight you set your stitch length on your sewing machine. The method we developed to address this issue is the following: Before removing the foundation papers on the Rope Units, add a basting stitch just inside the designated quarter-inch seam allowance printed on the paper. I would estimate this at about 1/8 of an inch. This should stop the stitches from backing out as you remove the foundation paper.

Removing the Foundation Papers: At this time, all the foundation papers should still be attached to the units. I recommend you leave the foundation papers attached to the fabric until you are instructed to remove it. Some of the units are sewn together with the foundation papers still attached. For other units, you will be asked to remove the paper before you sew. In general, we recommend the following in regards to when you should remove paper and when you should keep it on:

Straight Seams: Straight seams are sewn together by removing the foundation paper from the bottom unit that feeds through your machine next to the feed dogs. The foundation paper is left attached to the top unit next to the presser foot. This allows you to use the printed sew lines on your paper as a sewing guide. It also prevents the fabric from stretching as you sew over the many seams that we encounter when working with foundation paper piecing designs.

Curved Seams: When sewing curved seams, the foundation paper is removed from the top piece that feeds through your machine next to the presser foot and the foundation paper is left attached to the bottom units that feed next to the feed dogs. However, take special note of whether you have registration points on your foundation papers you may want to remove. If so, these points **MUST** be clearly marked on your fabric before you remove the paper. If you use your pins to strategically mark the registration points and pin the units together at the same time, you can remove the paper after pinning and prior to sewing, simply using the pin insertion as a reference point for the registration points.

Pressing Instructions: Pressing the seams is very important to the finishing of any quilt. The more organized your pressing is on the backside of your quilt, the better your quilt lays. As you sew each seam, instructions will be included to tell you which way to press the seams and what papers need to be removed before you can press.

Chapter 8 Assemble the Quilt.

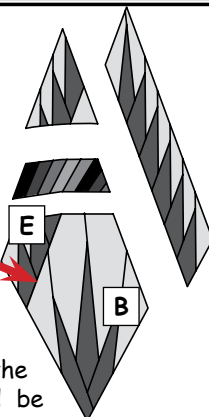
Group 1: Unit-B, E, H, Z, and K.

Unit-E to Unit-B

1: *Unit-E* is placed on top of *Unit-B* facing **right-sides-together**. Match and pin the (B2) registration points then move to the opposite end of your sew line, match points at the quarter-inch intersections where *Sec. 1 Temp E-1* and *Sec. 2 Temp B2* intersect.

2: Two additional pins are used to secure the two units from moving. These pins should be placed through *Sec. 4* and *Sec. 6*, on *Unit-E*.

3: Remove the foundation paper under sections 1, 3, & 5 on *Unit-E*.



4: Sew the two pieces at your machine. *Unit-E* should be positioned on the bottom next to the feed dogs with *Unit-B* on top next to the presser foot.

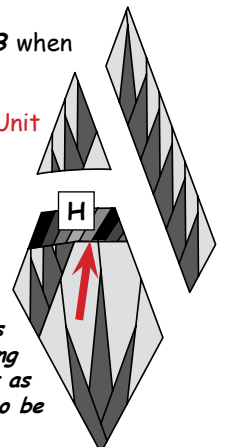
5: Follow the stitch line printed on *Unit-B* when sewing the pieces together.

6: Remove the paper under sections 2 & 6 on *Unit B*. Press the seam facing in towards *Unit-B*.

Unit-H to Unit-E/B,

1: The foundation paper is removed from *Unit-H*.

Note: Prior to removing the foundation paper mark the existing quarter-inch intersecting points on your fabric under the foundation paper. Adding the basting stitches around the edge of the unit as suggested above under Curved Piecing should also be done before you remove the papers.



2: Position **Unit-H** onto the top side of **Unit-B/E**, placing **right-sides-together** as shown.

3: Match and pin the sides at each quarter-inch intersection.

4: Using a glue pen, dab a small amount of glue around the perimeter of the convex edge on **Unit-B/E**. Quickly match, shape, and press, the concave edge of **Unit-H** up with the convex edge of the **B/E-Unit**. The glue will hold the edges together.

5: A quarter-inch seam allowance is used to stitch the two pieces together. The **B/E-Unit** is placed next to the feed dogs with the paper side down. The **H-Unit** is on the top next to the presser foot.

Note: That, Purple Thang works great as a third finger to help hold the pieces together along the edges of the curved seams. It can also be used to smooth out any puckers that you might sew into the curved seams.

6: When you are finished sewing, use a steam iron and press the curved seams facing in towards the **Rope (Unit-H)**.

Join Unit-Z to Unit-H

1: Remove the foundation paper from **Unit-Z**.

2: Position **Unit-Z** onto the top side of **Unit-H**, placing **right-sides-together**.

3: Match and pin both sides placing (1) pin through the intersecting points on both units along each side.

4: Using a glue pen, quickly match, shape, and press, the concave edge of **Unit-H** up with the edge of **Unit-Z** to hold the edges together.

5: A quarter-inch seam allowance is used to stitch the two pieces together. **Unit-H** is placed next to the feed dogs with **Unit-Z** facing **wrong-side-up** next to the presser foot.

6: When you are finished sewing, use a steam iron and press the curved seam facing in towards the **Rope**. The foundation paper is left on **Unit-B/E**.

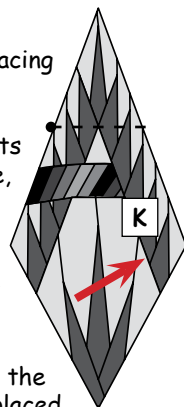
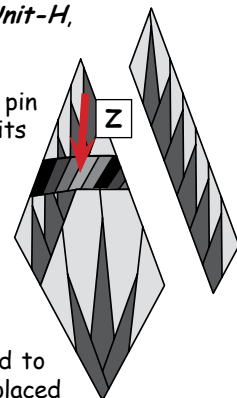
Join Unit-K to Unit-B/H/Z

1: **Unit-K** is placed on top of **Unit-B/H/Z** facing **right-sides-together**.

2: Match and pin the (A2) registration points then move to the opposite end of your sew line, match and pin the quarter-inch intersecting points where **Sec. 1, Temp K-1** and **Sec. 2, Temp Z-2** match. Now find the point where **Line 6, Unit-Z** and **Line 3, Unit-K** intersect and place a pin at this point.

3: Additional pins should be added to secure the pieces from moving. These pins should be placed through sections, 13, 9, and 5, on **Unit-K**.

4: Remove the foundation paper under sections 2, 4, 6, 8, & 10, on **Unit-K**. Do not remove the paper under **Unit-B**.

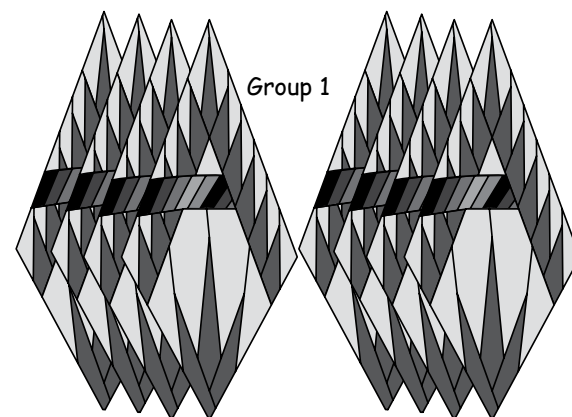


Note: A small amount of glue placed along the raw edges of the two fabrics will keep the edge from slipping under the feed dogs as you sew.

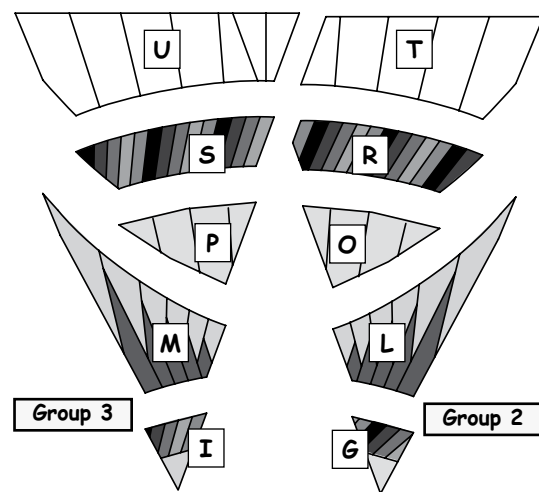
5: A quarter-inch seam is used to sew the pieces together at your machine. **Unit-K** should be placed on the bottom next to the feed dogs with **Unit-B/H/Z** on top next to the presser foot.

6: Press the seam facing out towards **Unit-K**.

Repeat the previous steps to complete the (8) pieces required for **Group 1**.



Group 2: Units-G/L/O/R/T.
Group 3: Units-I/M/P/S/U.

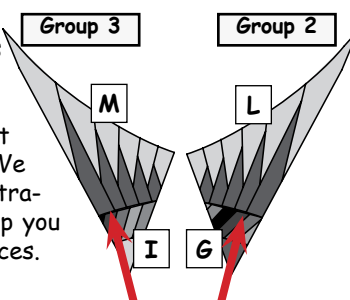


Join Unit-M to Unit-I
Join Unit-L to Unit-G

1: Remove the foundation paper under sections 2, 4, 6, & 8, on both **Unit-M**, and **Unit-L**.

2: Place the pieces **right-sides-together**.

3: Match and pin the units at each ends of the stitch line. We have provided one set of registration points on each unit to help you with the placement of your pieces.



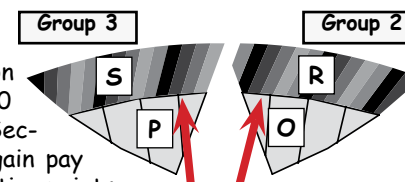
(**Unit-M** and **Unit-I**, (B4 registration points).
(**Unit-L** and **Unit-G**, (A4 registration points).

4: Use your glue pen and glue the raw edges together along the sew edge of both pieces. Sew the pieces together.

5: When you are finished sewing, use a steam iron and press the seam facing out towards the Sails.

Join Unit S to Unit P
Join Unit R to Unit O

1: Remove the foundation paper under sections 3-10 on **Unit-S** and under Sections 3-11 on **Unit-R**. Again pay attention to the registration points.



2: Place the pieces **right-sides-together**. Match and pin the units at each ends of the stitch line. The registration points were provided to help you with the placement of your pieces.

(**Unit-S** and **Unit-P**), (D2 registration points).
(**Unit-R** and **Unit-O**), (C3 registration points).

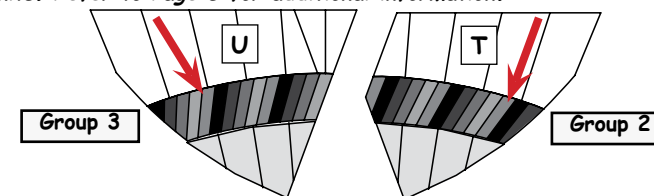
3: Use your glue pen and glue the raw edges together before you sew your seams.

4: When you are finished sewing, use a steam iron and press the curved seams facing in towards the **Ropes**.

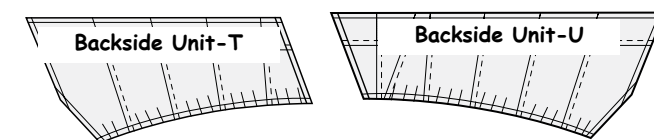
Join Unit-U to Unit-S/P
Join Unit-T to Unit-R/O

1: The foundation paper is not removed from **Unit-T** and **Unit-U**. Instead of removing the paper, the paper is clipped several times along the sew line. This will allow you to complete the curved piecing without removing the paper.

Note: Additional paper piecing may be needed to complete these units. Refer to Page 5 for additional information.



2: Once the paper has been clipped the pieces are joined using the same steps as before.



3: Match and pin the registration points.

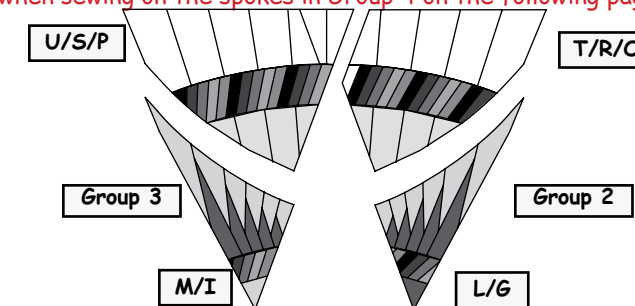
(**Unit-U** and **Unit-S**), (D3 registration points).
(**Unit-T** and **Unit-R**), (C2 registration points).

4: Glue the raw edges together along the sew edge and sew the pieces together.

5: Press the joining seam facing in towards the Rope

Join Units-M/I to Unit-U/S/P
Join Units-L/G to Unit-T/R/O

1: The next two seams are the most important seams in the whole quilt. These pieces must match to prevent distortion when sewing on the spokes in **Group 4** on the following page.



2: Each curved seam is printed with four registration points.

(**Units-M/I** and **Units-U/S/P**), (D1, D2, D3, D4) registration points).
(**Units-L/G** and **Units-T/R/O**), (C1, C2, C3, C4) registration points).

Units-M/I to Units-U/S/P:

3: A pin should be placed at each registration point when setting the units together. Glue should be used to secure the edges. **IMPORTANT!** The sew line between (D1, D2, & D3,) is a curved seam, between points (D3 & D4) the sew line turns into a straight seam.

4: The units are pinned with **right-sides-together** with **Units-M/I** on top and **Units-U/S/P** on the bottom. **IMPORTANT!** After the units are secured with pins. Remove the foundation paper under Sections 3, 5, 7 & 9 on Unit M. The sewing begins at the edge of the fabric at point (D4), sew a straight seam until you hit the (D3) registration point, stop at this point with the needle down, realign the fabric under the feed dogs, then continue sewing the curved seam to the finishing registration point (D1).

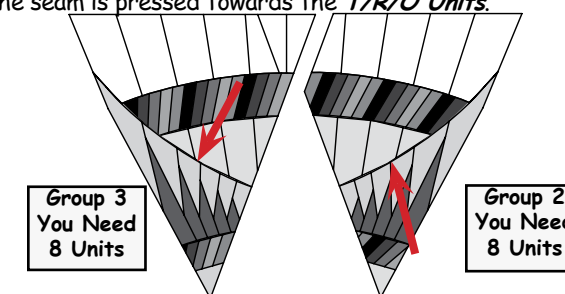
5: The seam is pressed towards the **M-Unit** shown below Step 8.

Units-L/G to Units-T/R/O:

6: Again pins should be placed at each registration point. Glue should be used to secure the edges. **IMPORTANT!** Registration point (C1) is the beginning of the straight seam, registration point (C2) is the beginning of the curve seam, registration point (C4) is the end of the straight seam.

7: The units are placed **right-sides-together** with **Unit-L/G** on top and **Unit-T/R/O** on the bottom. After the units are secured with pins. Remove the foundation paper under Sections 3, 5, 7 & 9 on Unit LG. The sewing begins at the edge of the fabric at point (C1), a straight seam is sewn until you hit the (C2) registration point, stop at this point with the needle down, realign the fabric under the feed dogs, continue sewing the curved seam to the finishing point (C4).

8: The seam is pressed towards the **T/R/O Units**.



Group Four:

Units-B/E/H/Z/K:
Group 1,

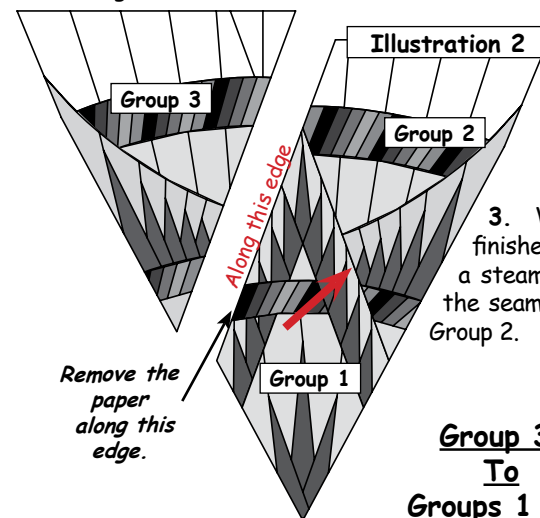
Units-U/S/P/M/I:
Group 2,

Units-T/R/O/L/G:
Group 3,

Group 1: to Group 2:

1: Place the pieces *right-sides-together* with **Group 1** on the top. Starting with the (A3) registration point, match and pin the units along the stitch line.

2: Remove the foundation papers along the edge of the sew line on **Group 2** (shown above in Illustration 1) before you sew the seams together.



3. When you are finished sewing, use a steam iron and press the seam facing towards **Group 2**.

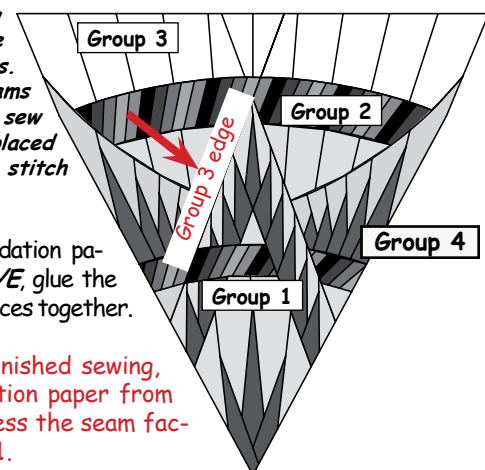
Group 3:
To
Groups 1 & 2:

1: Place the pieces *right-sides-together* with **Group 3** on the top. Starting with the (B3) registration point, match and pin the units along the stitch line.

Note: The joining seams on the rope are stacked seams. To prevent the seams from slipping as you sew over them a pin is placed on each side of the stitch line.

2: Remove the foundation paper under **Unit-Z/H/E**, glue the edges and sew the pieces together.

3: When you are finished sewing, remove the foundation paper from under the seam, press the seam facing towards **Group 1**.

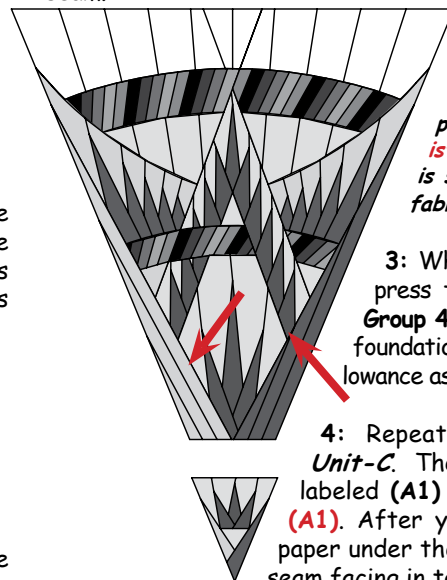


Group Five:

Units-C, D, A to Group 4.

1: **Unit-C & Unit-D** are sewn along both edges. Each unit is marked with (6) registration points. Since most of the fabric you will be sewing is all bias along the edge, it is a good idea to leave the paper attached to the units as well as the units within **Group 4**.

2: **Unit-D**, with *right-sides-together* place **Unit-D** on top of the pieces in **Group 4**. Starting at the (B1) registration point, match and pin each point. Use your glue pen to secure the edge. The **D-Unit** is very long and narrow, you will find it wants to slide sideways under the presser foot as you sew. Sewing slow along the edges of these two pieces results in a straight flat finished seam.



Note: Don't be alarmed how the long skinny point fits just past the end of the (B5) registration point. Once the seam is sewn and pressed the excess fabric is trimmed off.

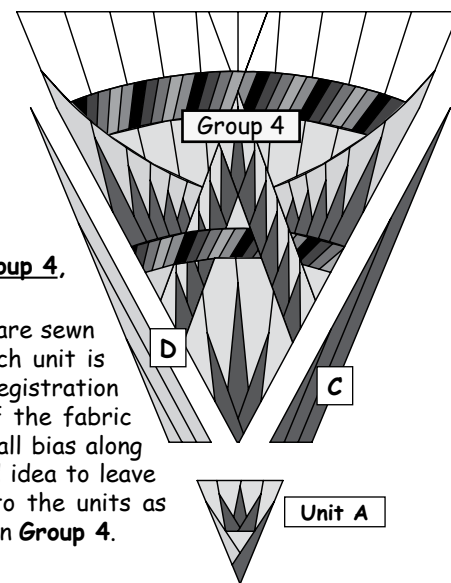
3: When you are finished sewing, press the seam facing in towards **Group 4**. You will need to remove the foundation paper under the seam allowance as you press this seam.

4: Repeat the same process for **Unit-C**. The registration points are labeled (A1) through (A5), ending with (A1). After you remove the foundation paper under the seam allowance press the seam facing in towards **Unit-C**.

5: **Unit-A** is sewn onto the bottom of each group.

6: Remove the foundation paper from the backside of **Unit-A** on (4) pieces and press the seams in towards the **A-Unit**.

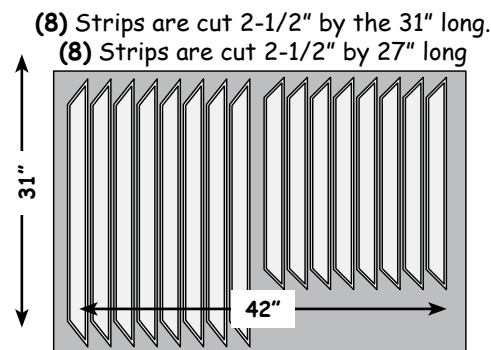
7: Remove the foundation paper under **Units-B/C/D** on the other four groups. **Optional:** Press the seams in opposing directions or towards **Units-B/C/D** is up to you, both ways will work.



Accent Borders

In **Chapter 6** we spoke extensively about the **Accent Borders**. Whether you add the borders or you don't add the borders is up to you. If you study the samples on the cover pages you will find that most of the **69" by 69"** quilts were finished without adding the **Accent Border** and all the **98" by 98"** quilts were finished with the border. If you choose to add the borders then you will need to complete the following steps below. *[If you don't plan to add the borders then jump to the top of Page 6].*

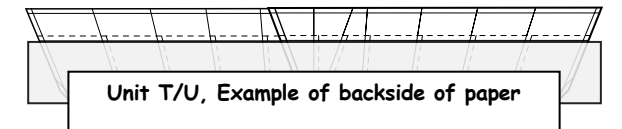
Cutting the Accent Strips: 2-1/2" strips are cut down the selvage edge of your fabric. These strips are used for the accent borders.



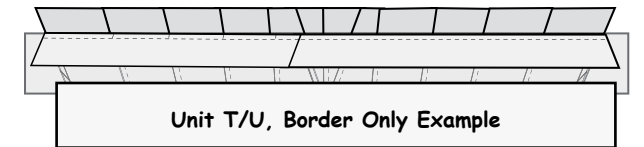
Additional yardage is needed for accent strips to make the queen layout. Please refer to Chapter 8, and queen yardage chart.

Note: Pay attention to the way you cut your strips. If you cut the strips across the selvage from edge to edge you will run out of fabric.

1: Flip your units *paper-side-up*, place a fold template along the perpendicular lines (**Lines 7/5**) that runs lengthwise through **Units-T/U** shown below.



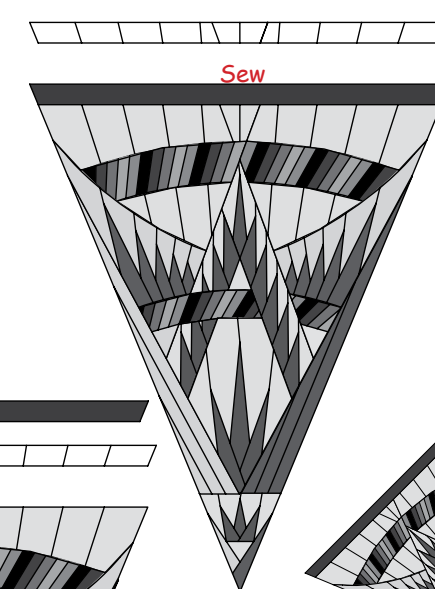
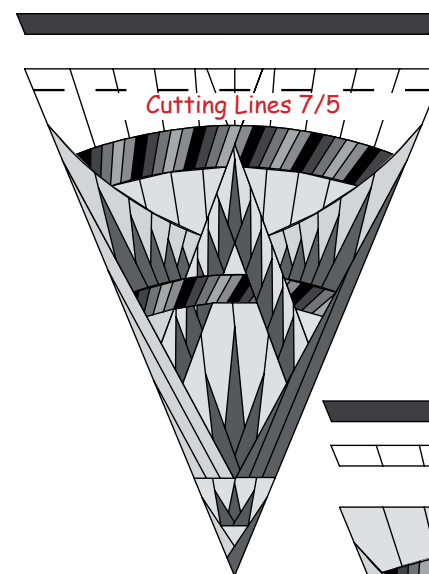
2: Fold the paper over your fold template, tearing the paper gently away from the seams until the paper is free to fold back along the entire length of the line. Place the **Add-A-Quarter** ruler next to the folded back paper and trim a quarter-inch seam.



3: Place the **Accent Inner Border** strips *right-side-up* next to the folded back paper and lift the foundation unit, slide the border under the paper. Line up the edges, pin the strips in place and sew on the line.

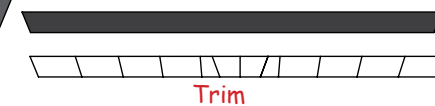
4: Flip the fabric over to the backside of the paper again. Fold back what paper is left and trim the **Accent Borders** to the exact size of the paper.

The foundation paper can now be removed from the backside of the paper under **Unit-T/U**.



2. The excess fabric is replaced with the accent fabric.

3. Follow the instruction on Page 6, 'Sewing and Pressing the Quilt'. When you get to Step 7 (Page 6), jump to "Adding the Accent Border to the Corner Units" at the bottom of Page 7.



1. Flip your unit to the paper side, place a fold template along the perpendicular line (**Line 7/5**) that runs lengthwise through **Unit-U** and **Unit-T**.

