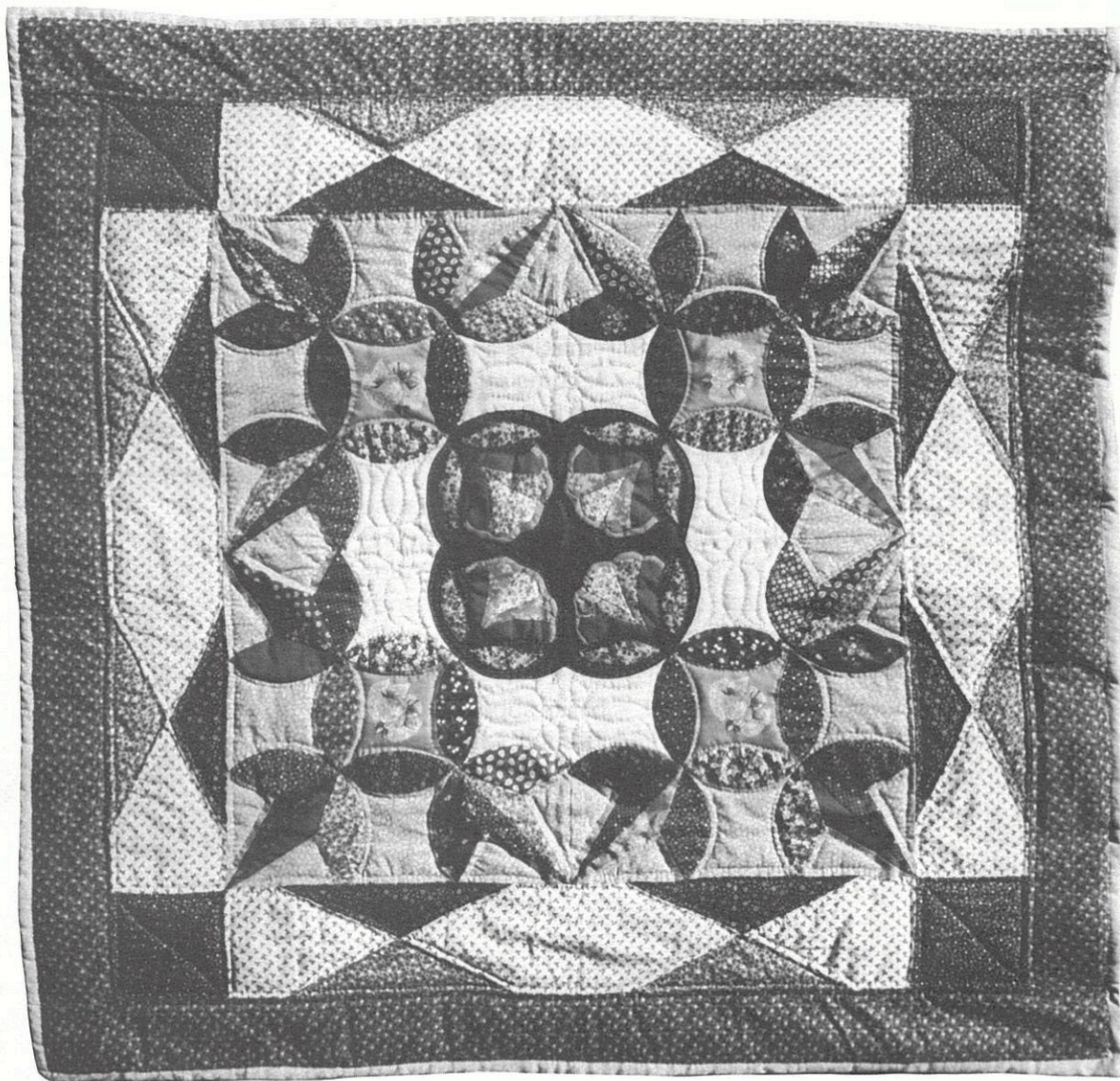


PATCHWORK POSSIBILITIES



by
MARJORIE PUCKETT

front cover wall quilt by darlene oster
back cover wall quilt by glenda munson

Mary Grace

HAND PIECING

HAND CUTTING & HAND SEWING
Pages numbered 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12

MACHINE PIECING

CUTTING & SEWING WITH A SEWING MACHINE
Page numbered 7

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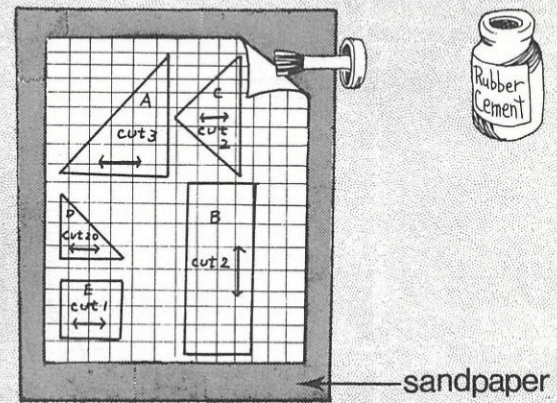
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making template

Place a sheet of graph paper over the pattern you have chosen. Using a sharp pencil and ruler, trace each shape accurately. Add the grain line, letter of the alphabet and all other information given with each shape.

Glue the graph paper to the smooth side of a sheet of sandpaper using rubber cement. Do not use white glue.

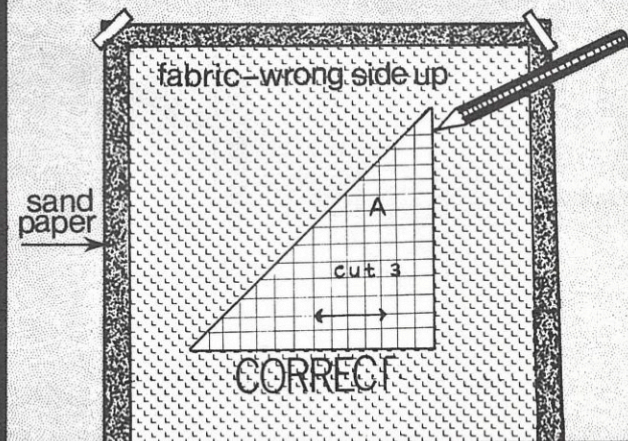
Using old scissors, cut out the templates carefully, just a hair's width to the inside of your pencil line.



tracing onto fabric

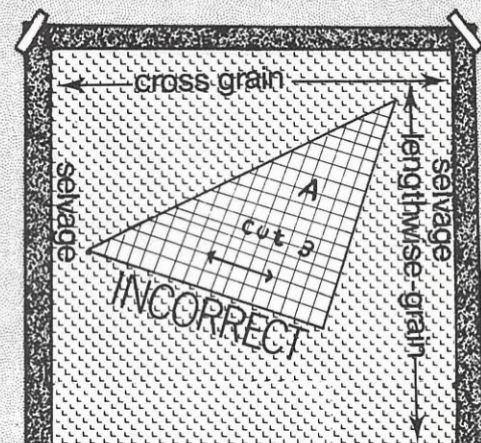
Stop and check the accuracy of your templates by placing them over the originals in this book. Trim as necessary or the finished blocks may be too large.

Tape large sheets of sandpaper to your tabletop, rough sides facing up. Your fabric will adhere to this surface, eliminating the problems of shifting or scooting when tracing around the templates. Place the fabric, wrong side facing up, over the sandpaper work surface. Position the first template onto the fabric, with the template's grain lines even with those of the fabric.



template placed off-grain

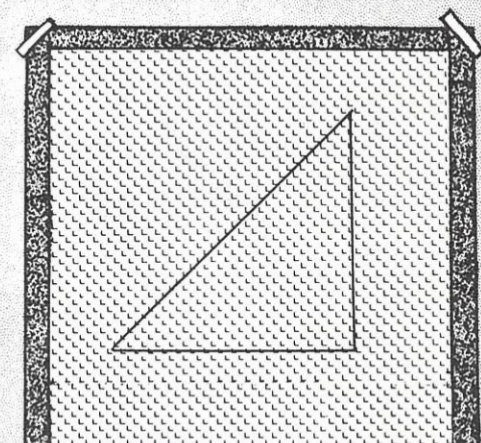
The lengthwise grain runs parallel to the fabric's selvage while the cross grain runs perpendicular, or in the same direction, as the fabric's cut ends. The template shown does not match the cross grain or lengthwise grain, so it is incorrectly placed.



shape drawn on fabric

By pivoting the template you can easily see when its marked grain line matches those of the yardage. This shows how the template should have been positioned.

When tracing around the templates, use a no. 2 lead pencil on light colored fabrics and a no. 2 artist's white pencil on dark fabrics. Keep the pencil sharpened to a fine point because a rounded or thick point will enlarge your shape and cause problems later. Trace with short, stroking motions rather than dragging the pencil around the template and distorting the fabric beneath.



templates for hand piecing (continued)

6

pieced work
and applique

quilter's guide

masking
tape

clear plastic ruler

tools for seam allowance

Seam allowance must be added to each shape as drawn. The standard seam for hand sewing is $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (6mm). A clear plastic 6-in. (15cm) ruler is the best tool for quickly adding seam allowances. Place a strip of masking tape across the ruler's surface, $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (6mm) from its edge. A quilter's guide or short plastic bar can also be used.

You will be able to eyeball a $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. (6mm) seam allowance after some practice but use either of these tools for your first blocks.

adding seam allowance

When using the prepared ruler for adding seam allowance, place it over your fabric, matching the edge of the tape on the ruler with the pencil line drawn on the fabric. Trace along the edge of the extended ruler to add your seam allowance. If using a quilter's guide, place it to the outside of the pencil lines of the shape.

one seam allowance drawn

Seam allowance has been added to one edge of this shape. Now add seam allowance to the remaining sides.

cutting out shape

When seam allowance has been added to all sides, cut the shape out using the second or cutting line.

cutting line
sewing line

assembling sequence

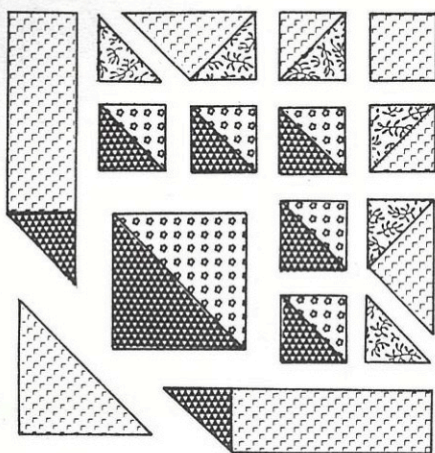


Diagram 1—Sew small pieces to make larger units of squares or blocks.

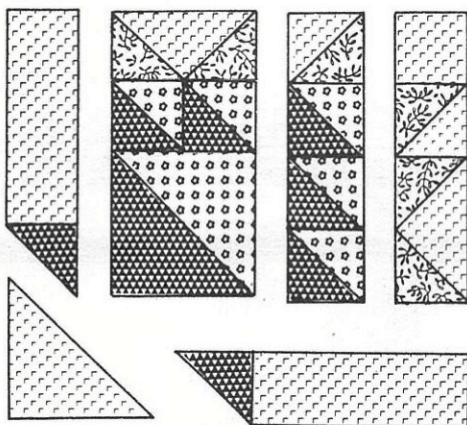


Diagram 2—Join the squares or pieces to form long units, rows, or strips.

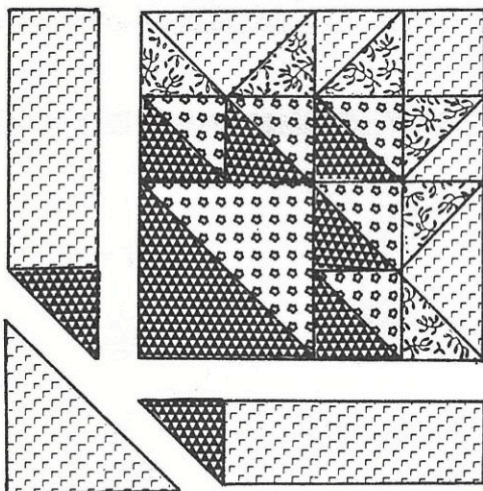


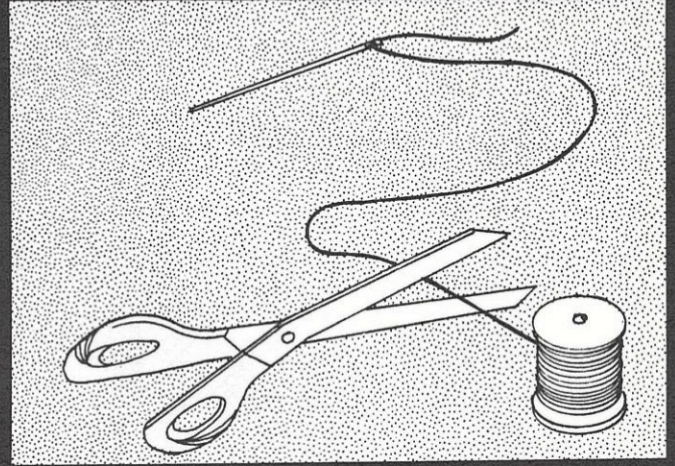
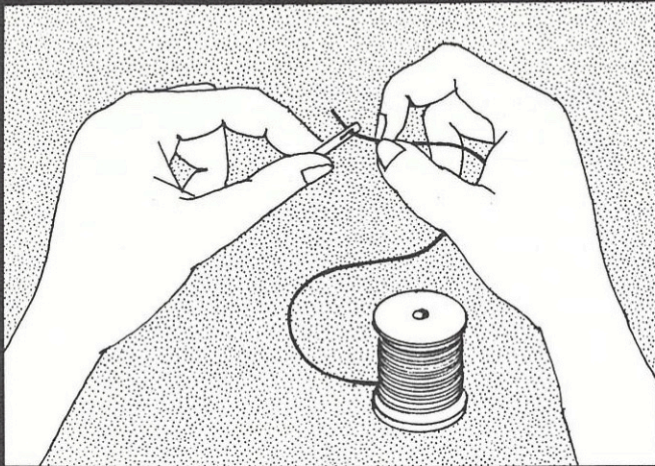
Diagram 3—Sew forming seams as long as possible.

An instruction sheet is always included with dressmaker patterns, giving detailed drawings and instructions on how to assemble that particular garment or item. Patchwork patterns also require a step-by-step procedure for assembling. With practice and by studying every pattern before you start to sew it together, you can avoid problems or mistakes.

I always lay the total design or block out in front of me before and while I'm assembling it. This allows me to decide which pieces to join together first, and also eliminates the chances of picking up two correct pieces but sewing the wrong edges together. This can happen if you stack your work instead of laying it back down in its correct position.

Simplicity Pattern 5311 has a Quilter's Tote which includes patterns for large squares of felt. These are used like a flannel board. You can see your fabric patches against a contrasting color of felt and your fabrics will also adhere to the felt rather than slipping. The felt squares can be rolled, securely tied, and placed back in the Quilter's Tote until you have time to resume stitching.

threading needle



thread needle

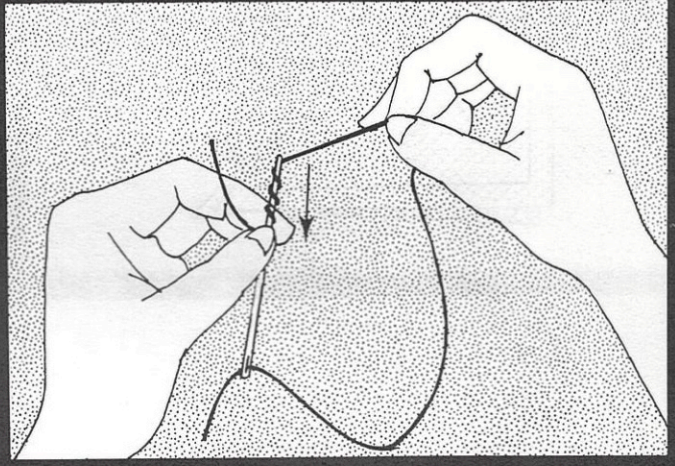
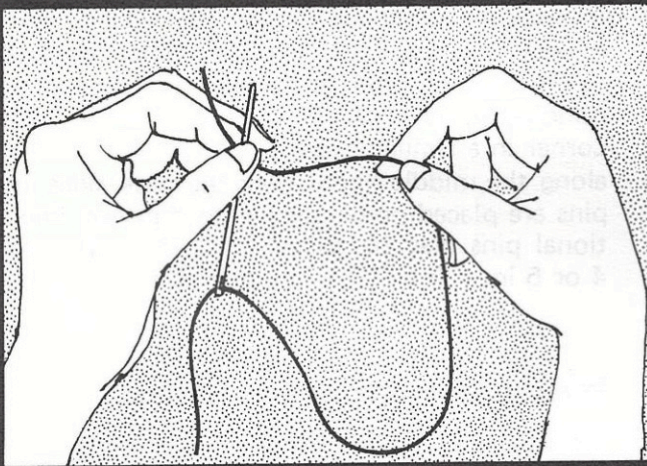
Cut across the tip of your thread at an angle and thread this end through your needle. Use a 'sharp' size 8 or 10 for hand sewing.

cut thread loose

Cut a thread strand no longer than 18 in. (46cm). This is about the same length as the distance from your fingertips to your elbow.

making a knot

9



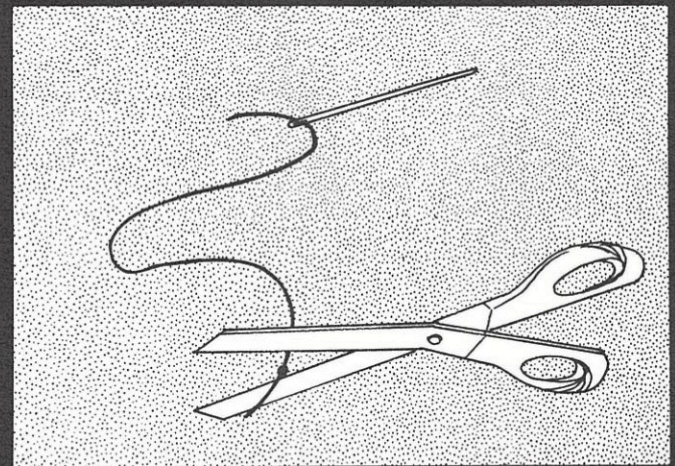
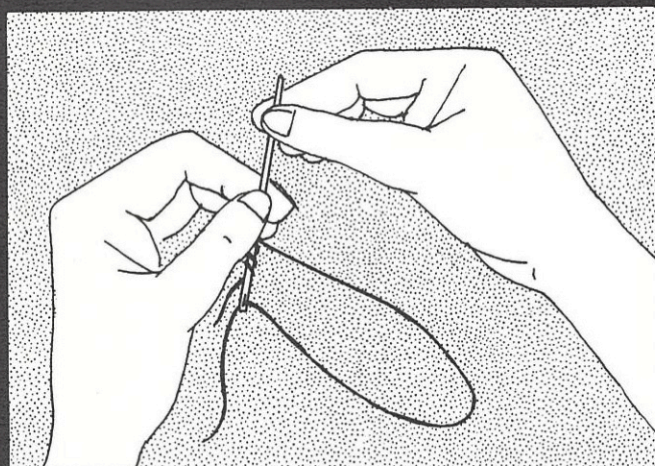
pieced work
and applique

knot with spool-cut end

To make a knot in your thread, use the cut end from the spool. Place this end between your fingertips and the needle.

three wraps

Wrap the thread three or four times around the needle while holding the cut end between the fingers and the needle. Pull downward.



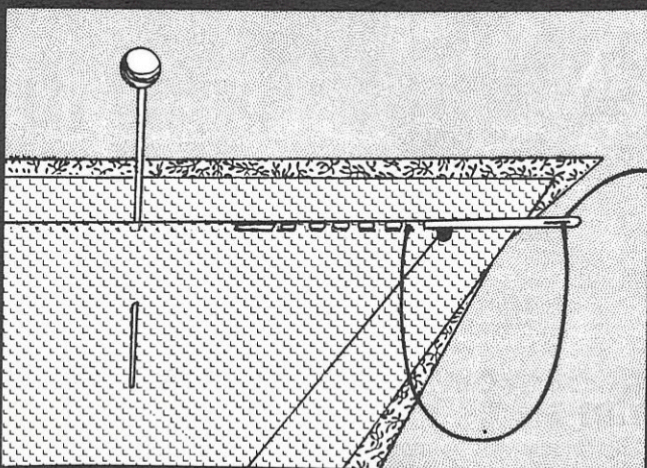
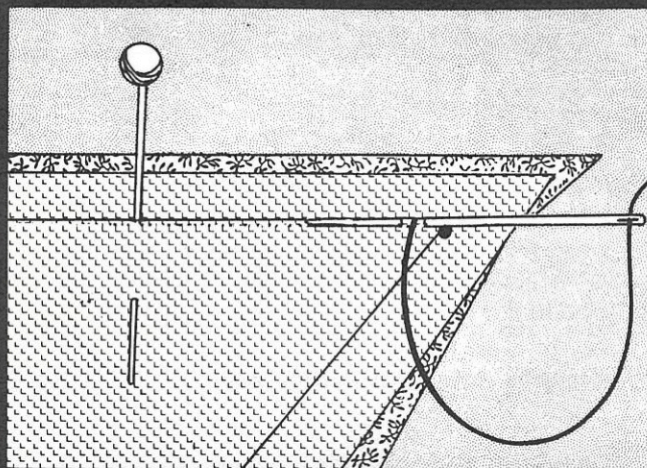
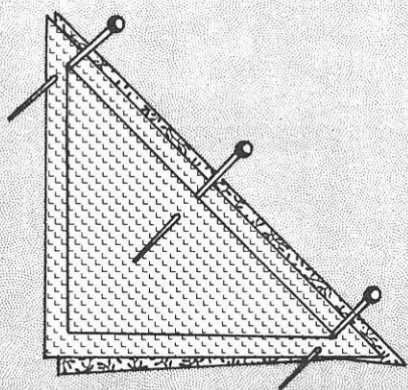
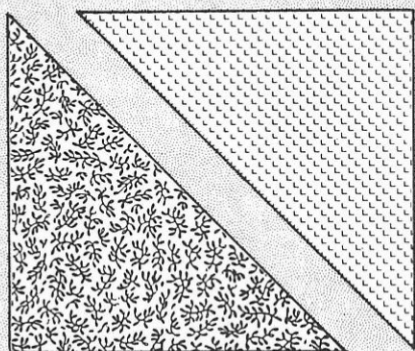
slide wraps off

While pinching the wraps, pull the needle up with your free hand. A knot will form near the tail of the thread.

trim end.

Trim away any excess thread resting behind the knot.

basic seam



10

pieced work
and applique

pieces to be sewn

Place the entire block out in front of you. After reviewing the assembling sequence discussed on page 8, join two pieces by placing them right sides together.

correct placement of pins

Notice that the penciled sewing lines are visible because you drew them onto the wrong side of the material. Insert a pin into the far right corner where the pencil lines come together. Check the back side to see that the pin is extending from the same corresponding position. Place the next pin into the left corner in a similar manner. One pin is usually needed along the middle line. Check the back sides also. All pins are placed perpendicular to the seam line. Additional pins may be added if the seam is longer than 4 or 5 in. (10 or 12,5 cm) or if it has a bias edge.

begin at marked corner

Begin sewing by taking a backstitch exactly at the corner pin. Right handed people will sew from right to left, and left handed people will work from left to right.

hand sewing seams

Proceed with a running stitch until the needle is loaded. The stitching should be just a hair's width inside the pencil line. Check the back side of your work frequently to see that your sewing runs along the back pencil line. You will be able to load your needle with three to eight stitches depending on the thickness of the fabrics. Each time you start stitching or loading your needle take a small backstitch.

ending seam

Try to average 8 to 10 stitches per running inch, removing all pins as you reach them. Hand stitching will feel awkward at first but in a short while you will feel more confident. You will work faster and your stitches will be more evenly spaced. Bring the needle up at the last pin or where the pencil lines come together.

backstitching

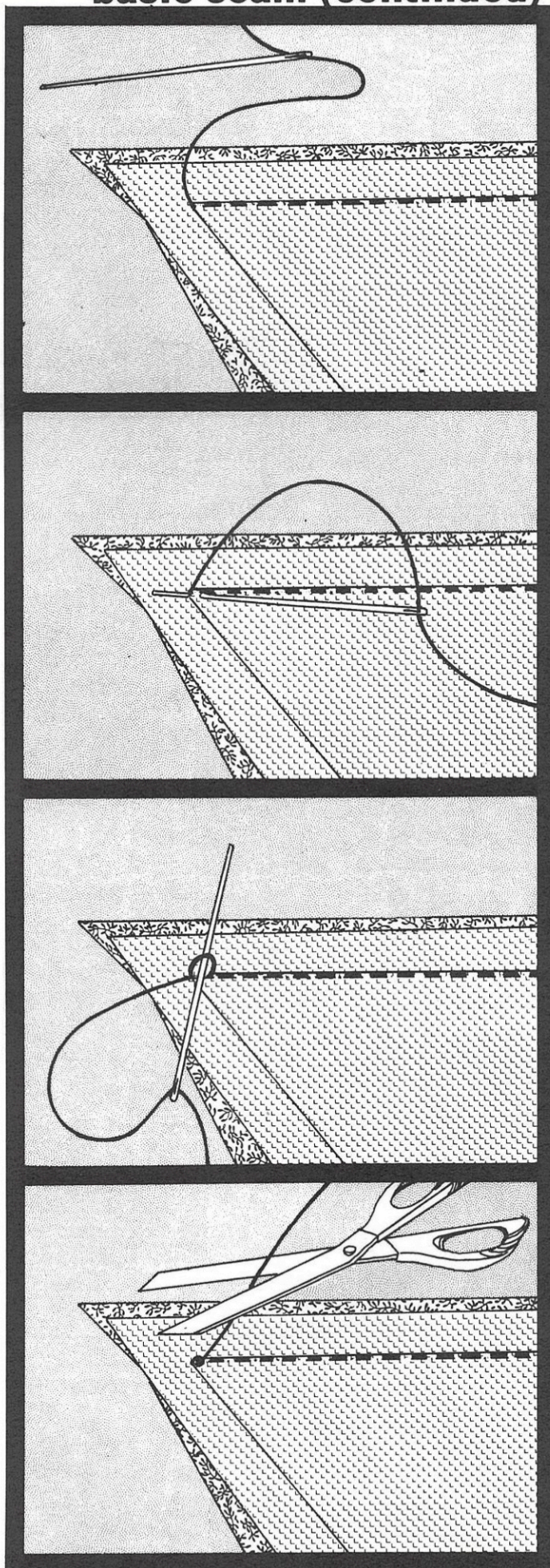
Take a small backstitch, sewing always on or slightly below the stitching line.

making knot

Slip your needle through the loop that has been formed by the backstitch and pull the loop closed. You may want to do this twice.

trim thread

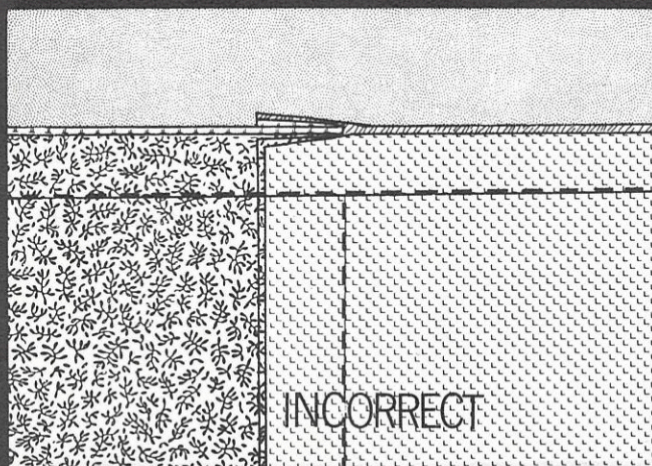
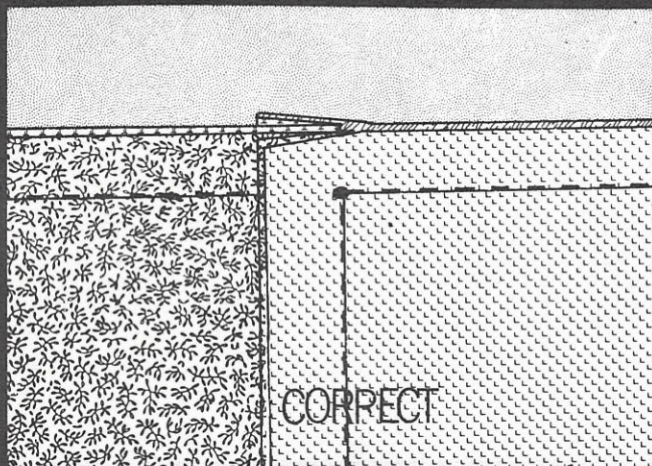
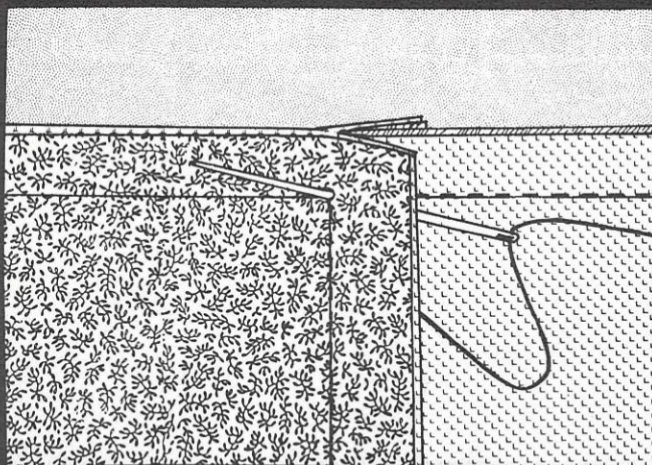
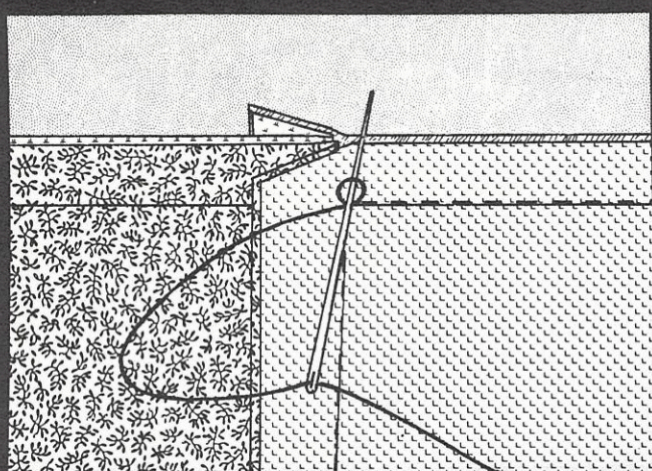
Trim the remaining thread close to the knot. Place the sewn pieces back into position with the other patches and decide which units to assemble next. I usually press all seams after the block is assembled but this will be determined by the block itself. Seams are always pressed together, not open as in dress-making. Press the seam toward the darkest fabric or away from the bulk where other seams meet. Use gentle pressure being careful not to stretch the fabric. I try to press the wrong side of a block first, then press from the right side.



crossing seams

12

pieced work
and applique



backstitch before crossing seam

When rows are being joined and seams are being crossed, I try to do very accurate pinning. If I don't, the crossing seam will have a sideways step. Rows to be joined are placed right sides together, and pinned at both their corners and along the seam or pencil line. Check the backside to see that the pins are coming through at the same position. Sew to the first crossing seam, stitching just a hair's width below the seam line. Take a small backstitch and slip your needle through the loop, then pull to form a knot.

crossing through seams

Slip the needle through the seam allowance, then finger press it back over the stitched seam. Continue sewing along the stitching line; check the back side frequently to see that the stitches are also on that pencil line.

correct

The seam allowance has not been sewn down but remains free to be pressed to either side.

incorrect

The wrong way to cross seams because the stitching crosses the seam allowance.

making template

If you plan to machine assemble your patchwork, the templates need to be constructed with a built-in seam allowance. To do this, place a sheet of graph paper over the pattern you have chosen. Trace one shape at a time, adding the $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (6mm) to the pattern. Mark and letter the templates as you would for hand piecing.

Prepare sandpaper templates as described on page 5.

clustering shapes

Place your yardage over a sandpaper work surface as you would for hand piecing. Position the template onto the wrong side of the yardage keeping the grain lines in mind. Using a sharp, fine pointed pencil, trace around the shape, aligning the edges of each new tracing with the previously drawn pencil line. This one line will be your cutting line.

use presser foot for seam allowance

When machine sewing, the pieces are facing right sides together and held with pins placed perpendicular to the seam.

The width from the center to the right edge of the presser foot on many machines will be $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (6mm). You can use this to establish your seam allowance.

Also, use the etched seam guide on the plate beneath the presser foot or place masking tape across the plate $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (6mm) from where the needle goes into the bobbin case.

machine chain feeding

Chain feed your work through the machine using 12 to 14 stitches per running inch (2.5cm), without cutting the units apart. There is no need to begin or end each unit with backstitching.

Machine piecing or assembling is fast but not all patterns can be machine sewn. I encourage beginners to learn hand piecing first, then try a pattern on the machine. With experience you will learn when to hand or machine piece. Some patterns can be done successfully by combining both techniques.

