



Patchwork is an excellent way to use up fabric scraps. Or to recycle old clothes you are throwing out.

Random bat, yeah?
Because cute!

PATCHWORK

WORKSHEET BY SALLY TURNER

PRO TIP:

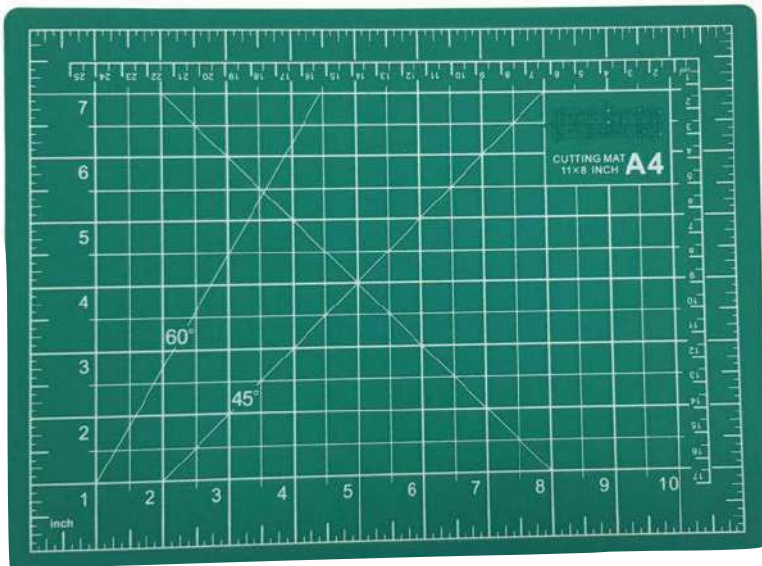
Also search under
QUILTING
Patchwork and quilting go
hand in hand.

PRO TIP:

Patchwork can be done perfectly well using
just a basic sewing kit; Scissors, needle &
thread, pins, ruler, chalk or pen or pencil.
Stencils cut from card or bought

Useful Equipment

If you will be doing a lot of patchwork, it could be worth investing in some of these... All can be bought at Haberdashery Shops and some craft shops. Morplan and Hobbycraft are good.



Cutting Mat



Patchwork Ruler

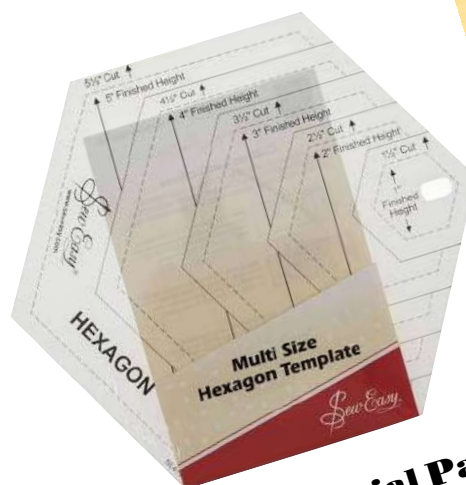


Rotary Cutter



PRO TIP:

Although this worksheet is about hand stitched patchwork, all of this can be done on a sewing machine



Commercial Patchwork Templates. These can be bought ready made to draw around, or you can buy special rulers to make your own

Classic patchwork is often made from a series of patchwork blocks. These blocks might follow the same pattern, but use different fabrics as shown here. As well as a methodical way of building up a piece of work, it can also make it more manageable, and mean that you only need to focus on one block at a time. Then you can make or as many or as few as you like.

These blocks are at least 100 years old, with some of the fabrics even older.

BLOCKS



Notice how some of the fabrics are not all identical, but are selected in the same colour palette. One of the joys of patchwork is in unexpected juxtapositions.



THE BACKDROP IS A VINTAGE 1920S PATCHWORK QUILT TOPPER

HELLO, I'M
SALLY!

1920S PATCHWORK QUILT TOPPER DETAILS

THE BLOCK

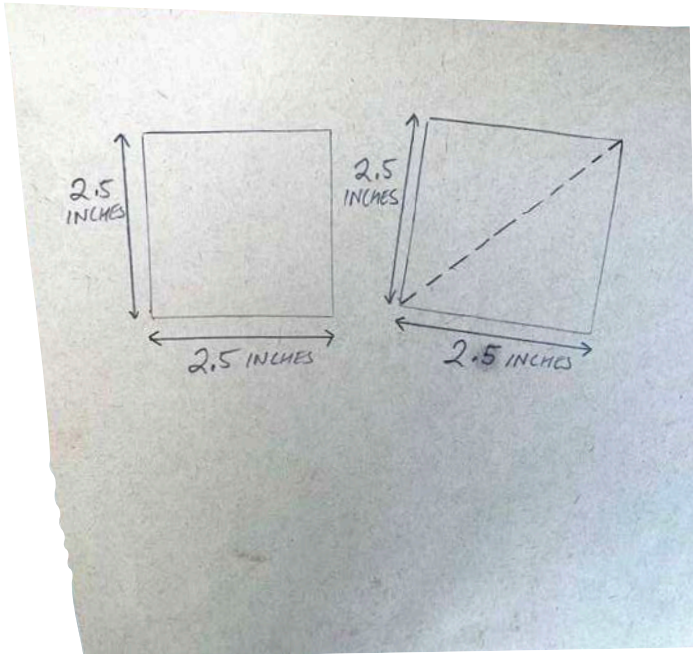
A QUILT TOPPER IS THE
TOP LAYER OF FABRIC
READY FOR QUILTING

QUILTING IS THE
PADDING TECHNIQUE
THAT YOU OFTEN SEE
WITH PATCHWORK

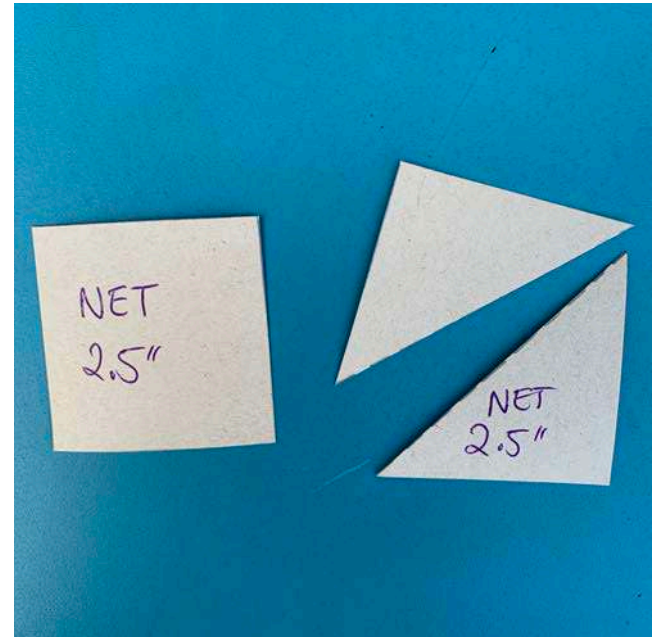
BACK OF THE BLOCK

THE LAYOUT

It is useful to make templates for your fabric pieces

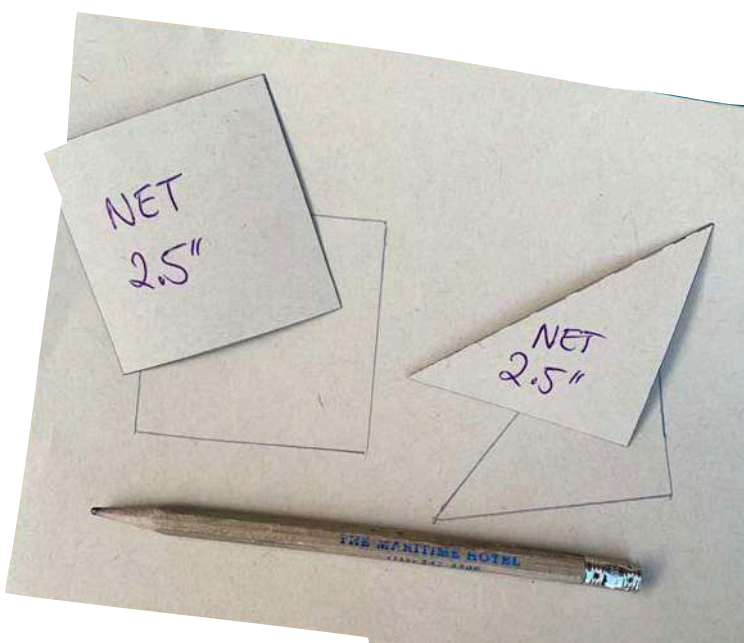


1. Draw out two squares the same size. 2.5 x 2.5 inches is a good size for patchwork, but they can be any size you like. Draw a diagonal line on one (shown as a dotted line here)

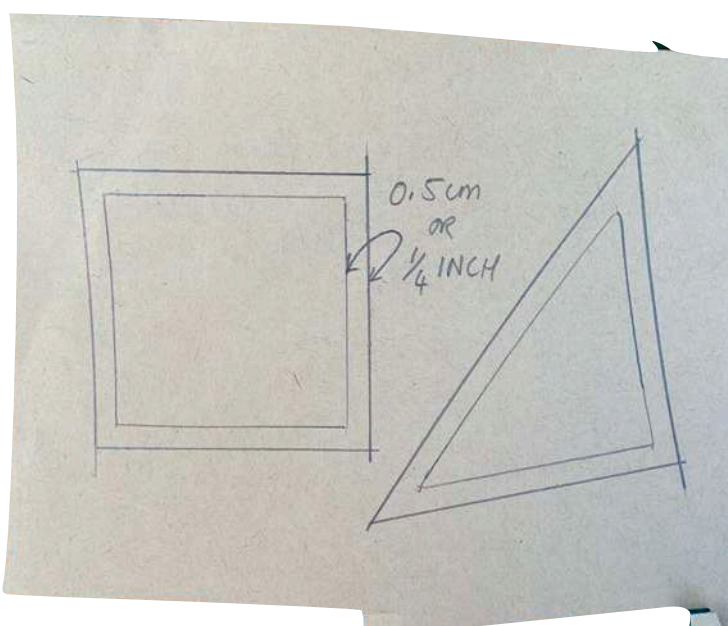


2. Cut them out and mark them NET and the size. In this context, " is shorthand for inches.

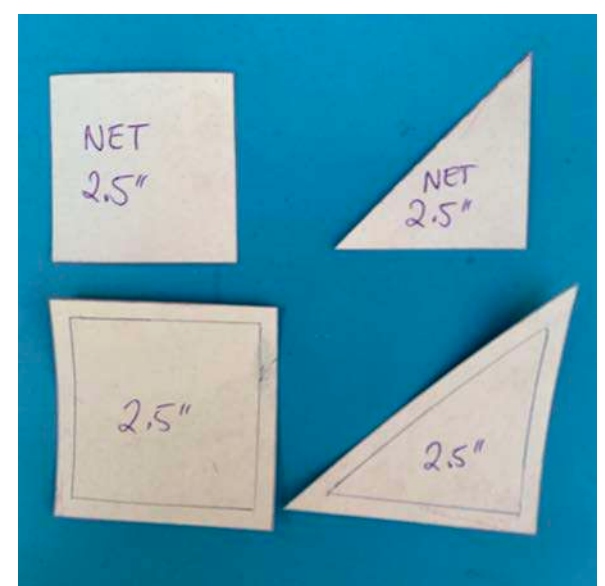
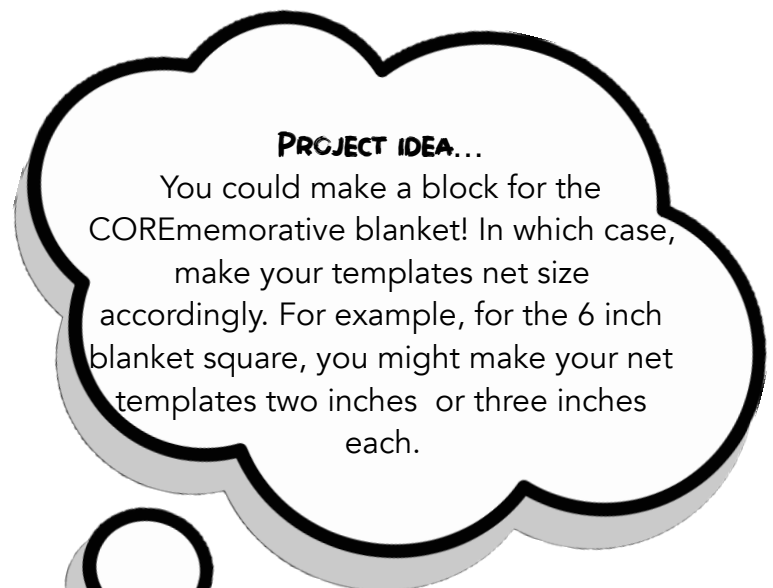
Net in pattern cutting means without seam allowances. I have only marked one of the triangles, because you only need one. But you could keep the other as a spare. If so, mark that one also



3. Draw around the square and the triangle



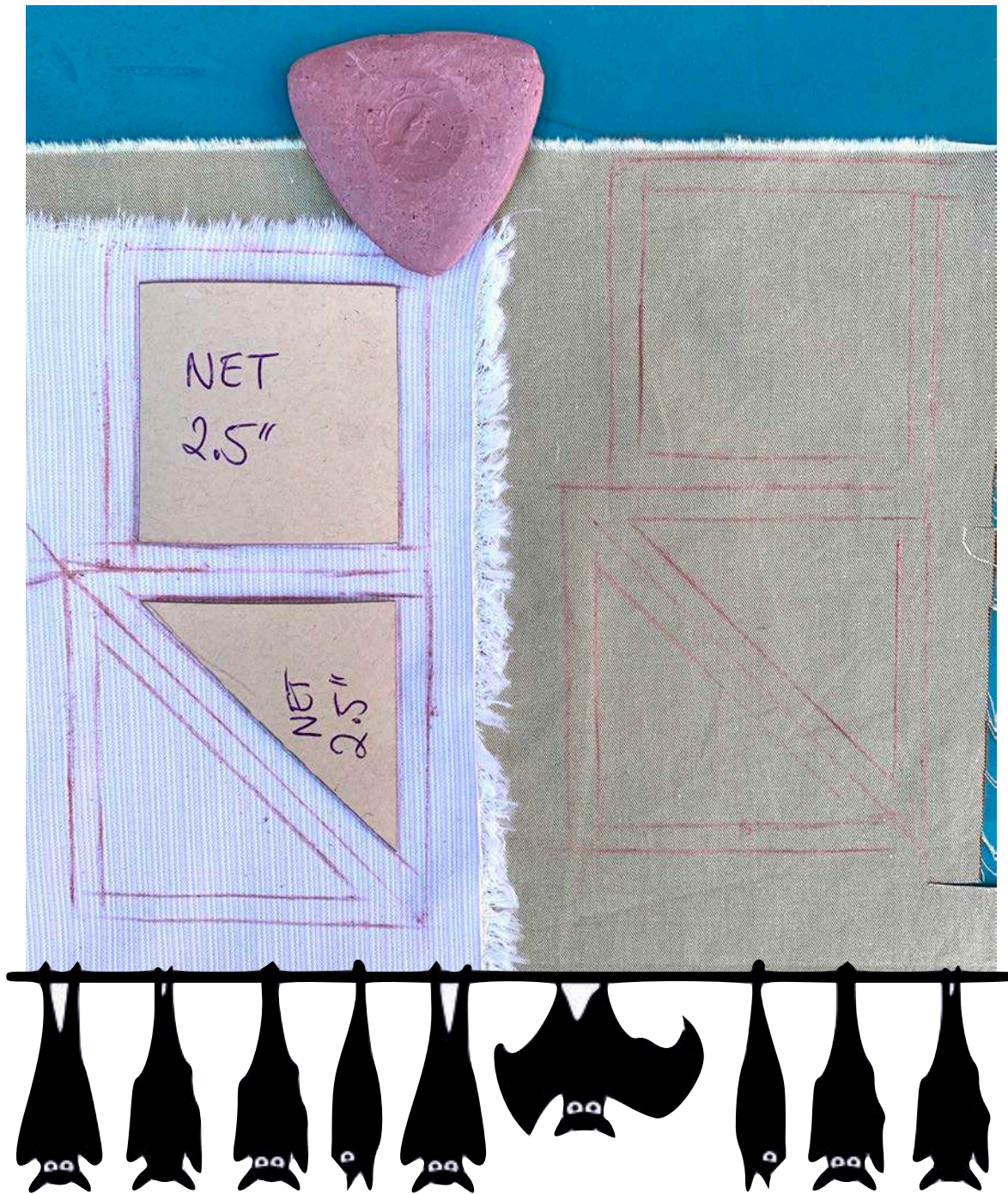
4. Add a seam allowance all around. Half a centimetre or a quarter inch is a good amount for hand sewing. If you are machine sewing, you might want to make it a bit wider



5. Cut them out, and these are your four templates

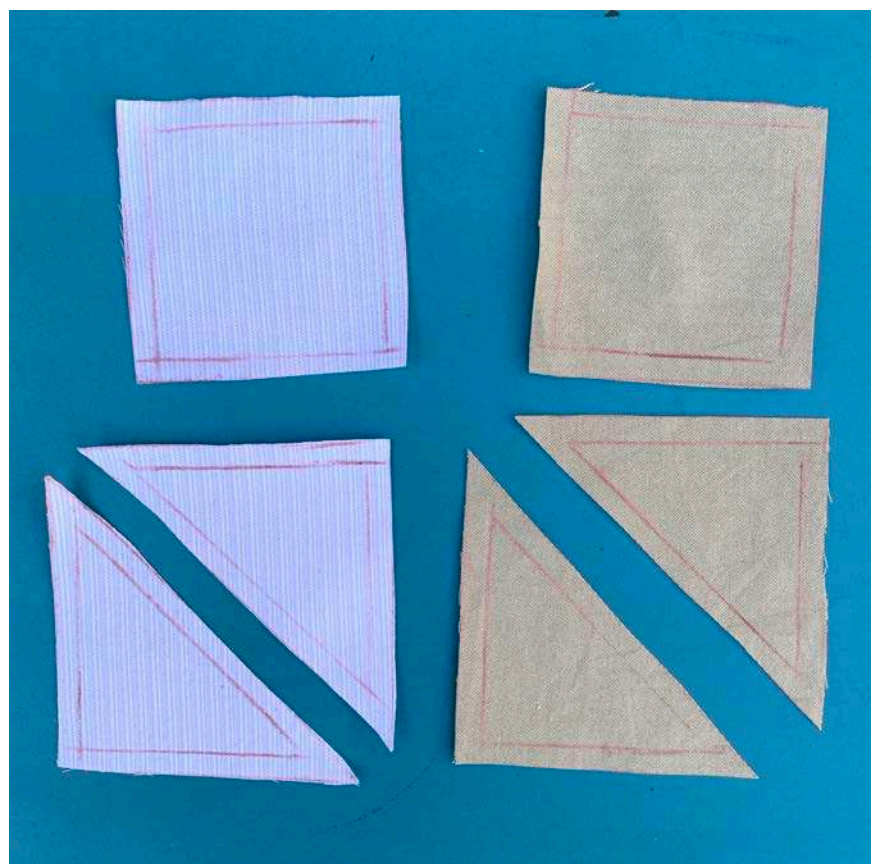
CUT OUT YOUR FABRICS

There are lots of techniques to do patchwork, and you could develop your own. No need to make things extra complicated,! If you prefer another way then do what works best for you. Its your project.. This is just one method.



On the back of the fabric, draw around the templates with the seam allowances, then draw around your NET templates inside. I have used tailors chalk, but you can use any kind of pen or pencil, just test it our on a scrap of fabric first, and maybe wet it to see if it runs on to the front of the fabric.

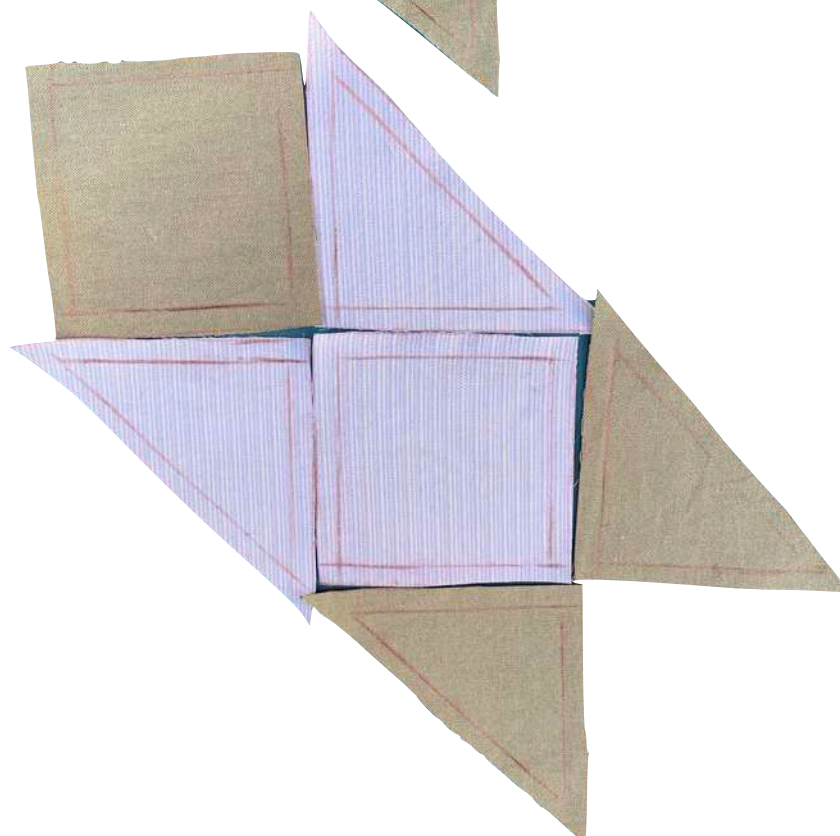
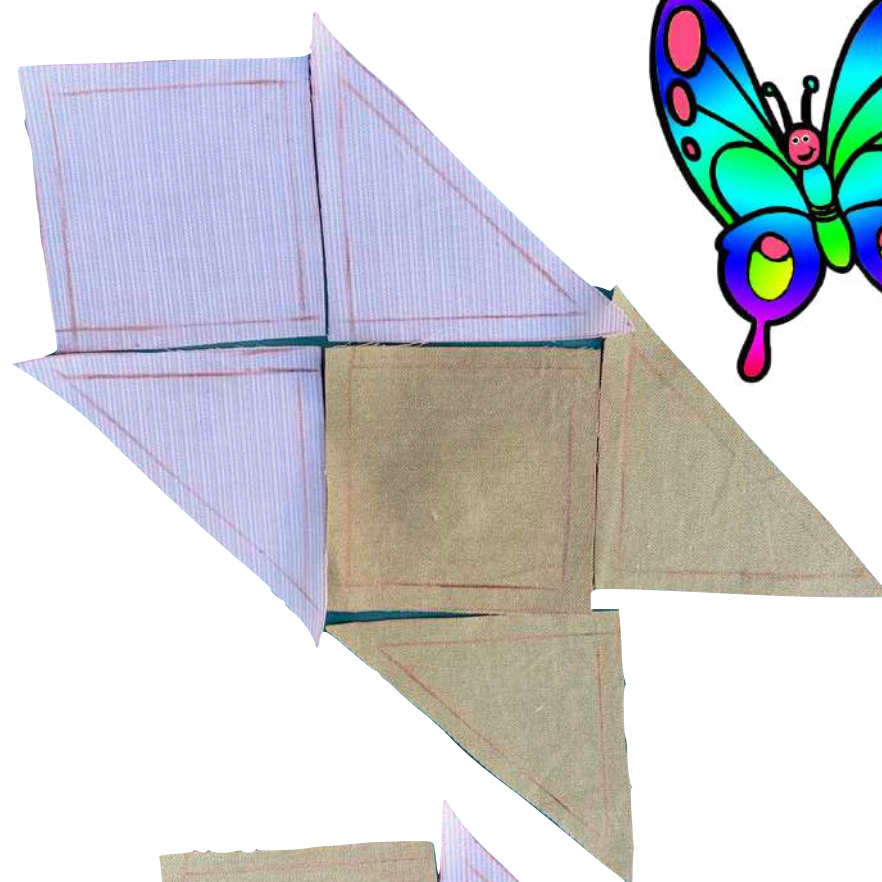
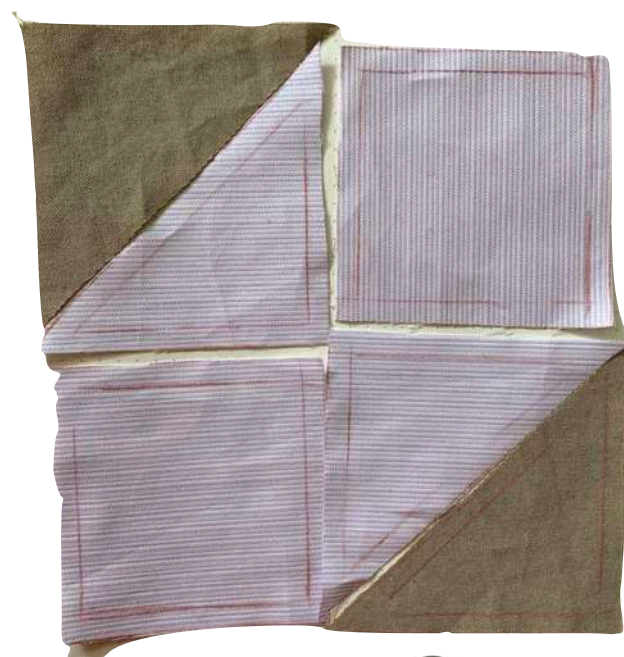
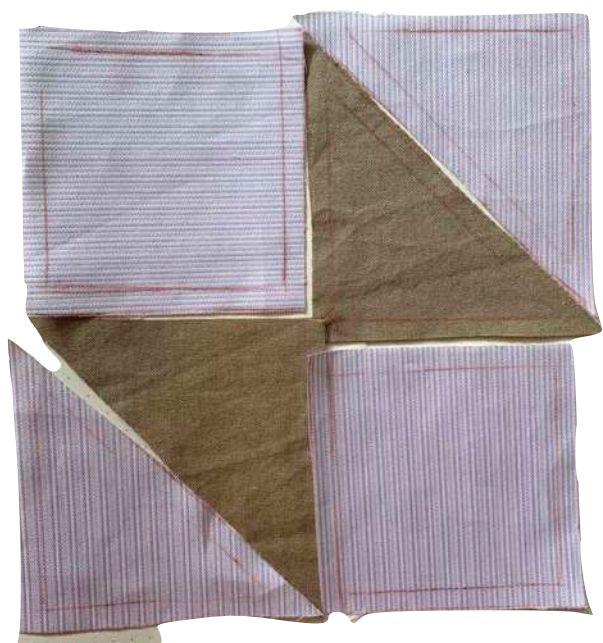
These fabric markers are an option. Just bear in mind the ink disappears after a few days, if you're planning on cutting out a lot of fabric pieces to sew at a later date. You don't want to do a load of work only for it to disappear!



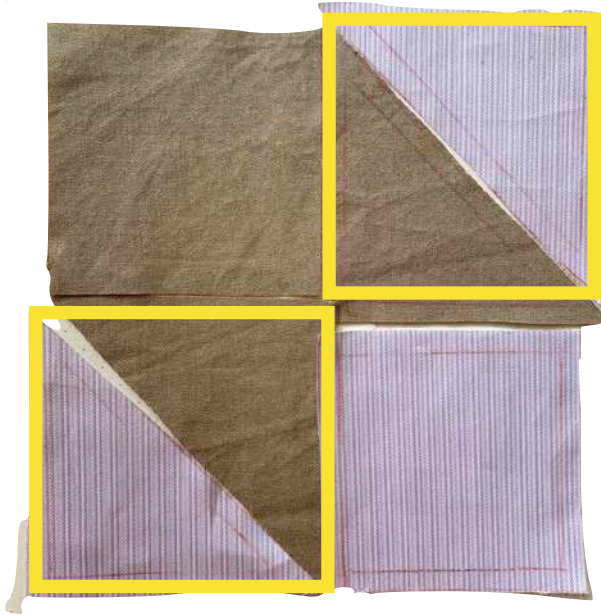
Cut out your pieces.

Play Around with Layouts

Each of these block layouts use the same amount of fabric pieces, just arranged differently or different colour combinations



SEWING THE FIRST PIECES

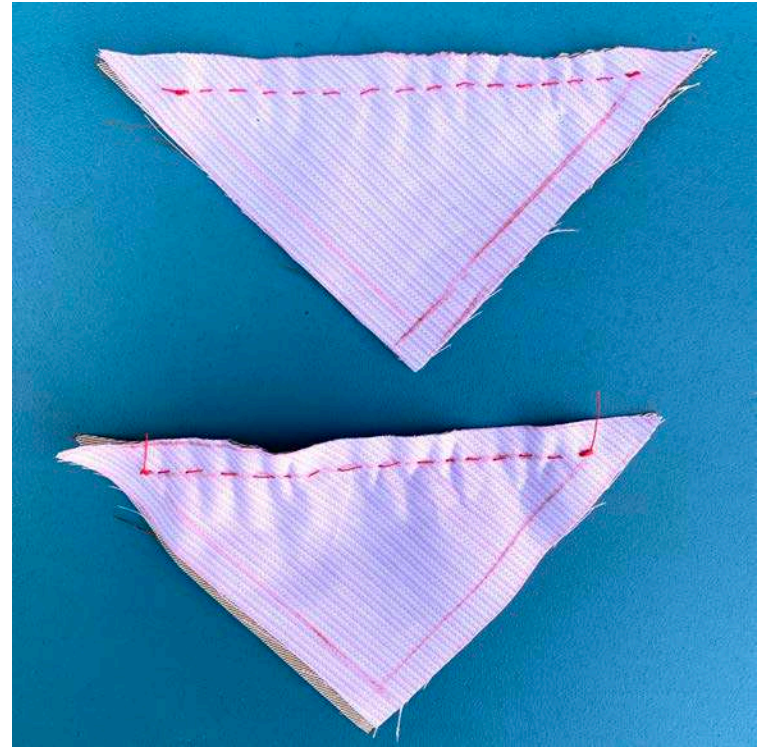
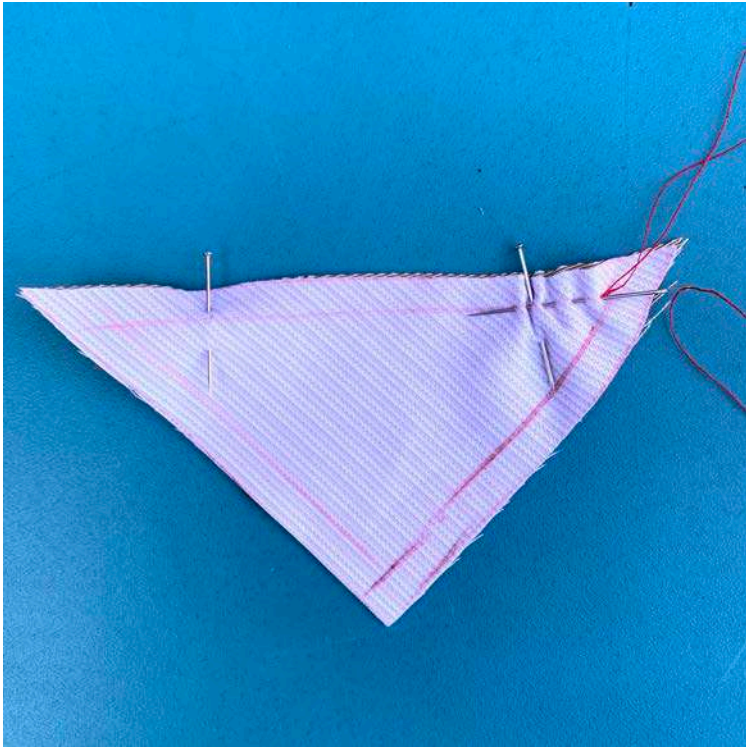


This is the block layout I selected.

The triangles are the smallest pieces, so these should be the first to stitch together

PRO TIPS...

1. Stitch right up to the corners of the drawn line, not in to the seam allowance.
2. Use small stitches
3. At the corners stitch over a couple of times to secure the ends.
4. If you are using bigger pieces, also do this every two inches or so, because this helps prevent it gathering or stretching



Use pins if it helps you. If you are machine sewing, place them across the line as shown and you can stitch right over them without needing to take them out

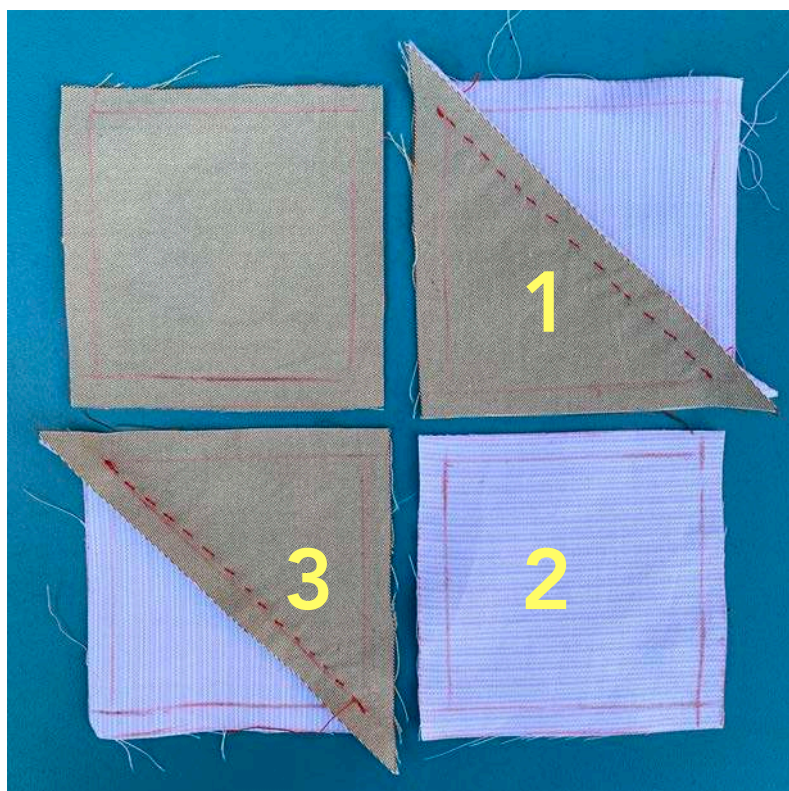


Not essential, but if you have an iron, carefully press the seams both to one side. This is stronger than pressing the seams open, and is useful for patchwork. Be careful with your fingers and the iron, as the patches are small and fiddly!

Some people like to stitch the seams into place, or its a way to make them lie flat without an iron. Completely personal choice



ASSEMBLING THE BLOCK

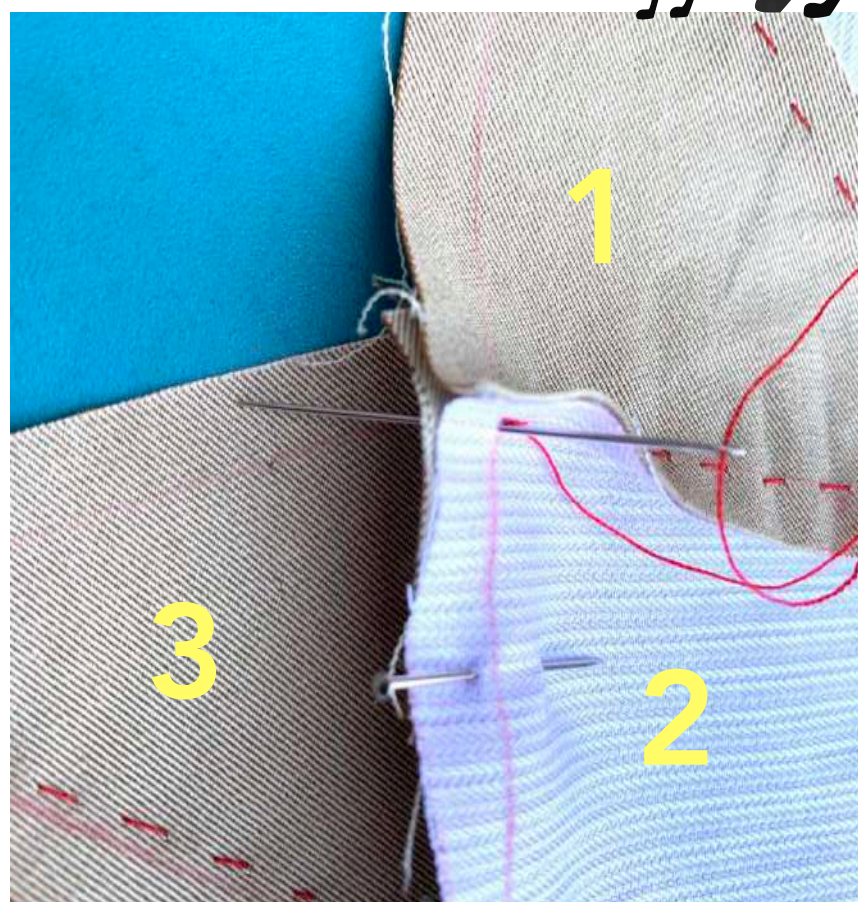
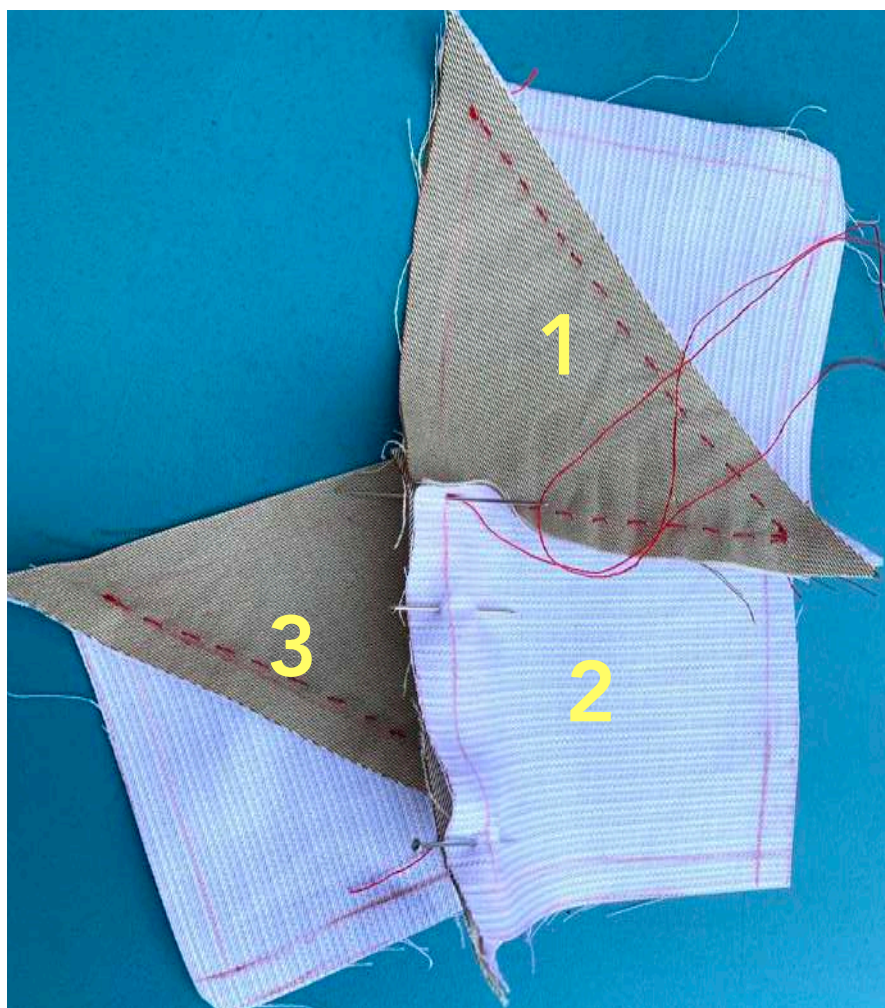


Now to make up the block.

Stitch the first seam just as before, up to the exact corner of the drawn line, and not over the seam allowance.

PRO TIP...

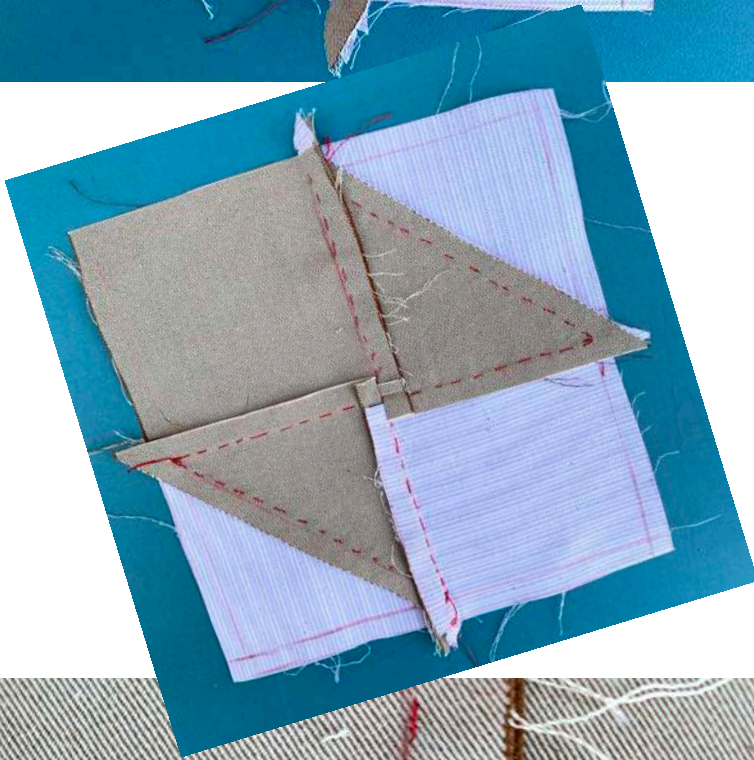
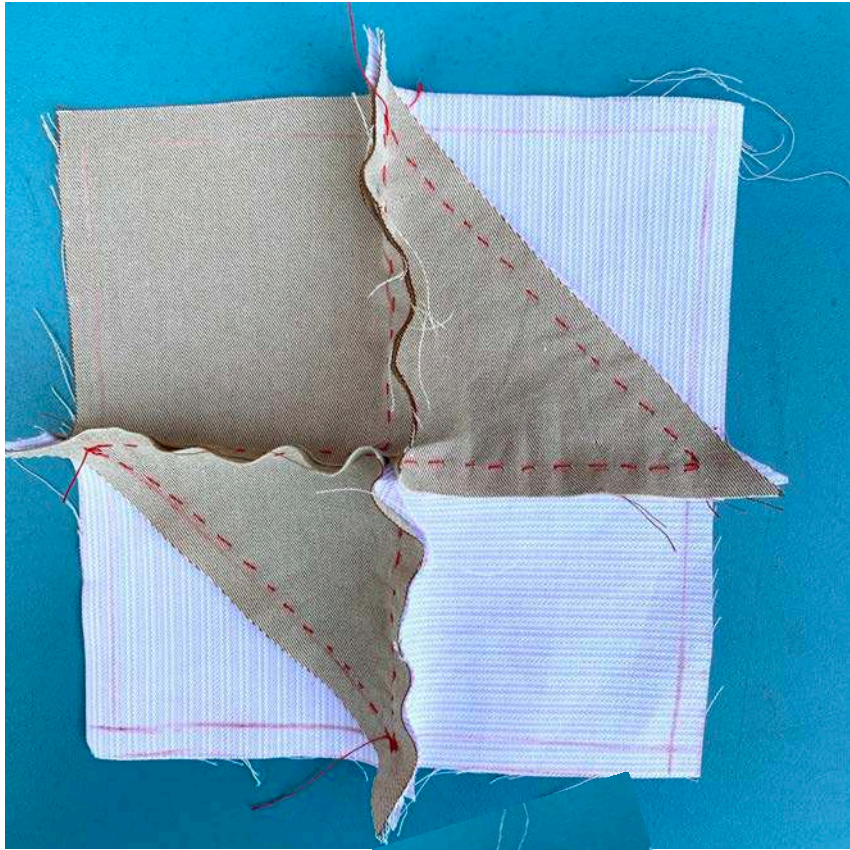
As before, always make sure you secure the ends with a couple of stitches over and over and through to make an end knot



Where all the pieces meet in the middle, take your needle only through the two pieces you will be sewing together, without jumping over the seam allowance. Leaving the seam allowance free in this way should make your joins more pleasingly accurate, plus help the seams to lie flat reducing bulk where you have lots of pieces.

LAYING THE SEAMS FLAT

On each seam, press the seam allowances both in the same direction rather than pressing them open.



PROJECT IDEA...


You could make up a few blocks and experiment with different layouts



Press with an iron, and/or stitch down if you want to. Or just leave as they are.

Here is where the stitching up to the corners of the lines but not into the seam allowance helps, as you can now carefully arrange the corners flat as shown.

If you don't want to iron them flat, or stitch all along the seams, you might want to stitch this part flat. You only need one or two small stitches to hold down each corner. This will neaten it a little, but not essential!



DETAIL OF A VICTORIAN PATCHWORK QUILT, PART OF MY PERSONAL COLLECTION

**Close up of Decorative
topstitch often seen on
these irregular shaped
patchworks**



A VICTORIAN PATCHWORK QUILT TOPPER

A VINTAGE 1930'S PATCHWORK QUILT TOPPER





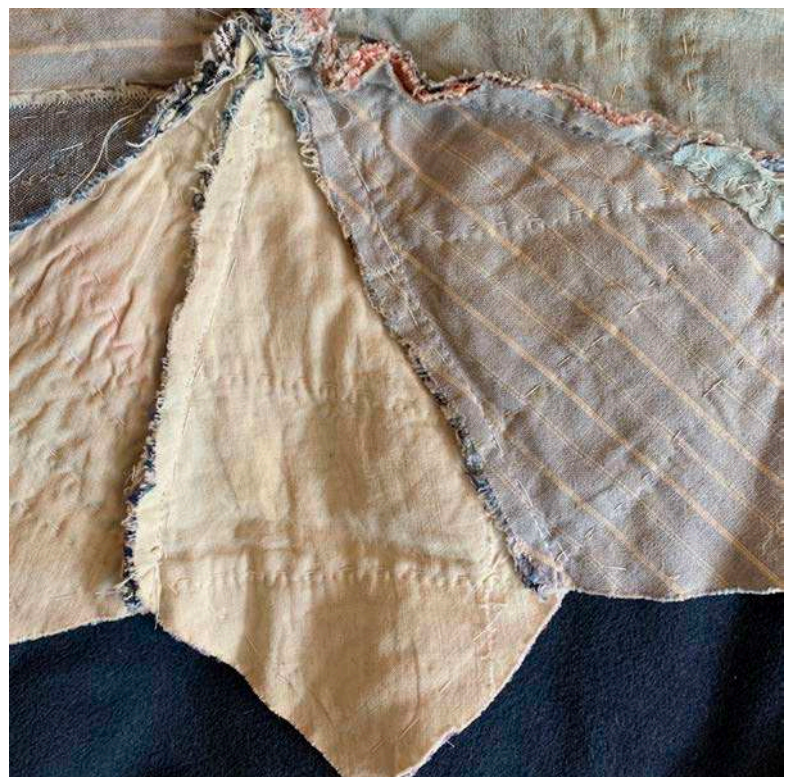
BLOCK DETAIL



THE BACK



**EACH SECTION OF THIS BLOCK IS MADE OF RANDOM
PIECES STITCHED ON TO A BACKING PIECE,
WHICH ARE THEN ASSEMBLED INTO THE BLOCK**



CREATIVE INSPO



Bode



PROJECT IDEA...

Customise an existing garment with your patchwork blocks. Maybe add patchwork pockets to a jacket for example



Eric Bakke/Getty Images (1982)



Urban Outfitters



Dior