American Patchwork & Quilting

1 MILLION
PILLOWCASE CHALLENGE
Pattern 17

FABRICS are from the Hearts & Flowers, Tiny Flowers, and Tiny Gingham collections from Mini Mikes by Michael Miller Fabrics (*michaelmillerfabrics.com*).

Materials

For one pillowcase:
- 3—¼-yard pieces assorted prints (triangles on band)
  Note: One of our assorted prints is the same fabric as the band print, *below*
- ¼ yard band print (band)
- ⅞ yard body print (pillowcase body)

Finished pillowcase: 30×20" (fits a standard-size bed pillow)

Quantities are for 44⁄45"-wide, 100% cotton fabrics.
Measurements include ¼" seam allowances for piecing blocks and ½" seam allowances for pillowcase construction. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise specified.

Cut Fabrics

To make quick work of cutting equilateral triangles, use the AccuQuilt GO! fabric cutter *(accuquilt.com)*. For this project, use the largest triangles (2"-finished edges) on die No. 55079 to cut triangles in the amount indicated.

   Or, use the Triangle Pattern on *page 3,* referring to Make and Use Templates on *page 4.*

From print No. 1, cut:
- 30 of Triangle Pattern
From print No. 2, cut:
- 21 of Triangle Pattern
From print No. 3, cut:
- 33 of Triangle Pattern
From band print, cut:
- 1—6¼×40½" strip
- 1—1½×40½" strip
From body print, cut:
- 1—26×41" rectangle

Assemble Triangle Units

Use a ¼" seam allowance for the following steps.

1. Referring to **Diagram 1,** lay out three print No. 1 triangles and one print No. 2 triangle. To join pieces, first sew the two left-hand triangles together; press seam toward print No. 1. Add a third triangle to first two; press seam toward print No. 1. Join fourth triangle to top edge of three joined triangles to make a triangle unit. Press seam away from top triangle.

2. Repeat Step 1 to make 10 matching triangle units total.

3. Using print No. 3 instead of print No. 1, repeat Step 1 to make 11 matching triangle units.

Assemble Band
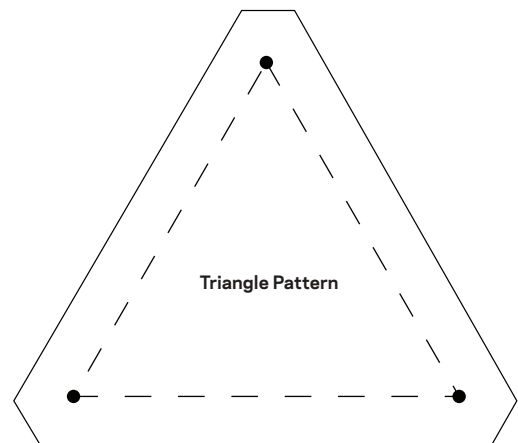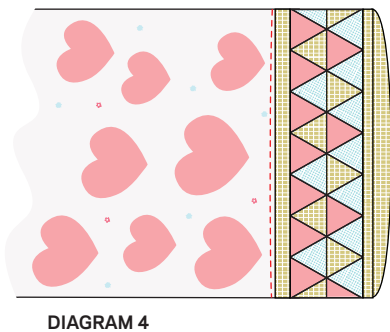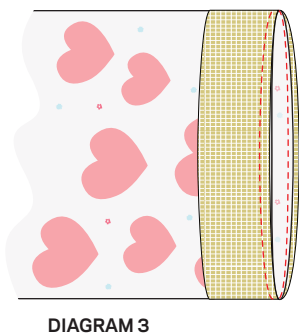
Use a ¼" seam allowance for the following steps.

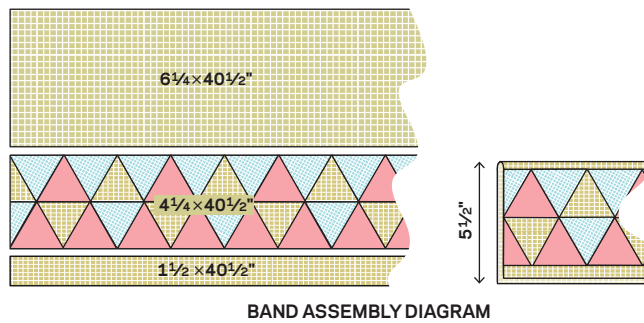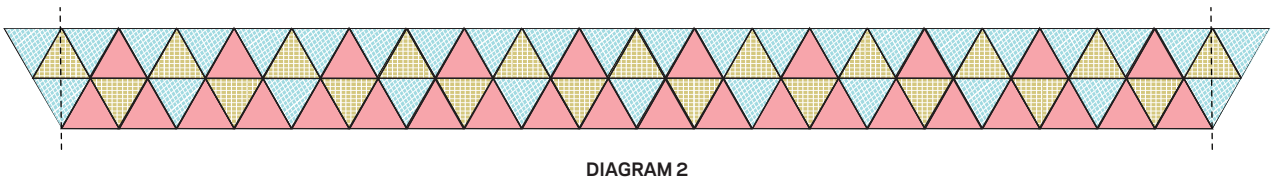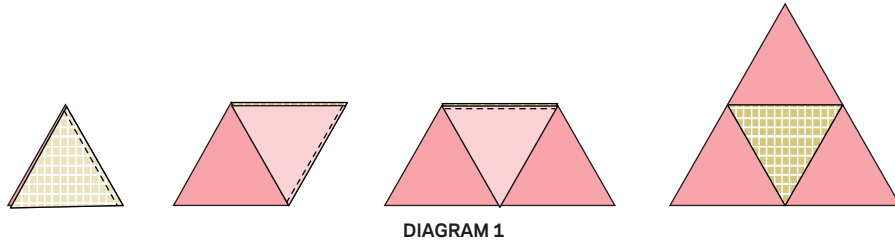1. Join 21 triangle units in a row, alternating print Nos. 1 and 3 **(Diagram 2).** Press seams in one direction. Trim short ends to make a 4¼×40½" pieced row.

2. Add band print 1½×40½" and 6¼×40½" strips to long edges of pieced row to make band piece **(Band Assembly Diagram).** Press seams toward band print strips.

3. Join short ends of band piece to form a loop. Press seam open.

4. Fold loop in half with wrong side inside; press to make pillowcase band.

Assemble Pillowcase

Use a ½" seam allowance for the following steps.

1. Fold body print 26×41" rectangle in half crosswise to form a 26×20½" rectangle. Sew together long edges and one pair of short edges to make pillowcase body. Turn right side out and press flat.

2. Slide pillowcase band over pillowcase body so raw edges are aligned; pin **(Diagram 3).** Sew together through all layers.

3. Press pillowcase band open, pressing seam allowances toward pillowcase body. Topstitch ⅛" from band edge on pillowcase body to secure the seam allowances and complete pillowcase **(Diagram 4).**

DIAGRAM 1

DIAGRAM 2

6¼×40½"

4¼×40½"

5½"

1½×40½"

BAND ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

DIAGRAM 3

DIAGRAM 4

Triangle Pattern

This box should measure 1".

←——— 1" ———→

✳ NOTE:
When printing a downloadable pdf, set Page Scaling preference to NONE to print patterns at 100%. Do NOT "Shrink to Fit" or "Fit to Printable Area."

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 $\frac{1}{2}$" away from the previous tracing (Diagram 1), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines $\frac{1}{4}$" away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a $\frac{1}{4}$" seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a $\frac{3}{16}$" 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.
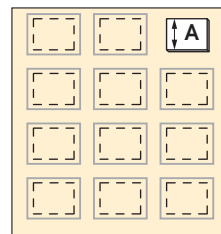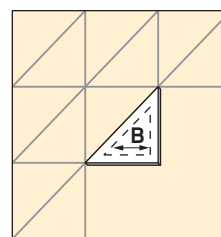

DIAGRAM 1

DIAGRAM 2