

Tilda®

# Pie in the Sky

Fan Bird  
Quilt



## Fan Bird Quilt

An adorable bird block is the star of this quilt, with a fan unit for its splendid tail. The design is reminiscent of vintage fan quilts, especially when combined with the whimsical Pie in the Sky fabrics, and the quilt is sure to become a firm favourite. There are lots of curved seams in the design, which are perfect for creating the rounded body of the bird. The quilt uses fabrics from the Pie in the Sky and Solids collections, plus some timeless Classic Basics for the backgrounds. There are also two lovely pillows to accompany the quilts – see [tildasworld.com](http://tildasworld.com) for the instructions.

Difficulty rating \*\*\*

### Materials

- Fabric 1: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Tasselflower mustard (100481)
- Fabric 2: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Whimsybird plum (100482)
- Fabric 3: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Topsy Turvy plum (100483)
- Fabric 4: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Confetti cerise (100484)
- Fabric 5: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Willy Nilly mustard (100485)
- Fabric 6: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Confetti blue (100486)
- Fabric 7: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Willy Nilly teal (100487)
- Fabric 8: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Tasselflower blue (100488)
- Fabric 9: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Whimsybird blue (100489) – if using this fabric for the backing you will have spare to use in the blocks
- Fabric 10: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Topsy Turvy blue (100490)
- Fabric 11: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Whimsybird red (100491)
- Fabric 12: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Topsy Turvy red (100492)
- Fabric 13: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Confetti red (100493)
- Fabric 14: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Willy Nilly pink (100494)
- Fabric 15: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Tasselflower red (100495)
- Fabric 16: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Willy Nilly green (100496)
- Fabric 17: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Tasselflower green (100497)
- Fabric 18: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Whimsybird pine (100498)
- Fabric 19: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Topsy Turvy pine (100499)
- Fabric 20: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Confetti pine (100500)
- Fabric 21: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Cloudpie mustard (110064)
- Fabric 22: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Cloudpie pink (110065)
- Fabric 23: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Cloudpie blue (110068)
- Fabric 24: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Cloudpie green (110070)
- Fabric 25: 7/8yd (80cm) – Pen Stripe grey (130033)
- Fabric 26: 7/8yd (80cm) – Paint Dots grey (130036)
- Fabric 27: 1yd (1m) – Tiny Star grey (130039)
- Fabric 28: 1yd (1m) – Crisscross grey (130042)
- Fabric 29: 8in (20cm) square – Solid country red (120014)
- Fabric 30: 1/4yd (25cm) or fat quarter – Solid pink (120026)
- Fabric 31: 1/4yd (25cm) or fat quarter – Solid coral (120016)
- Fabric 32: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Solid ginger (120018)
- Fabric 33: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Solid rust (120017)

- Fabric 34: ¼yd (25cm) or fat quarter – Solid lime green (120028)
- Fabric 35: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Solid moss (120038)
- Fabric 36: 14in (35.5cm) square or fat eighth – Solid cornflower blue (120024)
- Fabric 37: ¼yd (25cm) or fat quarter – Solid blue sage (120008)
- Wadding (batting): 63in x 80in (160cm x 203cm)
- Backing fabric: 4½yds (4.2m) – Whimsybird blue (100489)
- Binding fabric: ½yd (50cm) – Solid mustard (120040)
- Piecing and quilting threads and black embroidery cotton (floss) for French knot eyes
- Quilter's ruler, rotary cutter and mat
- Thin card or template plastic for making patterns (templates)

### **Fabric Notes**

A fat eighth is assumed to be approximately 10½in x 18in (26.7cm x 45.7cm) and a fat quarter approximately 21in x 18in (53.3cm x 45.7cm).

### **Finished Size**

54½in x 72in (138.5cm x 183cm)

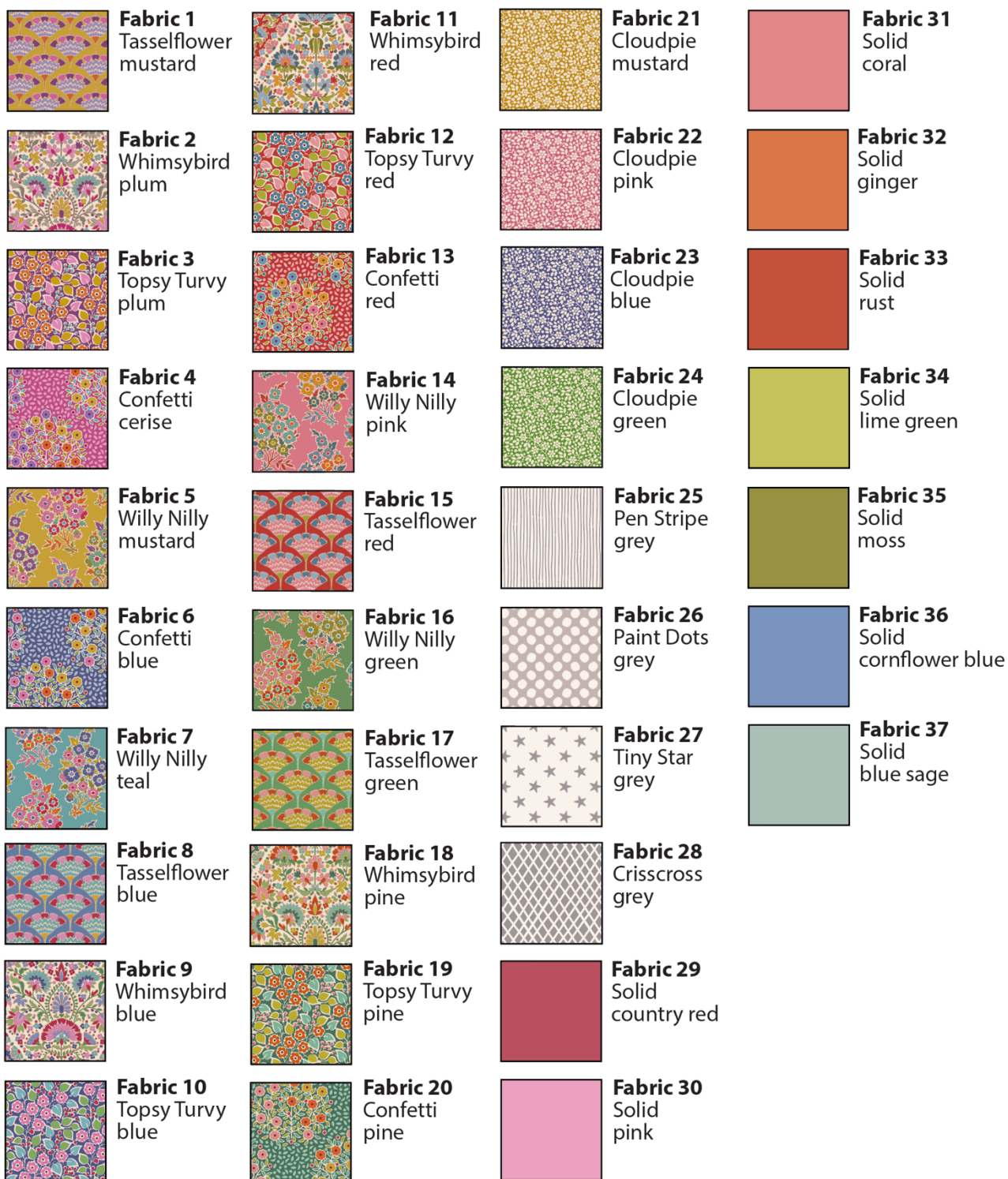
### **General Notes**

- Fabric quantities are based on a usable width of 42in (107cm), unless otherwise stated.
- Measurements are in imperial inches with metric conversions in brackets – use only *one* system throughout (preferably inches). Width measurements are generally given first.
- Before using your fabrics, press before cutting and trim as needed to square up the fabric pattern/weave, using a quilting ruler to cut the top raw edge at 90 degrees to the selvages.
- Use ¼in (6mm) seams unless otherwise instructed.
- Read all the instructions through before you start.
- Always make one complete block as a test before going on to make the remaining blocks.

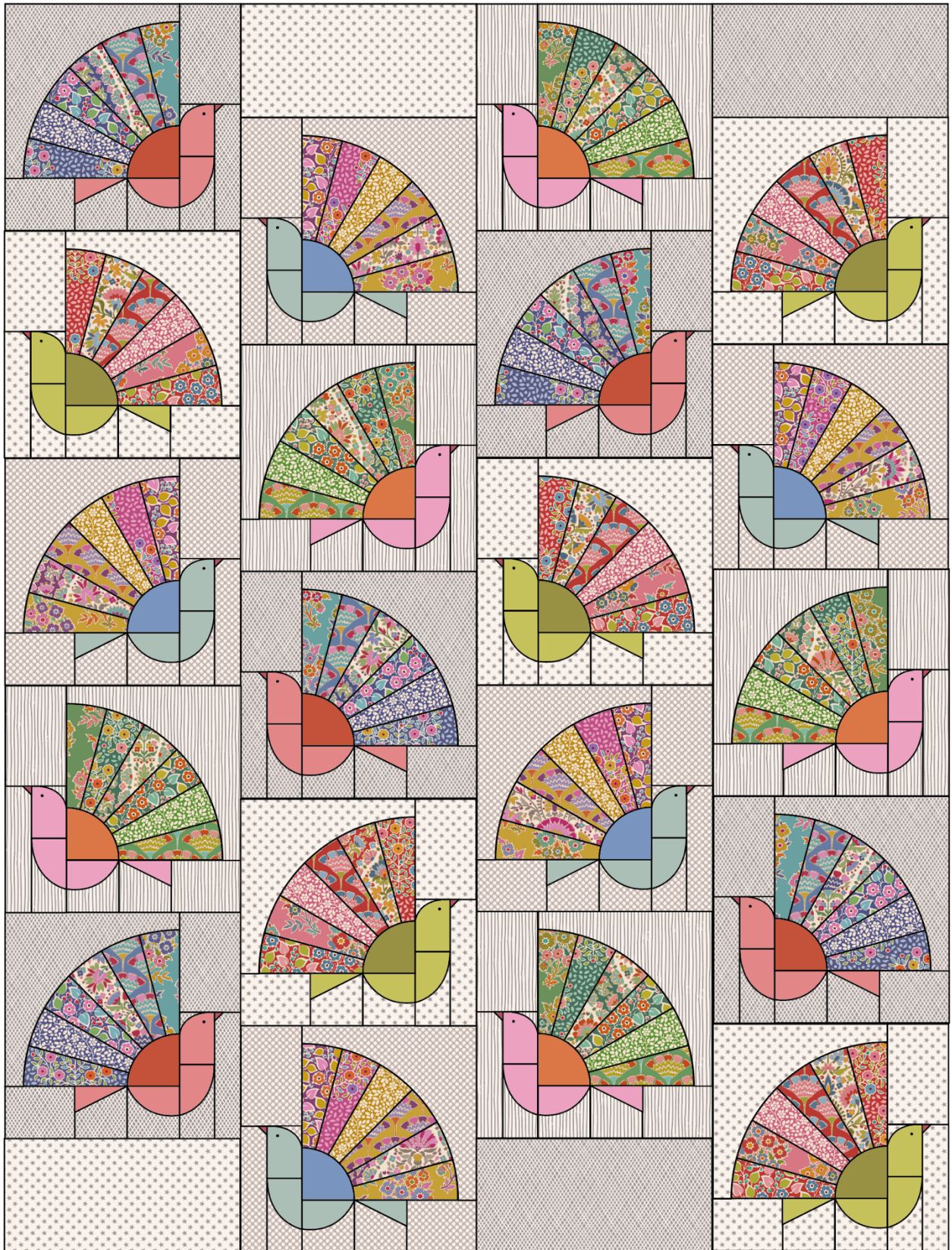
### **Quilt Layout**

**1** The quilt is made up of Fan Bird blocks in four different colourways. Each of the four colourways are also sewn in reflected (mirror image) versions, to provide a total of twenty blocks. There are various curved units in each block, with shapes cut from the full-size patterns provided (Patterns A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and I). For the quilt layout, the blocks are arranged in four vertical columns, with filler pieces added to complete the columns. See **Fig A** for the fabrics used and **Fig B** for the quilt layout.

Fig A Fabric swatches



**Fig B** Quilt layout



## Cutting Out

**2** The blocks use patterns to cut the curved fabric shapes and full-size patterns are provided (Patterns A to I). The patterns include  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam allowances. Make the patterns out of thin card or template plastic so they have some rigidity and will be easy to draw around.

Patterns A, B and C are symmetrical, but the others are not, so it's best to mark the shapes on the right side of the fabrics, across the width of the fabric. For the reversed (mirror image) shapes, simply flip the paper pattern over before copying it onto the fabric. Once cut out, check each fabric shape is accurate by placing the pattern back on top. Handle the fabric shapes carefully at all stages, as there are bias edges that may stretch.

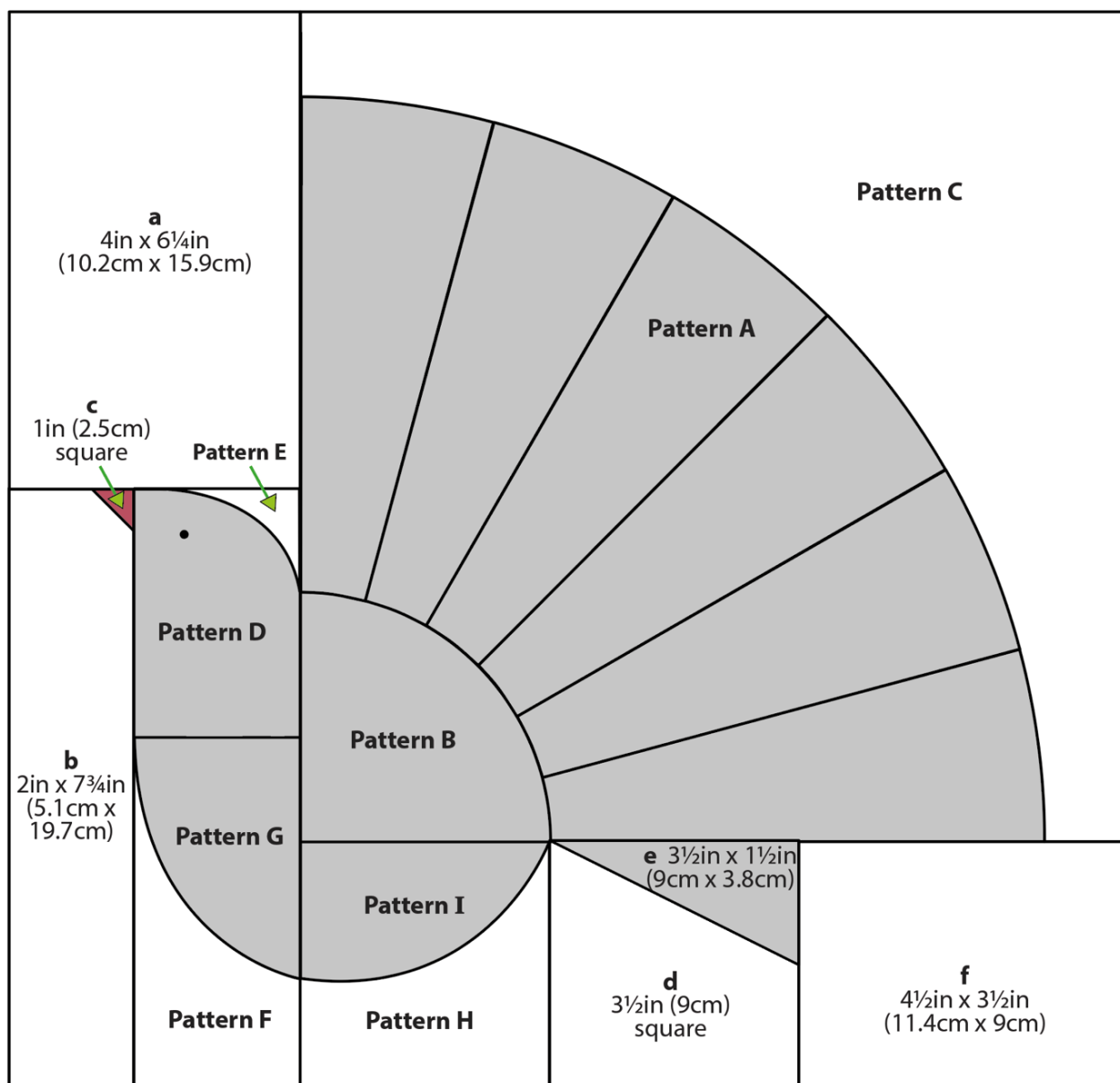
**3** When cutting out, refer to **Fig C** for the block layout, pattern positions and the cut measurements, and refer to **Fig D** for the fabrics used and their positions. The cutting for the whole quilt is as follows.

- From each of Fabric 1 to Fabric 24, cut five using Pattern A. You should have 120 fan blades in total.
- From Fabric 25 cut the following pieces (saving all offcuts in case they are needed).
  - Five Pattern C.
  - Five Pattern E (see the note with Step 10 *before* you cut fabric for Pattern E).
  - Five Pattern F.
  - Five Pattern H.
  - Five of piece **a** – 4in x  $6\frac{1}{4}$ in (10.2cm x 15.9cm).
  - Five of piece **b** – 2in x  $7\frac{3}{4}$ in (5.1cm x 19.7cm).
  - Five of piece **d** –  $3\frac{1}{2}$ in (9cm) square.
  - Five of piece **f** –  $4\frac{1}{2}$ in x  $3\frac{1}{2}$ in (11.4cm x 9cm).
- From Fabric 26 cut the same pieces as Fabric 25.
- From Fabric 27 cut the same pieces as Fabric 25, plus two filler rectangles each 14in x 7in (35.5cm x 17.8cm).
- From Fabric 28 cut the same pieces as Fabric 25, plus two filler rectangles each 14in x 7in (35.5cm x 17.8cm).
- From Fabric 29 cut twenty of piece **c** – 1in (2.5cm) square, for the birds' beaks.
- From each of Fabrics 30, 31, 34 and 37 cut the following.
  - Five Pattern D.
  - Five Pattern G.
  - Five Pattern I.
  - Five of piece **e** –  $3\frac{1}{2}$ in x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ in (9cm x 3.8cm).
- From each of Fabrics 32, 33, 35 and 36, cut five Pattern B.

**Fig C** Block measurements

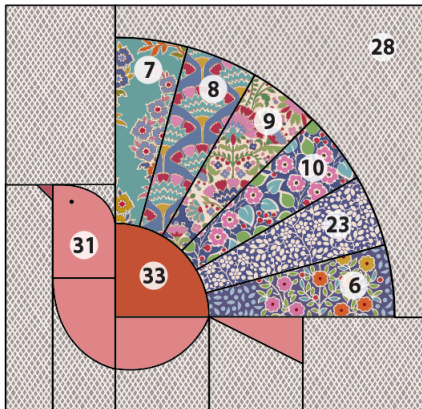
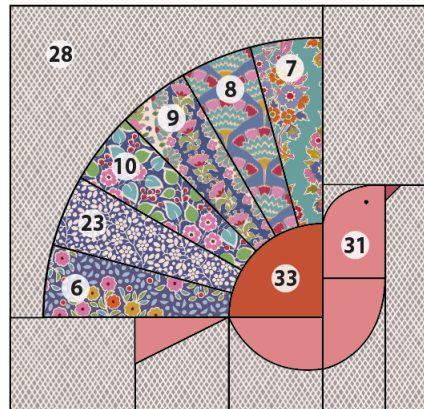
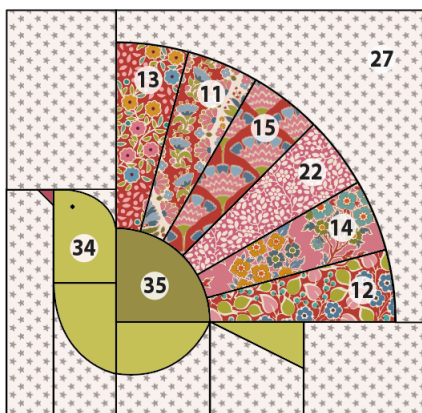
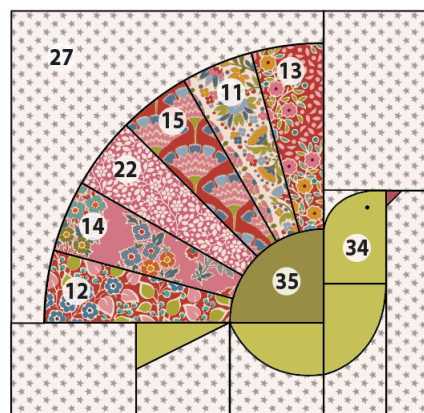
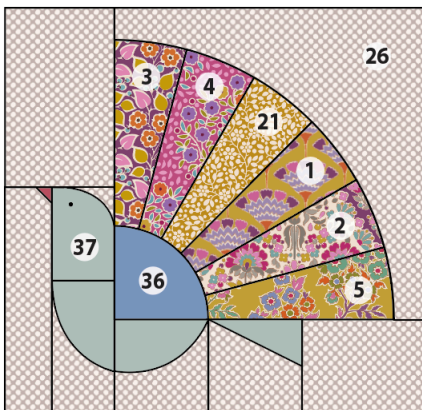
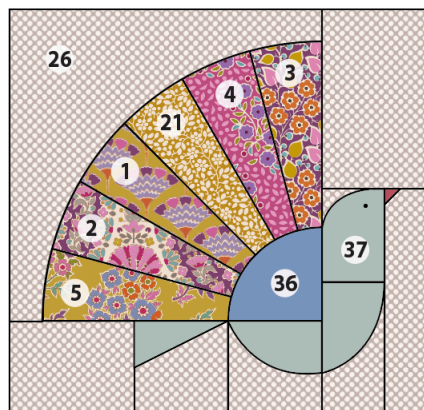
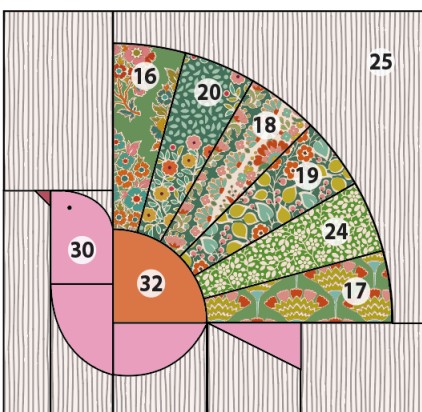
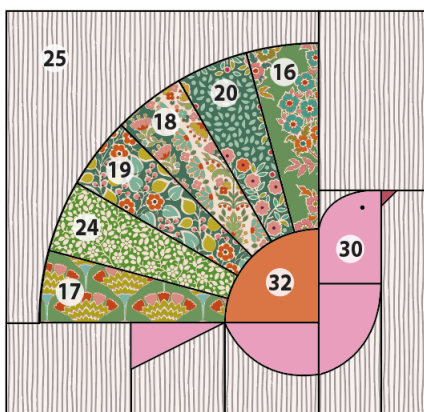
To cut the bird pieces, use the relevant full-size patterns where indicated (Patterns A to I)  
 Measurements are cut sizes and include  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam allowances

**Block size** (unfinished) 14in x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ in (35.5cm x 34.3cm)



**Fig D** Block colourways

Numbers indicate fabrics used (see Fig A). All beaks are Fabric 29. Make the number of blocks indicated

**Block 1**  
Make 2**Block 2**  
Make 3  
(mirror image  
of Block 1)**Block 3**  
Make 2**Block 4**  
Make 3  
(mirror image  
of Block 3)**Block 5**  
Make 3**Block 6**  
Make 2  
(mirror image  
of Block 5)**Block 7**  
Make 3**Block 8**  
Make 2  
(mirror image  
of Block 7)



**4** To cut the backing fabric, remove the selvages and cut the fabric into two pieces each 80in (203cm) long x width of fabric. Sew them together along the long side and press the seam open. Trim to a piece about 63in x 80in (160cm x 203cm).

**5** Cut the binding fabric into seven strips 2½in (6.4cm) x width of fabric. Sew them together end to end and press seams open. Press in half along the length, wrong sides together.

### Making a Block

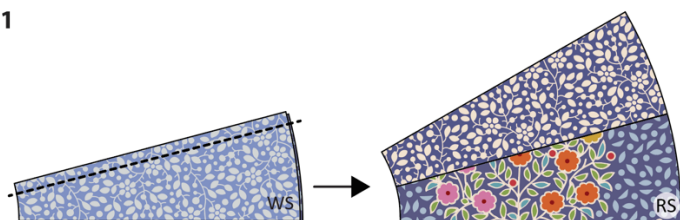
**6** All of the blocks have the same construction, with ten facing left and ten facing right. Block 1 will be described and illustrated in detail.

**Important Note:** before you use the actual fabrics, we urge you to make test units for the bird from any scrap fabrics you have, as sewing curves can be tricky and it's important that the sewn units measure the correct sizes. Follow the cutting and sewing instructions carefully.

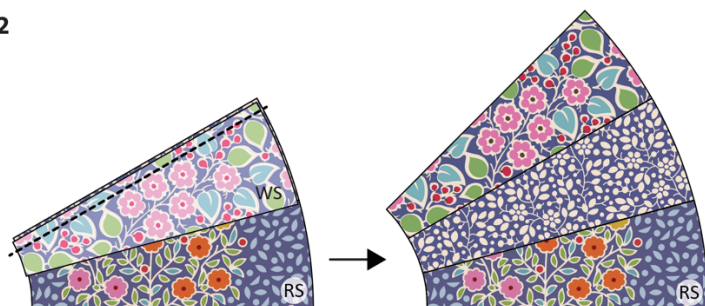
**7** When you are ready to make the actual blocks, begin by laying out the correct pieces for Block 1. Start by making the fan unit for the tail, following **Fig E**. Place two fan blades right sides together, matching up their edges and sew together with a ¼in (6mm) seam (**Fig E 1**). Sew the next blade (**Fig E 2**) and continue like this to sew all six blades (**Fig E 3**). Press the seams to one side.

**Fig E** Making the fan

1



2

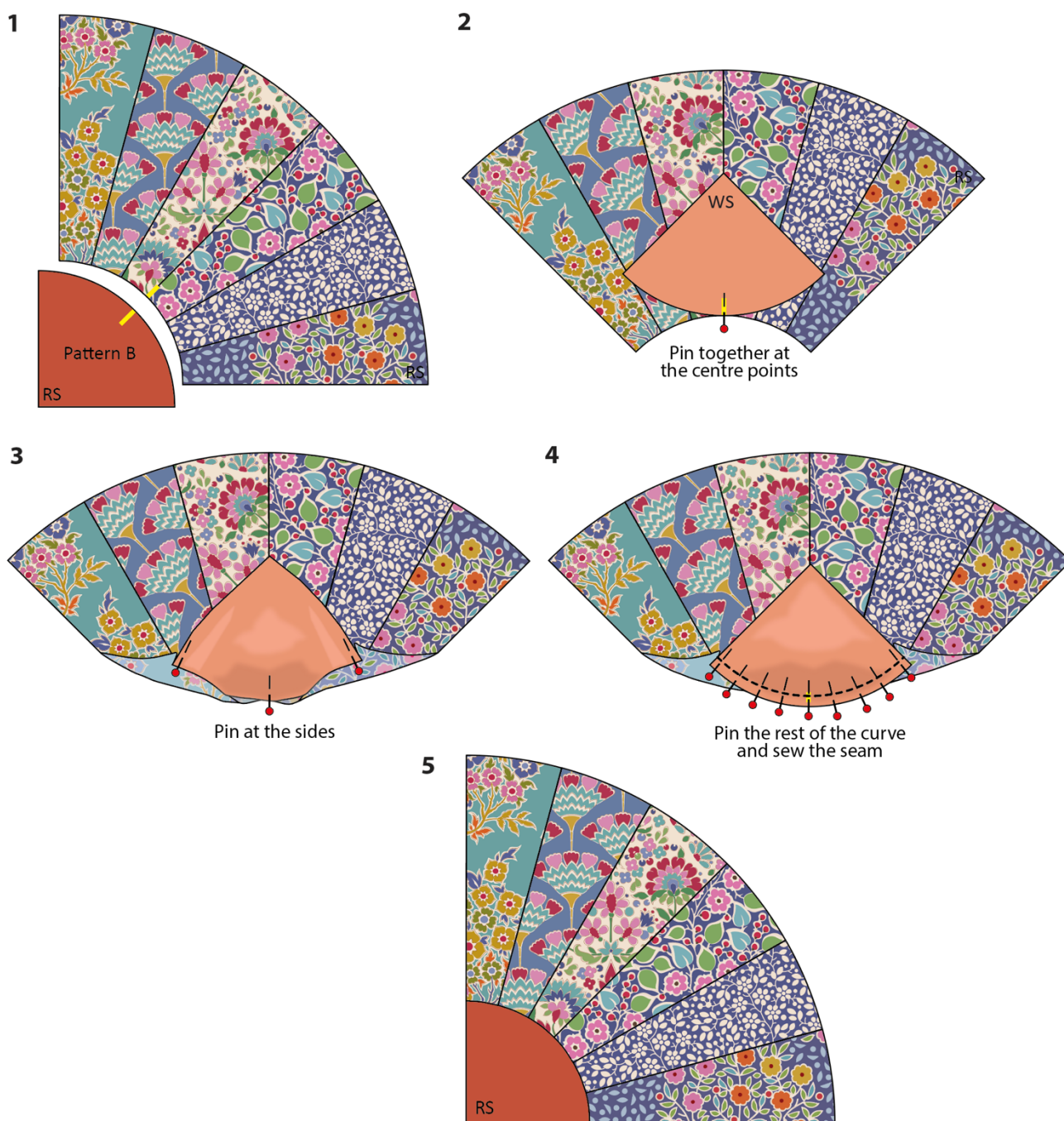


3



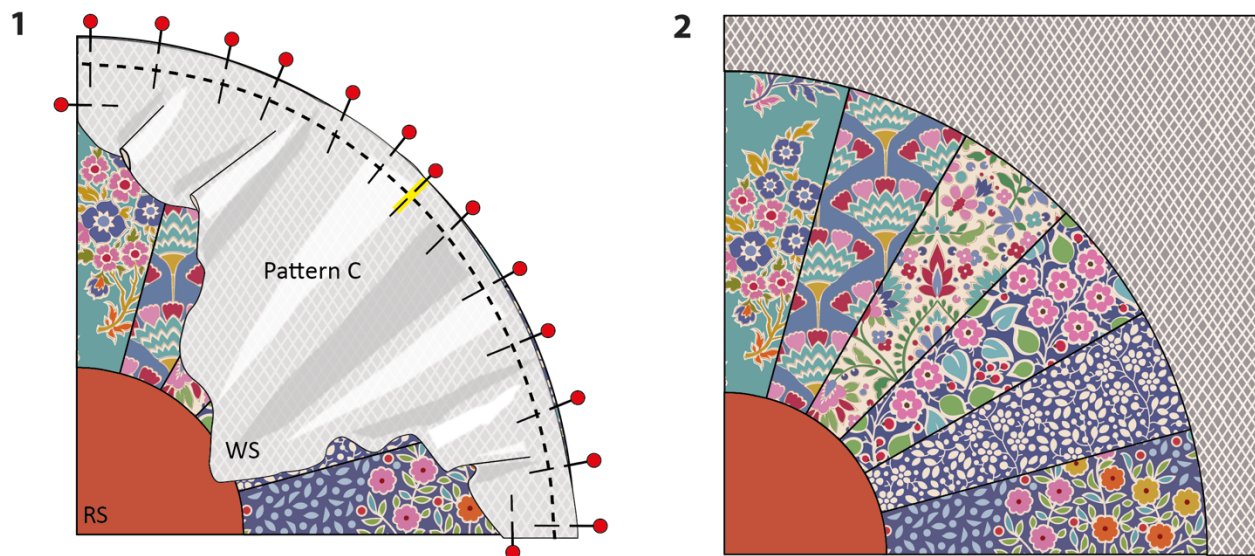
**8** The method of sewing Pattern B to the fan to create the tail unit is described in detail below, and this method of sewing a curved seam can be used for all the curved units. Start by marking or creasing the centre points on the curves of both shapes, as shown by the yellow lines in **Fig F 1**. Place the pieces right sides (RS) together, aligning the centre marks and pin (**Fig F 2**). Align the outer edges and pin (**Fig F 3**). Now pin the rest of the curves together, checking that the short straight edges of piece B are aligned with the straight edges of the fan unit. Once pinned, check that there are no pleats or tucks formed on the back of the work. Sew the seam (**Fig F 4**) and remove the pins. Snip into the seam allowance at intervals using sharp scissors, with cuts about 1/8in (3mm) long. Press the seam towards piece B (**Fig F 5**).

**Fig F** Sewing the tail unit



**9** To add the large Pattern C piece, mark or crease the centre points on both curves (you could mark the quarter points too). Place the pieces right sides together, aligning the centre marks, and pin. Align the outer edges and pin. Ease the remaining areas of curved edges together and pin well (**Fig G 1**). Check that there are no pleats or tucks formed on the back of the work. Now sew the seam. Remove the pins and snip into the seam allowance, as before. Press the seam towards piece C (**Fig G 2**). Check the sewn unit is  $10\frac{1}{2}$ in (26.7cm) square.

**Fig G** Adding the background curve



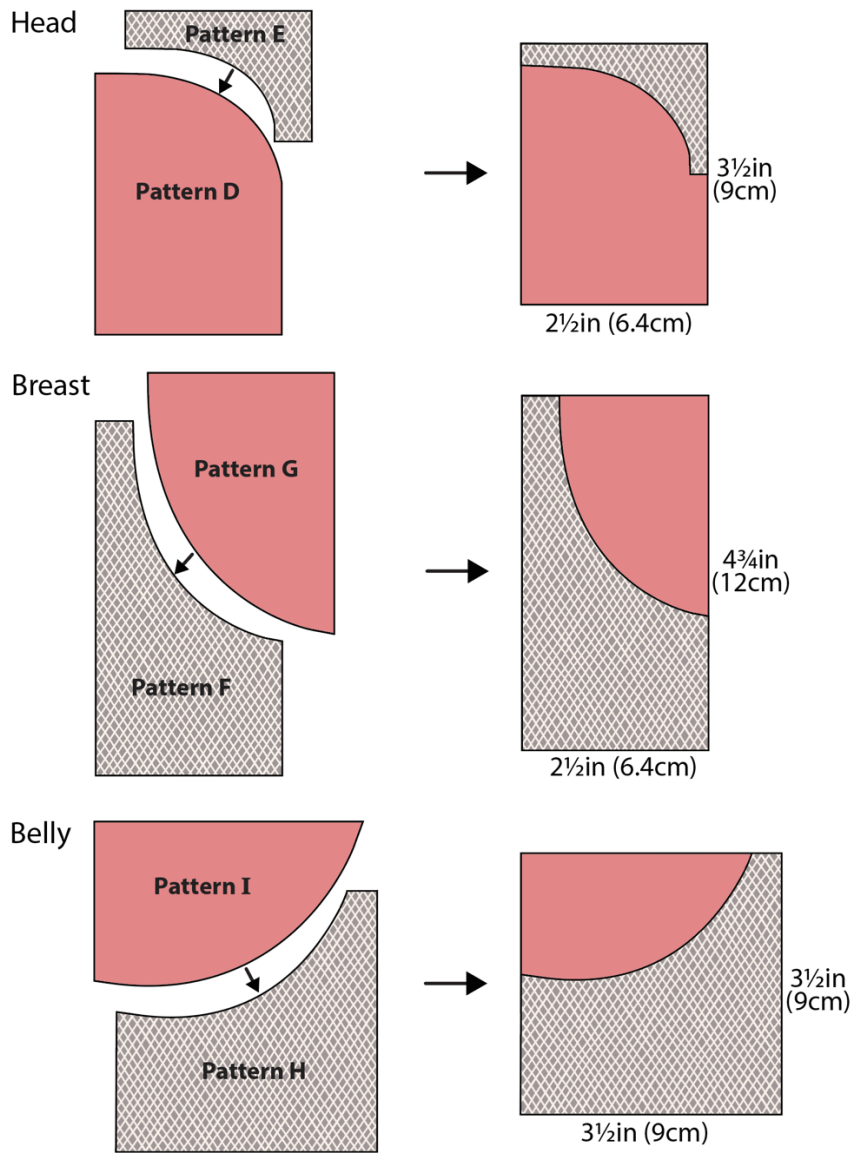
**10** Make the other curved units for the block using the same method as for the A/B/C unit, but for these bird head, breast and belly units sew the seams using *scant*  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (5mm) seams. (A scant seam is one or two needle's width narrower than a normal seam.) **Fig H** shows the units needed. We suggest you sew the F and G pieces first and then the H and I pieces, leaving the D and E pieces until last as this unit is more tricky.

**Note:** Pattern E is small and rather fiddly to sew to Pattern D and if you are inexperienced with curved sewing and have difficulty creating an accurate result, the unit can be made easier to sew by increasing the size of the two sides edges, as shown in **Fig I**. Use a quilting ruler to add  $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.3cm) to the two long, straight sides. Cut your fabric piece using this amended pattern. Sew the curve of fabric piece E to the curve of piece D and once sewn and pressed, cut off the excess of fabric E by trimming the unit to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ in x  $3\frac{1}{2}$ in (6.4cm x 9cm), as in **Fig J**. Notice that piece E has allowances for  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seams.

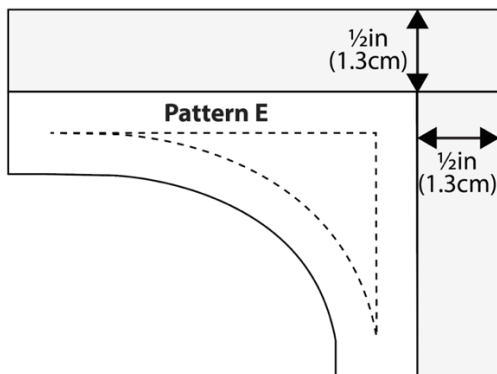
**11** Once the curved units are sewn, check they are the correct sizes, as follows.

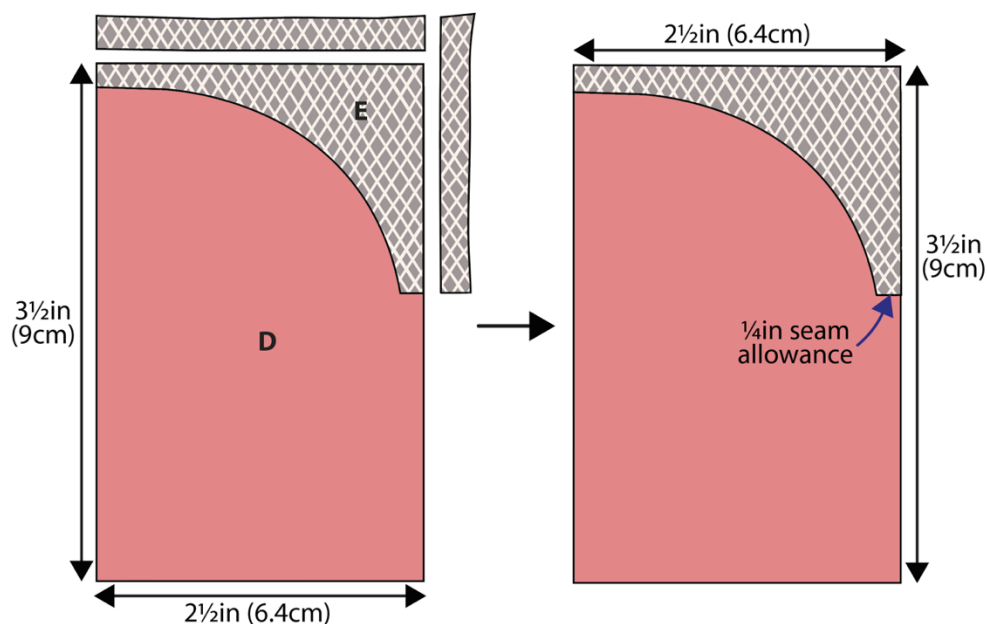
- The D/E head unit should have an unfinished size of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ in x  $3\frac{1}{2}$ in (6.4cm x 9cm).
- The F/G breast unit should have an unfinished size of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ in x  $4\frac{3}{4}$ in (6.4cm x 12cm).
- The H/I belly unit should have an unfinished size of  $3\frac{1}{2}$ in (9cm) square.

**Fig H** Sewing the curved units



**Fig I** Amending Pattern E if required



**Fig J** Trimming unit D/E to the correct size

**12** To make the lower tail unit, a long triangle (e) has to be created along the top edge of the square (d). Follow the stages of **Fig K** carefully – this diagram shows the unit needed for Blocks 1, 3, 5 and 7. Start by marking the  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam allowances and dots at the corners, on the right side of the background square and the wrong side of the solid fabric rectangle (or you can just mark the dots) – see the *Tip*, below. On the solid rectangle, mark a diagonal line from corner to corner of the seam allowance in the direction shown in **Fig K 1** (note that the line is through the seam allowance dots, *not* through the outer corners of the fabric). Now place the fabrics right sides together, angling the rectangle so the two dots on the diagonal line match the dots on the fabric beneath (**Fig K 2**). Be precise in the alignment of the dots, pinning in place carefully and then sew along the diagonal line right to the edges of the fabric (see the dashed line in **Fig K 2**). Press the triangle outwards (**Fig K 3**). Trim excess fabric  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) from the sewn line. Check the sewn unit is  $3\frac{1}{2}$ in (9cm) square.

**13** Making a reversed lower tail unit is shown in **Fig L**, so follow this diagram when you are making reversed Blocks 2, 4, 6 and 8.

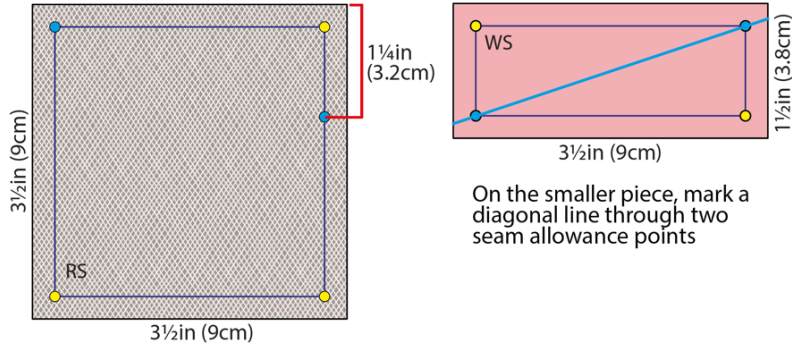
### *Tip*

When marking the seam allowances, use a marker that will show clearly on the the fabric you are using, for example a chalk pen might be needed on darker prints. Use a removable or erasable marker when marking on the right side of the fabrics, so the marks can be easily removed later. Marking just dots at the seam allowance corners will mean that there is less marking to remove later.

**Fig K Making the lower tail unit**

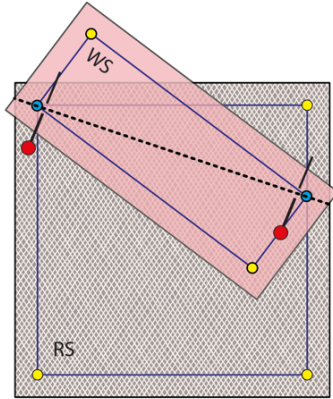
**1**

Mark  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam allowances on both pieces with a removable marker and then measure and mark dots where shown



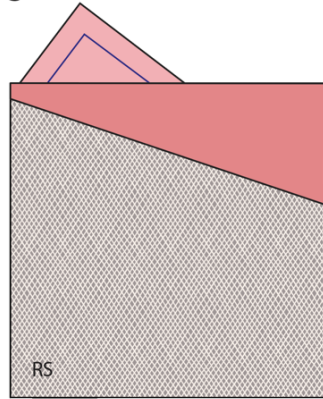
On the smaller piece, mark a diagonal line through two seam allowance points

**2**



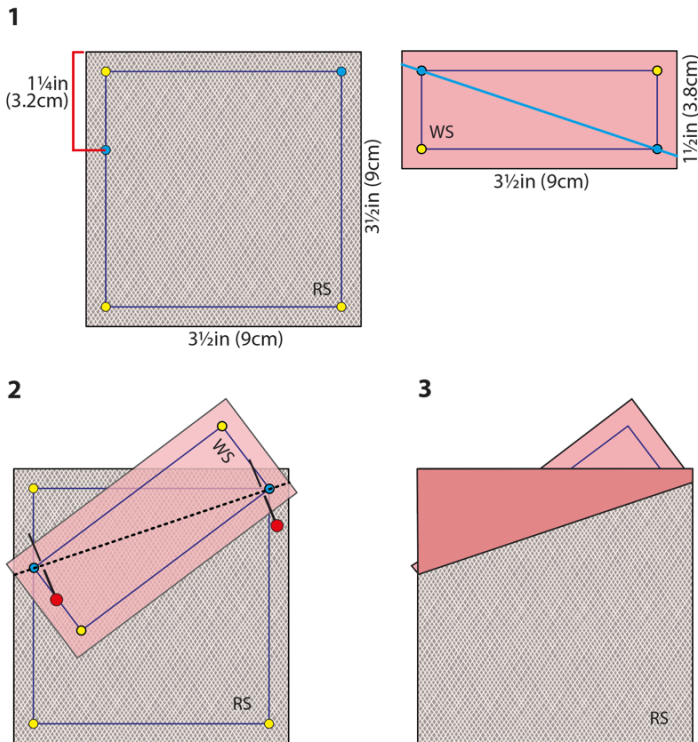
Angle the piece so its seam allowance dots meet the dots beneath, and sew

**3**



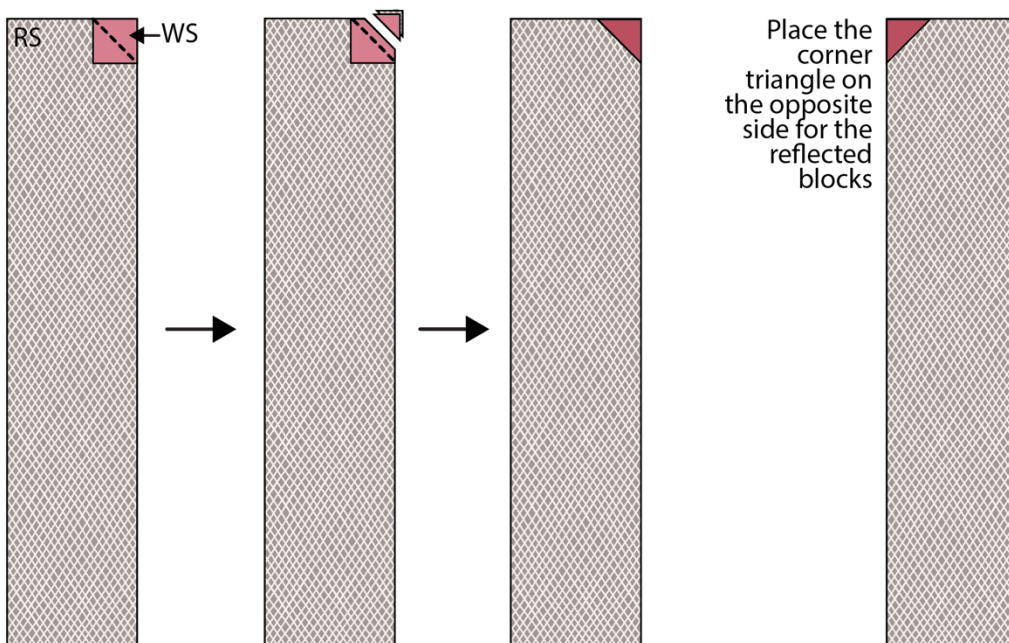
Press the long triangle into place

**Fig L Making a reversed lower tail unit**



**14** To make the beak unit, a triangle corner is created at the top of piece **b**. Following **Fig M**, take the rectangle and place it right side up. Take a 1 in (2.5cm) square of Fabric 29 and pencil mark a diagonal line on the wrong side. Place the square right sides together with the rectangle, aligning the edges and with the marked line in the direction shown in the diagram. Sew along the marked line. Trim off excess fabric  $\frac{1}{4}$  in (6mm) past the sewn line and then press the triangle outwards. Check the unit is 2 in x  $7\frac{3}{4}$  in (5.1 cm x 19.7cm). The final part of the **Fig M** diagram shows the positioning of the square when you are making reversed Blocks 2, 4, 6 and 8.

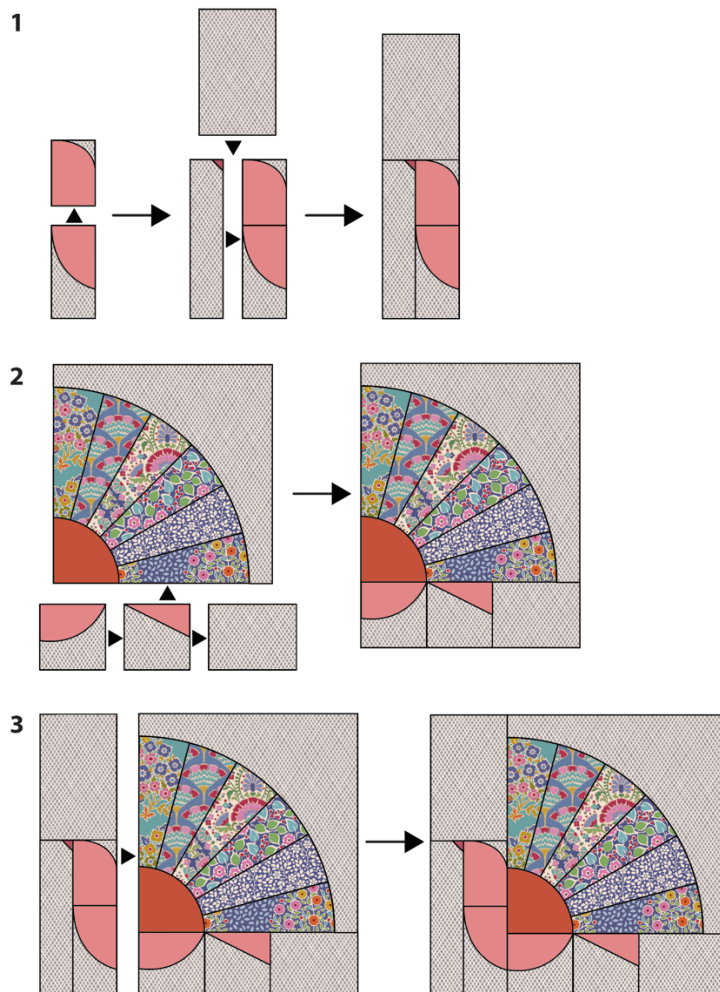
**Fig M** Sewing the beak unit



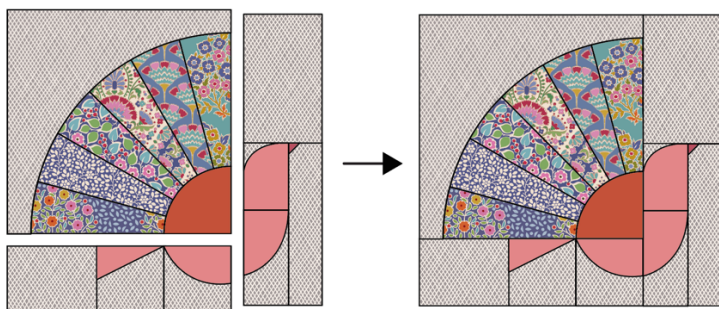
**15** You have now made all of the units and can assemble the block. Take all the units, plus the unpieced rectangles (**a** and **f**) and follow **Fig N**, beginning with the head and breast, sewing the pieces together with normal  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seams (**Fig N 1**) and pressing after each seam. Next, sew the three units together under the fan tail and then sew these to the fan tail unit (**Fig N 2**). Now sew the two sections together (**Fig N 3**). Check that the block is 14in x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ in (35.5cm x 34.3cm).

Assembling a reflected block follows the same stages – Block 2 is shown in **Fig O**.

**Fig N** Assembling Block 1

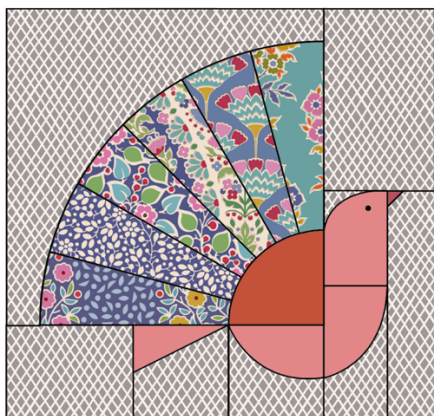




**Fig O** Assembling Block 2

**16** Repeat the whole block-making process to make one more of Block 1. Use the same process to make the rest of the blocks. Refer back to **Fig D** for the colourways and fabric placement for each block. Check each block is 14in x 13½in (35.5cm x 34.3cm).

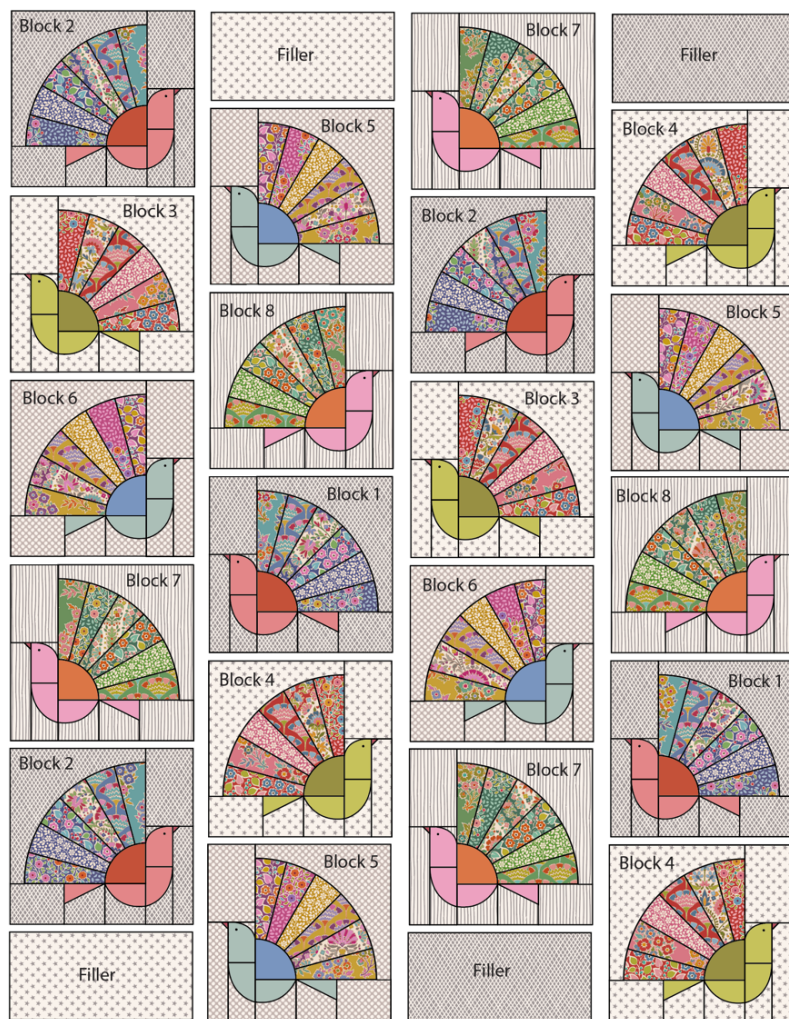
**17** When all of the blocks are made, embroider an eye on each bird using six strands of black stranded cotton and working French knots with the yarn wrapped twice around the needle (**Fig P**).

**Fig P** Adding the French knot eye

### Assembling the Quilt

**18** Begin the quilt assembly by sewing the blocks and filler pieces into columns, as in **Fig Q**. Use normal ¼in (6mm) seams and press the seams open or to one side. Each column should measure 72in (183cm) long. Sew the columns together and press the seams. Your quilt top is now finished.

**Fig Q** Assembling the quilt



## Quilting and Finishing

**19** If you are quilting the quilt yourself you now need to make a quilt sandwich – you can do this in various ways, as follows.

- Use large stitches to tack (baste) a grid through the layers of the quilt in both directions, with lines about 4in (10cm) apart.
- Use pins or safety pins to fix the layers together.
- Use fabric glue sprayed onto the wadding (batting) to fix the layers together.

If you are sending the quilt off to be commercially long-arm quilted you won't need to make a sandwich, as this is done when the quilt is mounted on the machine. When the layers of the quilt are secured, you can quilt as desired.

**20** When all quilting is finished, square up the quilt ready for binding.

**21** Use the prepared double-fold binding strip to bind your quilt. Sew the binding to the quilt by pinning the raw edge of the folded binding against the raw edge of the quilt. Don't start at a corner. Using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam, sew the binding in place, starting at least 6in (15.2cm) away from the end of the binding. Sew to within a  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) of a corner and stop. Take the quilt off the machine and fold the binding upwards, creating a mitred corner. Hold this in place, fold the binding back down and pin it in place. Begin sewing the  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam again from the top of the folded binding to within  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) of the next corner and then

repeat the folding process. Do this on all corners. Leave a 6in (15.2cm) 'tail' of unsewn binding at the end.

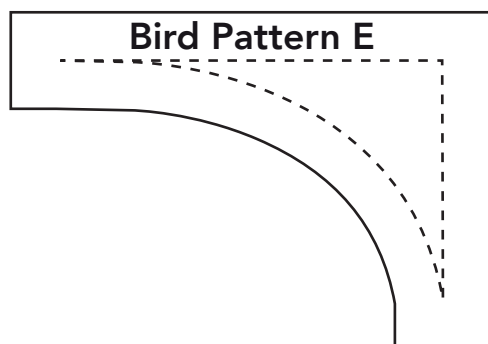
**22** To join the two ends of the binding, open up the beginning and end of the binding tails, lay them flat and fold the ends back so the two ends touch. Mark these folds by creasing or with pins – this is where your seam needs to be. Open out the binding and sew the pieces together at these creases. Trim off excess fabric and press the seam. Re-fold the binding and finish stitching it in place on the front of the quilt.

**23** With the quilt right side up, use a medium-hot iron to press the binding outwards all round. Now begin to turn the binding over to the back of the quilt, pinning it in place. Use matching sewing thread and tiny stitches to slipstitch the binding in place all round, creating neat mitres at each corner. Press the binding and your charming quilt is finished.

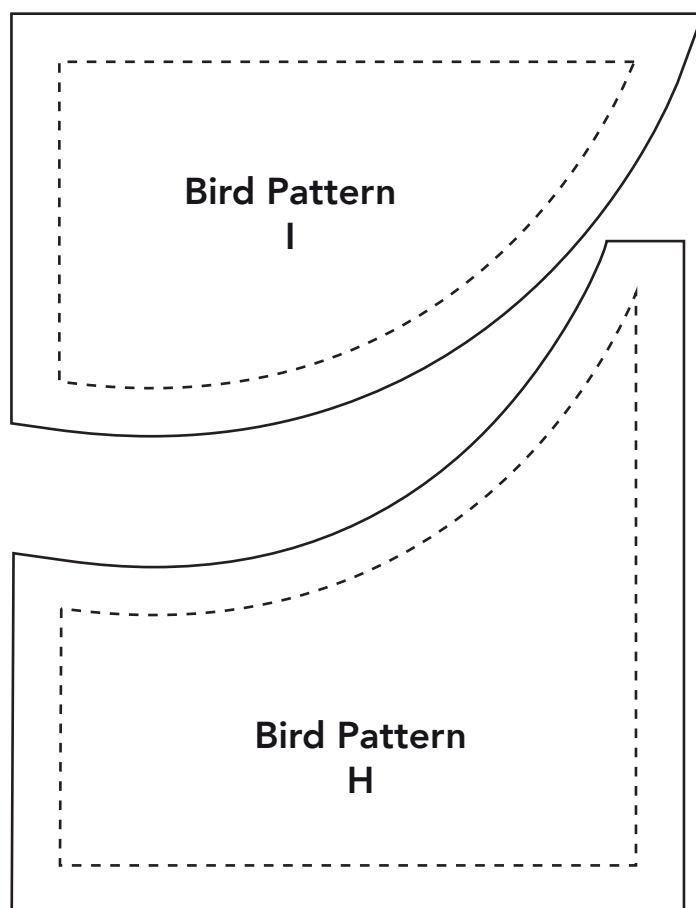
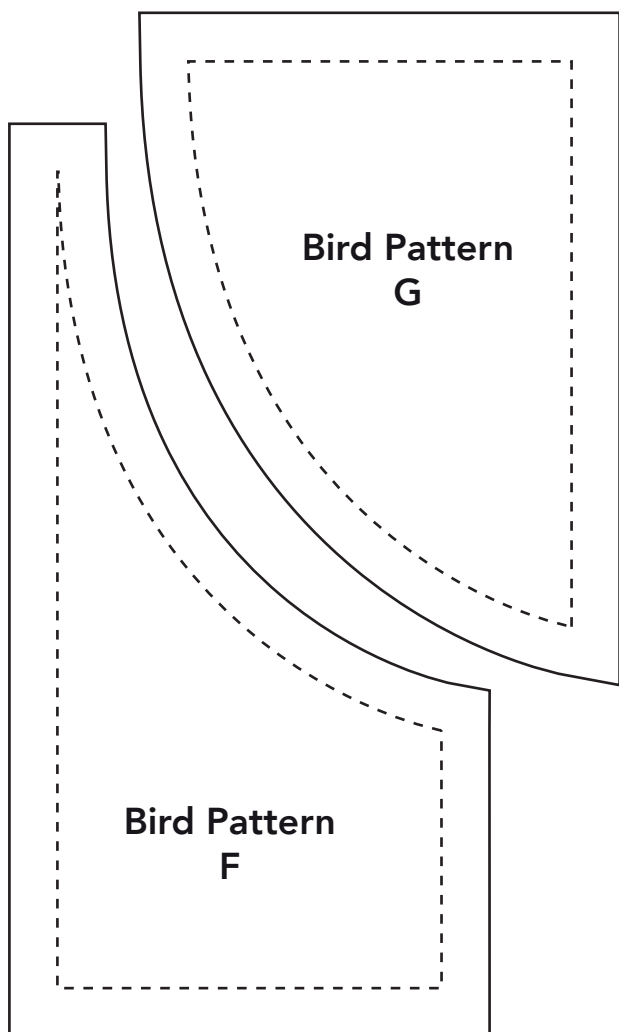
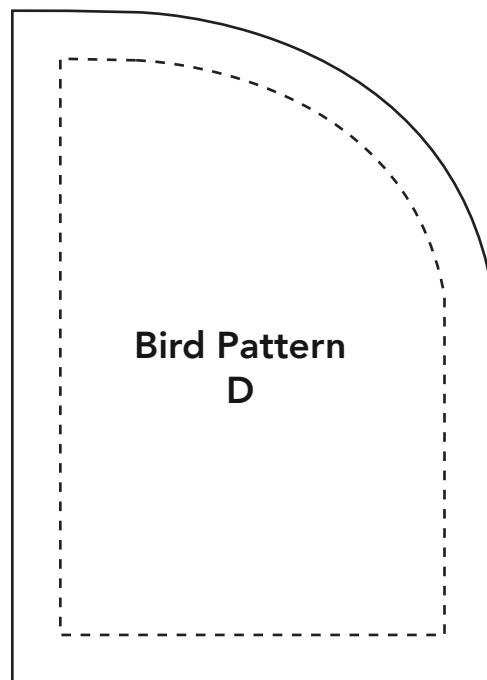
# Fan Bird Patterns for the Quilts and Pillows

## Bird Patterns

For the blocks facing the other way, reverse (flip) the patterns horizontally before cutting the fabric shapes



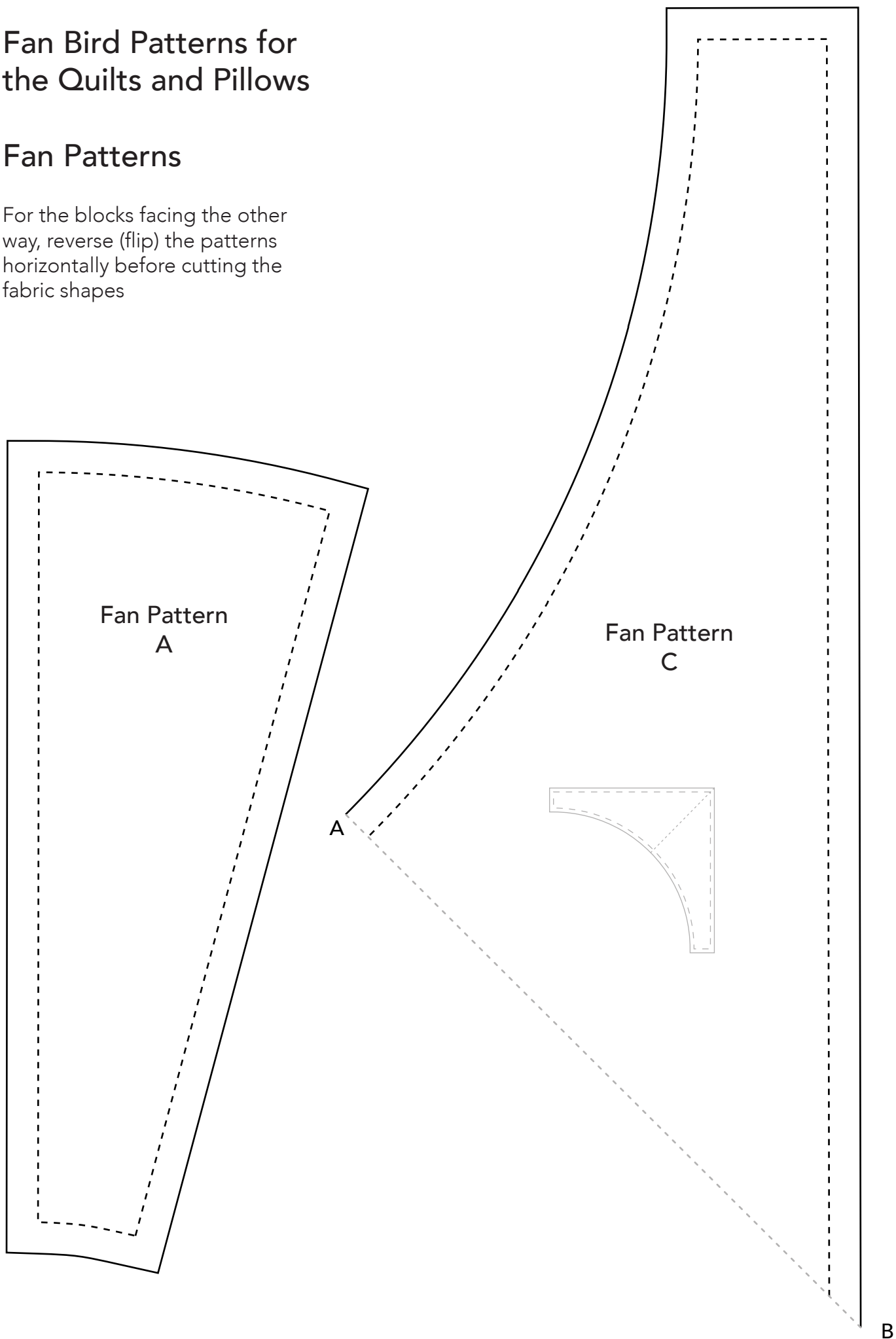
Pattern E is quite small, but can be made easier to sew by increasing the size of two sides edges and trimming to the correct size later – see the project instructions for details

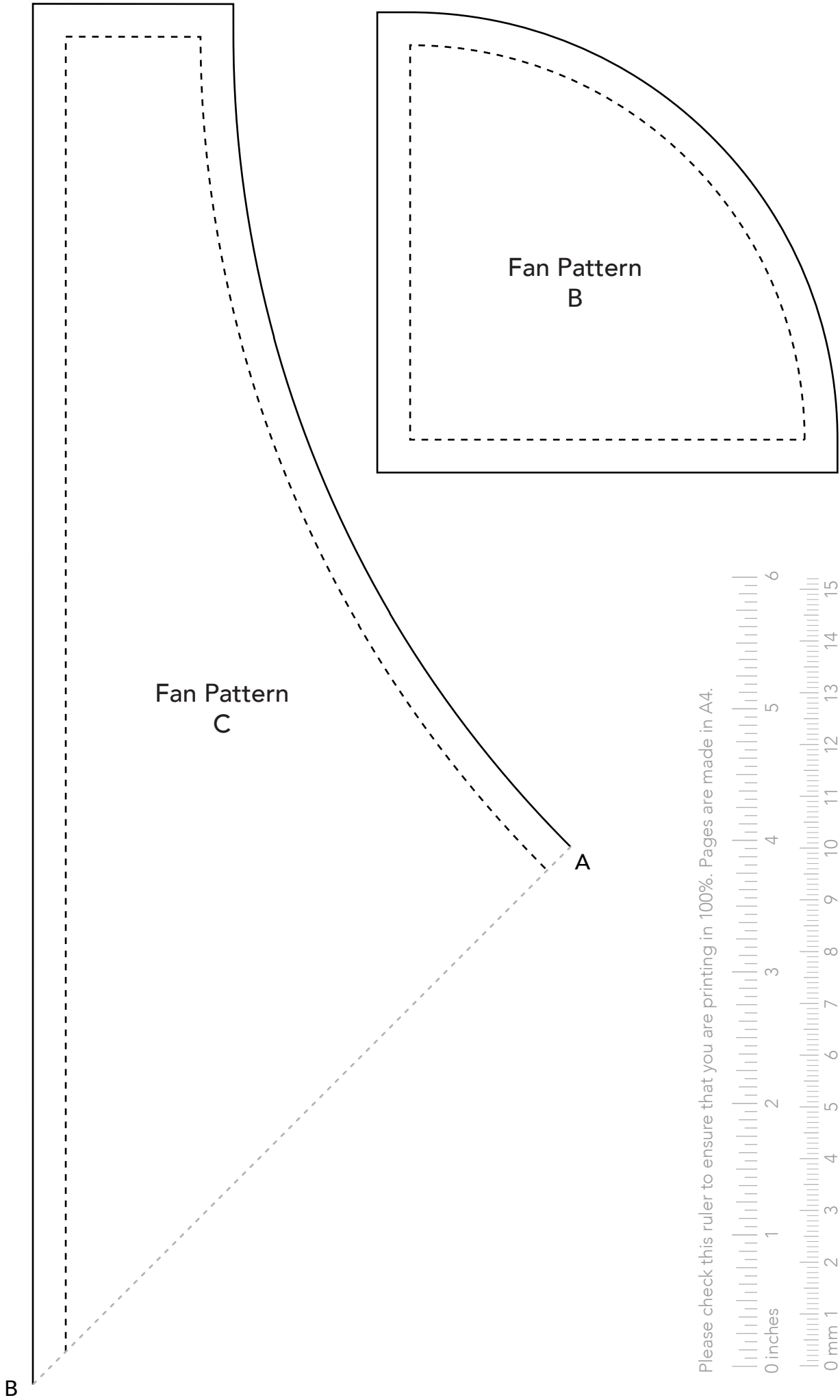


# Fan Bird Patterns for the Quilts and Pillows

## Fan Patterns

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Please check this ruler to ensure that you are printing in 100%. Pages are made in A4.

