

The Case of the Diamond *Necklace*

COTDN



Welcome back, detectives!

In Clue # 3, you will print more shapes, sew triangles and sew *diamonds*—which seems sensible since this is the Case of the *Diamond* Necklace.

This is not the original clue I intended for you!

At the eleventh hour, I decided to re-write everything to give you two options.

Option 1. Print all of the shapes on fabric.

Option 2. Print most of the shapes on fabric and use freezer paper templates for a few special shapes.

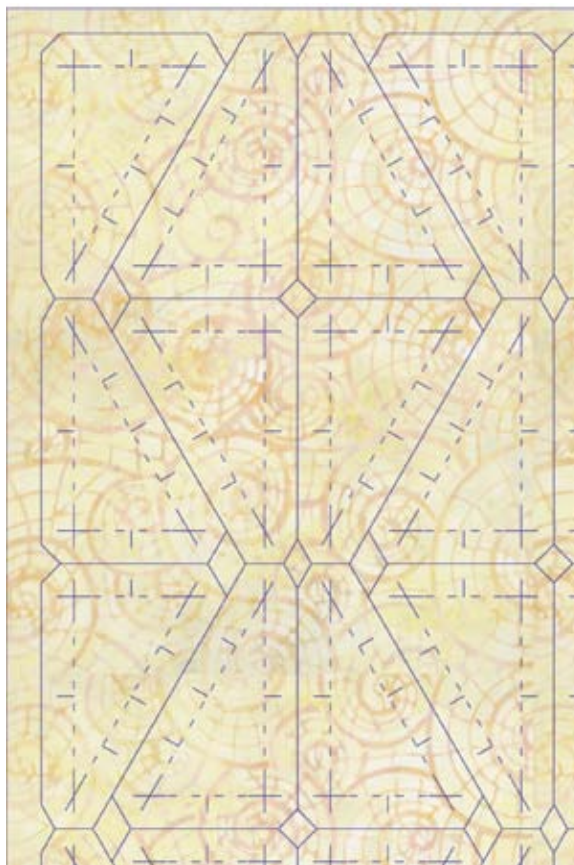
24 Triangles or 12 Kites?

I started with Option 1 but I realized that using freezer paper (FP) templates to replace 24 triangles with 12 kites has some nice advantages. In this design, it saves a little bit of fabric, reduces bulk by eliminating a seam—plus it allows me to teach a technique I love.

Freezer paper (FP) templates are the best, most versatile templates. They have advantages over acrylic, plastic, or any other template material. I never use anything else.

Whether you print all of the shapes or use FP templates for some of them, we think you will love the way these shapes fit together by hand or by machine. There's no mystery about that!

*Triangle Half
Combo Layout*
Described on pages 40-41 of
Inklingo 60° Diamond 1.75 inch Shape Collection



Clue #3

The layout diagrams on the following pages show how to position the FP to make the best use of the fabric for printing.

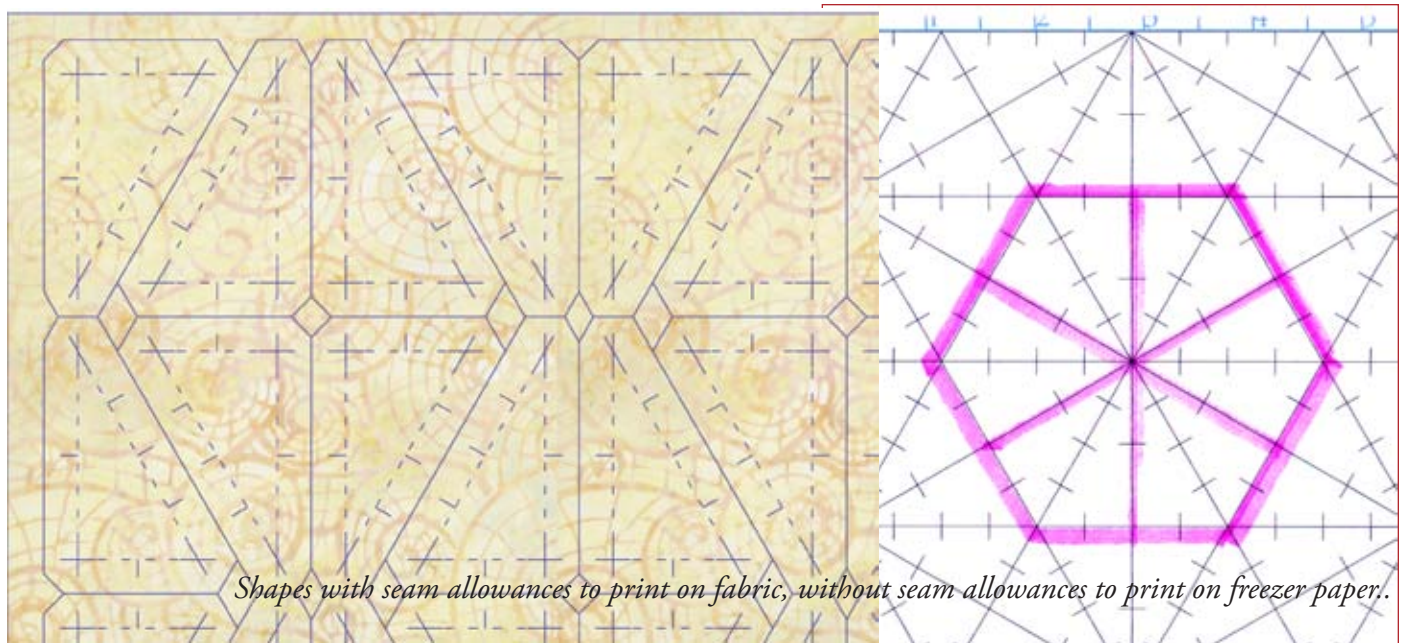
In this clue, all of the shapes are "triangle half" (above), printed from the **Inklingo 60° Diamond 1.75 inch Shape Collection**, which you should already have.

By the way, are you mystified by the names of Inklingo shapes? Diamond shape collections include triangles (half diamonds) and half triangles (quarter diamonds). It seems odd to name a triangle a triangle half but that's the way it is and you seem to understand!

The **Index of Shapes** (under the Support & Goodies tab on the website) lists the various kinds of triangles available from Inklingo so far.

Choice of Layouts

There are 5 layouts of triangle half shapes in this shape collection. We are using the Combo layout because we need straight grain on the short sides of the triangles and we need the triangle *and* the mirror image.



Print on Fabric or on Freezer Paper?

Every Inklingo shape collection includes the shapes without seam allowances just in case you need templates.

Anything you can draw, trace, or print you can turn into templates!

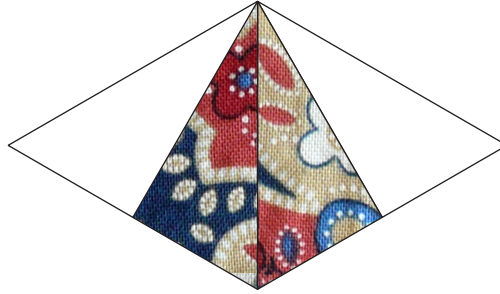
Printing the shapes on fabric with Inklingo is always my first choice, of course, but I recommend freezer paper templates in some situations.

FP templates are fabulous for

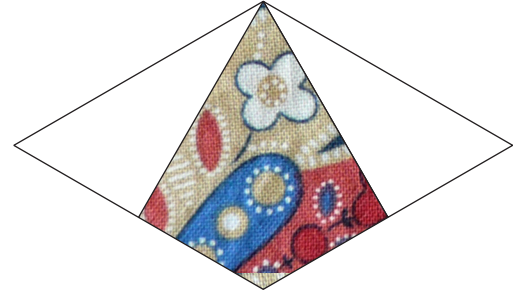
- shapes that are not available (yet) from Inklingo
- traditional Swiss cheese fussy cutting
- cutting huge shapes that are too big for your printer
- fabrics which are too dark on the wrong side to print with Inklingo, even with the tips for printing on dark fabric in the **Top Ten Tutes** on the blog

See pages 42 and 326 in the **Inklingo 60° Diamond 1.75 inch Shape Collection** to print the shapes without seam allowances on freezer paper.

I hope you will compare the two options before you decide.



4 pieces



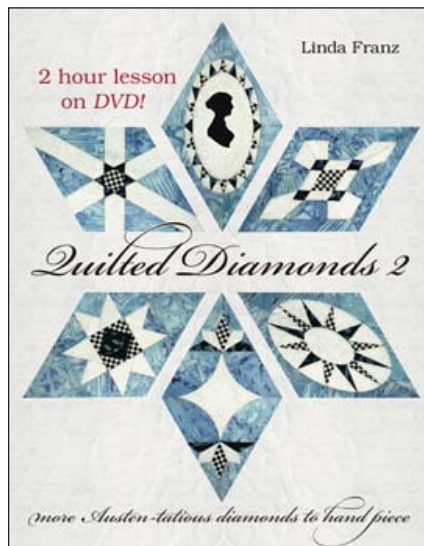
3 pieces

I printed all of the shapes on fabric for my COTDN mystery quilt but when I was sewing, I realized that I could reduce the bulk and make the pressing easier by eliminating a seam. It also saves a little bit of fabric.

This clue became much more complicated to write when I added the option to use FP templates but this clue could simplify your quilting life *forever!* Seriously. It will also save you money. You will never need to buy acrylic templates again!

The advantages of FP templates are explained in several articles on the [All About Inklingo](#) blog (searchable).

In this clue, I used FP templates for a shape in a size that is not "inklingo-able"—the kite shape (above right). Instead of printing two triangle half shapes, I printed a page of shapes without seam allowances on freezer paper (previous page), so I could cut 6 kites to replace 12 triangle half shapes.



It is worth learning about freezer paper for hand piecing AND machine piecing. It doesn't matter what shape you are sewing—triangles, curves, straight lines, ANY shape.

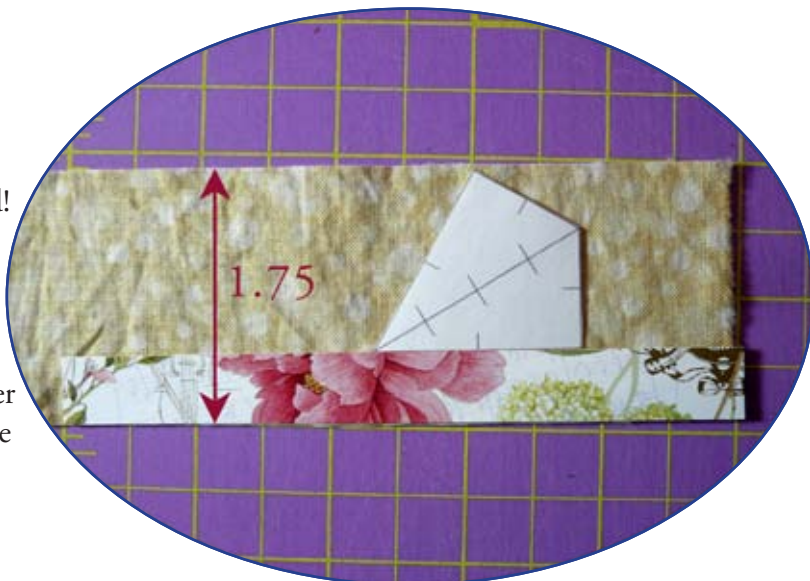
I teach all about using freezer paper templates in my books, *Quilted Diamonds* and *Quilted Diamonds 2*. Those books are "pre-Inklingo" (2002, 2004) and teach hand piecing because the QD designs are tiny. However, freezer paper templates are the best way to prepare shapes for machine piecing too, if you can't use Inklingo.

Quilted Diamonds 2 includes a two-hour hand piecing lesson on DVD. Learn all my best tips for sewing with a running stitch, continuous stitching, pressing, etc. It is a complete guide to hand piecing even if you never piece any diamonds at all!

Freezer Paper Templates

You probably already have everything you need!

- **freezer paper** (description on blog)
- mechanical pencil (or pencil & sharpener)
- thin, flexible ruler
- ordinary acrylic ruler(s)
- small amount of masking tape for each ruler
- spacer strip (paper cut exactly 0.5 inch wide and about 6 inches long)

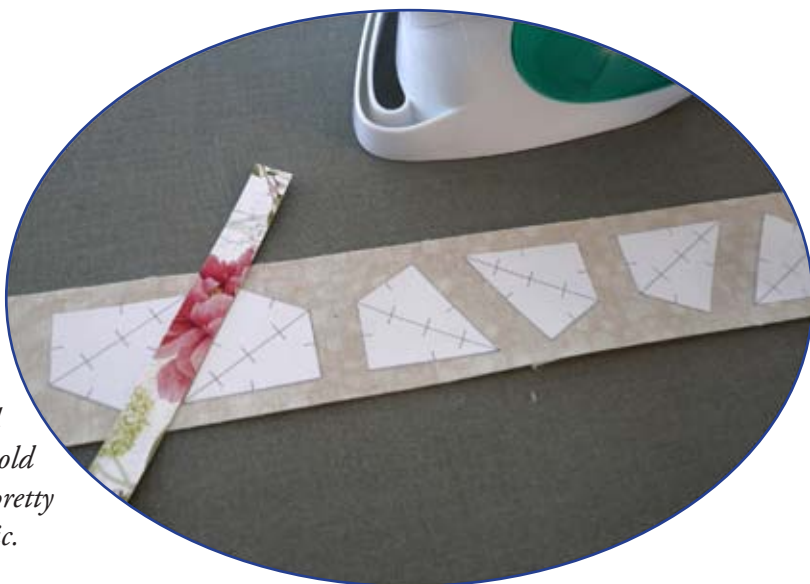


Using strips of fabric is convenient, reduces waste, and makes the rotary cutting easier. The fabric strip is 0.5 inch wider than the shape to allow for two 0.25 inch seam allowances.

Measure the template on straight grain plus the 0.5 inch spacer to determine the width to cut the strips. For 6 kite shapes (above), you will need a strip about 1.75 x 10.5 inches. Notice how the pieces nest together (left).



For the spacer, I cut several 0.5 inch paper strips from old greeting cards, so they are pretty and contrast with the fabric.



FP templates are the finished size, so we need to leave room for the seam allowances. Use a hot, dry iron (no steam!) to press the templates to the wrong side of the fabric. Use the spacer, so there is exactly 0.5 inch between the shapes to allow for two 0.25 inch seam allowances with every cut.

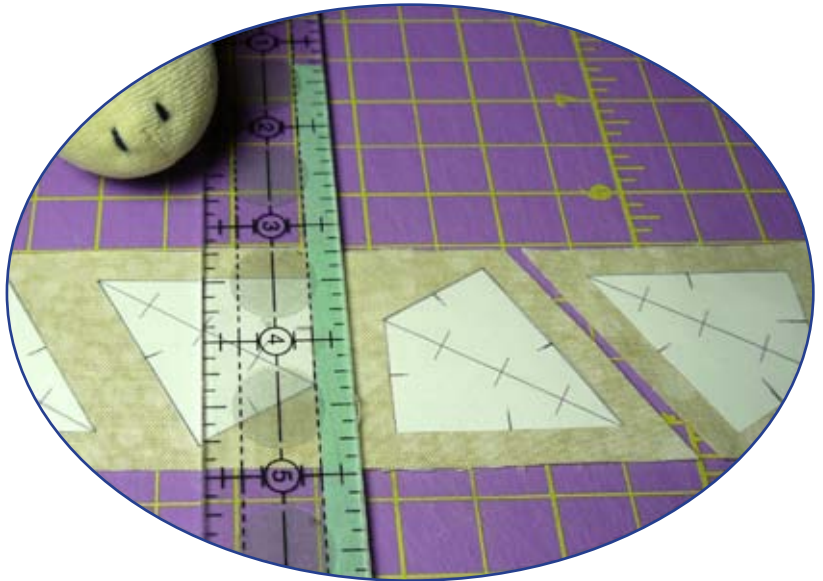
The plastic side of the FP will stick to the fabric until you peel it off.

CAUTION

Inklingoists are used to ironing FP to the FRONT side of the fabric, so they can print on the back side. When we use FP templates, we iron the template to the BACK side of the fabric, so we can draw sewing lines around the shape.

You owe Monkey a nickel every time you do it wrong. He is saving up for a diamond earring, so he won't have to borrow mine anymore.

A piece of masking tape (green) on the under-side of the ruler makes it easy to add an accurate 0.25 inch seam allowance.

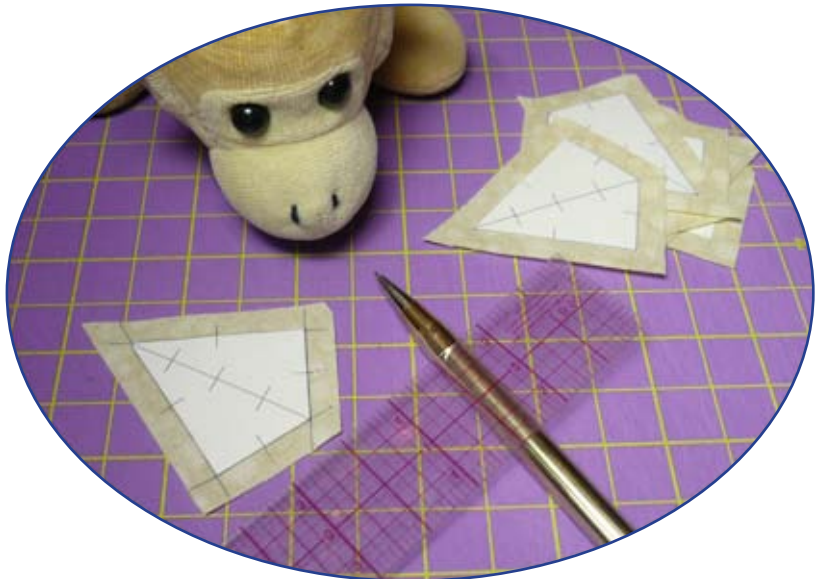


When the pieces nest together like this, you just need to make one cut to get two perfect seam allowances. Accurate & fast. Zip. Zip.

If you are using scissors, just cut down the middle between the shapes. Portable!

Marking the sewing lines manually is slower than printing with Inklingo but it is faster, more accurate and involves fewer steps than English Paper Piecing.

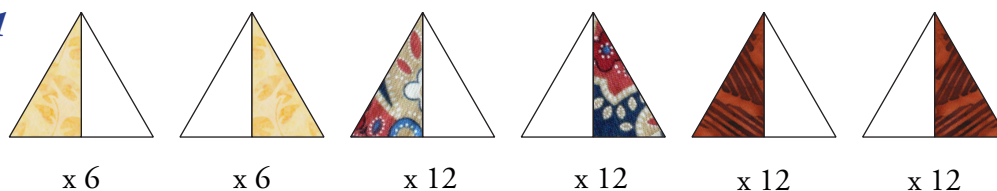
For machine piecing, marking the sewing lines and crosshairs is optional. You only need the lines if there are inset seams.



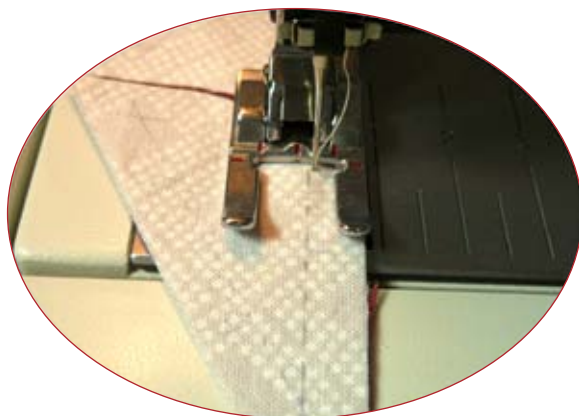
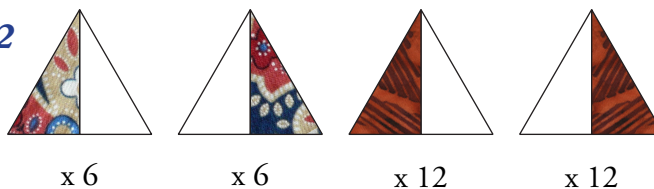
Mark the sewing lines with a light touch! We prefer to print these lines with Inklingo, of course, but when printing is not possible, we use a mechanical pencil and a thin, flexible ruler.

The ruler is just used as a straight edge, so the markings are not important but it should be thin, so it does not cast a shadow when you draw the sewing lines. Extend the sewing lines beyond the FP to create crosshairs to mark the seam endings, just like Inklingo.

Sewing Option 1

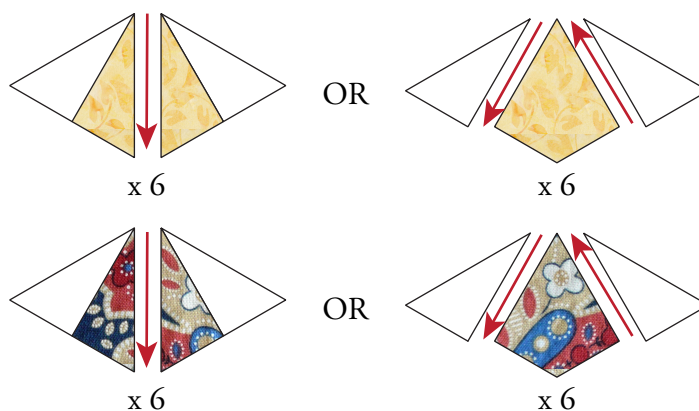
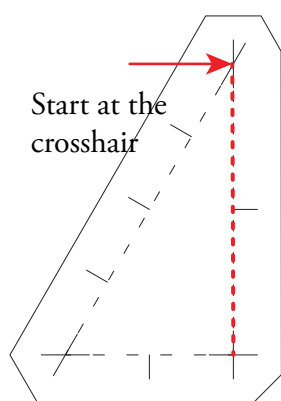


OR Sewing Option 2

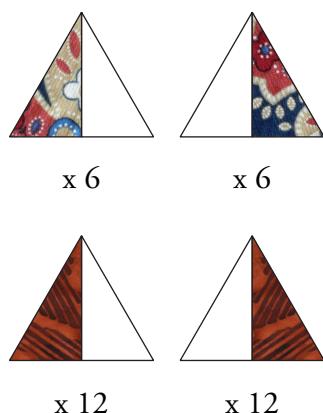


You can sew the triangles (above) by hand or by machine.

I recommend chain piecing all of the triangles by machine, edge to edge, but you can sew by hand (crosshair to crosshair, as usual), if you prefer.



I recommend piecing the last seam(s) in the diamonds by hand whether you use kites or triangle units because you don't want to sew beyond the crosshair at the point.



If you sew by hand, you can complete each diamond with one thread, turning the corner at the end of the first seam. "Continuous stitching" makes hand piecing a pleasure! (Video in Clue # 2.)

Whether you print all of the shapes or use freezer paper templates to cut kite shapes, when you finish Clue # 3, you will have 6 pieced diamonds with the focus fabric and 6 pieced diamonds with the gold setting fabric. With either option, you will also have 36 pieced triangles (left). Store them in the vault with your diamonds, unpressed, until the next clue!

Chue # 3

Use the "cheat sheet" below with the **Inklingo 60° Diamond 1.75 inch Shape Collection.**

This time, all of the shapes are "triangle half."

There are more **Print Checklists on the blog** too.



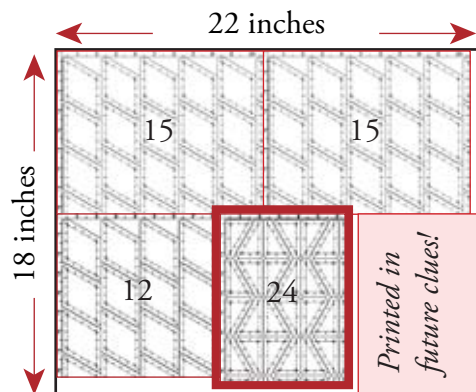
Print Checklist

- ✓ fabric washed
- ✓ FP ironed on right side of fabric
- ✓ pressed with a hot, dry iron on both sides
- ✓ no loose threads
- ✓ inserted to print on fabric side
- ✓ current page
- ✓ page scaling "none"
- ✓ custom size
- ✓ a glance at the Preview window
- ✓ click print



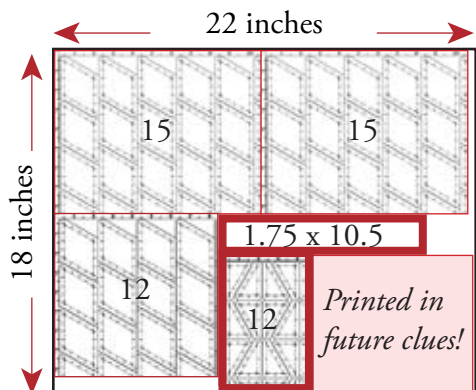
CASE OF THE DIAMOND NECKLACE

Fabric/Shape	Number Required	Suggested FP Size	Other FP Sizes?	Notes
<u>Focus fabric</u>				
tri half	24	6.5 x 8.75 P	p41	combo! 12 of each Ⓞ print 6 of each 4.5 x 6.75 P and use FP for 6 kites
<u>Jewel accent (Red)</u>				
tri half	24	6.5 x 8.75 P	p41	combo! 12 of each
<u>Platinum setting (White)</u>				
tri half	60	8.5 x 12.5 L 4.5 x 6.75 P	p41	combo! 30 of each
<u>Gold setting (Gold)</u>				
tri half	12	4.5 x 6.75 P	p41	combo! 6 of each Ⓞ no printing - use FP templates for 6 kites



Focus Fabric

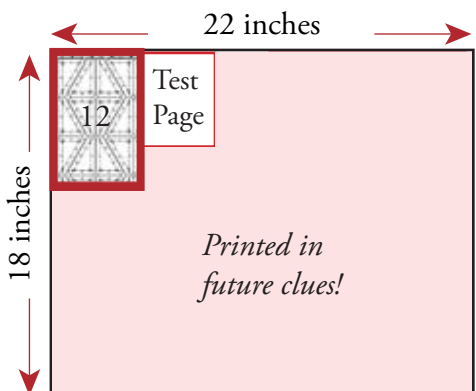
Triangle Half
12 of each
6.5 x 8.75
Portrait



OR

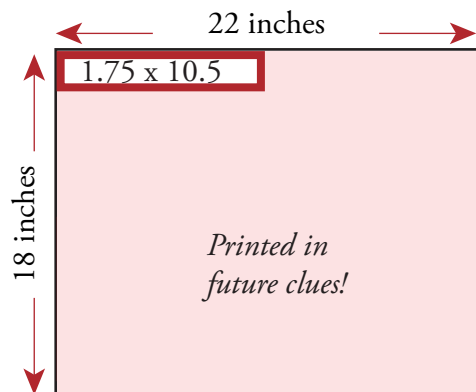
Triangle Half
6 of each
4.5 x 6.75
Portrait
and
use FP template to cut 6 kites
from a strip of fabric approximately
1.75 x 10.5 inches.

*The shapes outlined by the
red boxes are for Clue # 3.*



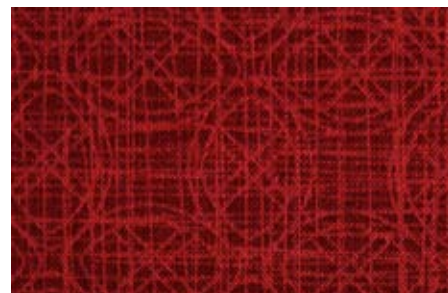
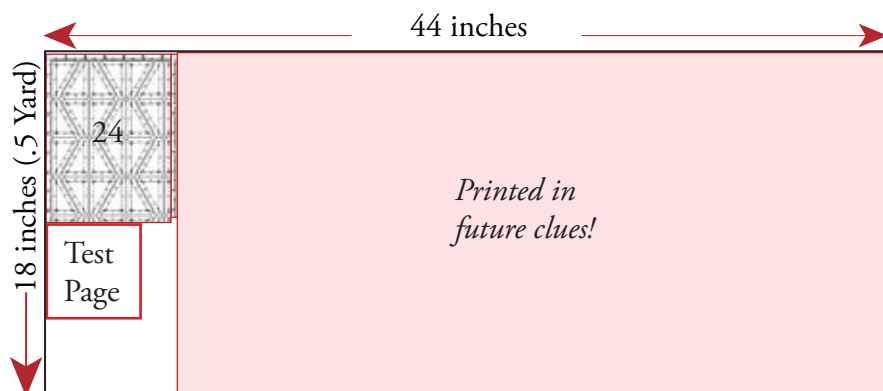
Gold Fabric

Triangle Half
6 of each
4.5 x 6.75
Portrait



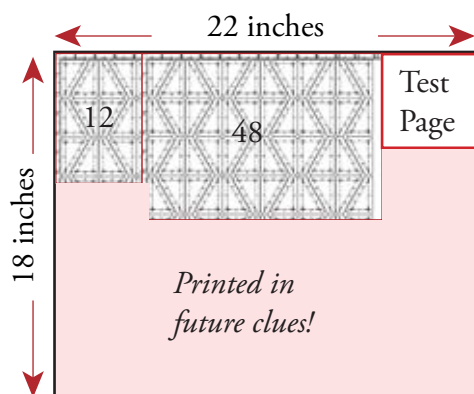
OR

No printing!
Use FP template to cut 6 kites
from a strip of fabric approximately
1.75 x 10.5 inches.



Jewel Fabric (Red)

Triangle Half
12 of each
6.5 x 8.75
Portrait



Platinum Setting (White)

Triangle Half
24 of each
8.5 x 12.5
Landscape
and
6 of each
4.5 x 6.75
Portrait

