

# clue #1



## *Welcome back to the Case of the Stranger in Margaritaville!*

It's time to dab a little sun tan lotion (or sun screen) behind your ears, mix a Margarita and head for Key West! Clue #1 is ready!

I hope you have had fun choosing four colors for your COTSIM quilt! A few quilters have posted photos of their choices on [Facebook](#) and in the [Inklingo Yahoo Group](#) and we would love to see yours too!

Part of the fun of The Case of the Stranger in Margaritaville is sharing your progress with other detectives. You can connect with other quilters online. This is not a race, so if you prefer, you can wait until you see a few clues before you take the case.

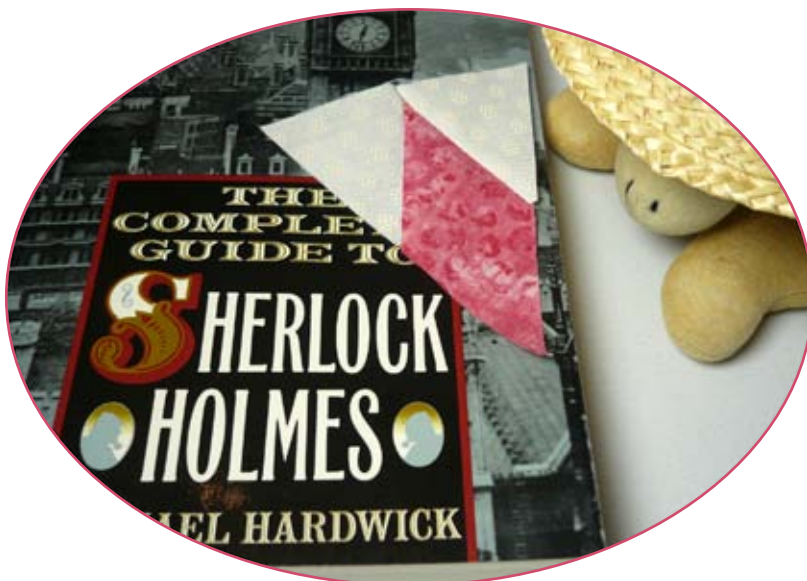
## *COTSIM Case File Notes*

One of the benefits of following the COTSIM mystery is that it takes the mystery out of the many resources on [inklingo.com](#) and the blog. (All green text is clickable.)

If you are new to Inklingo, you won't be a stranger in Margaritaville for long! We have cool leads and hot tips for you. It is great for beginners, so dive in, the water's fine.

I've been listening to [Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville](#) on YouTube while I print and sew. Do you have a favorite beach song or tropical sound track? With the right music, we can imagine ourselves in the islands, stitching with a view of sea and sky.

# inklingo



*The mystery is designed to teach Inklingo techniques for preparing fabric and sewing. Printing is the key!*

When I first got the idea for **Inklingo**, I knew quilters who printed labels or photos on fabric. They had to use specially treated fabric or chemicals because the ink would wash out or fade or bleed. Inkjet ink can make a terrible mess on fabric.

I could see how wonderful it would be to have the cutting and stitching lines on the fabric for hand and machine sewing, and that it would make quilting more accessible to beginners.

However, I needed to make sure the ink would not ruin the quilt. I knew the ink would not hurt the fabric if it was left in forever, but I wanted to be able to:

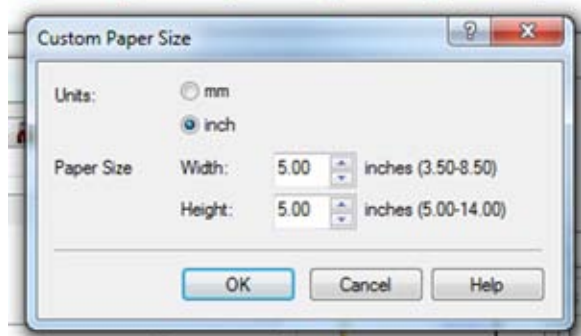
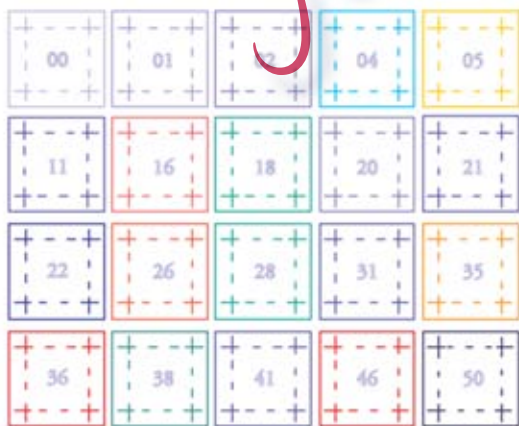
- be sure the ink would wash out, even after pressing
- use the printer and ink I already have
- have a choice of colors that would show on almost any fabric
- use fabric efficiently

There are three important things which made Inklingo possible, as described in the **Quick Start Guide**.

1. Test Pages (left)
2. Custom Page Sizes
3. Layouts of Shapes

*If you don't have enough fabric for a 5 x 5 inch Test swatch, please see the tips on page 36 of **The Inklingo Handbook** (page H36 of the free Diamond Triangle Square shape collection).*

These three concepts take all of the mystery out of Inklingo. When you understand these key ideas, you can do anything!



# Printing

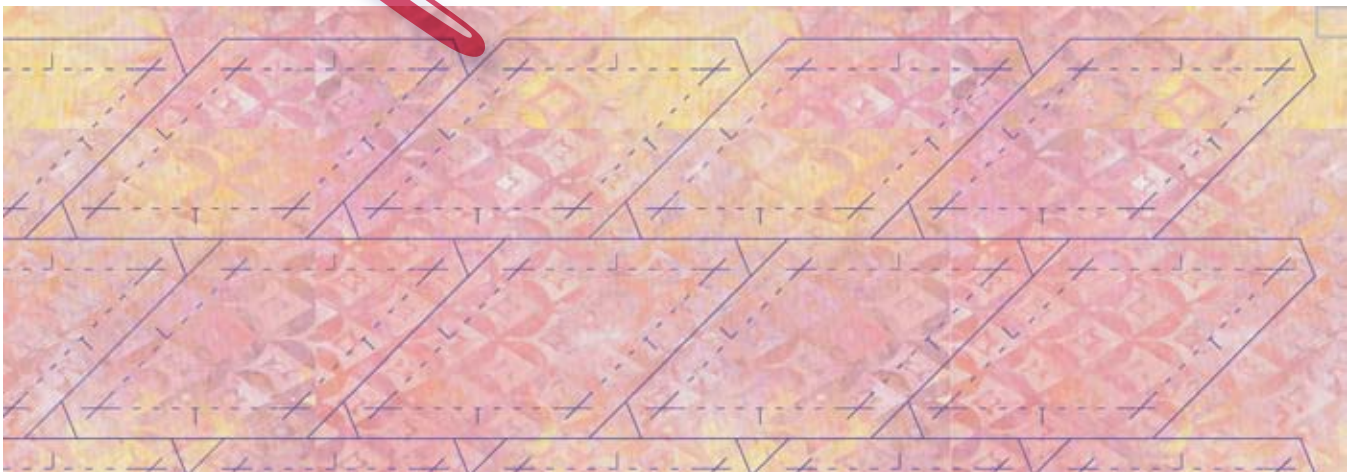


Have you printed on fabric yet? We have some great tips that will help you use fabric efficiently and jam-free!

- **How to test the ink in your printer (Test Pages)**  
(Very important evidence!)
- **How to print on fabric (Best Tips)**  
(Save time and fabric!)
- The first chapter of The Inklingo Handbook, pages H5 - H48 of the **FREE shape collection**. (Everything in one place.)

All of the shapes are printed from the **Key West Beauty 6 inch** shape collection which is at a special sale price for a limited time.

You only need to print 8 sheets of fabric for this clue, as described on the next page. You can use the FP over and over again. Label the FP with the size and set in a safe place because we will be using these sizes again.



Custom Page Sizes allow us to print exactly what we need without waste. 8 Diamonds can be printed on a scrap 3.75 x 11.25, as shown on page 23 of the Key West Beauty 6 inch shape collection.



# Clue # 1

## Important!

Use this chart with the Key West Beauty 6 inch shape collection and the layout diagrams on the following pages.

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



## inklingo CASE OF THE STRANGER IN MARGARITAVILLE

Fabric/Shape	Page	Suggested FP Size	Other FP Sizes?	Illustrated on Layout Diagram (next pages)	Notes
<u>White (SALT)</u>		custom size			
Combo 3	50	5.75 x 7.5P	p 51	1 sheet (4 HST, 8 small tri)	
Small Tri	30	8.5 x 10.75L	p 31	4 sheets <b>*landscape!!</b>	
<u>Pink (HIBISCUS)</u>				(consider**other layouts)	
Diamond A	22	7.25 x 13.5P	p 23	3 sheets (60 diamonds)	

### COMBO LAYOUTS

Combo 3 allows us to print 4 HST and 8 Small Triangles on one sheet of fabric instead of printing one sheet for HST and another sheet for Small Triangles.

**\*LANDSCAPE** If you print Portrait instead of Landscape, you will only get 30 Small Triangles instead of 32, so be careful! We always load the FP/fabric into the printer the same way but when we choose Landscape in the Print Dialog Box, the software rotates the image for us. Magic!

### \*\*CHOICE OF LAYOUTS

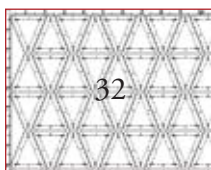
There are 3 other layouts for Diamonds, so you have a choice. If you are using scraps, stripes, or directional fabric, or if you will be using scissors, one of the other layouts might be better. They are described on pages 24, 26 and 28 and the Suggested Custom Page Sizes are on pages 25, 27, and 29.

### CUSTOM SIZES

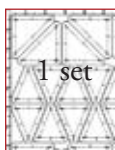
When you have printed one custom size, you are an expert!

# Clue # 1

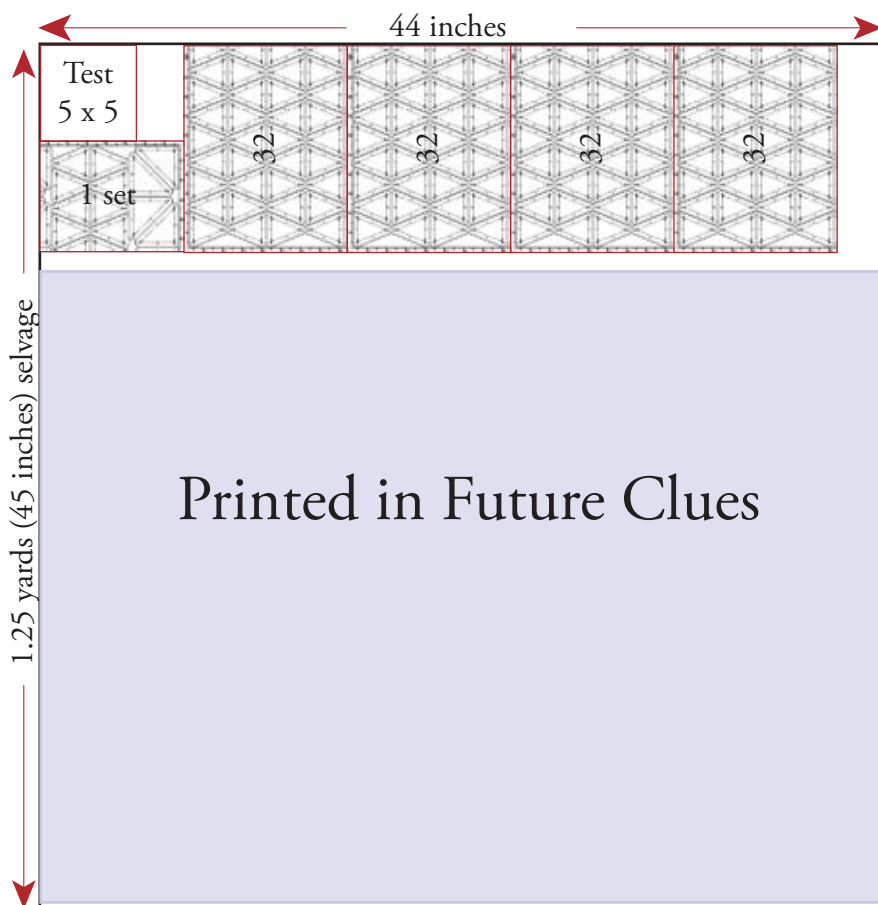
White "Salt" Fabric



8.5 x 10.75  
Landscape



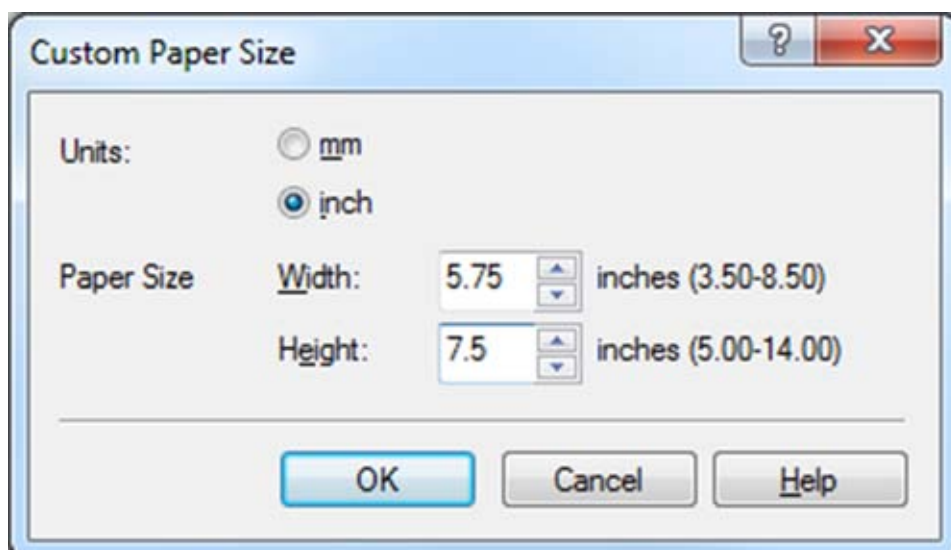
COMBO 3  
5.75 x 7.5  
Portrait



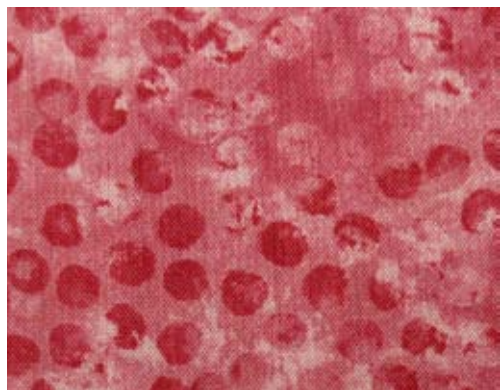
This diagram shows how to use the fabric most efficiently with the FP sizes shown in the Cheat Sheet (previous page).

There are other Custom Page Sizes for Small Triangles shown in the Catalogue of Shapes (page 31 of the shape collection), so you can use scraps from your stash instead of yardage.

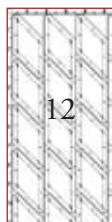
*Almost all ordinary Inkjet printers allow us to print Custom Page Sizes instead of letter size, so we can use the fabric efficiently. Look for the print dialog box where you can type the size you want, similar to this one. If you need help, there are illustrated instructions under the Support & Goodies tab on [inklingo.com](http://inklingo.com).*



## Pink "Hibiscus" Fabric



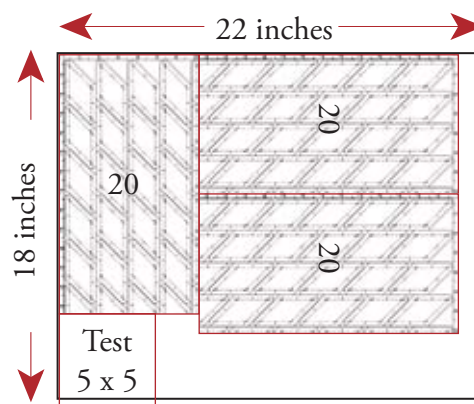
7.25 x 13.5  
Portrait



5.5 x 11.25  
Portrait

*There are more Suggested Custom Page Sizes for Diamonds on page 23 of the Key West Beauty 6 inch shape collection, so you can print exactly the number of shapes you need without waste.*

*Please see the [video for POTC on YouTube](#) and the [Top Ten Tutes](#) on the blog for details about fussy cutting.*



This diagram shows the 60 Diamonds required from a pink fat quarter (18 x 22 inches).

## Fussy Cutting/Fussy Printing (Optional)

I did not have enough of a fabric suitable for fussy cutting in my stash and the COTSIM quilt looks great even without fussy cutting.

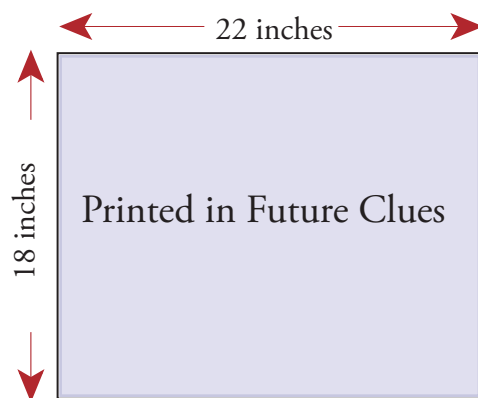
However, if you have enough fabric and haven't tried fussy cutting or fussy printing yet, these diamonds are a good opportunity. (None of the other shapes are suitable in this design.)

Fussy cutting requires more fabric but it can have a big impact. Instructions for **Fussy Cutting** are on the blog. I am not including detailed notes here because most quilters will not be fussy cutting the diamonds, but if you have questions, please ask!

**Traditional "Swiss Cheese" fussy cutting:** You can add interest to the COTSIM design by fussy cutting only 8 of the Diamonds. Print the shapes without seam allowances on freezer paper (page 400 of the shape collection), position the diamond templates over identical motifs in the fabric and add seam allowances when you cut. Draw sewing lines on the fabric manually with a mechanical pencil. (Shapes with pencil lines can be used with printed shapes.) If you fussy cut 8 Diamonds with FP templates, you will only need to print 52 diamonds. (2 sheets of 20 and 1 sheet of 12 Diamonds)

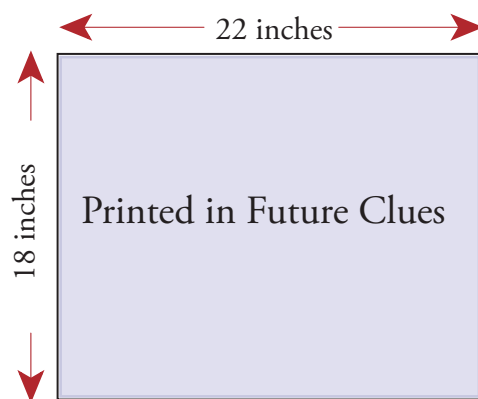
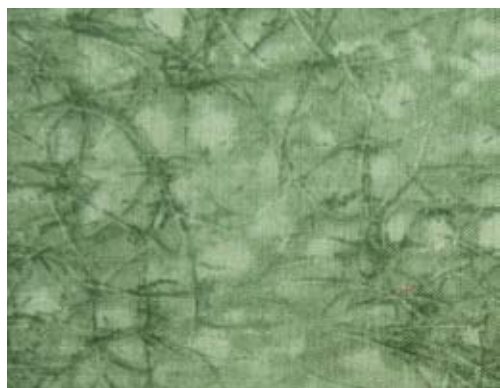
**Inklingo No Waste Fussy Cutting:** Print 5 identical sheets of 12 Diamonds. This is similar to Stack n Whack™ but without the stacking. When you rotary cut (page 15), stack identical rows to make it easy to sort the diamonds into sets of 5 identical diamonds.

*Blue "Sea & Sky" Fabric*

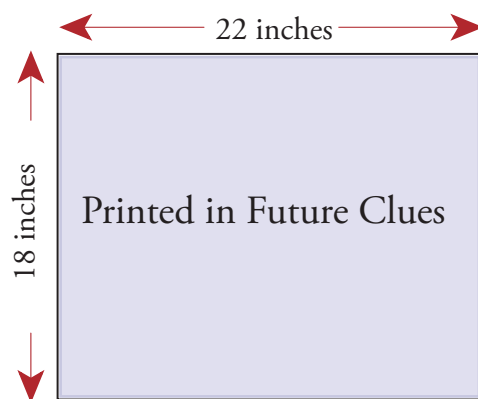


See the **Top Ten Tutes** on the **All About Inklingo** blog for printing on dark fabric.

*Green "Palm Tree" Fabric*



*Gold "Tequila" Fabric*





# cut



After printing, remove the freezer paper and put it in a safe place. You will need it again in a future clue.

1. Rotary cut the rows (single layer, above).
2. Stack 2, 3 or 4 identical rows with the cutting lines aligned. Check the lines at the edges (left). Rotary cut using a ruler as a straight edge. A fresh blade makes it a pleasure.
3. Trim some of the corners (illustration #1 next page) along the printed lines while the shapes are still stacked. Trimming some of the corners makes it even easier to align the shapes when you sew.

There is a video on [YouTube](#) called **Rotary Cutting with Inklingo**. It shows cutting several layers of **POTC hexagons** at a time.

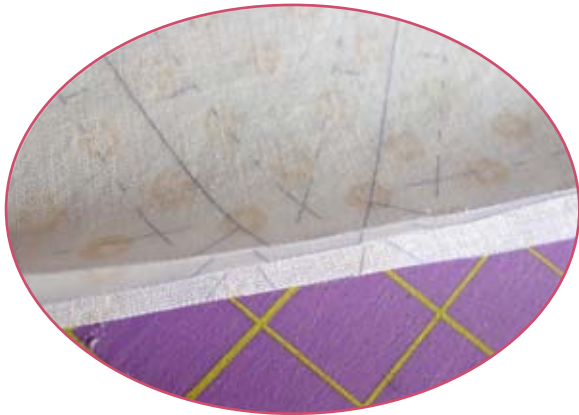
Isn't it nice just to cut on the lines? No measuring. No templates! Plus, you can use scissors if you need a relaxing portable project.

It is fast and easy to rotary cut several layers at a time but you can use scissors, if you prefer.

### *Love the Lines, Quilt More!*

Put 16 Small Triangles and the 4 HST in a safe place, so you won't need a search party to find them later.

Sew 60 pink Diamonds and 120 Small Triangles into these triangle units, by hand or by machine following the steps on the next page.



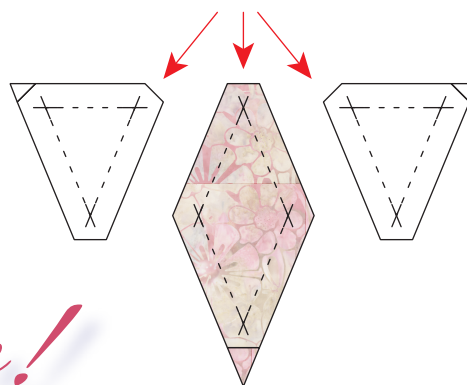
*Stack the rows to cut 3 or 4 layers at a time.*



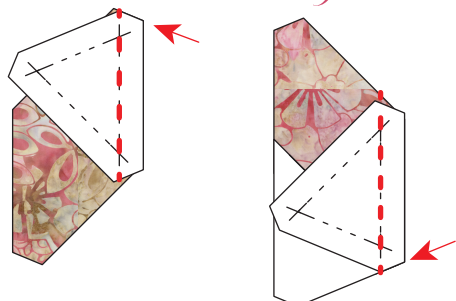


There are one-page sewing guides for hand and machine piecing in the Key West 6 inch shape collection (pages 10-11).

## 1. TRIM SOME CORNERS



## 2. ANGLES MATCH

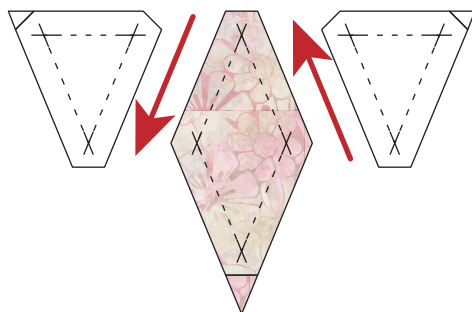


*Sew!*

## HAND OR MACHINE

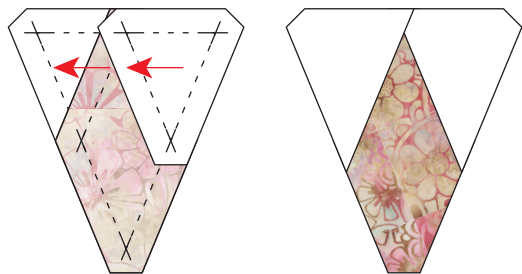
## 3. MACHINE PIECE . .

Sew one triangle onto each of 60 diamonds, press away from the diamond and add the second triangle.



## . . . OR HAND PIECE

Sew the first seam and then turn the corner to add the second triangle with "continuous stitching."



## 4. PRESS

MAKE 60

One of the wonderful things about having the cutting and stitching lines printed on the fabric is that you can sew by hand when you need a portable project and sew by machine at home. I sewed some of my COTSIM by hand and some by machine.

### The same by hand and by machine:

1. Stack the Small Triangles and Diamonds and trim some of the corners with a rotary cutter (above). Lay the pieces out wrong side up in position, as shown.
2. Notice how the trimmed angles match up when you are sewing (arrows, top left). My sewing machine has a walking foot, so I did not need to pin. I use two needles instead of pins when I hand piece. If you are new to hand piecing, [Quilted Diamonds 2](#) includes a 2-hour lesson on DVD. There is also a [video on YouTube](#) for a quick review.
3. Sew all seams with a "scant" quarter inch seam allowance. That means sewing immediately beside the line in the seam allowance, not on the line.
4. Press seams as shown with a hot, dry iron. Finish pressing from the front to avoid tucks. Lift and lower the iron. Be careful not to stretch the bias edges.

### Different:

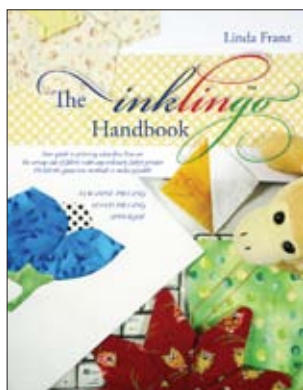
By machine, chain piece edge to edge. By hand, just sew from crosshair to crosshair and turn a corner at the end of the first seam to begin the second seam for "continuous stitching." There are detailed instructions in [The Inklingo Handbook](#).



*Monkey has left a trail for you.*



*I wear a finger pincushion at the sewing machine too.*



*The Inklingo Handbook includes chapters on hand piecing and machine piecing. There are also free videos on YouTube showing my favorite techniques by hand and by machine.*



### ***Fingerprints Finger Pincushions***

Monkey has as a suggestion to make the sewing even more fun. He says you are probably going to want a finger pincushion whether you sew the mystery quilt by machine or by hand.

It's not a deep dark secret that hand piecers love these pincushions, but many quilters don't realize how handy they are at the machine. They are great gifts for friends too.

Monkey has undercover video which gives away all our secrets. It involves a gun (glue) and it would be criminal not to follow the trail to his 80 second exposé on **YouTube**. (It's fine to tell your friends. Go ahead. Sometimes being an informant is a good thing.)

### ***Questions?***

If you have any questions as you go along, please ask!

**Inklingo Yahoo Group** (very friendly)  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Inklingo/>

**Linda@lindafranz.com** (also friendly)

If additional evidence, plot twists, or surveillance videos are uncovered, they will be on the **All About Inklingo** blog before the next clue is announced. It is a good idea for quilting detectives to subscribe to the blog, so they are sure to witness everything!