

clue #2

Love the lines! Quilt more!



About Sewing with Inklingo

The COTSIM mystery is designed to teach some fun Inklingo techniques. One of the wonderful things about Inklingo is that we can sew by hand OR by machine OR combine both in one quilt.

The story of Inklingo would not have been possible if I had not been a hand piecer. As a quilting teacher and author, I was part of a small segment of the quilting industry which promoted traditional methods.

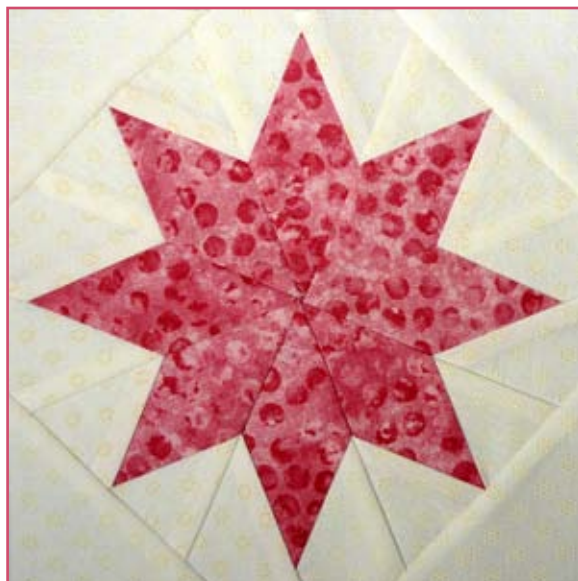
It may seem ironic to some that a digital solution was motivated by the most low-tech sewing method.

To others, it may seem ironic that a hi-tech method actually returns us to our traditional roots, before paper piecing, acrylic templates/ rulers, and other innovations. Thanks to Inklingo, quilters have lines on the fabric to guide the cutting and sewing, just like our quilting ancestors, and can cut with scissors *or* a rotary cutter.

It is my opinion that Inklingo was never going to be invented by a machine piecer. Since the introduction of the rotary cutter, quilters have been taught to sew by machine *without* the benefit of lines on the fabric.

Many techniques and tools have been designed to compensate for the lack of guidelines for machine piecing. However, the popularity of paper piecing makes it clear that quilters still prefer to have a line. Quilters are willing to sew though paper instead of fabric, persist with the waste and confusion, and pick paper off afterwards, all because they love cutting and sewing along a line.

Inklingo gives us the lines—without the paper.



Monkey thinks it is mysterious that none of the blocks in this clue are Key West Beauty! The shapes are cleverly disguised. (In other words, they are very versatile.) See the free Key West Beauty Electric Quilt project file on the blog for examples.

This week you will sew your first block and print more fabric. You can chain sew by machine or hand sew while you watch TV—or a little of both—using the leads on the next few pages.

1. Sew 8 of the triangle units from Clue #1 into a star and add Half Square Triangles (HST) for the corners (above).
2. Print some of the white, blue, and gold fabric.
3. Catch up on printing and cutting from Clue #1, if necessary.
4. Cut out all of the shapes that have been printed so far. Watch the surveillance [video on YouTube](#). You'll detect some "short cuts."
5. Set up a portable sewing kit (optional). This is perfect for sleuths who are on stake-outs in doctor's waiting rooms or at ballet lessons or hockey practice. You can do a lot of sewing in found time.
6. If you want to get a head start on the next clue, you can also sew sets of 5 of the triangle units from Clue #1 into four more partial blocks.

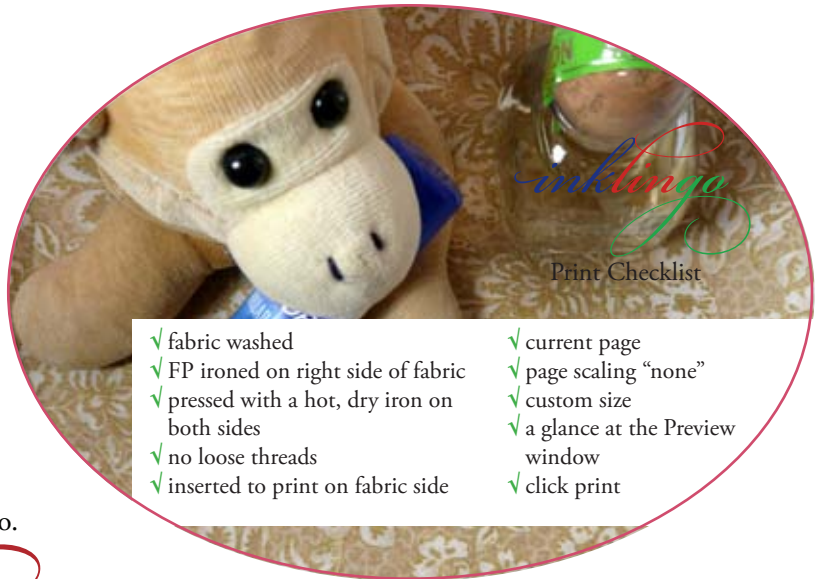
All of the shapes are printed from the [Key West Beauty 6 inch shape collection](#), which is still on sale for only \$20. It will be \$25 starting on Monday February 8, 2016.

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Important!

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

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



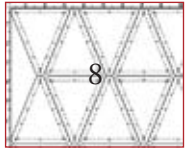
CASE OF THE STRANGER IN MARGARITAVILLE

Fabric/Shape	Page	Suggested FP Size <i>custom size</i>	Other FP Sizes?	Illustrated on Layout Diagram (next pages)	Notes
<u>White (SALT)</u>					
36 Large Tri	32	7.5 x 9.25 L	p 33	4 sheets of 8	landscape!
		4 x 9.25 L	p 33	1 sheet of 4	landscape!
<u>Blue (SEA & SKY)</u>					
20 HSTA	34	5.75 x 11.25 P	p 35	1 sheet of 16	
		3.25 x 6 P		1 sheet of 4	
8 Large Tri	32	7.5 x 9.25 L	p 33	1 sheet of 8	landscape!
8 Diamond A	22	3.75 x 11.25 P	p 23	1 sheet of 8	
<u>Gold (TEQUILA)</u>					
8 Large Tri	32	7.5 x 9.25 L	p 33	1 sheet of 8	landscape!

Always check the Print Preview screen in the Print Dialog Box before you click to print. In this clue, you will need to select "landscape" a few times.

Clue # 2

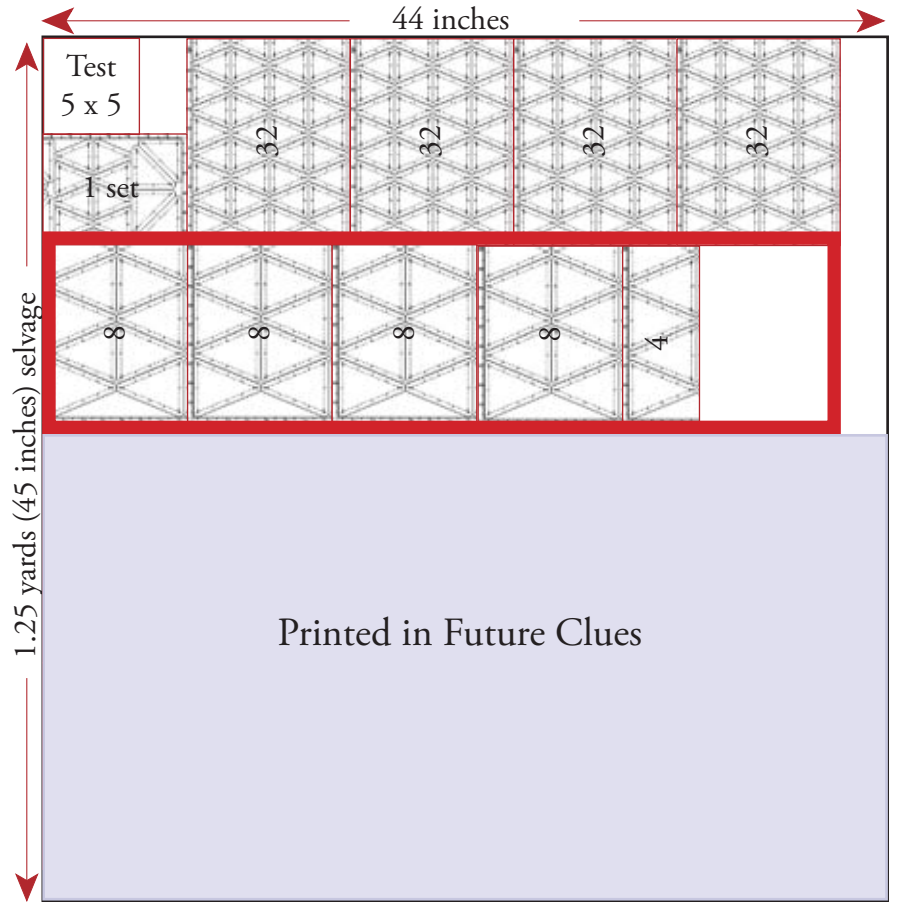
White "Salt" Fabric



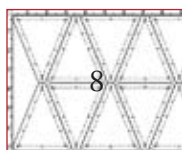
7.5 x 9.25
Landscape



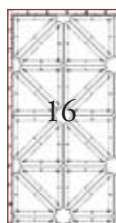
4 x 9.25
Landscape



Blue "Sea & Sky" Fabric



7.5 x 9.25
Landscape



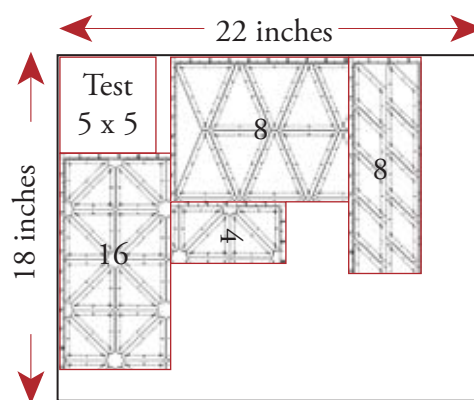
5.75 x 11.25
Portrait



3.75 x 11.25
Portrait

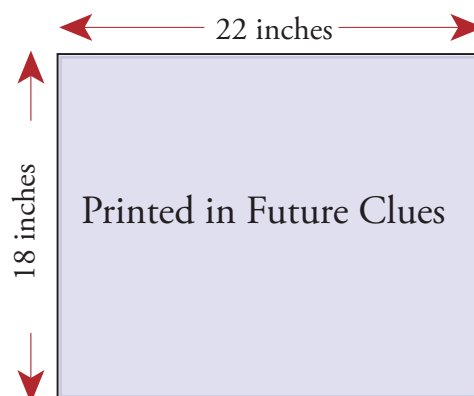
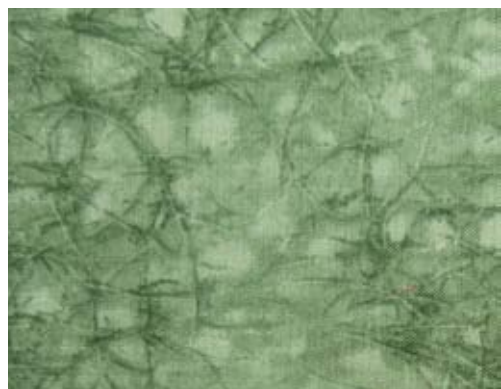


3.25 x 6
Portrait

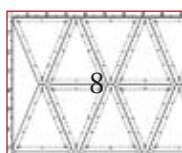


See the [Top Ten Tutes](#) on the [All About Inkingo](#) blog for printing on dark fabric.

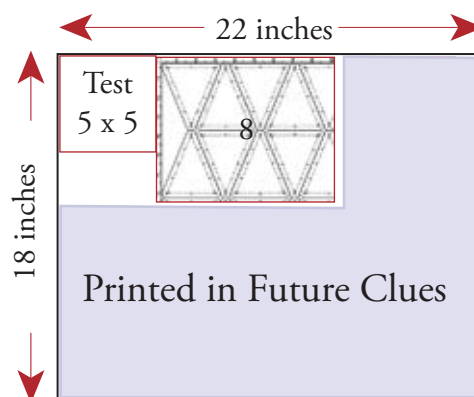
Green "Palm Tree" Fabric



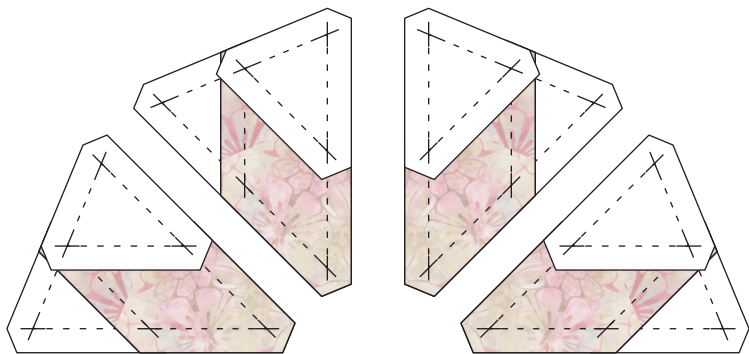
Gold "Tequila" Fabric



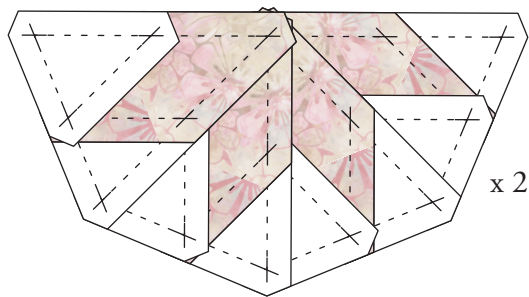
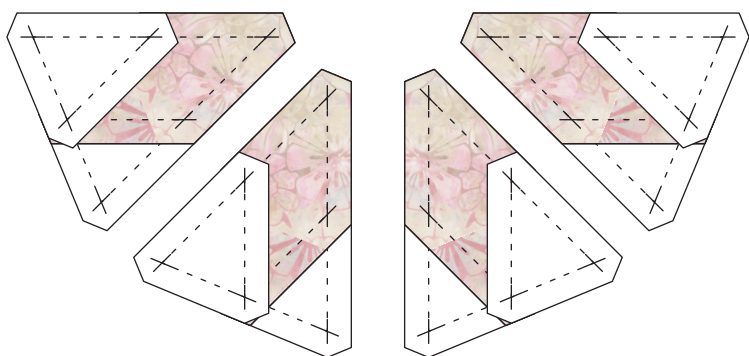
7.5 x 9.25
Landscape



by machine



Lay out 8 triangle units from Clue #1 wrong side up in position.



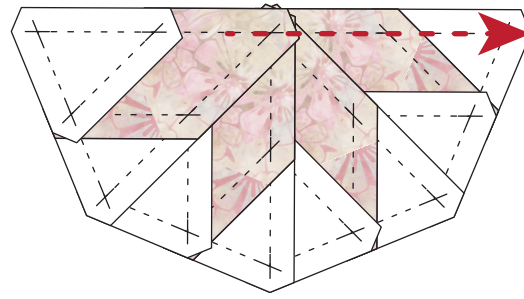
Sew 2 star halves. The pressing technique from Clue #1 ensures that the intersections will nest to make it easy to get perfect points.

TIP Normally when we machine piece we sew edge to edge. However, if you start at the crosshair at the diamond point (not the edge), it will be easier to press the center intersection to reduce the bulk. This is optional. It will still work if you sew edge to edge.

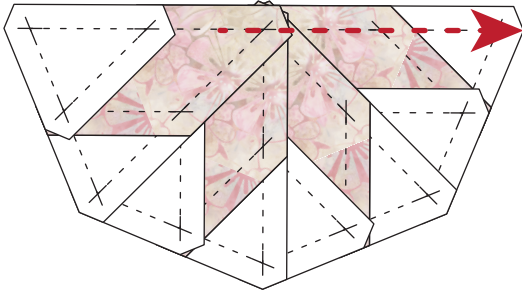
The two star halves will be identical with all of the seams pressed counterclockwise around the center.



2A



2B



The center seam is sewn in two parts. (This is similar to the way we machine piece LeMoyne Stars [on blog](#).)

Pin at the end of the seam, but not at the center intersection. The seams at the center will nest together and your fingers will tell you when the center feels tight.

2A - Start sewing about 0.25 inch before the center (no backstitch) and sew to the edge (above).

Take a peek before you sew 2B. If you nested the seams so they butt up against each other, the center will look perfect. If not, rip a few stitches and re-position so the seams do butt against each other.

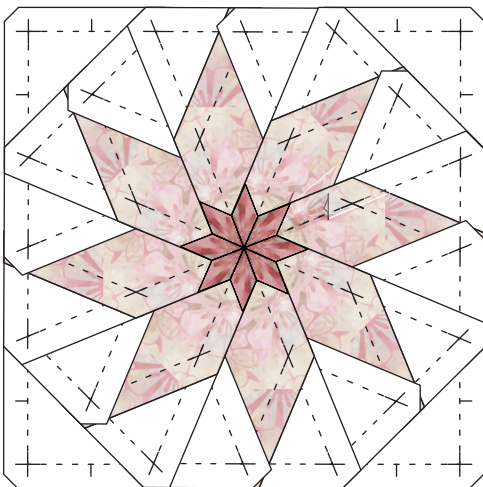
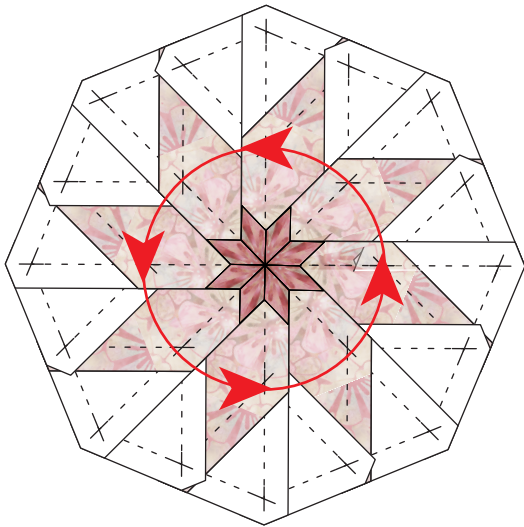
When you are satisfied with the center intersection, turn the pieces over so you can sew 2B, the last half of the center seam.

2B - Start sewing about 0.25 inch before the center (no backstitch) and sew to the edge. (This is exactly the same as 2A.) The stitching overlaps in the center, so it is secure without backstitching.

Release a few stitches to let the center open up in a little star (left). It doesn't have to be a perfect star. Just distribute the bulk around the intersection the best you can.

3. Add 4 Half Square Triangles (HST) to form the corners of the block and press the seam allowances toward the triangles. Remember to sew a scant 0.25 inch seam allowance, so the point of the diamonds are not blunted.

TIP You might prefer to sew the center seam by hand, so you can "circle the intersection" to get a perfect, tight intersection. See the hand piecing notes on page 26.



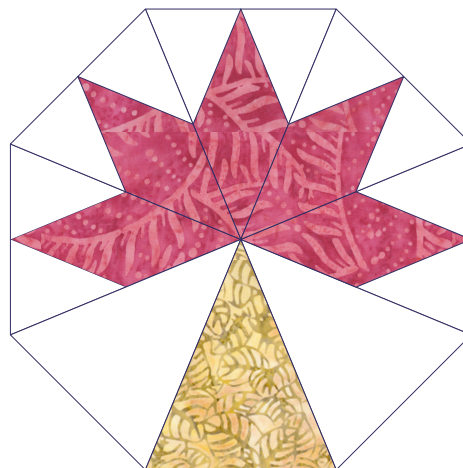


NOTE ABOUT FUSSY CUTTING

If you fussy cut sets of 5 identical diamonds in Clue #1, use 4 from one set with 4 from another set for the 8-pointed star. This is a very useful approach when you do not have enough fabric to fussy cut ALL of the shapes identically for 8- or 10-pointed stars. You can get some spectacular effects with the right fabric. There will be one diamond/triangle unit left over from each set to be used elsewhere in the quilt.

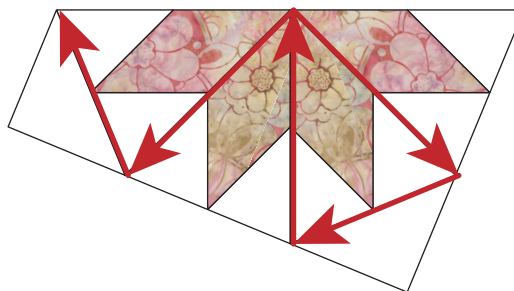
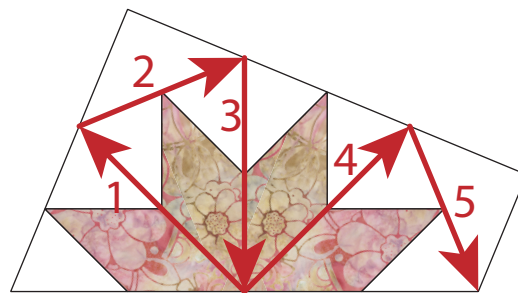


Fussy Cutting is one of the Top Ten Tutes on the All About Inklingo blog. There are two methods: traditional "Swiss Cheese" and Inklingo No Waste Fussy Cutting.



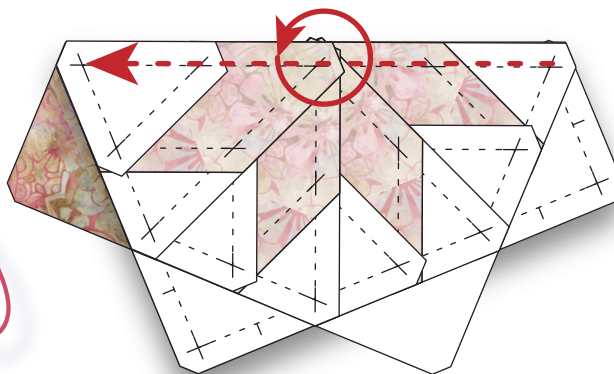
4 MORE PARTIAL BLOCKS!

If you would like to get a head start on the next clues, use the same machine or hand piecing technique to sew 4 partial blocks like these. We will add the corners later. This will allow you to perfect your technique for the center intersection!



Lay out 8 triangle units from Clue #1 with the HST corners, so you can sew continuously without breaking the thread. I have marked one possible route with red arrows.

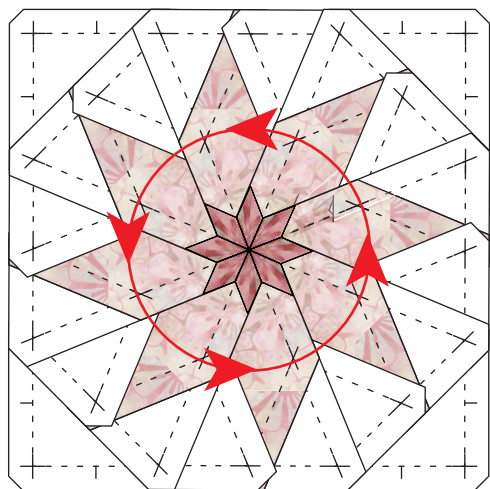
This is slightly different from the machine piecing instructions because I do not wait until the end to add the corner triangles. This sewing sequence gives me more continuous stitching.



VIDEO

The videos for Kaleidoscope Star on YouTube show how to hand piece a six-pointed star. There are detailed close-up sequences for continuous stitching (**Part 1**) and circling the intersection (**Part 2**). The same technique works for 8-pointed stars.

Whether you sew by hand or by machine, the blocks are pressed the same with all of the seam allowances pressed counter-clockwise around the center of the block. This makes the next steps easier.



Bits Sewing



If you will be sewing some of the clues by hand, you may want to prepare a portable kit. There are many options!

Finger Pincushion for hand or machine sewing.
<http://www.lindafranz.com/blog/how-to-make-finger-pincushions/>

Eyeglass Case
<http://www.lindafranz.com/blog/a-beauty-of-a-portable-sewing-kit/>

Smartlap Portable Desk
<http://www.lindafranz.com/blog/summer-sewing-kit-for-inklingo/>

Portable Sewing Surface
<http://www.lindafranz.com/blog/portable-sewing-desk/>

