

back to nature leaf block



materials

All yardage is based on 42" width of fabric.

NOTE: Fabric requirements for the block are based on pre-cutting all fabric using the dimensions in the supplied cutting charts. Depending on your paper-piecing skills, you may use more or less fabric.

Fabric listed below makes one unfinished block measuring approximately 6½" x 6½".

Leaf Fabric 1	approximately 3" x 12"
Leaf Fabric 2	approximately 3" x 12"
Background	approximately Fat Eighth or equivalent

Special tools

- paper scissors or rotary cutter (to cut out templates)
- *optional*—Pacoin Plain 8½" x 11" Newsprint (my favorite instead of copy paper) for printing paper templates, makes removing paper easier!
- *optional*—Water-soluble fabric glue stick
- *optional*—CottageCutz Add-a-Quarter Ruler (12" or larger)



This pattern requires foundation paper piecing (FPP) techniques. General FPP knowledge is assumed.

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directions

All seams are 1/4". Backstitch or stitch in place at the beginning and end of every seam.

preparation

Print the **Pattern Page** at 100% or "Actual Size" on plain basic copy paper.

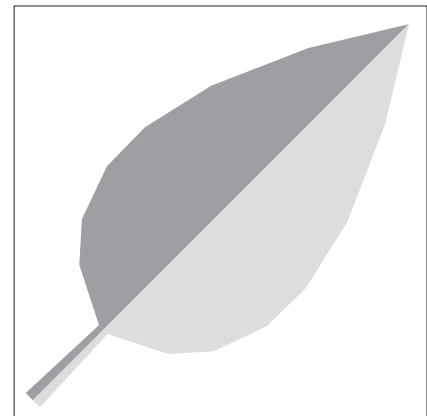
After printing, measure the 1" test box to confirm it is exactly one inch. Cut out each piece on the outer, thinner lines—a dedicated paper rotary cutter is perfect for this.

cutting instructions

Depending on your FPP skills, you may use less fabric than the pattern calls for. If you are new to paper piecing, I recommend pre-cutting a few pieces of fabric (start piecing numerically) before cutting all of your fabric using the foundation paper piecing fabric cutting chart below. Fabric pieces listed are about 3/4" larger than the shape being covered. You may want to cut your pieces larger. If you are an experienced foundation paper piecer, you may find other ways to cut your fabric that are more efficient.

foundation paper piecing fabric cutting chart

fabric	use	size	quantity
● Leaf Fabric 1	A1	2 3/4" x 7 3/4"	1
	C1	1" x 2 1/2"	1
● Leaf Fabric 2	B1	2 3/4" x 7 3/4"	1
	C2	1" x 2 1/2"	1
○ Background	A8, B8	2 3/4" x 8"	2
	C3, C4	2 1/2" x 3"	2
	A7, B7	1 1/2" x 5 3/4"	2
	A6, B6	1 1/2" x 4 1/2"	2
	A5, B5	1 1/2" x 3 1/2"	2
	A4, B4	1 1/2" x 3"	2
	C5	1 1/2" x 2 1/4"	1
	A3, B3	1 1/4" x 2 1/4"	2
	A2, B2	1 1/4" x 2"	2



Orientation: looking at FRONT (fabric side)

BE SURE TO LABEL PIECES AS YOU CUT!

getting organized

Organize paper pieces according to *Diagram 1*.

making the block

1. Foundation piece **paper pieces A–C**. Once all of the paper pieces are complete, trim the overall fabric at outer edge of paper. Refer to the “General Foundation Paper Piecing Tips” checklist at the end of the pattern.

The Leaf sections are shaded. The Background is unshaded.

2. Arrange and sew **A** and **B** as shown in *Diagram 2*. Using the positioning pinning technique (described in supplied “General Foundation Paper Piecing Tips” checklist), align the dots on the paper pieces when joining to help achieve precise alignments. **If there is no dot to match up, you'll use it to align seams in the next step.** Press towards B.

3. Arrange and sew **A/B** and **C** as shown in *Diagram 3* to complete the block, measuring approximately 6½" x 6½". Press towards C.

4. Remove the paper. Here are a few tips:

- Be patient.
- A pair of tweezers makes it easier to get to the smaller pieces of paper.
- Once all of the paper is removed, give the block another good press.

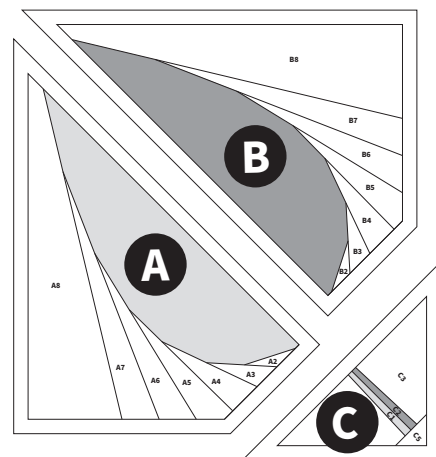


Diagram 1
Orientation for ALL diagrams throughout pattern:
looking at BACK (paper side)

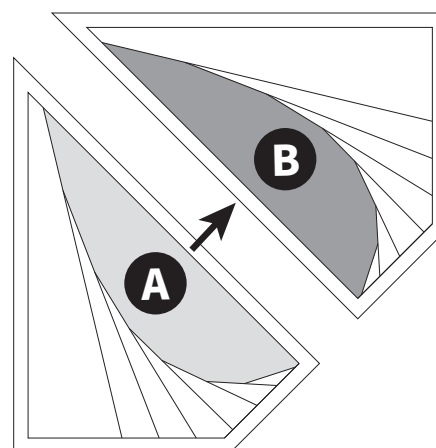


Diagram 2

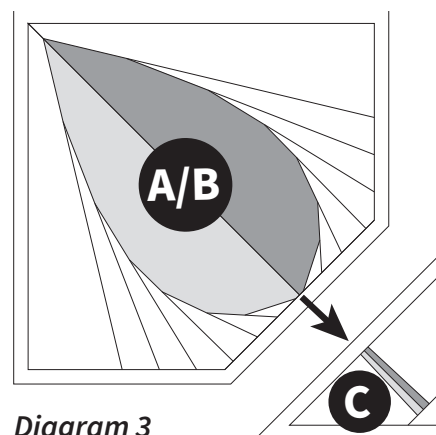
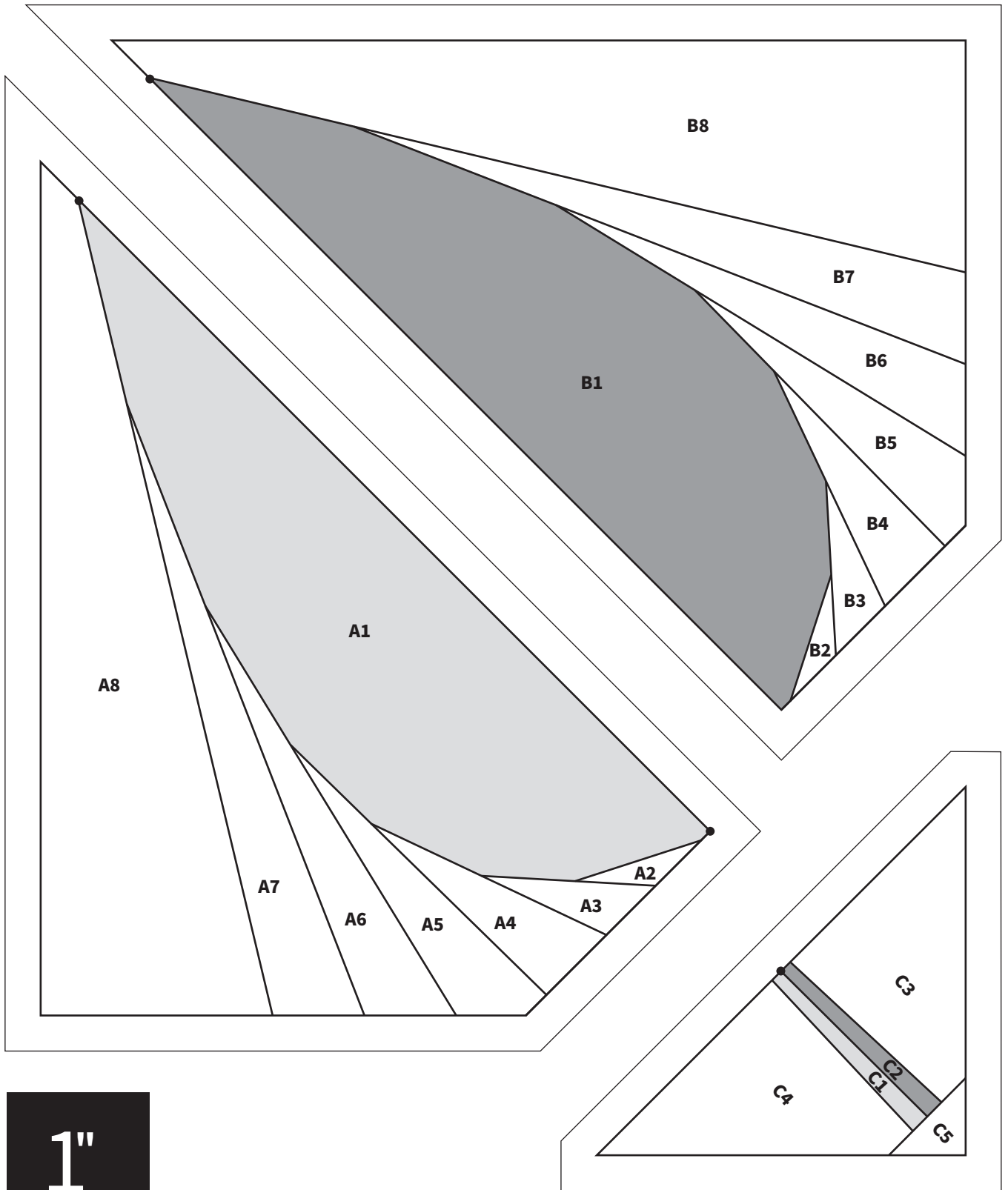


Diagram 3





General Foundation Paper Piecing Tips

- Copy or print patterns at 100% or “Actual Size”. If you only have paper copies of the pattern, never use your original—make copies!
- After printing, always measure the 1" test box on each page to confirm it is exactly one inch. Cut out each piece on the outer, thinner lines—a dedicated paper rotary cutter is perfect for this. You will need 1 piece of pattern for every block you’re going to make.
- When selecting fabrics, keep in mind that when paper piecing, using solids is easier than using prints. With solids, you don’t have to worry about which side the fabric is facing/oriented.
- I typically cut fabric pieces about $\frac{3}{4}$ " larger (even bigger if it’s a complicated shape) than the area I’m covering. When in doubt, cut larger—it will save your sanity. You will waste fabric (especially in the beginning).
- You may find it helpful to use a water-soluble fabric glue stick to attach the fabric to the first section of each paper piece.
- Reduce your stitch length to 1.5. This shortened stitch length will make it easier to remove paper at the end.
- I like to match my thread, or select a neutral, to one of the colors of the fabrics I am sewing.
- After adding each piece, trim the seam allowance to $\frac{1}{4}$ " (the optional “Add a Quarter” ruler is handy for this) and press the seam toward the piece you just added.
- Have your seam ripper handy and be prepared to use it! Even the most experienced paper piecers will need one at times.
- Never use an iron to press on the paper side of the pattern. The ink from the printing will transfer to your iron.
- I make sure critical seams align by pushing a straight pin through the points that need to be matched—this technique is called **positioning pinning**. I find that I rarely get the points aligned on the first try. Adjust the pin until they do match, then with two other pins secure the pieces together to the right and left of your positioning pin. Be sure to remove the positioning pin before sewing.
- When you’re done foundation paper piecing, don’t forget to change the needle on your sewing machine so that you’re ready for quilting or your next project—sewing through paper dulls your needle.

**Just walk away when you’re making a bunch of mistakes.
Paper piecing requires more brain power than traditional piecing.
It gets easier with practice!**

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