

# WEEK 4 - A SNOWFLAKE

## Multi-Unit Piecing

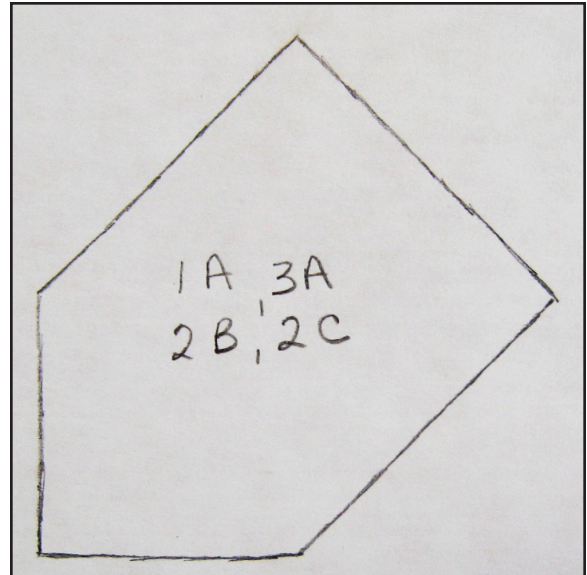


This block is in 3 units, so we will be doing some chain sewing. Note that the Locations are numbered so that for assembly the seams will be going in opposite directions.

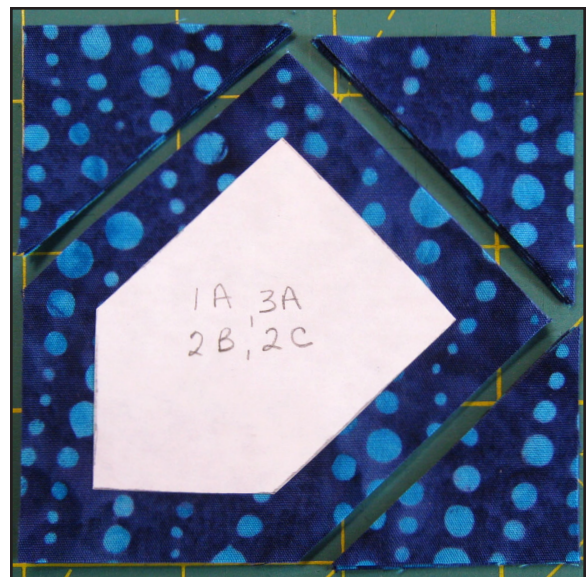
## CUTTING FABRIC PIECES

1. Refer to the Cutting List on Page 6 to cut the fabric pieces. I fussy cut the square for the center. You can do this by cutting a square the finished size from clear template plastic, center over the motif, and cut out by adding a seam allowance using the  $\frac{3}{8}$ " line on the ruler. Or you could use a clear adhesive label. I just used a ruler, cut the fabric close to size, found my center point and squared it up. There are also specialty rulers made for fussy cutting.

2. For Locations #1A, 3A, 2B, and 2C you will need to make a template from freezer paper or an adhesive label. If you use an adhesive label, place it on a window to trace. You may not be able to see the lines with a light box. I used an adhesive label.



3. Layer the 4 same size pieces and cut away excess fabric over  $\frac{3}{8}$ ". You can guess at the  $\frac{3}{8}$ " on the 2 straight grain short sides. It's better to be a little more than less. The triangle cut-offs are perfect for miniature blocks. They will make  $\frac{1}{2}$ " finished triangles.



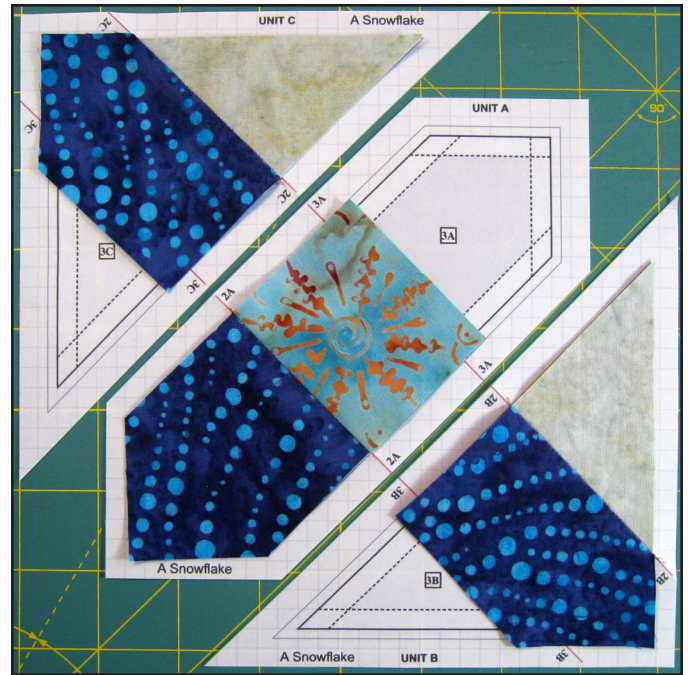


# PIECING THE BLOCK

1. If you would like to see what the finished block is going to look like, lay out the pieces on a flat surface or design wall. This also gives you a chance to change your mind on a fabric or to rearrange the fabrics in a more uniform position. When making multiple blocks, I usually make an oversized template and place stacks of fabric at each location in the order needed. After sewing, trimming, and pressing the first 2 pieces for each block, make sure the fabrics are still in the same order with the first one on top. Keeping a label on the first one will help. You don't want to be sewing from the bottom of the stack and having all of your pieces sewn to the wrong block.

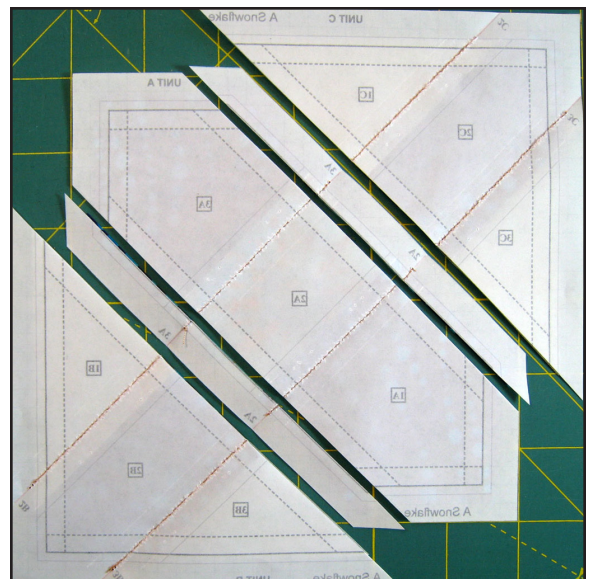


2. Make sure the fussy cut piece is positioned correctly since it is not in Location #1. Prepare all 3 units for chain sewing. Two pins are better than one when working with fussy cut pieces and angles.



3 seams sewn and 3 to go. Then only 2 more seams for assembly. This block goes pretty fast when chain sewing.

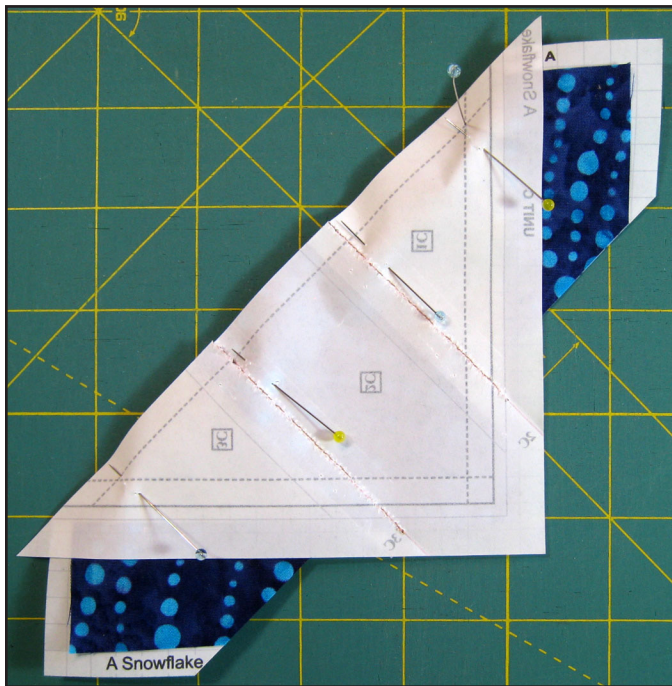
3. When I'm making multi-unit blocks, I sometimes don't trim the outside edges until after the units are assembled.



You might notice that when the 45° diagonal seam is trimmed, the black line is completely trimmed away with sometimes a sliver of white. That's because 1/4" seams drawn on a 3/8" diagonal are slightly over 1/4".

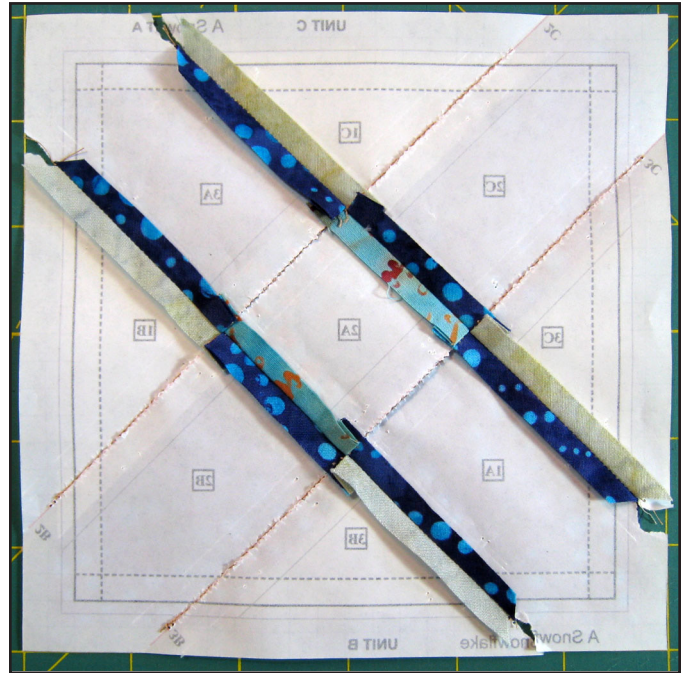


4. To assemble units, line up seams and raw edges and pin. I place a pin through both pieces where seams intersect at both ends before pinning, then remove the pin. Pinning intersections on both sides of the seam may give more accurate alignment. I did that on the second seam but forgot to take a picture. On longer seams, put pins parallel along the seamline between the intersections, making sure the lines match front to back.



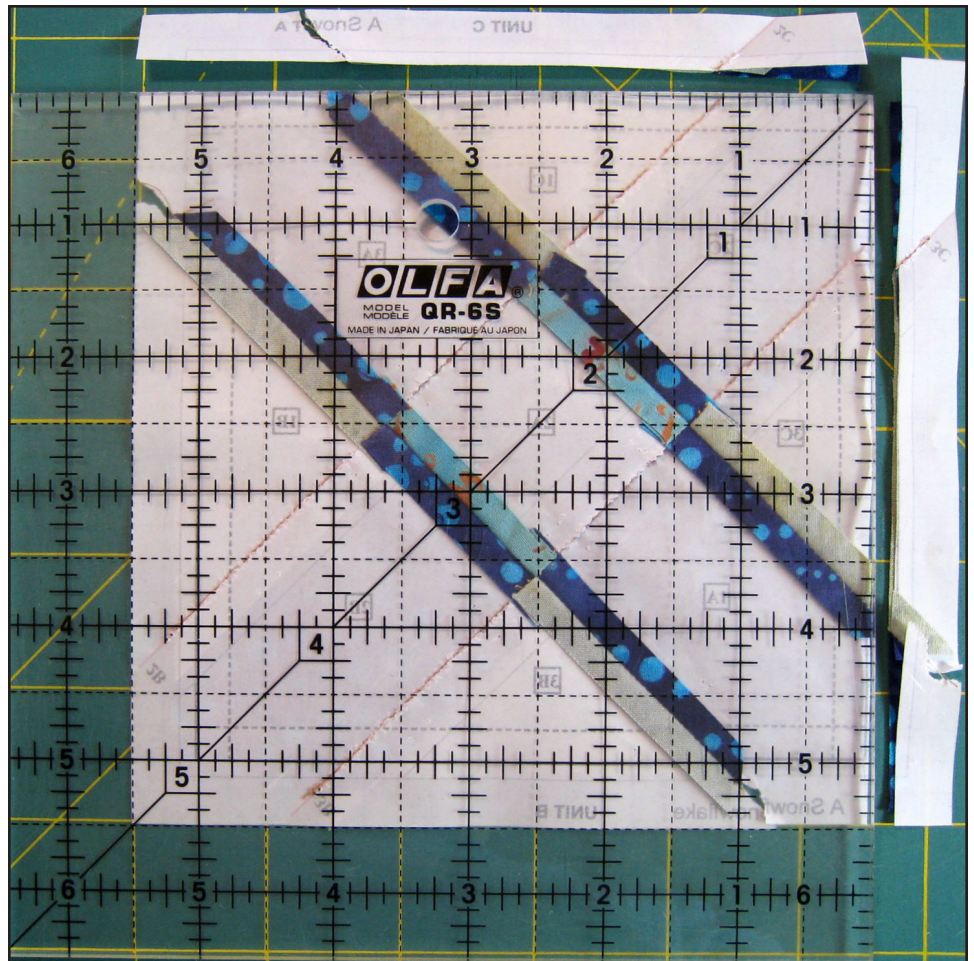
*If your intersections are off more than 1 or 2 thread widths, it is easier to fix after the paper has been removed. Some people baste first to make sure they get matching intersections before sewing the seam.*

5. Press seams in the direction of your choice, depending on how you will be assembling the blocks. I pressed the seams open for less bulk.



*I generally sew directly on the line. Some people sew to the right of the line for a scant seam allowance, but since I haven't trimmed the outside edges yet I can square my block to the right size. Take a few extra stitches at the beginning and end of the line. Remove the paper from the seam allowances before pressing.*

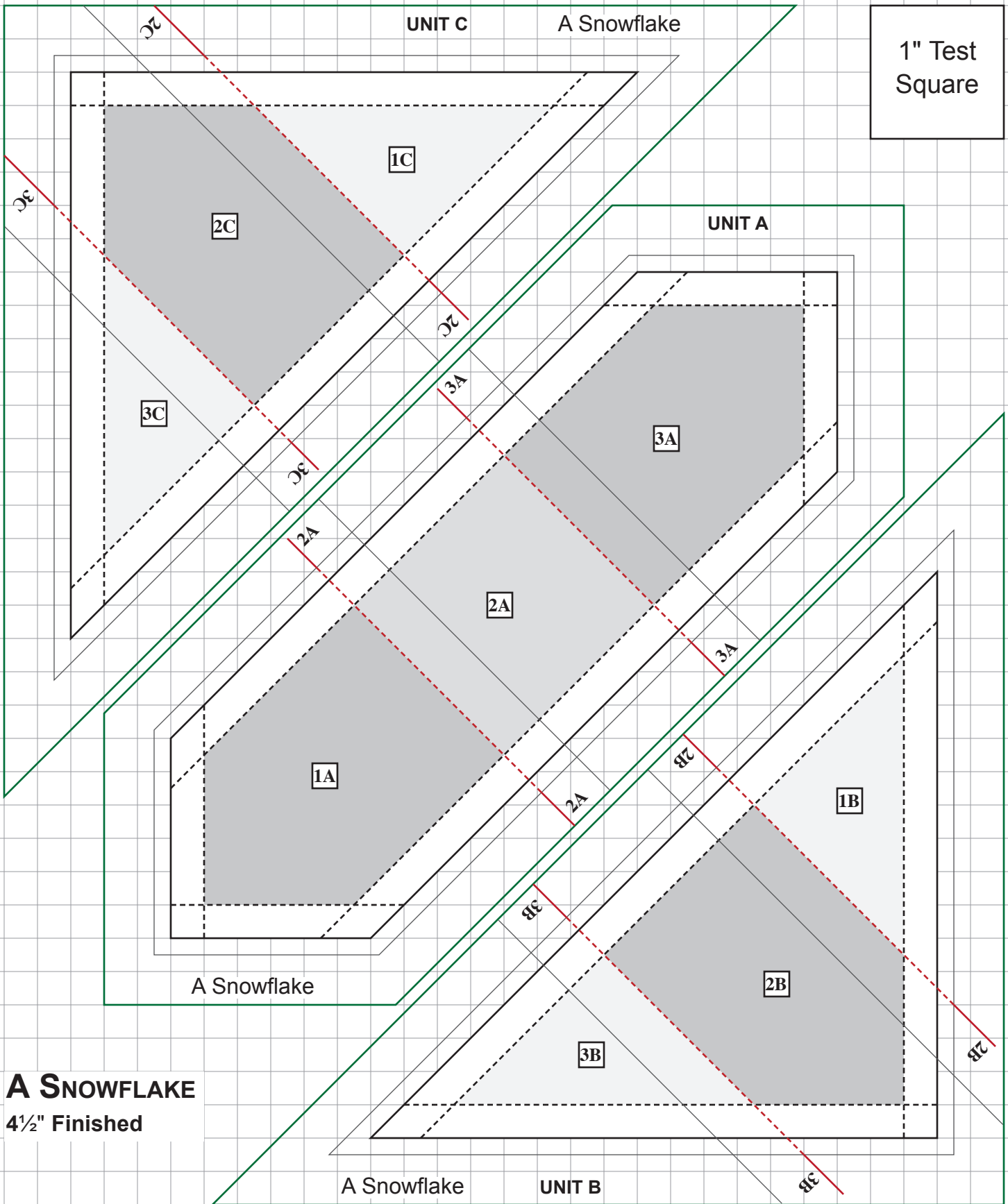
6. Square the block to 5" by placing the 5" lines on the ruler on the black solid lines. The  $\frac{1}{4}$ " lines may not be accurate, depending on how well you assembled the units.



7. Finished block with seam allowance. I left the paper on Location #2A so I could label it when making a sampler quilt.







**A SNOWFLAKE**  
4½" Finished

Set Page Scaling = None.  
Background Grid Measures ¼".

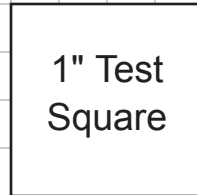
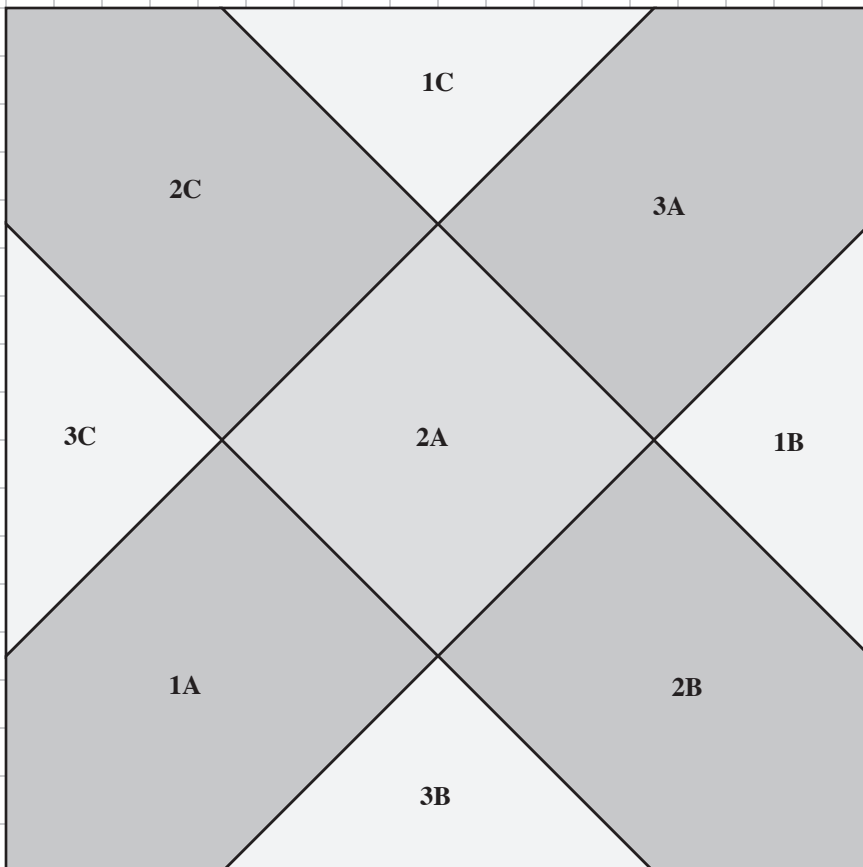
# A SNOWFLAKE

4½" Finished

## CUTTING LIST

Location	Size to Cut
1B, 3B, 1C, 3C	4⅛" x 4⅛" ☒
2A	2⅜" x 2⅜"
1A, 3A, 2B, 2C	3¼" x 3¼"

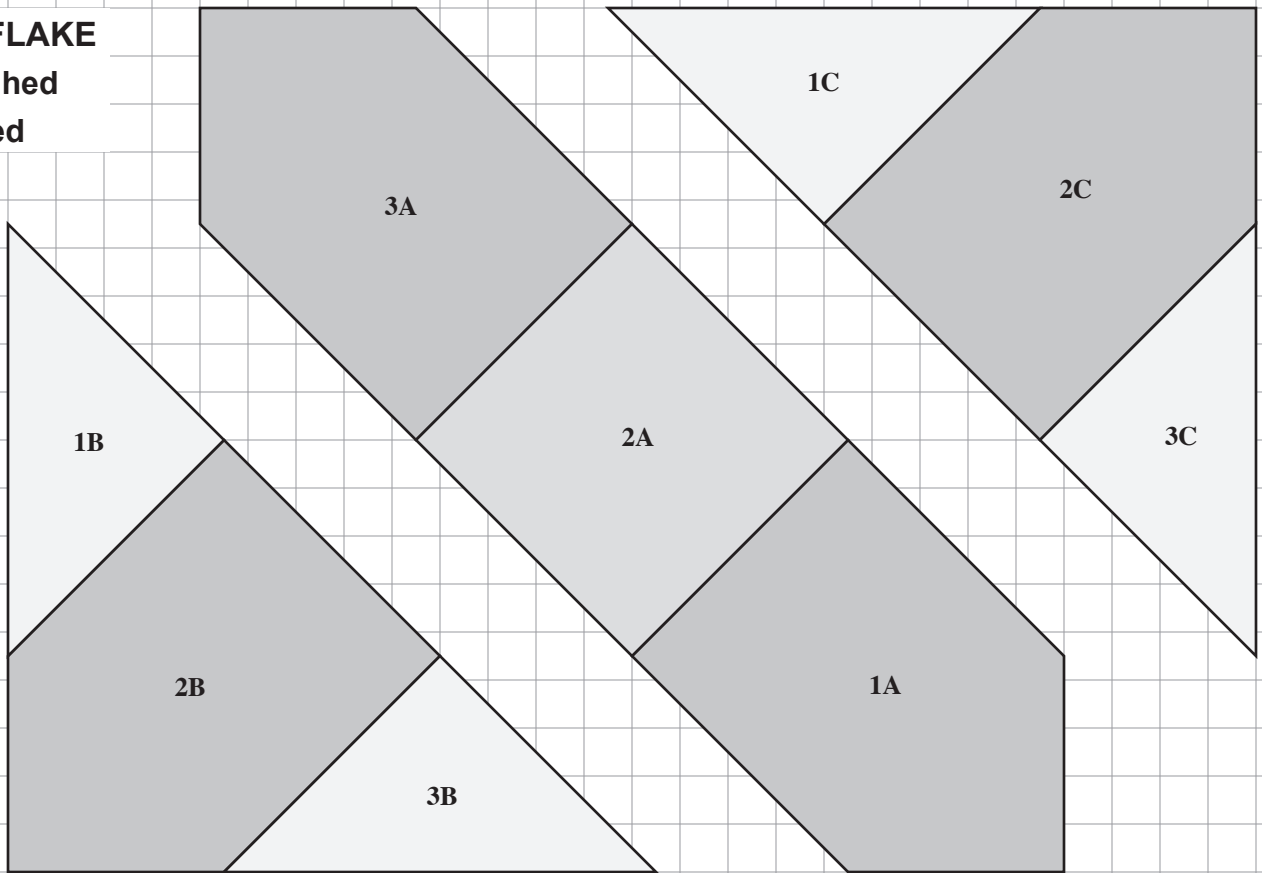
Trace 1A on freezer paper. Cut out and iron to fabric square leaving a ⅜" seam allowance on all sides. Layer all 4 same size fabrics and cut away excess fabric over ⅜".



Set Page Scaling = None.  
Background Grid Measures ¼".

# A SNOWFLAKE

4½" Finished  
Mirrored



1" Test  
Square

Set Page Scaling = None.  
Background Grid Measures ¼".

Use these mirrored templates for  
other paper piecing methods.

