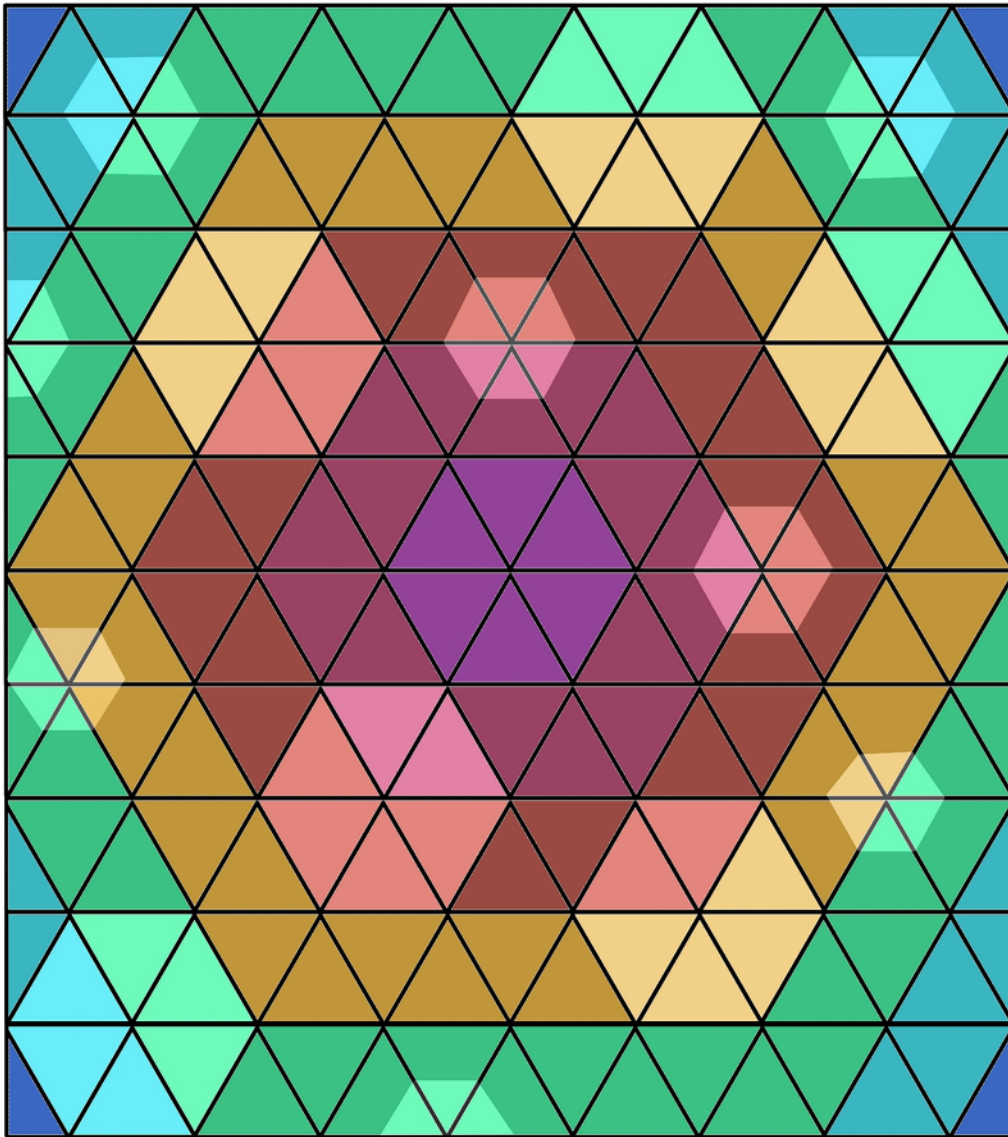




Patchwork Prism

by *anna maria horner*

Patchwork Prism Color Map



When looking at the color arrangement - or "map" - above, you'll notice that though this quilt is made up of triangular pieces, the overall quilt actually creates concentric hexagonal rings which change color in spectrum order as it grows from the center towards the outer edges. While most of the fabrics used in the quilt are of a medium/deep variety, there are a few "sparkles" of lighter toned hexagons that are defined throughout the quilt. You'll see these appear across color rings both in medium and smaller sized hexagons.

The piece guide on the following page will offer how many of each piece (A-G) in each color category you'll need to cut to achieve the same arrangement as my design. It is, however, completely up to you how your quilt "grows" from one shade to another.... I have purple at the center, but you might choose to put green at the center which would reorder the other colors....or maybe you'll simply experiment with intensity and let the quilt gradually change from multi-colored darks at the center to multi-colored lights at the outer edges.... it's up to you! Just be sure to pay attention to the approximate fabric requirements for each "ring" of the design in order to gather your materials.

Piece & Color Guide + Fabric Requirements

The following piece guide offers the number of pieces as well as the total combined fabric yardage for each "ring" or color section in the quilt design (*note that the yardage amounts given are meant for combined assorted scrap fabric, so totals can vary). Notice also that it specifies the depth of the color- either medium or pale- so that the variation of tones selected will echo the specific style of patchwork. Remember that the more strict you are with your color selections the more obvious the overall pattern will be....and by the same token, if you are more lenient with tones and color varieties, the overall structure will be slightly more subtle. Where applicable, the pieces are also defined below (in parenthesis) in terms of cutting them on the right side or wrong side of the fabric- this will be particularly important for the edge pieces (D-G).

*Also the piece key below to the right will help you to define the templates pieces.

- approx.
1/4 yd
total Purple Ring (center):
6 medium A's

- approx.
1 yd
total Magenta/Pink Ring:
11 medium A's
5 pale B's, 5 medium C's
2 pale A's

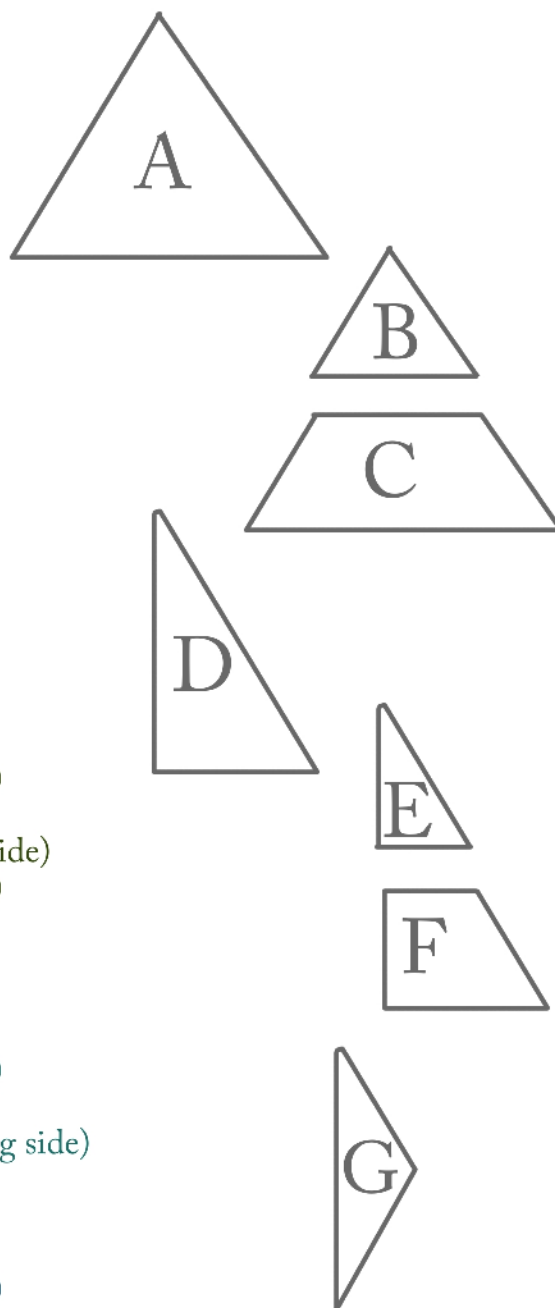
- approx.
1 1/4 yd
total Orange/Red Ring:
14 medium A's
7 pale B's, 7 medium C's
9 pale A's

- approx.
1 1/2 yd
total Gold/Brown Ring:
23 medium A's
6 pale B's, 6 medium C's
13 pale A's

- approx.
1 3/4 yd
total Green Ring:
18 medium A's
5 medium D's (2 right side, 3 wrong side)
17 pale B's, 15 medium C's
1 pale E (right side), 1 medium F (right side)
2 medium G's (1 right side, 1 wrong side)
9 pale A's

- approx.
3/4 yd
total Turquoise/Aqua Ring:
3 medium A's
7 medium D's (4 right side, 3 wrong side)
6 pale B's, 6 medium C's
1 pale E (wrong side), 1 medium F (wrong side)
3 pale A's

- approx.
1/4 yd
total Dark Blue (corners):
4 medium D's (2 right side, 2 wrong side)



Quilt Top Assembly Steps

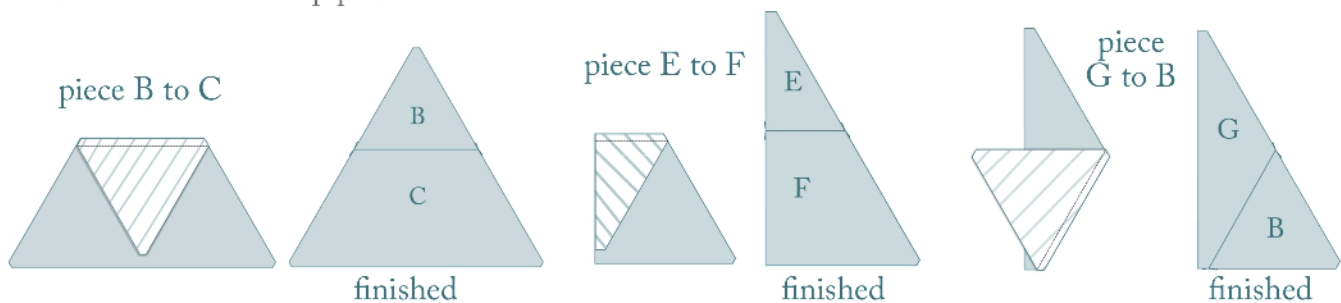
Laying Out the Quilt

Once you've cut out all of your pieces, its time to arrange them either on a flannel wall, or on a large open floor area using the Color Map as a guide. Layout might make the most sense for you if you start at the center building the single hexagon out of 6 triangles. You can then work your way out by making concentric rings around the center, color by color. Once out at the edges, if a piece doesn't seem to be fitting- no matter which way you turn it- you might have switched your wrong side/right side in cutting. Getting everything in place is just the first step to laying out the quilt. Afterwards, its time to step back and have a look at the overall balance of color, light and dark, and possibly rearrange pieces within color rings until you've arrived at a layout that you're happy with.

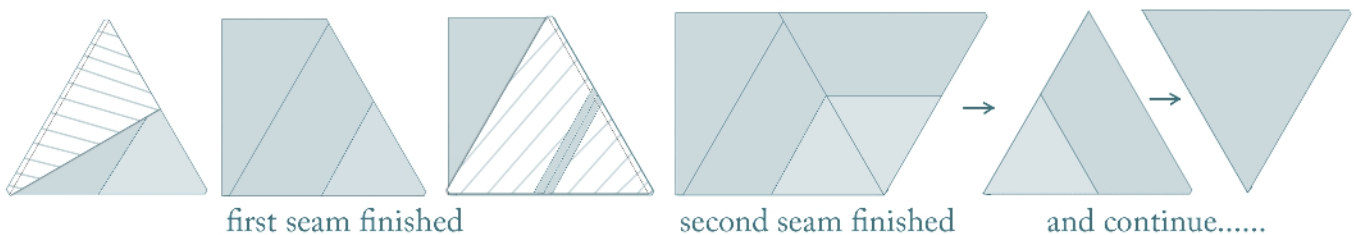
Piecing Steps

* All piecwork is done with 1/4" seam allowances

1. Begin by looking at the quilt, row by row, and identifying the smaller pieces that need "pre-piecing" in each row. These will be pieces B, C, E, F or G. And in all cases they will be paired together one way or another to create either a full 60 degree triangle or at the outer edges, there are some pieced right triangles. Use the diagrams below for sewing the pairs, press them and return them to their color map position:



2. Once all the pre-piecing is complete you can begin assembling the quilt one triangle to the next, forming a row horizontally (see diagram below). It was helpful for me to always start with the top far left piece and stack each piece to the right underneath as I gathered the pieces off the wall. Then in sewing, I also pieced from left to right. Use whatever method helps you keep everything in order. After one row is pieced, press and return it to its position making sure it's oriented the right way.



3. Continue to piece as described in Step 2 until all 10 rows are complete. Once they are, it's time to join row one to row two, then row two to row three and so on. While I don't use pins to do the triangular piecing in Step 2, I do find it helpful to use pins while sewing the long passes of rows so that my points have a better chance at lining up at the seams. Continue to sew rows 1-5 together. Then sew rows 6-10 together. You can finally then join the top five rows to the lower five and give the quilt top a good pressing.

The following page offers some tips on finishing your Patchwork Prism Quilt!

Assembling the Quilt Layers

* Your quilt top should measure approximately 70" x 76", requiring about 4 1/2 yds of 44/45" or 54" fabric for backing. You will, however, want to take a final measurement of your quilt top in order to accurately cut your backing fabric.

1. Cut one length of fabric equal to the length of your quilt top + 8 inches. Trim off selvages.
 2. Cut the second length the same as above, trim off selvages. Also divide and cut the second length in half lengthwise to end with two long narrow pieces.
 3. You now have three pieces of backing fabric. Using a 1/2" seam allowance, sew all three together with two vertical seams, matching lengths, keeping the widest piece in the center. Press the seams open.
 4. You can now trim with width of the joined backing to be the width of your quilt top + 8 inches.
-

* To begin the layering process, you'll need your quilt top, sewn backing, batting of choice (trimmed to the size of the backing), several curved safety pins, and some masking tape.

1. Secure a clean, smooth surface such as the floor to layout the quilt backing wrong side facing up. Spread the backing gently with your hands to smooth out any wrinkles then tape to the floor around the edges. (Note* I have recently begun to use two 4x8' sheets of heavy foam core side by side on the floor to do this. And rather than taping the fabric to the floor, I simply straight pin the fabric around the outer edges through the foam core.)
 2. Lay a single smooth layer of the quilt batting onto the wrong side of the backing, lining up all outer edges evenly, and spread till smooth.
 3. Layer the quilt top over the batting, with the right side facing up, centered within the larger size of the batting and backing. Smooth the quilt top out well taking care not to stretch any of the seams. Starting at the center, begin pinning through all three layers with the curved safety pins, and work your way out. Place safety pins about every 8" or so in both directions.
 4. Once you're finished pinning, you can remove the masking tape around the outer edges of the backing. Use a large hand-basting needle and thread to make several rows of long running stitches in both directions through all three layers (even stitches that are an inch or so long is not too big). Spacing rows of stitches about 6-8" apart is suitable. It's also a good idea to baste around the perimeter of the quilt about 1/4" away from the edge. Remove all safety pins. (Keep in mind that if the safety pins won't get in the way of your desired quilting method, you can leave them in place.)
-

* Once you've decided on your quilting method, you can begin that process. I chose to "stitch in the ditch" by machine on all seams. Then I went back in to hand quilt within some of the triangles using pearl cotton size #8. For either method, begin your quilting at the center and gradually work your way out. When machine quilting, be sure to leave a few inches of thread and bobbin ends when you start, so that you can go back with a needle and thread to sew in and knot the ends.

* If you'd like some tips on handquilting, I've written up a pretty comprehensive tutorial on my blog: <http://annamariahorne.blogspot.com/2010/03/stitch.html>

* Once all quilting is complete, you can remove the basting stitches and any pins, trim the backing and batting layers to line up with the quilt top edges. You'll need about 8 yards of continuous bias binding in your color and width choice. I chose to make my own, by cutting it 2 1/4" wide for a finished 3/8" binding. Bind the quilt as desired and enjoy!

B

Patchwork Prism
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sew this edge to C

A

Patchwork Prism
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sew this edge to B

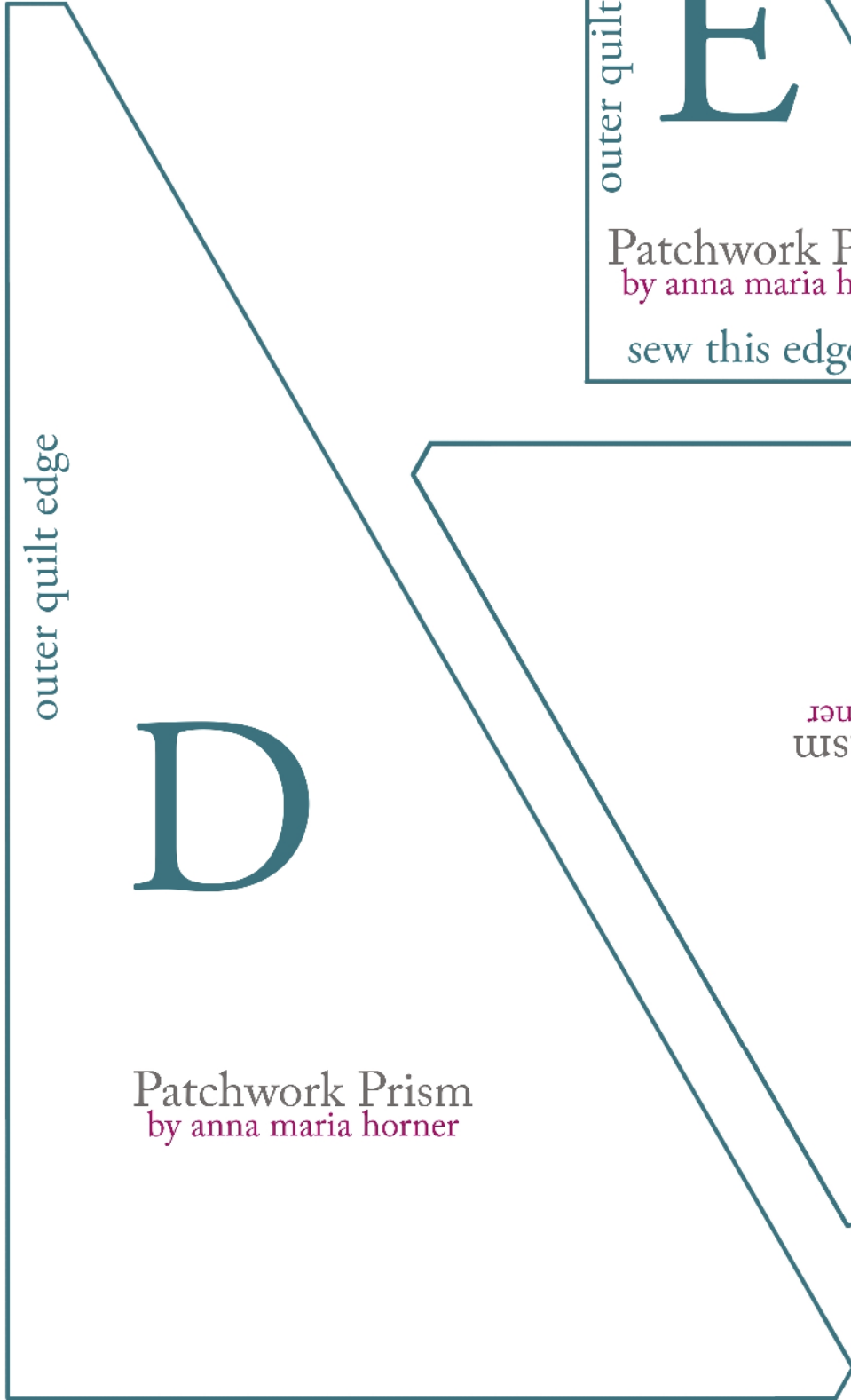
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G

sew this edge to B



Patchwork Prism
by anna maria horner



outer quilt edge

D

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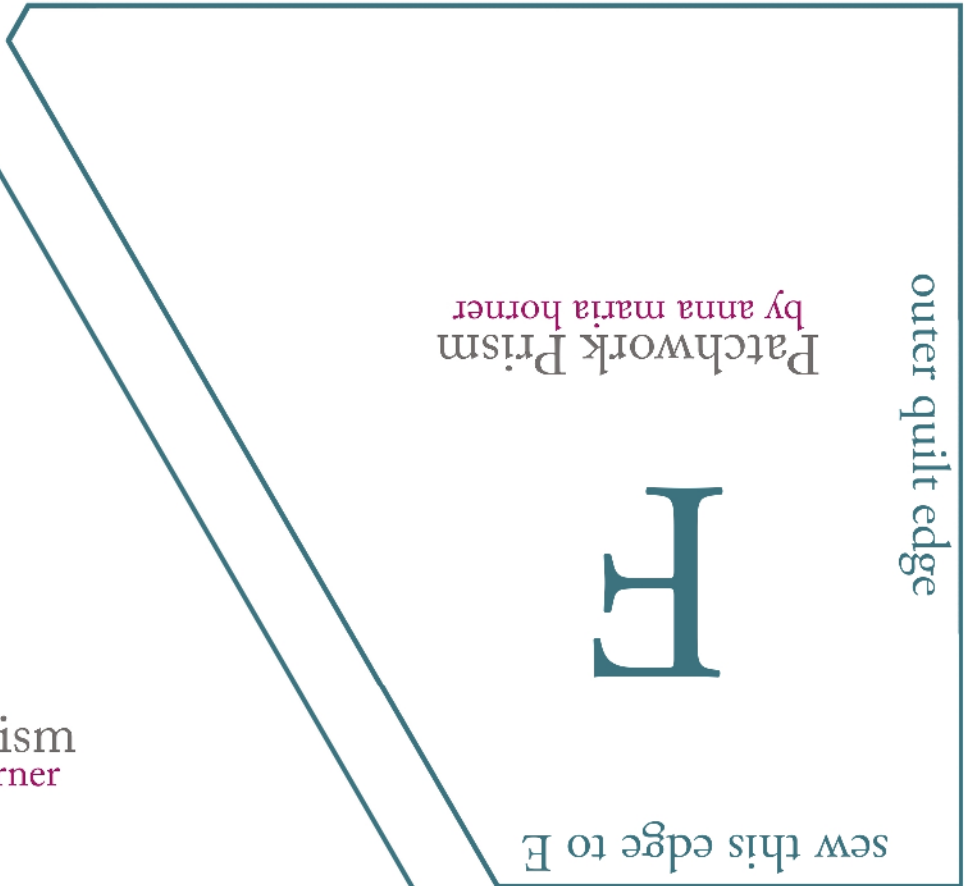


outer quilt edge

E

Patchwork Prism
by anna maria horner

sew this edge to F



outer quilt edge

F

Patchwork Prism
by anna maria horner

sew this edge to E

