

Month 11 (November): Mariner's Compass 12"

Mariner's Compass - 12"

Fabric Keys: 0.78"



Black = A
White = B
Light Gold = C
Red = D
Dark Gold = E



Blue = A
White = B
Light Green = C
Light Blue = D
Dark Green = E

History:

Techniques: Paper Foundation Piecing; sewing curves

Supplies: Flathead pins (flower pin), small pins, or fabric glue stick; quarter inch ruler (optional); thin piece of cardboard or template plastic strip – 1” – 2” x 6 – 10” (optional); small rotary cutter (optional); small cutting mat; size #80 or #90 (preferred) machine needle; open toe foot for machine (optional)

Cutting Instructions:

Note: When cutting the following triangles, cut them with the front side of fabric up and be sure to note the direction of the cut, as some triangles are cut in the opposite direction from others.

Black/blue [A]:

- Cut two 3” x 8” rectangles; cut each rectangle in half diagonally for four triangles
- Cut four of Template 1; mark the dot at the center of the curved edge of Template 1 on back side of the fabrics



White [B]:

- Cut eight 5.5” squares

Light gold/light green [C]:

- Cut two 3” x 6” rectangles; cut each rectangle in half diagonally for four triangles



Red/light blue [D]:

- Cut two 3” x 8” rectangles; cut each rectangle in half diagonally for four triangles



Dark gold/dark green [E]:

- Cut two 3” x 6” rectangles; cut each rectangle in half diagonally for four triangles



Construction:

Paper Pieced Sections: The compass spikes are constructed using paper foundation piecing.

Note: There are eight paper pieced sections: four templates and four reverse mirror image templates (marked with an ‘R’). Three fabrics are used with each template. Each section of the templates list the sewing order number and the fabric color letter. When paper piecing, the paper templates are right side up and fabrics are sewn under the templates, with the back side of the fabric against the back side of the paper templates, thus the finished patch is a mirror image of the template.

Note: Sew the paper piece template sections with a smaller stitch size (1.5 – 1.8 mm or 17 – 15 stitches per inch) to enable easier removal of the paper. The solid lines on the templates are the stitching lines and the outer dotted lines are the cutting lines for the outside edges of the units.

- Print out four copies each of foundation papers Template 2 and Template 2R (total of eight templates). The thinner the paper, the easier it will be to remove it – newsprint works well. Roughly cut out the templates, leaving a small edge beyond the outside dotted seam lines.
- Place a light gold/light green [C] triangle fabric piece under the back side of Template 2 (side w/o printed lines) with the wrong side of the fabric against the paper and the right side facing downwards, lining up the non-bias edge of triangle parallel to the outer edge of section #1; be sure it completely covers section #1 on the template, including the seam allowances. Use a small or flathead pin paper or glue to adhere fabric to paper (Figure #1).
- Place cardboard/plastic strip on printed side of foundation paper over the line between the #1 and #2 sections. Fold paper foundation on the solid lines over the cardboard/plastic strip so the backside of section #2 faces upward (Figure #2).
- Place quarter inch ruler (or ¼” line of regular ruler) against folded paper edge. Trim excess fabric beyond the ruler’s ¼” edge (Figure #3).
- Slide the next fabric piece (white fabric [B]), right side up, underneath, lining up the new piece with the trimmed edge of the previous piece, right sides of fabric together; check to be sure the fabric completely covers section #2 of the template. (Figure #4).

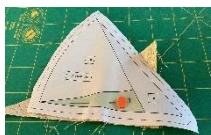


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

- With printed side of paper facing up, stitch on the solid line between section #1 and section #2, starting and ending two or three stitches before and beyond ends of line (Figure #5).
- Flip open pieces and press with iron or finger press (or use wooden pressing tool/purple thang)
- Add the last piece (black/blue [A] triangle) and repeat steps, folding paper over, trimming edge with ¼” ruler, lining up fabric edges and sewing on the line between sections #2 and #3 (Figure #6)
- When the entire block is sewn, trim the edges of the template paper on the outer cutting dotted line (Figure #7).

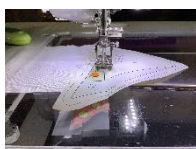


Figure 5

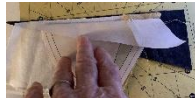


Figure 6



Figure 7



- Leave papers on until sewing the blocks together
- Repeat above steps to make a total of four Template 2 sections.
- Make four more sections using Template 2R. Section #1 uses dark green/dark green [E] fabrics and section #3 uses red/light blue [D] fabrics.

Assemble Blocks:

Note: Use a normal stitch length to assemble blocks.

- Remove the papers in reverse order from how they were sewn. Crease the papers on the seams and tear along the seams to remove the paper more easily. If necessary, use a seam ripper or purple thang.
- Sew a Template 2 and a Template 2R together, aligning the compass points together and pinning the seams between #1 and #3. Press seams open. This is one quarter of the circle (figure #8).
- Repeat for the other three quarters. There are now four quarters of the block.

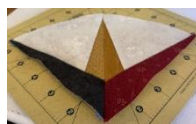


Figure 8

- Sew a Template 1 fabric corner to one quarter circle:
 - Fold the corner piece in half lengthwise to find the center of the inner curve; mark the center with a pin (Figure #9).
 - Place the corner on top of the sewn circle
 - Align and pin the inner curve center of the corner to the center seam of the quarter circle, with the corner point on the circle center seam.
 - Pin both outer edges together, being sure to keep the edges of the two fabrics aligned (Figure #10).
 - Stitch together slowly, easing in the fullness from the corner piece.
 - *Note:* The trick to sewing a good circle is to always be sure the fabric remains perpendicular to the needle. This requires stopping frequently, lifting the presser foot and re-adjusting the fabric – sometimes every stitch or two depending on the tightness of the curvature.
 - Press seam toward the corner. The unit should measure 6 ½” (Figure #11).



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11

- Repeat for the other three quarters.
- Pin and sew two quarters together, aligning the compass points together. Press seams open (Figure #12). The unit should measure 6 ½” x 12 ½”.
- Repeat with the other two quarter circles. These are the two halves of the block (Figure #13).
- Nest and pin the center seam of the two halves together. Baste across the center seams and remove the pins; check the seam and if the seams line up, then pin the rest of the block together and stitch the seam.
- Press seam open.
- Trim the block to 12 ½”, including seam allowances.



Figure12



Figure 13