
Pips

pattern by tara faughnan

finished block size: 7" by variable width



MATERIALS:

- Gluestick pen (thin tip preferable)
- Scissors for paper
- Sharp scissors for clipping curves
- Square ruler at least 7 1/2"
- Sharpie or other marking tools for fabric

FINISHED SIZE:

7" by variable width

WELCOME!

This month we will be exploring curved piecing. Pips was named after apple pips, most commonly known as apple seeds. You can make the block in the traditional manner by using pins to hold the pieces in place for sewing, but I chose to use a glue stick. The piecing is faster and easier and I find the results come out better using glue.

I also had better results with this block by making it larger and trimming it down to size. If curves are new to you, do not get discouraged if your first few blocks are less than ideal. Keep practicing!

COLOR PLACEMENT

One of the fun aspects of this quilt is in looking at how to create order with color. You will notice on my layout I created relationships from one block to the next by keeping the color of the pip piece or the side pieces the same over several blocks to create a sense of uniformity. Conversely, think how different this quilt would look with random color placement.

This quilt also plays with contrast, which is the relationship between adjacent values. Notice how the areas of high contrast stop the eyes, and the areas of low contrast allow the eyes to glide along. If you want to create a more uniform look, you could make the blocks with the same color background fabric. Imagine how this quilt would look with a navy blue color in the background!

Also, play with the horizontal spacing of the blocks. Notice the difference in the look of blocks which are almost touching and the blocks that are spaced out. This element of the layout also creates areas of the quilt that flow and stop, and is another level of your control to direct the eyes of the viewer across the quilt.

TIPS

- Be careful not to stretch the fabric when you are fitting the pieces together, there is a lot of bias so use a gentle touch.
- Place glue only in the seam allowance and use a light amount.
- Sew with a scant 1/4" seam allowance (covered in the first month's Marrakesh block).
- Clip curves. On tight curves clip the fabric at least every 1/4", increasing the spacing as the curve flattens out. This will help avoid pleats as you sew. Make the clips small, about 1/8", making sure you don't cut past the seam allowance area.
- This is good month to practice with scrap fabric before cutting into your bundle.
- Take care in applying your glue on the bias edge. Too heavy of a hand can stretch the fabric. Short strokes will apply the glue without stretching.
- Be sure to watch this month's video for more tips and tricks.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

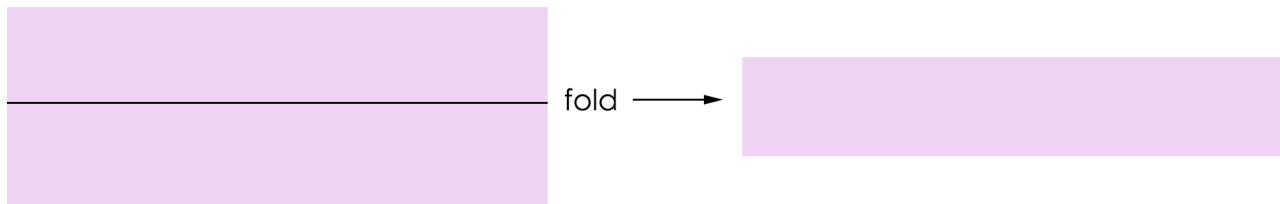
The impetus for this block came about as I visited Jen Carlton Bailey in her booth at QuiltCon last year. As I watched her apply a glue stick to the fabric and easily piece curves, I was so excited by this technique. I've used glue for many things in quilting, but never for curves. It is a game changer and opens up a whole new world of easy piecing curves. Jen has a great shop and lots of tools and patterns based on curved piecing, so if you enjoy this technique I encourage you to head to her website and check out all she has to offer. <https://bettycrockerass.com>

PREPARING TEMPLATES

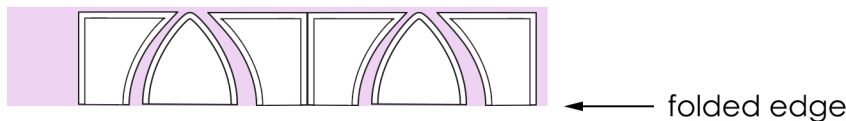
1. Print templates on page 5 at 100%.
2. Cut out along the outer line. Please note: Seam allowance is included.
3. Fold templates in half along the fold line.

CUTTING FABRIC

1. Cut fabrics into strips 8 1/4" by width of fabric (WOF).
2. Fold strips in half along the length and iron gently to create a crease down the center.



3. Line up folded edge of the template with the folded edge of the fabric strip and trace around the edge with a fine marker or pencil.



4. Cut out shapes.

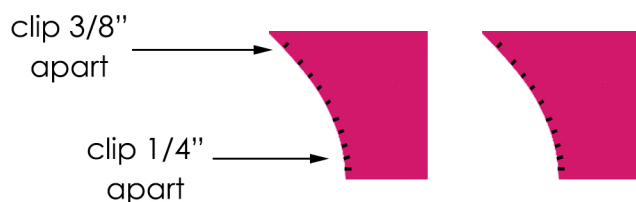
Note: Every block has 2 side pieces and 1 pip, be sure to cut twice as many side pieces as pips.



SEWING THE BLOCK

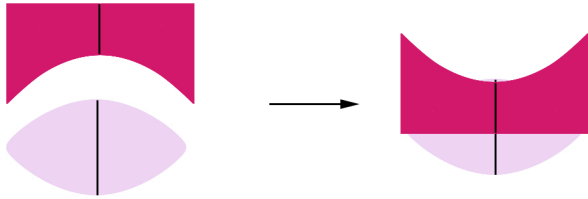
For each block you will need 2 colors: One for the pip and a separate color for the side pieces.

1. Clip the curves on the side pieces. While the fabric is still folded, use small, sharp scissors to clip into the seam allowance. Make your cuts about 1/8" deep, making sure not to go past the seam allowance area. Clip roughly 1/4" apart on the tighter part of the curve, and about 3/8" apart on the flatter part of the curve. Do this on both side pieces.

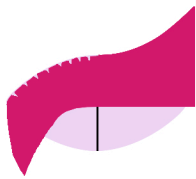


SEWING THE BLOCK CONTINUED

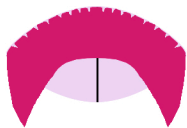
2. Place a pip piece and a side piece right sides together (RST), lining up the center fold lines on both pieces.



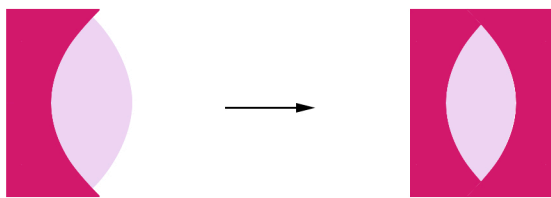
3. Working on one half of the pip, apply glue in the seam allowance area, and gently align the edges of the pip and the side piece. Use your finger tips to press and adhere the pieces together.



4. Repeat for the other half of the pip.

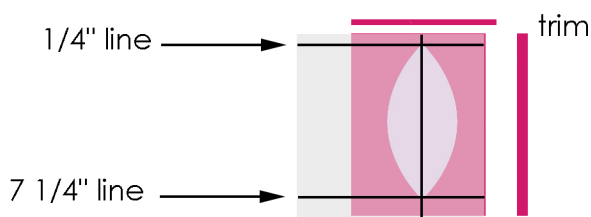


5. Sew with a scant 1/4" seam allowance. Press fabrics away from the pip. Repeat for the other side of the block.



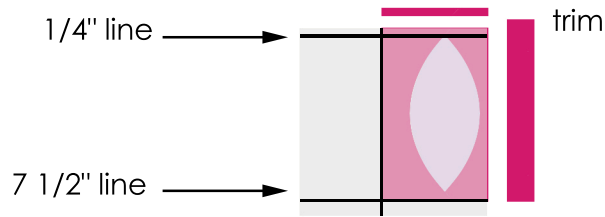
SQUARING THE BLOCK

1. Square the block to 7 1/2" (unfinished measurement). Place the square ruler on top of the block, and line up the 1/4" line on the top tip of the pip. Align the ruler so it is straight up and down on the two opposite tips of the pip. The bottom tip should be on the 7 1/4" line of the ruler. Choose how wide the block will be, and trim the top and side of the block.



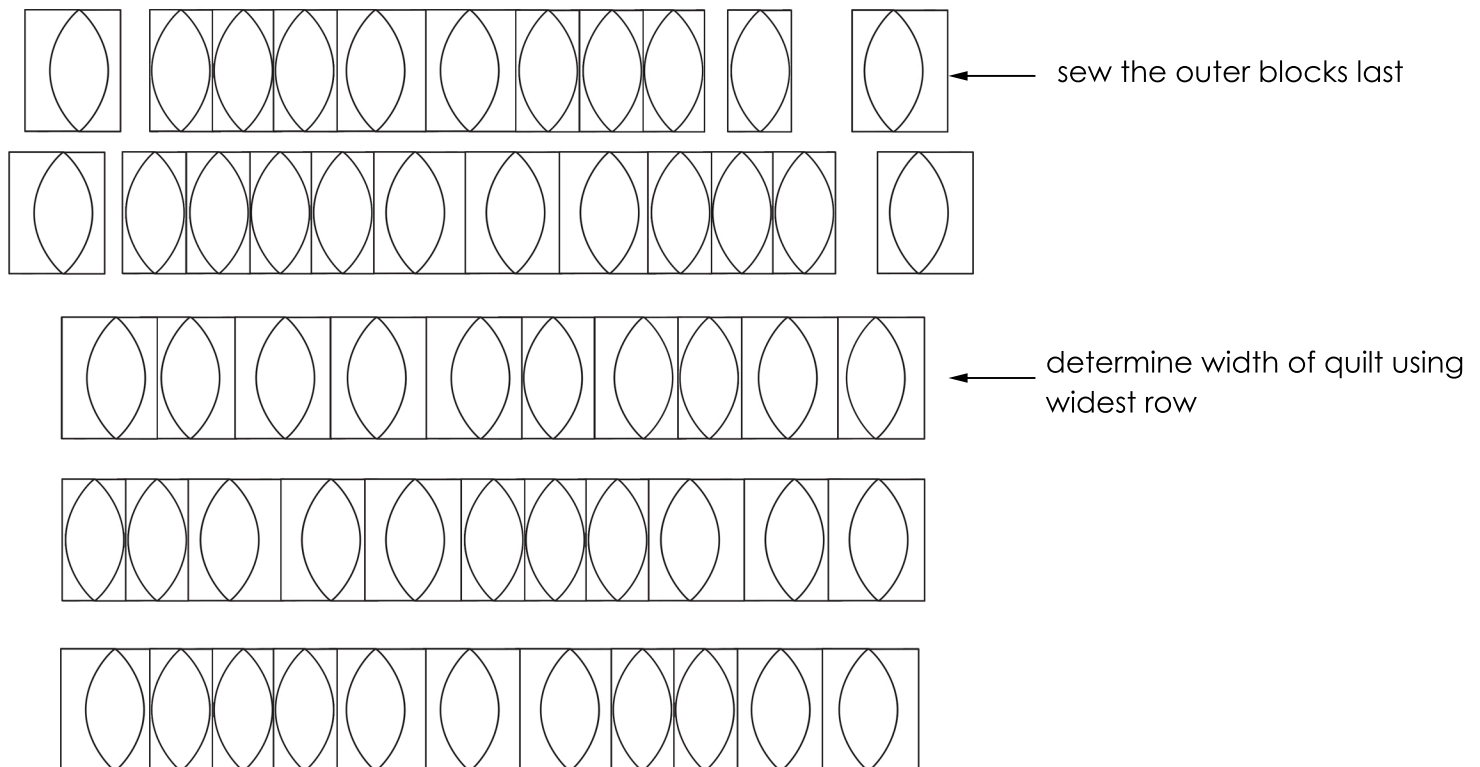
SQUARING THE BLOCK CONTINUED

2. Rotate the block 180 degrees and realign the ruler, this time placing the 7 1/2" line on the bottom of the block. The 1/4" line should be lined up with the top point of the pip as well. Make sure the ruler is lined up evenly along the trimmed edges of the block. Decide the width of the block and trim the other two sides.



SEWING THE QUILT

The spacing of the blocks is another design element to play with as you create your layout. Also notice that you must decide the width of your quilt top. Once you have sewn your blocks and created the design, determine the width of the widest row and match all other rows to that. You may need to add extra wide side pieces on the outside blocks to achieve this. Keep this in mind, and sew the outer blocks last.



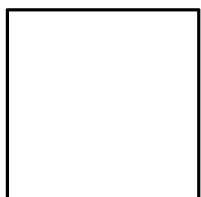
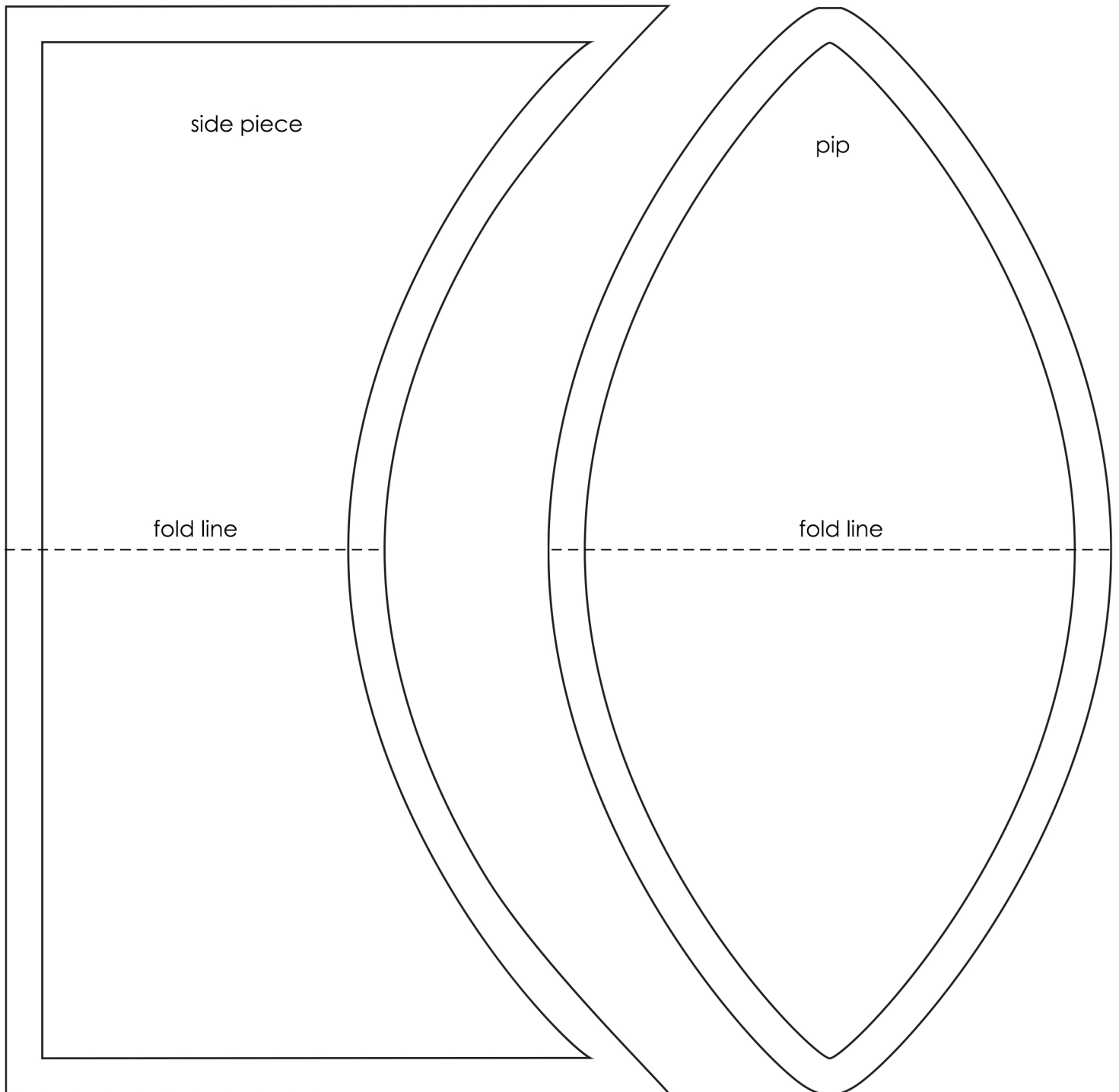
THANK YOU!!

Thank you so much for being a part of the Color Collective! We hope you enjoy the process and we'd love to see what you make, so don't forget to post on Instagram and/or Facebook and use the hashtags #thecolorcollective, #pipsquilt, #pipsblock, or just tag us!

TEMPLATES

Note: Seam allowance is included. Print at 100%.

Cut out along outer line.



To ensure your printer is printing to the correct size- this square should measure 1"

COLOR PALETTE

Kona solids



Cersie



Watermelon



Persimmon



Olive



Limelight



Celery



Teal Blue



Sage



Pond



Fog



Desert Green



Thistle

ADDITIONAL colors you could add



Sangria



Deep Rose



Rose



Crocus



Marmalade



Hunter Green



Avocado



Ultramarine



Delft



Orchid

COLORING PAGE

