

Project: Crazy Stars

INSPIRED BY "STAR POWER" FROM DESIGNERS JANET NESBITT AND PAM SOLIDAY OF THE BUGGY BARN
QUILTMAKER: LAURA BOEHNKE



Discover the "crazy" way of making stars—no precise matching points and no paper piecing. Just layer fat quarters, cut through all of them at once, and shuffle the deck to easily create stunning stars. The crazy-pieced stars in this quilt are a combination of Marie Osmond's Blanc et Noir Fashion prints for Quilting Treasures set off with fuchsia tone-on-tones.

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Materials

- 4—12" squares assorted fuchsia tone-on-tones
- 9—12" squares assorted black/white/fuchsia prints and florals: five with white background and four with black background (blocks)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ yard solid black (inner border)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ yard solid fuchsia (middle border)
- $\frac{7}{8}$ yard black paisley (outer border, binding)
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards backing fabric
- 53×44" batting
- Freezer paper

Finished quilt: $46\frac{1}{2}\times 37\frac{1}{2}$ "

Finished block: 9" square

Quantities are for 44/45"-wide, 100% cotton fabrics.

Measurements include $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Cut Fabrics

Cut pieces in the order that follows in each section.

From solid black, cut:

- 2— $1\times 36\frac{1}{2}$ " inner border strips
- 2— $1\times 28\frac{1}{2}$ " inner border strips

From solid fuchsia, cut:

- 2— $1\times 37\frac{1}{2}$ " middle border strips
- 2— $1\times 29\frac{1}{2}$ " middle border strips

From black paisley, cut:

- 5— $2\frac{1}{2}\times 42$ " binding strips
- 2— $4\frac{1}{2}\times 38\frac{1}{2}$ " outer border strips
- 2— $4\frac{1}{2}\times 37\frac{1}{2}$ " outer border strips

Cut and Prepare Block Pieces

The Cutting Template is in four sections on pages 5–8. To make a full-size Cutting Template, overlap shaded areas and tape together.

1. Lay freezer paper, shiny side down, over full-size Cutting Template. Use a pencil to trace template, tracing all lines, letters, numbers, and dots. Trim freezer-paper Cutting Template roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ " beyond outside drawn square (Photo 1).
2. Stack the 13 assorted floral, print, and tone-on-tone 12" squares, right sides up, aligning edges. There should be contrast between adjacent squares because in the completed project each print will be in a block with the prints above and below it. There also must be contrast between the first and last fabrics in the stack. Note: Twelve squares will make twelve blocks, but quiltmaker Laura Boehnke added an extra fabric square to ensure variety and contrast in her finished blocks.
3. Position freezer-paper Cutting Template, shiny side down, on stacked squares. Using a hot, dry iron, press template onto top square (Photo 2); let cool.
4. Using a large, sharp rotary cutter with cutting mat and acrylic ruler, press firmly on stack and cut through freezer-paper template and all squares on outside drawn square.
5. Beginning with section C and working backward, cut template and stacked squares apart on lines separating sections A, B, and C. Then cut on remaining lines to separate each section into three stacks each (Photo 3).
6. Remove freezer-paper from stacked fabric pieces. Shuffle top fabric piece from A2, B2, B3, C2, and C3 to bottom of their respective stacks (Photo 4).

About the Method

Designers Pam Soliday and Janet Nesbitt created this star block with their improvisational "crazy" method. You'll sew together pieces in sections A, B, and C; join sections into blocks; then square up blocks.

As you join pieces, try to keep inside seams straight, putting extra fabric toward outside edge. Dots on the Cutting Template indicate where it is helpful to maintain a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance (Photo 5). When joining two pieces, match them at the dot end of the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam line; don't worry if the other end isn't even after stitching. If there aren't any dots, center one piece on the other to stitch.

Assemble Blocks

1. For one star block, use top piece from each stack. In each section (A, B, and C), join pieces 1 and 2, matching ends of seams that have dots (Photo 6). Press seams toward each piece 1.
2. Add piece 3 to each section and press seams toward each piece 3 (Photo 7).
3. Before sewing together sections A and B, trim edges to straighten seam line (Photo 8). Join sections, matching seams at bases of star points A1 and B1. Press seam in one direction.
4. Before adding section C to AB unit, trim edges to straighten seam line. Sew together, centering star point C1 over A3 center so star legs look continuous (Photo 9). Press seam in one direction.

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5. Centering star, trim joined sections to $9\frac{1}{2}$ " square including seam allowances (Photo 10) to make a star block (Photo 11).
6. Repeat steps 1-5 to make 12 star blocks total. Once familiar with "crazy" piecing, save time by chain-piecing all A1 and A2 pieces, then all B1 and B2 pieces, etc. Press, clip apart, and re-stack units before adding the next piece in the sequence.

Assemble Quilt Center

1. Referring to photo (on page 1), lay out blocks in three rows. When pleased with the arrangement, sew together blocks in each row. Press seams in one direction, alternating direction with each row.
2. Join rows to make quilt center. Press seams in one direction. The quilt center should be $36\frac{1}{2}\times 27\frac{1}{2}$ " including seam allowances.

Add Borders

1. Sew long solid black inner border strips to long edges of quilt center. Add short solid black inner border strips to remaining edges. Press all seams toward border.
2. Sew long solid fuchsia middle border strips to long edges of quilt center. Add short solid fuchsia middle border strips to remaining edges. Press all seams toward middle border.
3. Sew long black paisley outer border strips to long edges of quilt center. Add short black paisley outer border strips to remaining edges to complete quilt top. Press all seams toward outer border.

Finish Quilt

1. Layer quilt top, batting, and backing; baste. Quilt as desired.
2. Bind with black paisley binding strips.

learn the crazy way

Just stack, cut, shuffle, and sew. No worries about exact seam allowances either! You trim the blocks when you're finished.



Photo 1

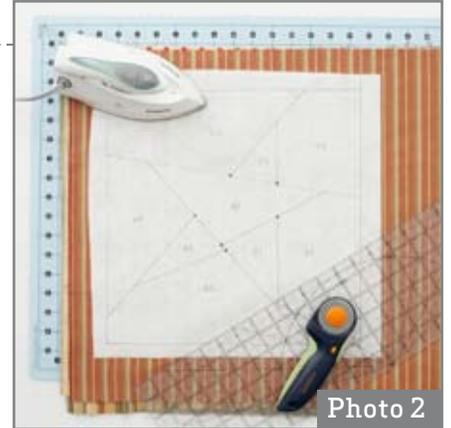


Photo 2



Photo 3

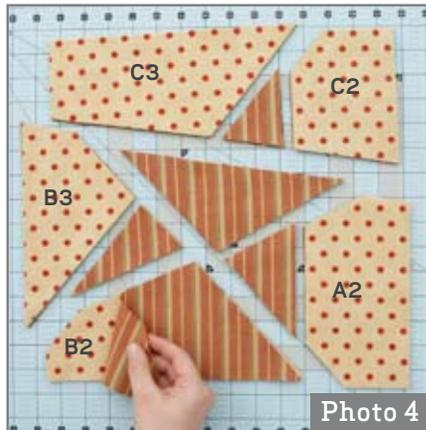


Photo 4

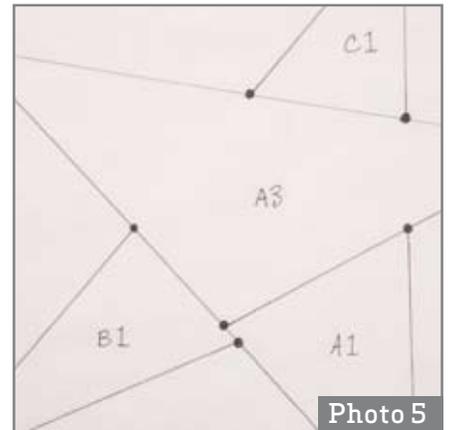


Photo 5

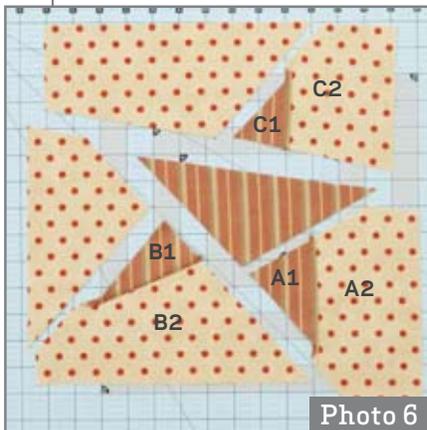


Photo 6

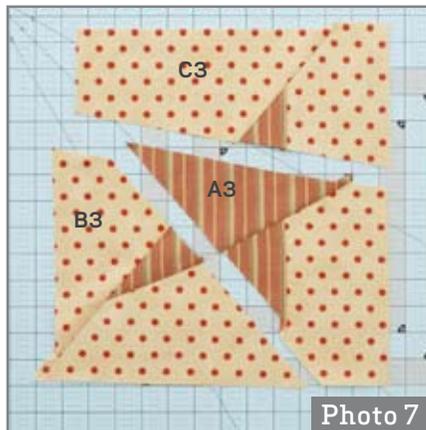


Photo 7

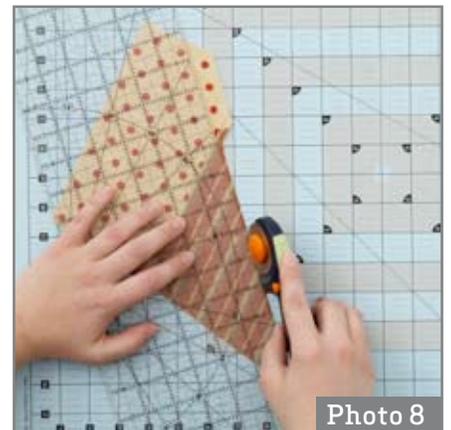


Photo 8

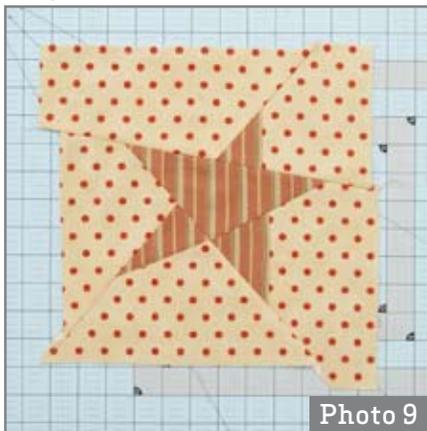


Photo 9

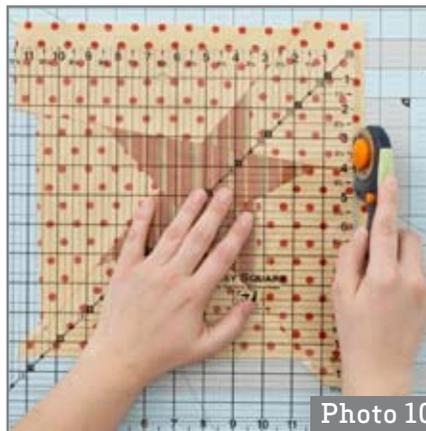


Photo 10

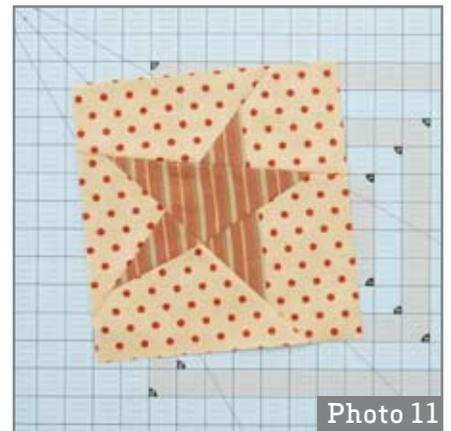
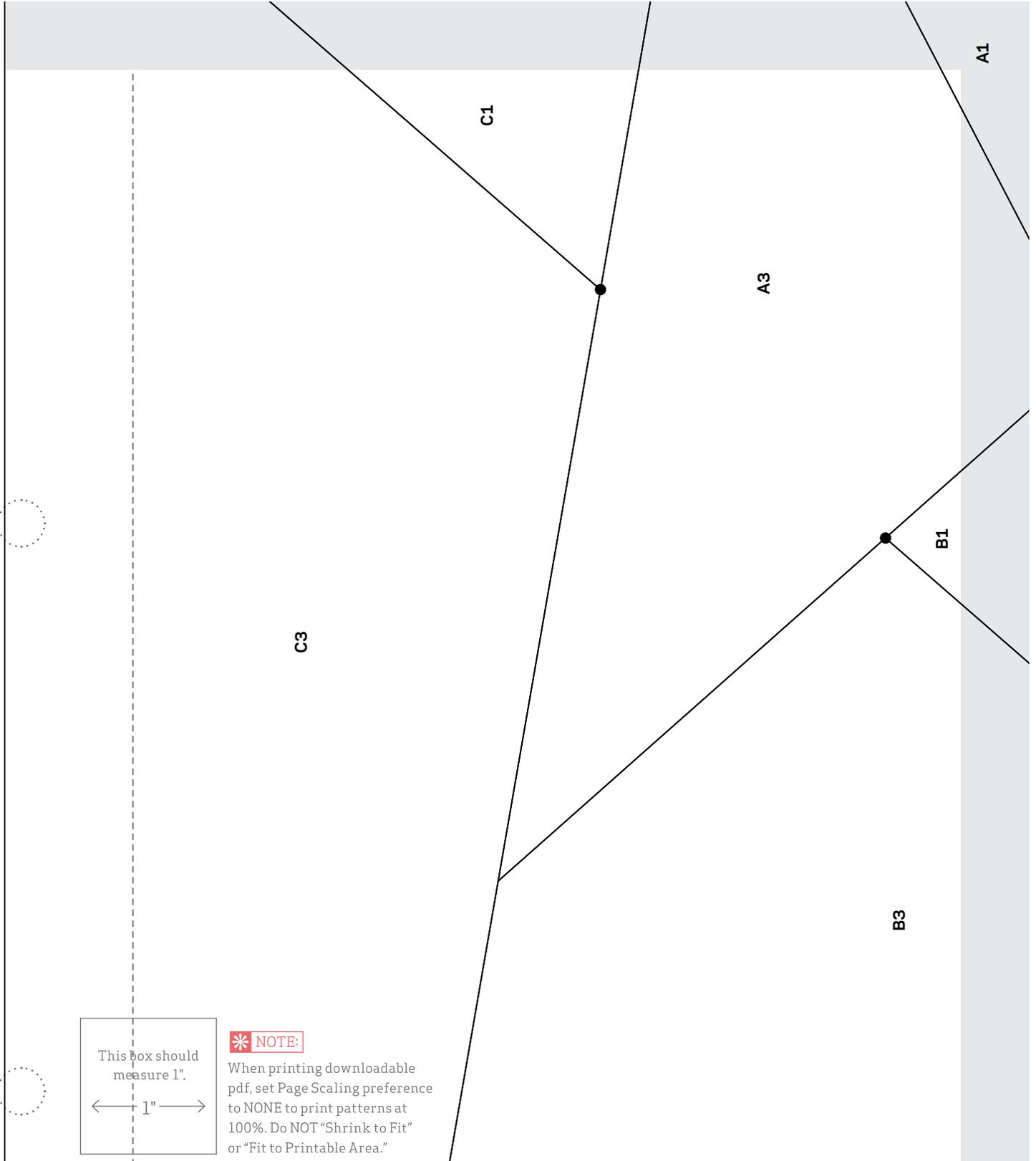


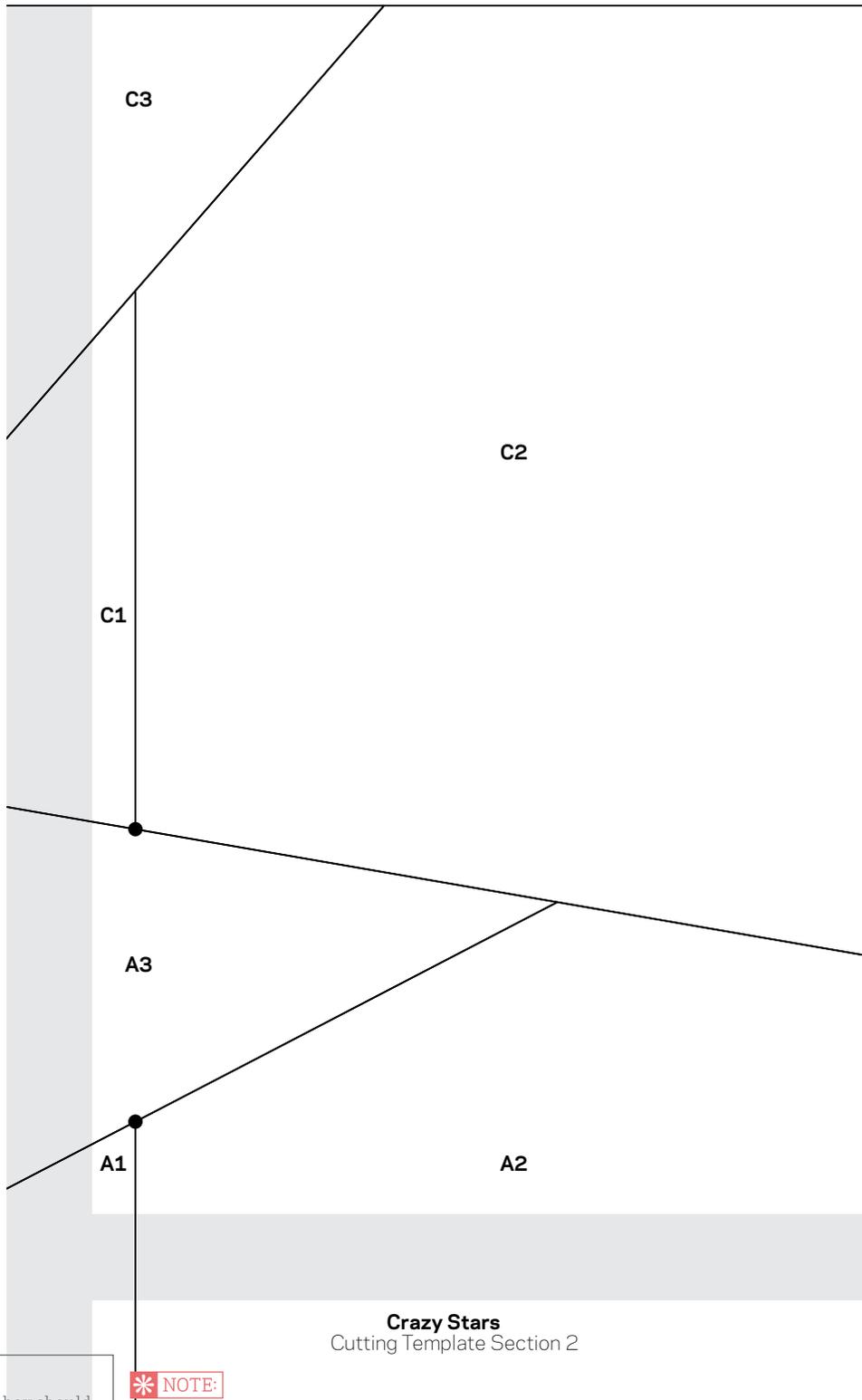
Photo 11

Project: Crazy Stars



Crazy Stars
Cutting Template Section 1

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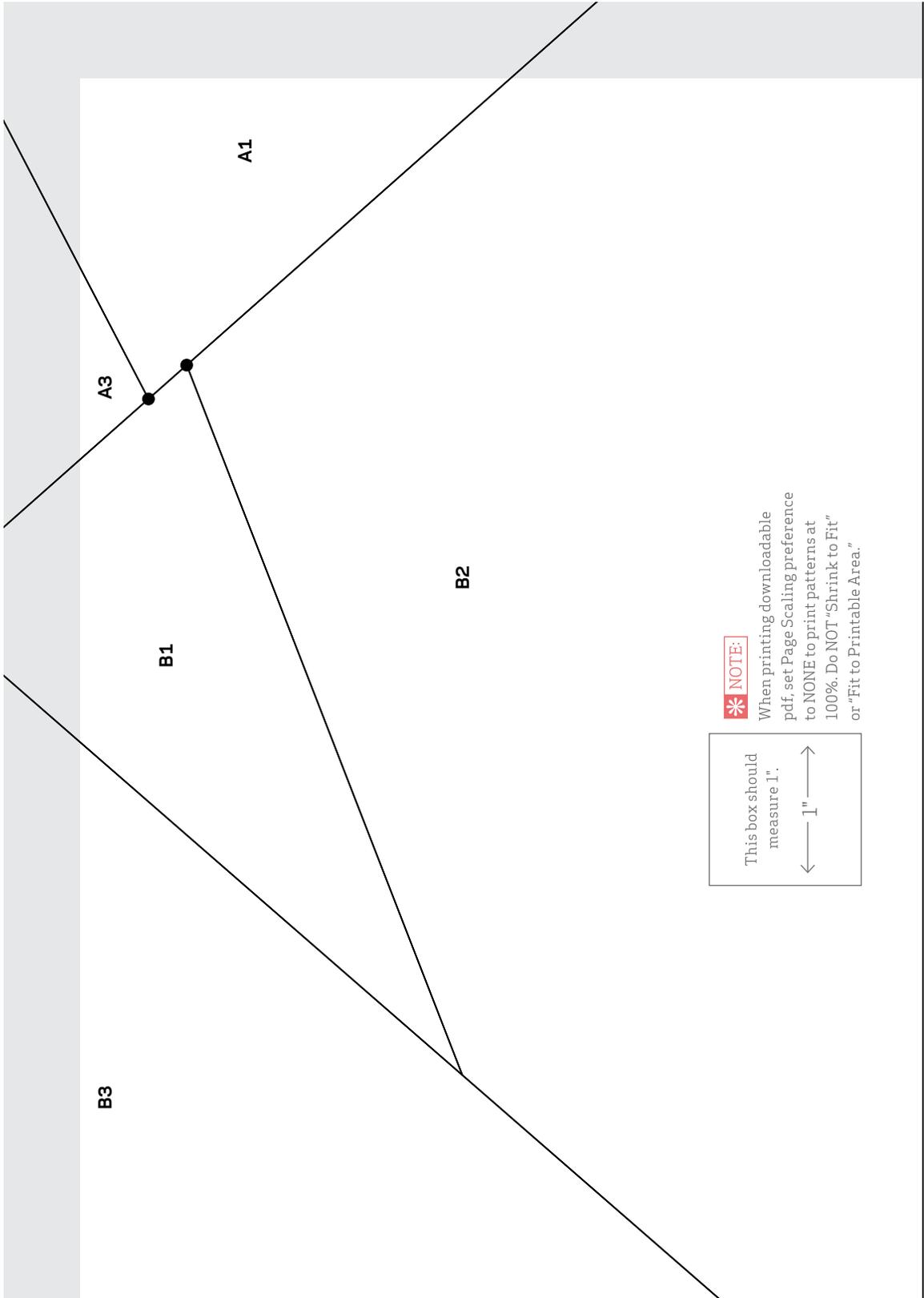
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← 1" →

*** NOTE:**

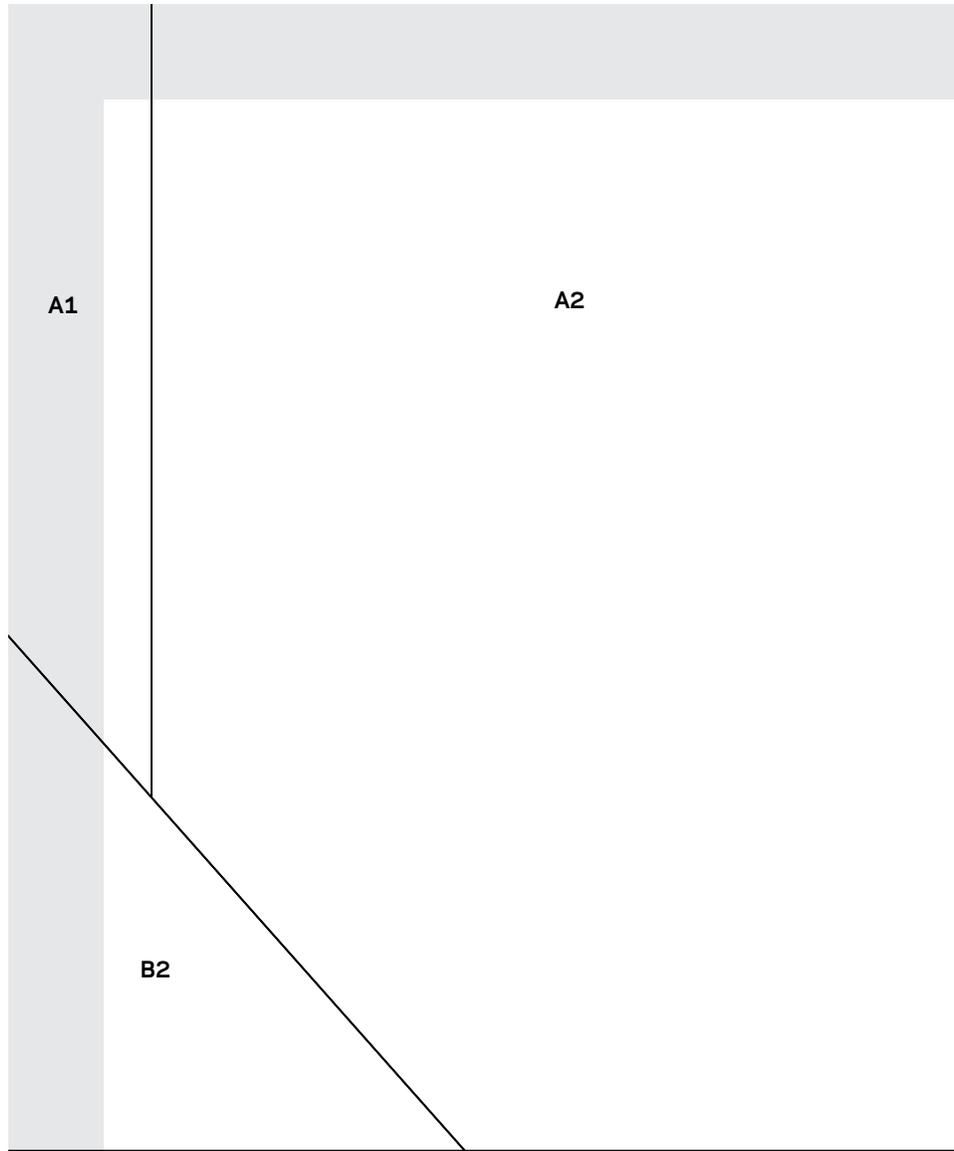
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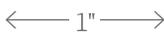
Crazy Stars
Cutting Template Section 3

Project: Crazy Stars



Crazy Stars
Cutting Template Section 4

This box should measure 1".



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