

The window way tutorial

Folded rectangles block



Introduction

Hi! I'm Victoria and I love cathedral window. I hope you too!

I started working with CW in 2014 and I realized that there were several ways to do it. I study and practice the different methods to do CW and, sometimes I make my way.

I found the books of Lynne Edwards; she explains the traditional way to make CW. She uses the traditional technique that folds the fabric to make the "envelope square unit" and teach how to make rectangular and triangular units. Lynne Edwards also proposes unusual kinds of fabrics to make the projects. She inspires and delights us with her beautiful quilts. (Through the Window & Beyond: New Designs for Cathedral Window, 1995. Cathedral Window Quilts: The Classic Folded Technique and a Wealth of Variations, 2008).

The books of Shelly Swanland allow us to make the CW projects completely by machine. Her quilts are wonderful! (Machine-Stitched Cathedral Windows: Updating an Old Favorite-1999; Machine-Stitched Cathedral Stars-2001). There are many variations of her technique: the "10 minutes block" by Suzanne Mc Neil. Or the beautiful work of Vendulka Battais. (Cathedral Windows NEW VIEWS).

There is another method, popularized by Jenny Doan of Missouri Star Quilt Company that it is easy and fun. In my work I explore this method in deep, most of all its variations.

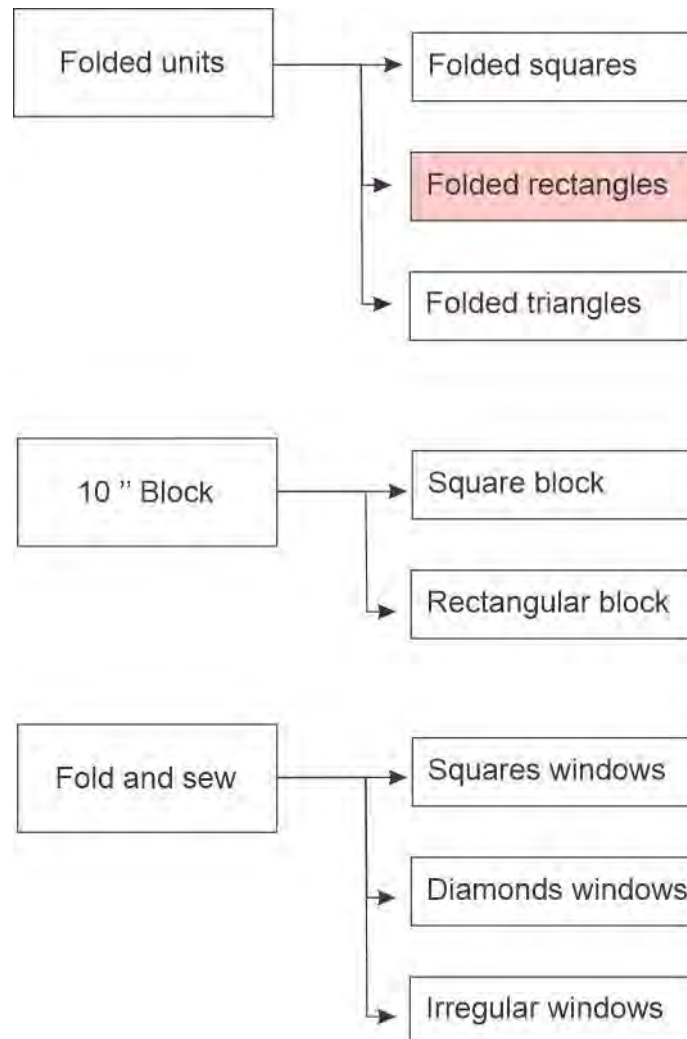
Together, all these ways of doing CW offer us a variety of designs that I want to explore and share with you as I try them.

It is my greatest wish that you love CW as I do and that you can discover new ways to create beauty with this technique. We all feel the need to create beauty and when we do we are so happy!!

Some techniques are more challenging than others, sometimes we feel overwhelming by a new thing to learn. Sometimes we are so busy that we cannot concentrate for the time required to learn. And we left projects undone or in our "to make" list. Usually I feel this way, so I try to make things step by step trying to finish each part of the project and not all the project at one time. I make the tutorials having this in mind so you can achieve your goals.

And ENJOY doing it!!

Technique: folded units - rectangles



This is the classic method to make cathedral window technique. But now, we make rectangular units folding the fabric twice. Then we line up the units and make the window frame. You can sew it by machine or by hand. In the tutorial I first show you how to make the units, then the block with specific instructions about sewing sequence, trimming and press direction. When all this is explained I start with the project itself. So be patient, please. Learn well how to make each block then you'll be confident to make the project with ease.

The units

We start by making the units.

Pay attention to the indications in the templates:

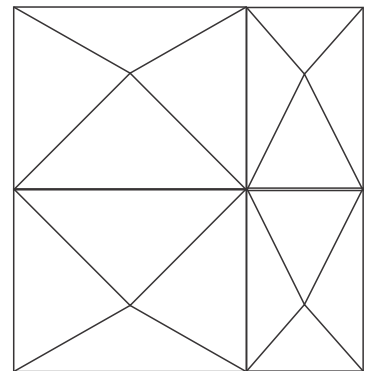
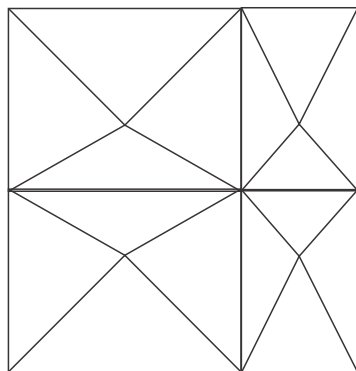
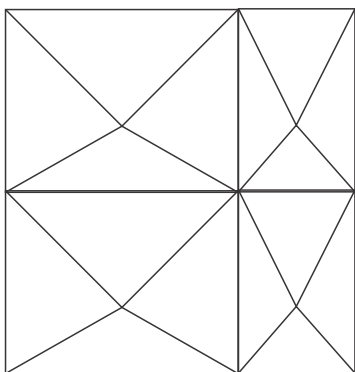
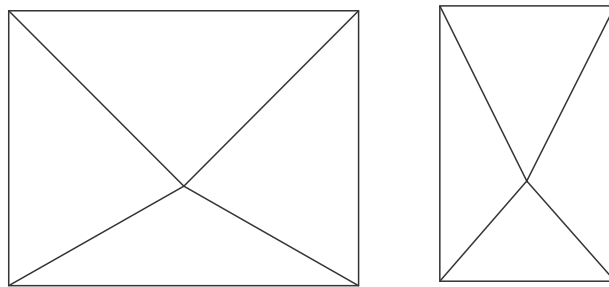
Direction of the grain of the fabric to position the template when you cut

Where you must fold the fabric

The points marking with letters where the pieces come together

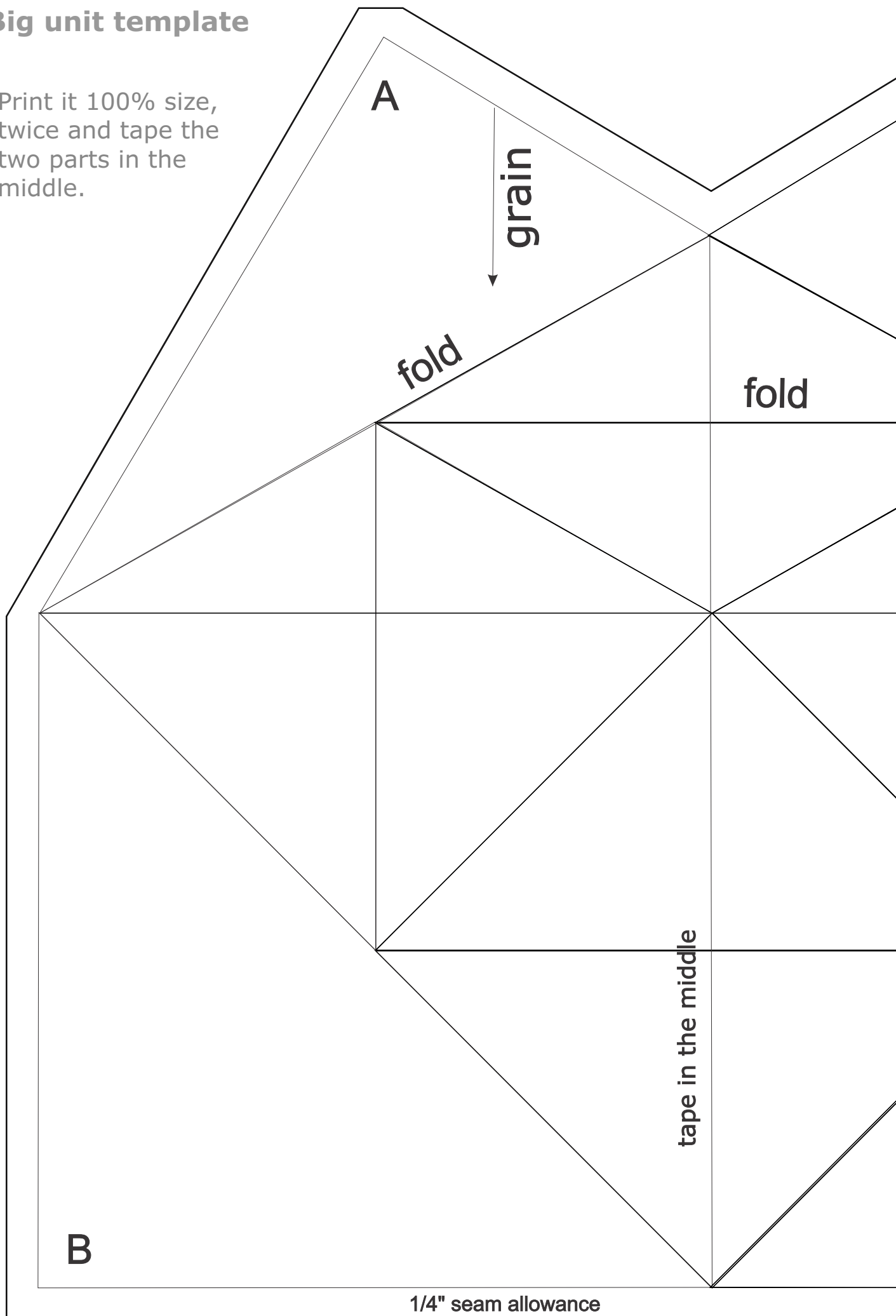
The color of each piece in the unit.

These are the rectangular units. There are many combinations and each one forms a different window shape!



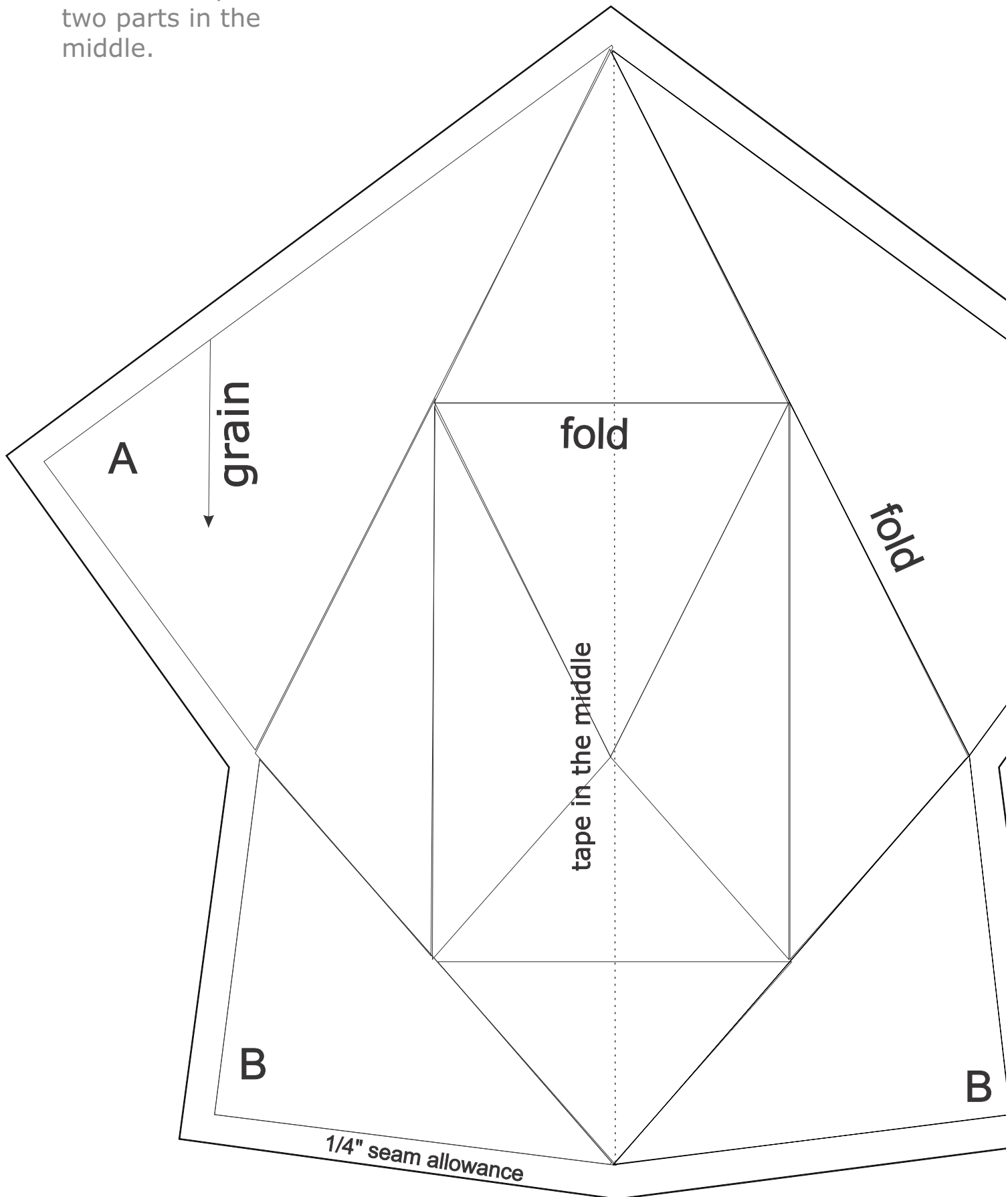
Big unit template

Print it 100% size,
twice and tape the
two parts in the
middle.



Small unit template

Print it 100% size,
twice and tape the
two parts in the
middle.

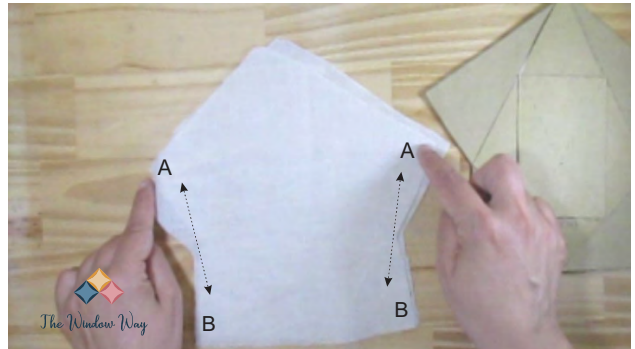
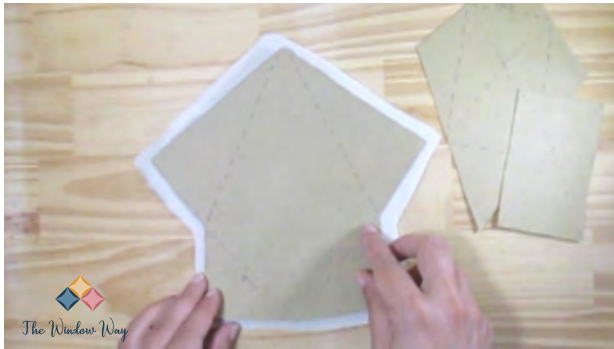


Cut the small unit with the template.

Join points A and B on both sides and sew.

Open in the perpendicular direction, matching the seams in the center.

Sew on both sides leaving open the center to turn right



Trim all four ends.

Turn right and leave the ends very neat and sharp. Press carefully.

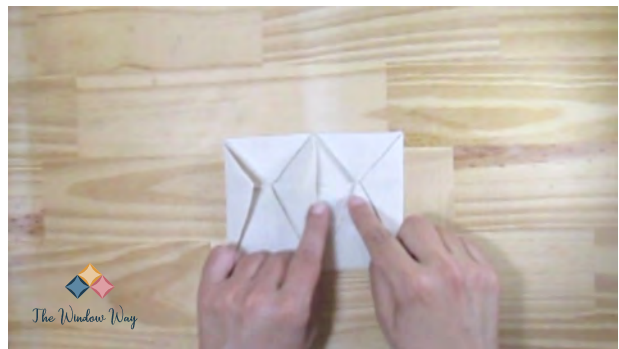
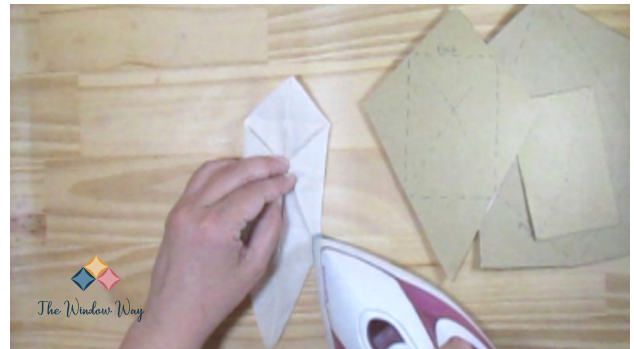
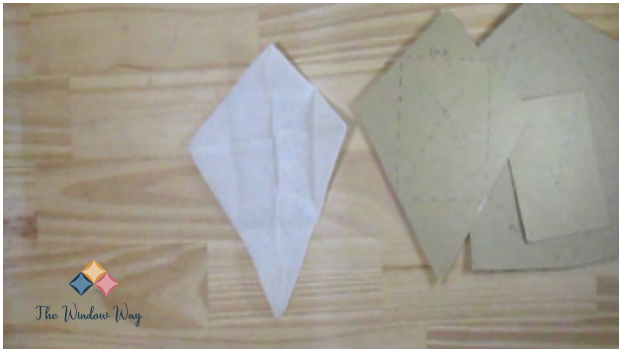


You get a kite shape. Close the opening with a few stitches and press again.

Take the third template and fold the tips towards the center. Press taking care of the corners must be square and neat.

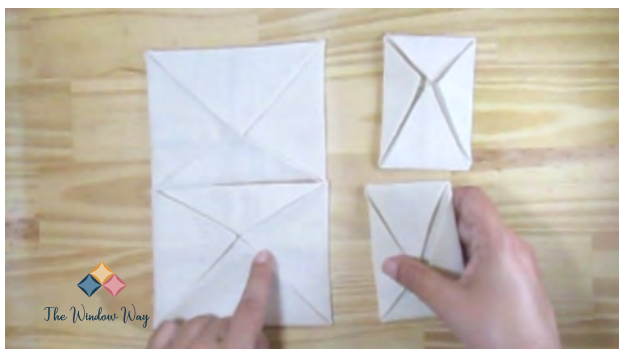
Sew the four ends of the center. The rectangle is done.

Make another rectangle in the same way.

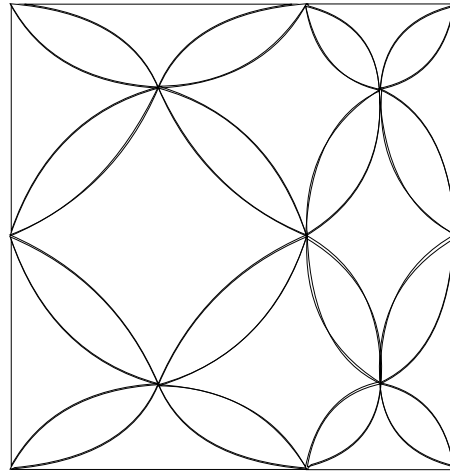
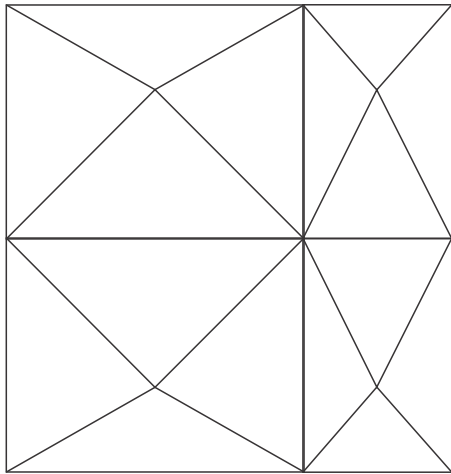


Join two of these units with the fronts facing and sew by hand or align them and sew by machine with a zigzag stitch.

The corners of the window frames must match.



This is the scheme of the block and the window plan.



After making a row of these rectangles you can start applying the windows inside the frames. Place the fabric inside the window frame and secure it with a pin.

Fold the fabric of the frames inward, stretching to form the window. You can sew by machine or by hand.

