

No. 2 Pencil Power

inspired by Social Justice Sewing Academy
at the National Quilt Museum



Guest Designers: Sara Trail & Melinda Newton



Sara Trail

Sara Trail

Sara learned to sew at the young age of 4, and is now a successful author, sewing teacher, and pattern and fabric designer. At age 13, she wrote a nationally published book, *Sew With Sara* that teaches teens and tweens how to sew cute clothes and accessories for fun and profit. At 15, she starred in a nationally published DVD, *Cool Stuff to Sew With Sara*. She then designed two fabric collections, *Folkheart and Biology 101* and a pattern collection with Simplicity, *Designed with Love by Sara*. Her pattern collection features prom dresses, backpack patterns, hoodies, jackets, as well as aprons and tote bags. While attending UC Berkeley, Sara created a quilt in memory of Trayvon Martin, and her love for sewing and passion for social justice intertwined. After graduating from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, she founded the Social Justice Sewing Academy (SJSA) to be a platform where youth create art that engages and educates communities.

Find SJSA Online:

Instagram: @sjsacademy

Website: www.sjsacademy.com

Melinda: IG @quirkygranolagirl

Shannon: IG @hellomynameisquilt

Melinda Newton

Melinda is a sewist, knitter, and designer in Maryland. The raw voice and emotion of youth art through Social Justice Sewing Academy inspires her to learn more and to be a better advocate. SJSA has brought a level of meaning and community to her craft that she couldn't achieve on her own.

Block was designed by Melinda Newton and inspired by Leland, a SJSA youth artist from Baltimore, MD.

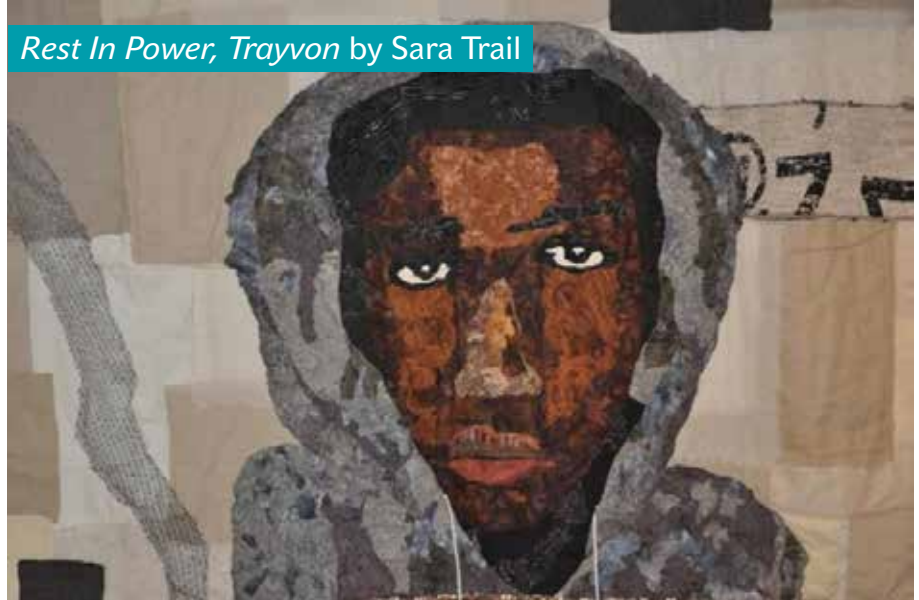


Inspiration

The Social Justice Sewing Academy (SJSA) is a youth education program that bridges artistic expression with activism to advocate for social justice. This exhibition features powerful imagery the students created in cloth to tell their stories.

Through a series of hands-on workshops in schools, prisons, and community centers across the country, SJSA empowers youth to use textile art as a vehicle for personal transformation, community cohesion, and become agents of social change. Many of our young artists make art that explores issues such as gender discrimination, mass incarceration, gun violence, and gentrification.

The powerful imagery they create in cloth tells their stories, and these quilt blocks are then sent to volunteers around the world to embellish and embroider before being sewn together into quilts to be displayed in museums, galleries and quilt shows across the country.



Rest In Power, Trayvon by Sara Trail



Empowerment by SJSA Volunteers



Sample Block: No. 2 Pencil Power



Sample by Shannon Pankratz, SJSA volunteer

- Size 10.5" x 10.5" (finishes 10" x 10")
- Supplies: Add-A-Quarter Ruler (optional), postcard or similar thickness paper

Required fabric:

- Background ~½ yard
- Pencil: scraps work well in Yellow, Pink, Green
- Letters: Grey and Black



Foundation Paper Piecing helps create more accurate or intricate designs, especially with sharp points or angles that are not easily stitched with regular piecing methods. Paper Pieced patterns have numbered sections that you follow in order. The numbered side of the paper is the Right side of the pattern. You stitch through the paper and fabric together, following the solid lines of the pattern, adding fabric in numerical order. Use a shortened stitch length as this perforates the paper and makes it easier to remove the paper from the back of the block when it is complete.

When constructing the block, remember these main steps:

FOLD-TRIM-STITCH-PRESS

Preparation

1. Print ONE copy of the pattern (pages 12-14) at 100%. Printer setting should be Actual Size, so when you measure the 1" test square on the page it is accurate.
2. Cut out each pattern piece, being sure to leave approx. ½" of paper outside the solid line.
3. Lower/shorten your stitch length to 1.5-1.8.

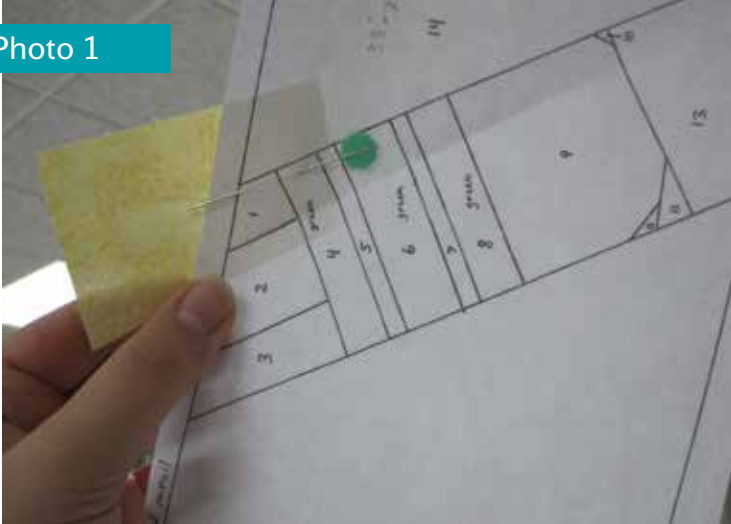
View our tutorial on paper piecing on The National Quilt Museum YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuDvrDfA2Q8>



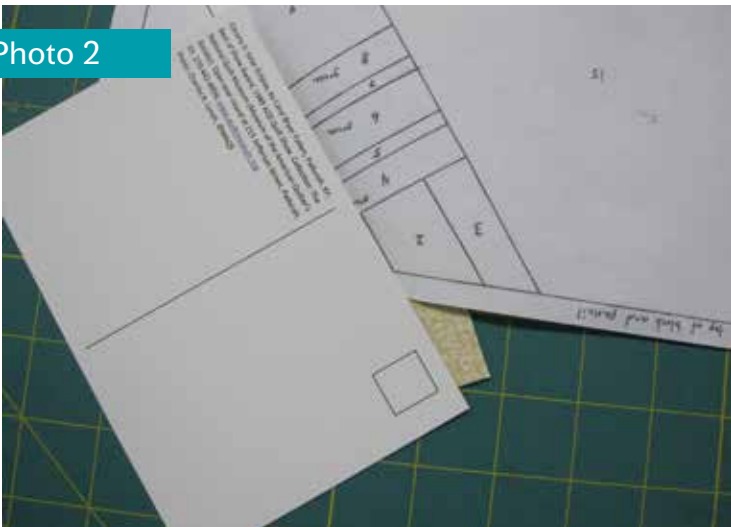
Construction

Photo 1



1. Start with Section A, the top of the block.
2. The numbered side of the paper is the Right side. Place the wrong side of fabric piece 1 to the wrong side of the paper, behind section 1. Holding the fabric & paper up to a light or window will help make sure the entire area is covered. Fabric should extend $\frac{1}{4}$ " past the solid lines for seam allowance. Pin fabric piece 1 in place from the Right side of the paper (photo 1).

Photo 2



3. Make sure the pattern is Right side up on the cutting mat (numbers facing up). Place the postcard along the solid line between sections 1 & 2. Then **FOLD** back the paper only along that line. Place the Add-A-Quarter ruler along the fold and **TRIM** any excess fabric (photo 2). If using a regular quilt ruler, place the $\frac{1}{4}$ " marks on the folded edge of the paper, and **TRIM** any excess fabric. This creates seam allowance and a guide for where to set fabric piece 2 (photo 3).

Photo 3





Construction

Photo 4

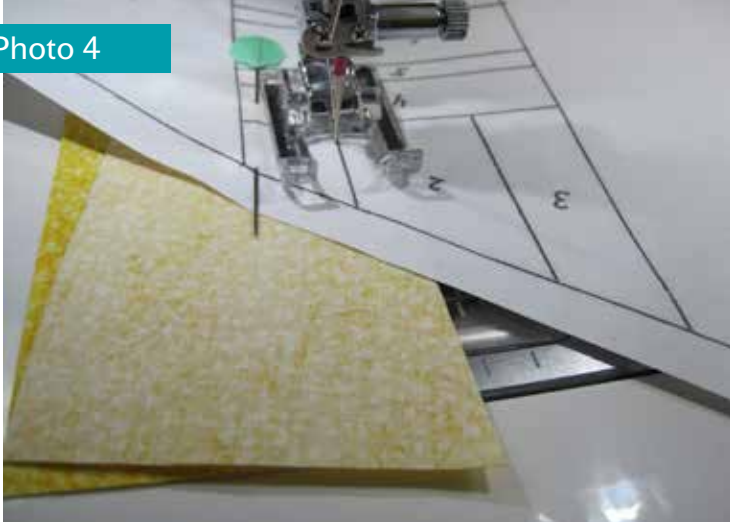
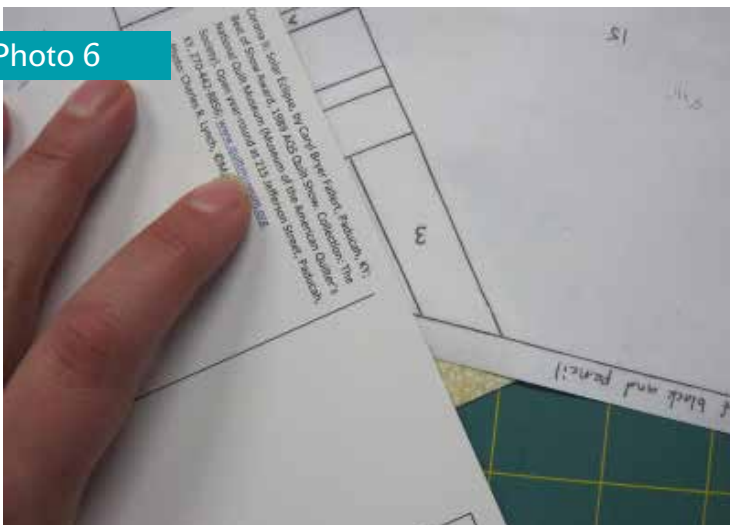


Photo 5



Photo 6



4. Unfold the paper and turn over. Place fabric piece 2 Right sides together with fabric piece 1, using the newly trimmed edge as a guide. Pin in place if desired from the Right side of the paper or hold the pieces in place and set paper side up in the machine.
5. **STITCH** directly on the solid line between sections 1 & 2. It's okay to start just before the line and end just past the line (photo 4). Remove any pins. Open up fabric piece 2 and check that it has covered the entire section 2.
6. **PRESS** the seam flat (photo 5). Then flip the pattern over so the numbers face up again.
7. Set the postcard along the solid line between section 3 and sections 2&1. **FOLD** back the paper only (photo 6).
8. **TRIM** a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, using the Add-A-Quarter or regular ruler.



Construction

Photo 7



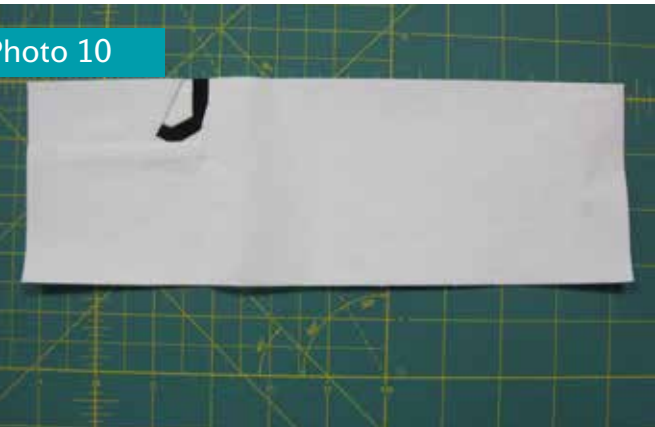
Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10

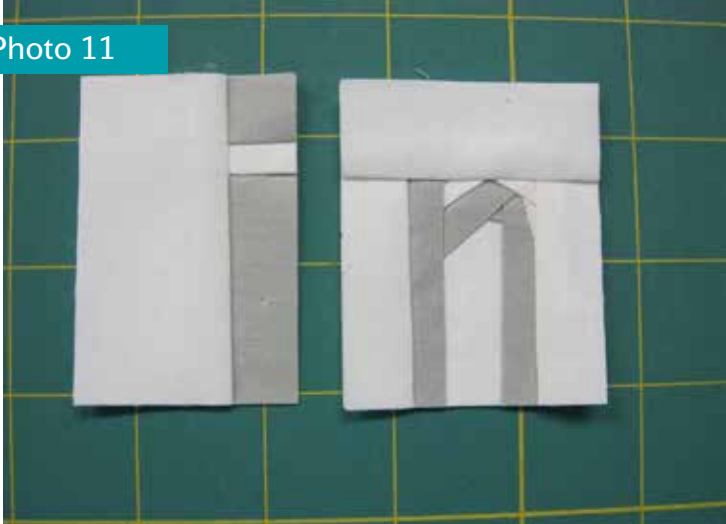


9. Flip pattern back over, placing fabric piece 3, right sides together, even to the trimmed edge. Pin or hold in place to set in the machine.
10. **STITCH** directly on the solid line between section 3 & sections 1&2. Open up fabric piece 3 and check that it covers the entire section 3.
11. **PRESS** the seam and flip so the numbers are facing up once more.
12. Continue to **FOLD, TRIM, STITCH, PRESS** in numerical order to finish Section A (photo 7).
13. Square up the finished section. Trim any extra paper or fabric $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the solid line on all sides. (photo 8 & 9). Set aside until all sections are complete.
14. Repeat **STEPS 2-13** with Section B, the bottom of the block (photo 10).



Construction: Letters

Photo 11

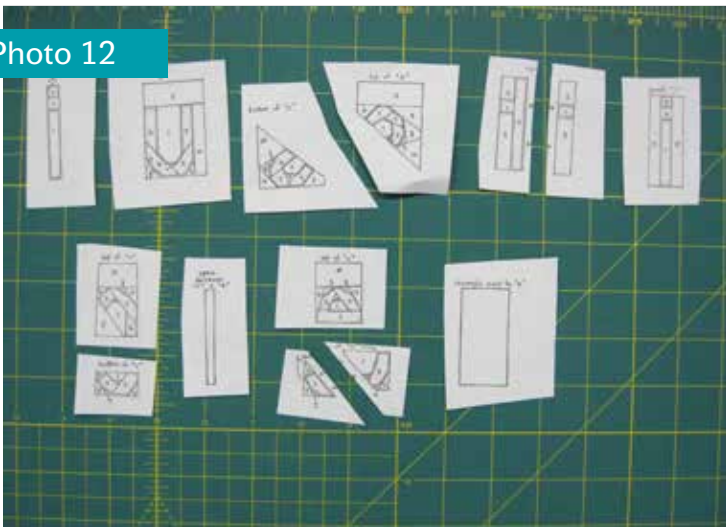


15. Each letter is constructed individually, using the same paper piecing steps. Start with the first I and N using grey fabric. Repeat **STEPS 2-13** to construct both letters and set aside (Photo 11).

16. Lay out remaining pieces for the letters and spaces in order (photo 12).

17. Continue piecing each of the remaining letters in black fabric.

Photo 12





Construction: Letters

Photo 13

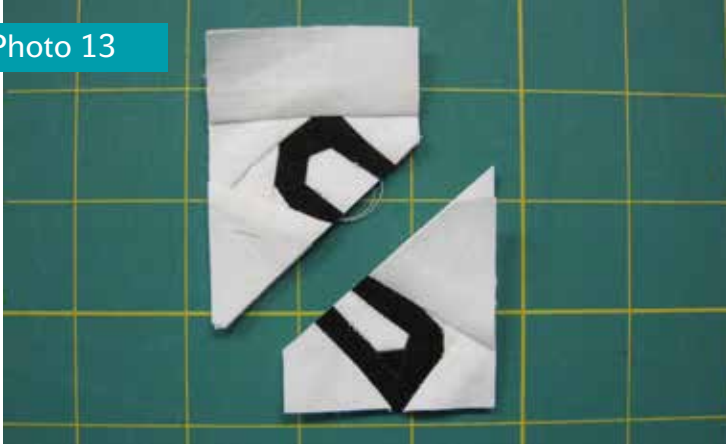


Photo 14



Photo 15

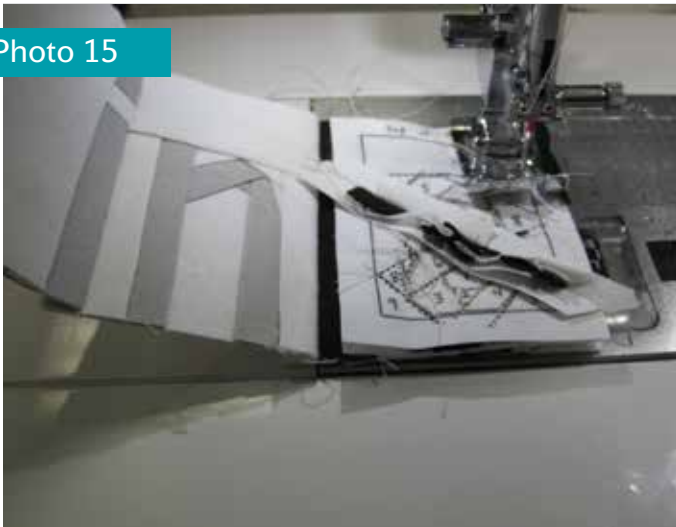


Photo 16



18. The S, T, C and E each have several pieces that will be joined together to complete the letter. Complete each section, using **STEPS 2-13**. Then Stitch the sections together for the full letter (photo 13 & 14).

19. There are two pieces that consist only of background fabric. Pin a piece of fabric to the pattern, then square up the piece using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the solid line.

TIP: A glue stick can also be used to hold the fabric in place while trimming and joining to the other letters.

20. Lay out all the finished letters, fabric side up, in order. Stitch together using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam to complete Section C (photo 15).

21. Layout Sections A, B, and C (photo 16).



Finishing

Photo 17

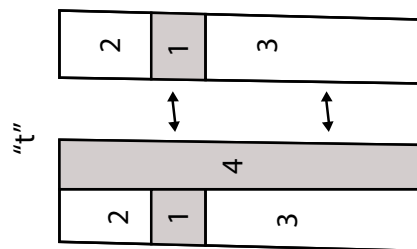
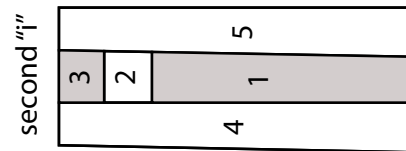
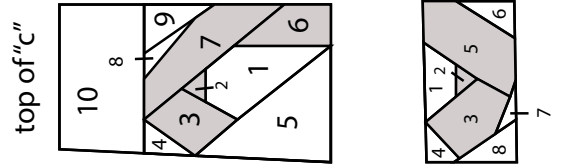
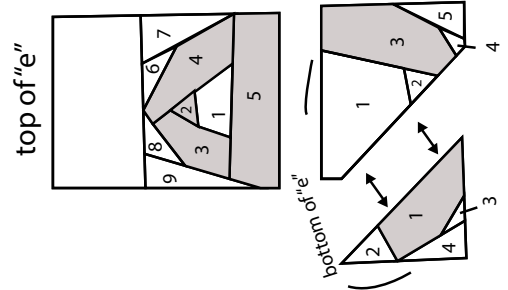
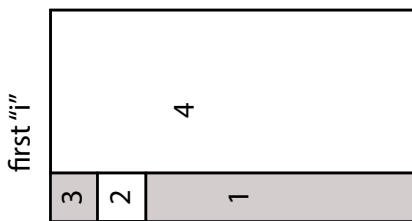
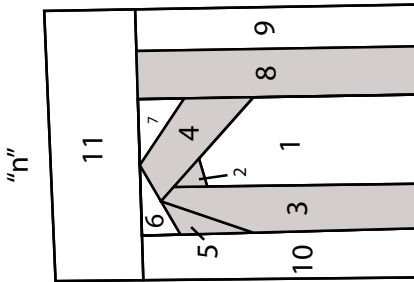
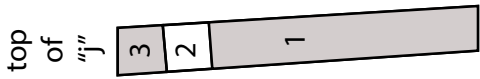
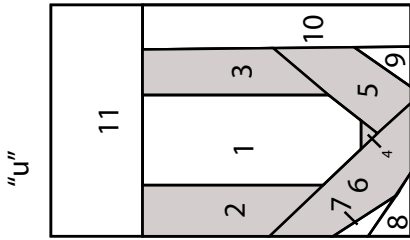


22. Stitch Section A to C and press. Then
Stitch section B to AC and Press
(photo 17).

Finished?
Fantastic!



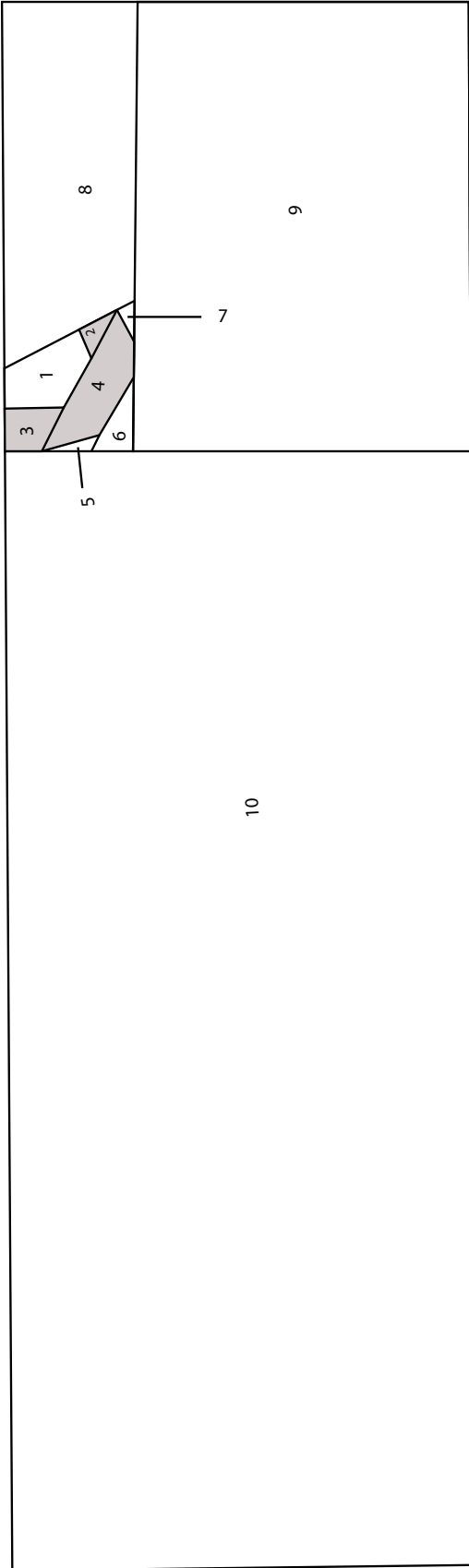
1" test
for printing
100%



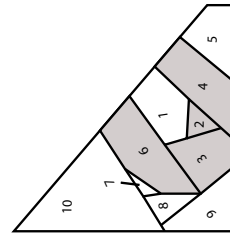


Section B

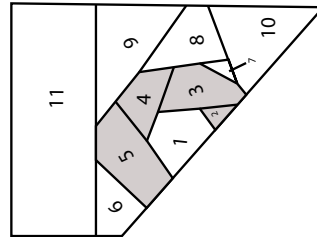
bottom of "j" and block



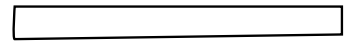
bottom of "s"



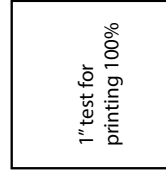
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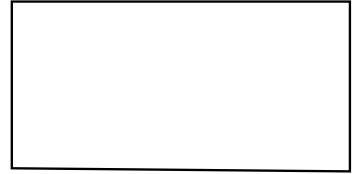
space between "c" & "e"



1" test for printing 100%

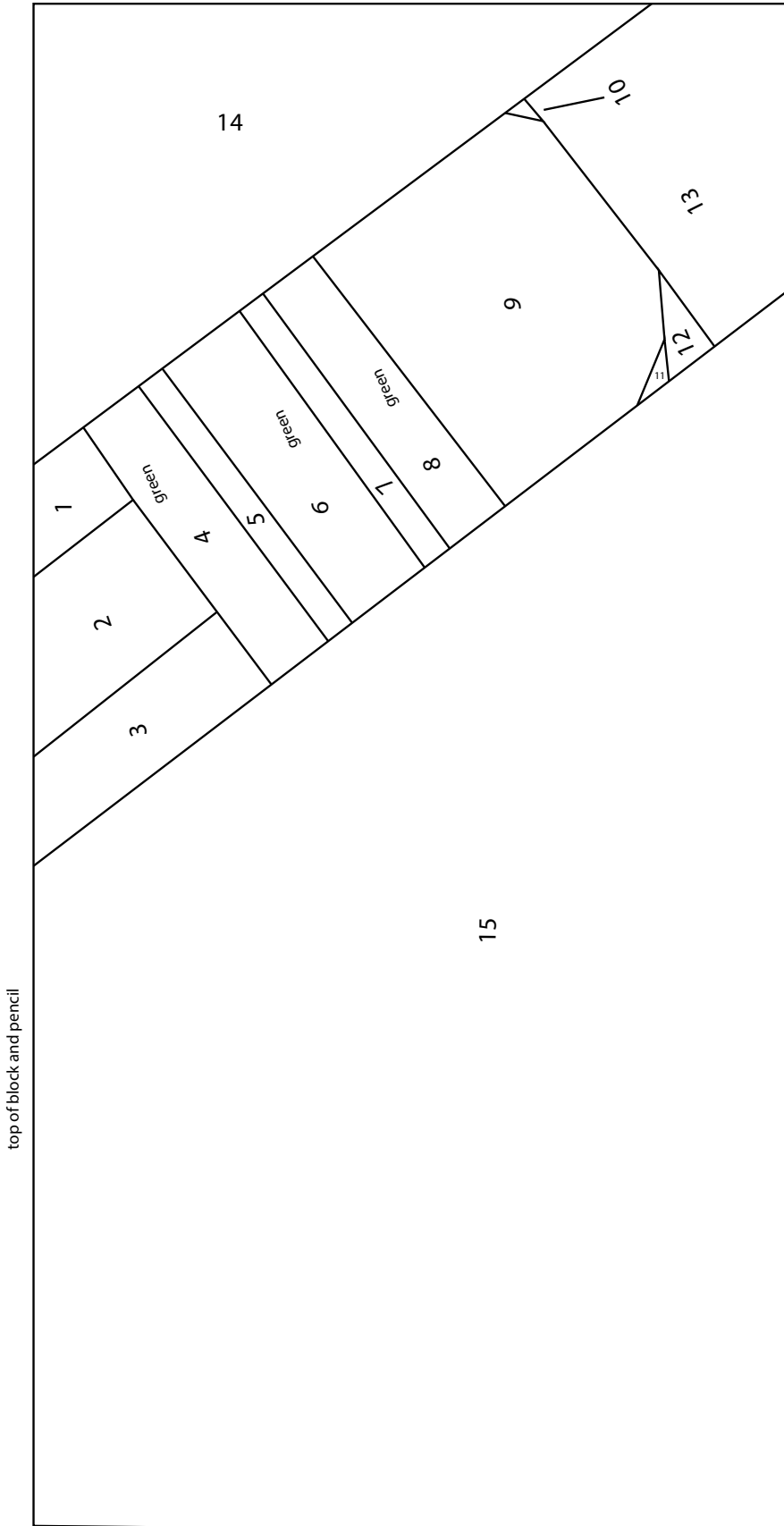


rectangle next to "e"





Section A



1" Test for Printing
100%



National Quilt Museum Updates

Exhibit



See the Social Justice Sewing Academy exhibit in the Corner Gallery from January 10, 2020 – March 10, 2020. This exhibition features works created by students telling their stories through fabric. A blend of artistic expression and social activism, these powerful pieces form a bridge between differences in race, age, socioeconomics, and spark conversations and actions in households across the country.

- **Learn More** quiltmuseum.org/visit/current-exhibits/

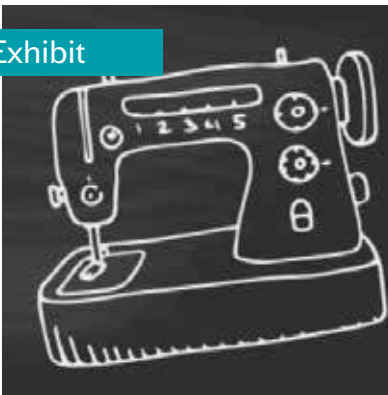
Ceremony



The Quilts of Valor Foundation will present quilts from the exhibit to veterans and military service members who have been touched by war. The presentation ceremony to be held here at the Museum on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 2 pm, is open to the public.

- **Join Us** www.facebook.com/events/2695529097206234/

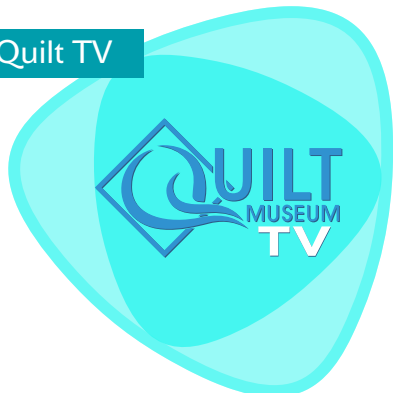
Exhibit



Our annual School Block Challenge exhibit opens January 17 and features quilt blocks made by students in grades K-12 from across the country. Sponsored by Moda fabrics, the challenge inspires creativity and brings quilting to the next generation. The 2020 contest includes: 289 entries, 327 participants, from 25 states and 1 APO!

- **Get Involved** quiltmuseum.org/education/contests/school-block-challenge

Quilt TV



Watch the latest Quilt TV on our YouTube channel. This episode includes an interview with Cathy Erickson, US curator of the CONTEMPORÂNEO-CONTEMPORARY exhibition, and a peek at the Quilts of Valor and Jane Dunnewold: Inspired by the Masters Corner Gallery.

- **Subscribe Now** www.youtube.com/channel/UCxZoMB84Z09vfwjfhYnaCkA/