



Bon Voyage!
Diamond Pincushion



Diamond Pincushion

You will need two fabrics for this pincushion. The top fabric (Fabric 1) is fussy-cut to create a distinctive pattern on top of the pincushion. This makes it a bit difficult to suggest an exact amount of fabric needed, but a generous approximate has been suggested in the materials list. For the English paper piecing technique, we have tacked (basted) the seam allowance around the edges but you could use paper piece glue instead.

Materials

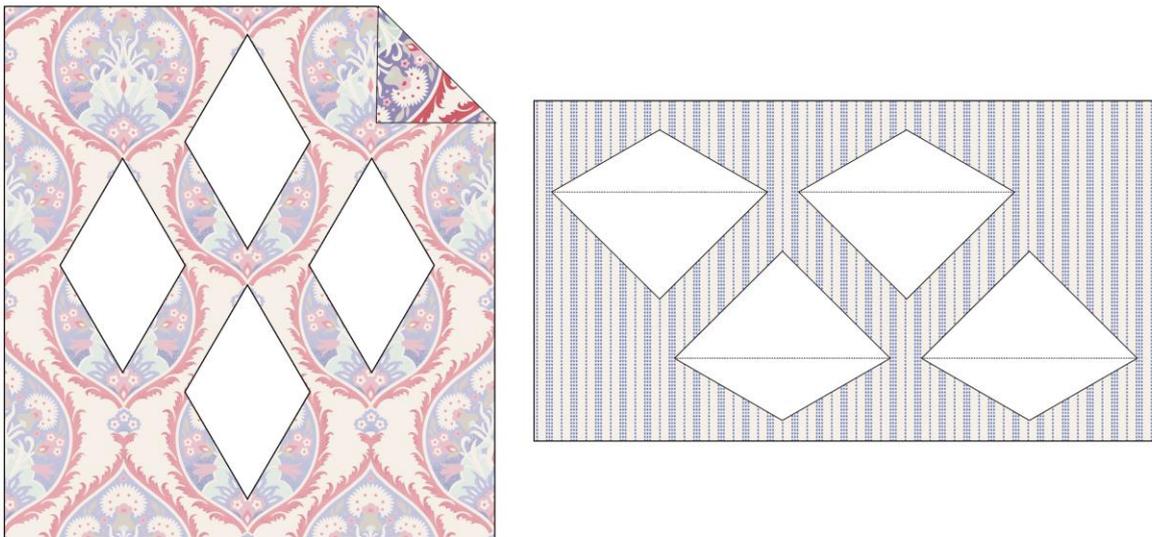
- Fabric 1: approximately 8in (20cm) wide x 8½in high (21.5cm) – Flowerleaf Blue (100242) Bon Voyage collection
- Fabric 2: 10in (25.5cm) wide x 5½in high (14cm) – Cookie Stripe Blue (130062) Tea Towel collection
- Thick photo paper or stiff paper, for example, 150g–250g weight
- Hand sewing needle and threads to match fabric
- Fiberfill or wool filling for stuffing

Making the Pincushion

1 On the pattern sheet, the tall diamond shape is for the fussy-cut top of the pincushion, while the wider, fatter shape with a dotted line is for the base. The dotted line shows where you will need to press the edge later, to give the pincushion its pyramid shape. Using the thick paper, cut out four of each shape.

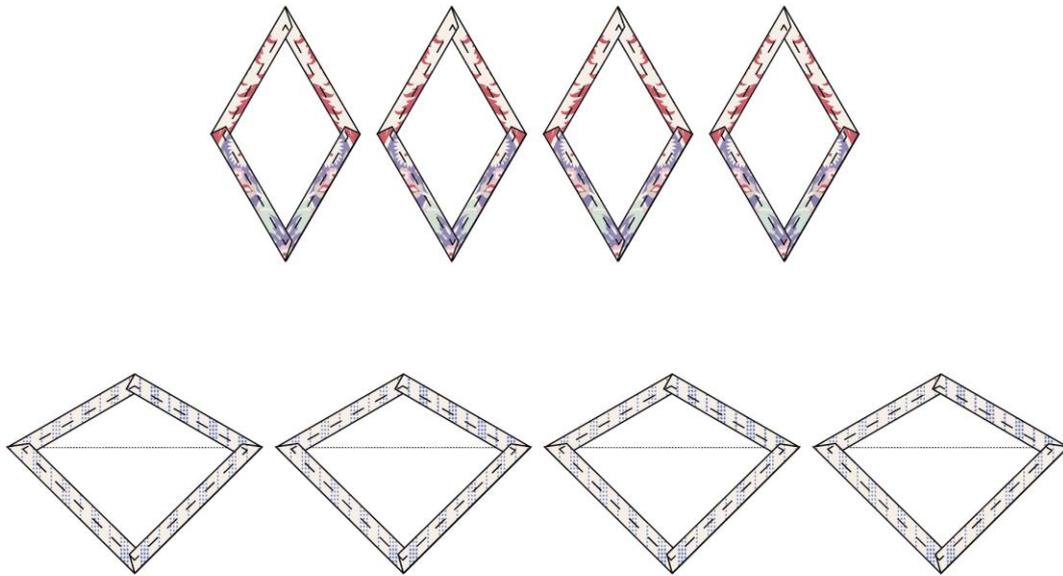
2 On Fabric 1, place the diamond paper shapes on the wrong side of the fabric, positioning the shapes exactly on the same patterned area of the fabric (see **Fig A**). For Fabric 2, position the paper patterns as shown. Trace around the shapes and then cut them out with a ¼in (6mm) seam allowance.

Fig A



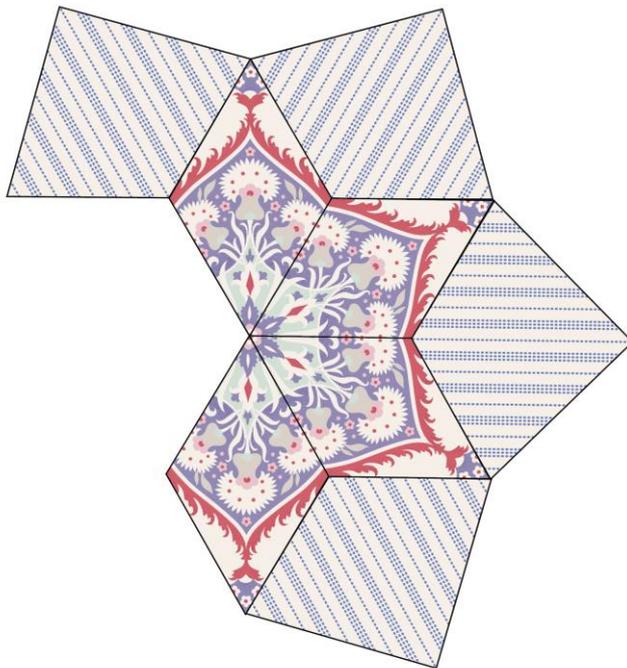
3 Place the paper shape against the wrong side of the fabric shape, fold the seam allowance around the paper edge and tack (baste) through all the layers to attach (**Fig B**). Alternatively, use paper piece glue to fix the seam allowance in place.

Fig B



4 Once all of the shapes are prepared, the pieces can be sewn together. Start by placing two diamond shapes right sides together and sewing the edges together, sewing only through the fabric and using small hand stitches and matching thread. Add a striped shape between these diamonds, sewing one seam and then re-folding the work to sew the other seam. Continue on in this way until the work looks like **Fig C**. This diagram shows how the work looks from the front once the pieces are sewn together. **Fig D** shows the back of the piece.

Fig C



5 To form the three-dimensional shape of the pincushion, follow **Fig D**, folding the work so that edge A and B meet, and edge C and D meet. Now sew the edges together as in **Fig E**.

Fig D

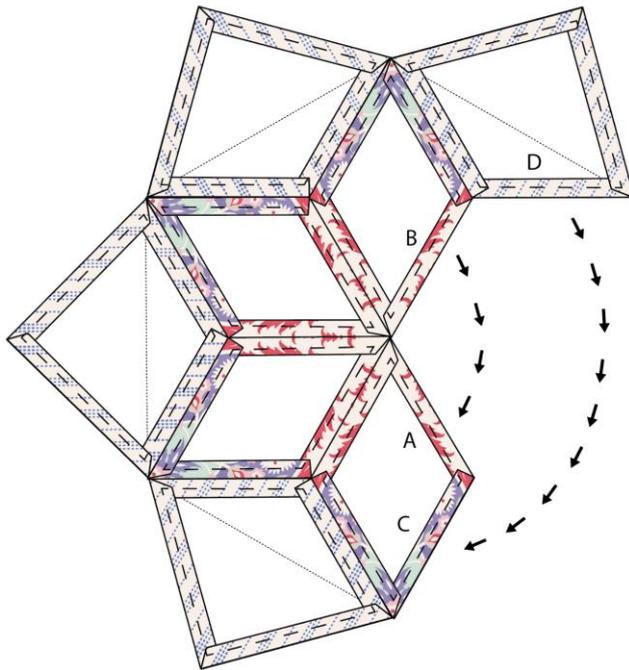
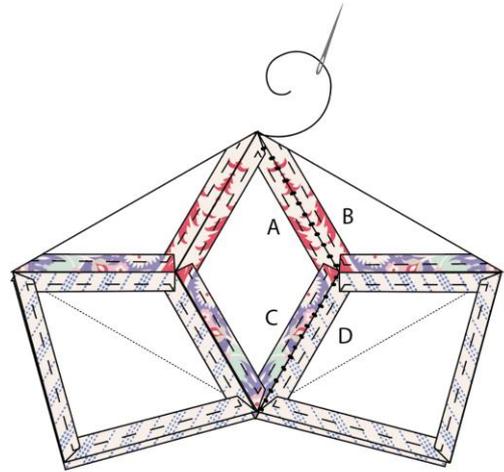
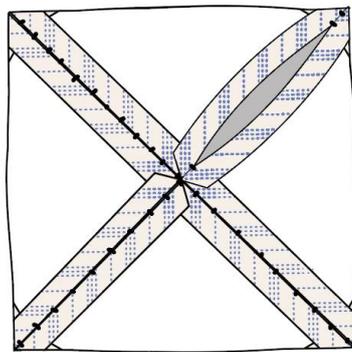


Fig E



6 Remove the tacking (basting) stitches on the seam allowances from the four top diamonds only, and then remove the four paper patterns. Fold the bottom fat diamonds along the dotted line on the pattern to create the square bottom of the pincushion. Sew all the edges together but leave an opening for turning, as shown in **Fig F**.

Fig F



7 Remove the tacking (basting) stitches on the seam allowances from the remaining four shapes and remove the paper patterns. Turn the pincushion through to the right side and press all of the edges. Press the folds that create the bottom, so they are crisp and firm.

8 Stuff the pincushion well. A useful tip is to add a few spoons of dried rice to the bottom of the pincushion, to make it a little heavier at the base. Sew up the opening with small slipstitches. If the pincushion is too round, use the iron to enhance the pyramid shape by flattening the sides and bottom. Your pincushion is now ready to use.

Diamond Pincushion paper shapes

