

Southwest Sunrise

Block 3 Zuni Sunface

12" x 12" finished block size

Technique: Fusible Web Machine Applique

Level: Confident Beginner

Fabric Requirements:

- 13" square of background fabric
- 1/4 yard black
- 1/8 yard or scraps each turquoise, coral, golden yellow, lime green, mother of pearl white

Other Supplies

- 1 sheet Steam A Seam 2 Lite
- Bent nose tweezers
- Sharp point scissors
- Applique pressing sheet
- Scotch tape
- Thread to match fabrics

Introduction

In the Journey depicted by this quilt, we began with the clay of the earth and the hands which shaped it. It represents our birth, growth, connection to others, and the wisdom gained from relationships and hard work. It embodies the practical vessels for gathering, cooking, eating, and storing, while the decorative elements and ceremonies surrounding its use weave the spiritual beliefs and values of our communities into our daily tasks and life events.

The Thunderbird, the second block in this Journey showed us both the blessings and dangers brought by the bird messenger between the earth and the heavens. The rain, wind, and thunder bring life, but can also take life. It shows us the two sides of power and the need to moderate between the extremes which can deceive us.

The third stop on this Journey moves us from the earth, to the air, to the creator and source of the life and elements shown in blocks 1 and 2. Every culture endows great power on the sun and associates it with the power that gives and sustains life.

The Zuni people or "Ashiwi" (meaning 'the flesh'), are believed to have been living in what is now western New Mexico as early as 2500 BC. The Sunface is one of the ancient symbols in Zuni (Pueblo) cul-



ture. It represents the sacred Sun Father, one of the three main kachinas (or deities) of the Zuni people. For the Zuni, the Sun symbolizes abundance, continuity, stability, positive energy, hope, happiness, and peace¹. It is associated with the warmth that made life and growth possible and believe it brings playfulness and joy to children and good fortune and prosperity to families.

The symbol's round motif depicts the Sun with a forehead split down the middle to reflect the eternal balance between sunrise and sunset. Rectangular eyes and a round mouth complete the face, and the whole is encircled by feathers that radiate outward like sunlight.²

The Sunface image (right) is a beautiful silver and inlay pin given to me by my mother. She received it as a gift from a friend who was a teacher with the Pueblo people. It is one of my most treasured pieces, and I wear it when I want to remember the joy and abundance which has been given to me by the creator, my family and friends.

According to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, the Sunface design is often depicted in various forms of traditional jewelry made from precious stones. "The turquoise in the upper-right represents oneness between the physical and spiritual realms; the coral alongside it offers protection and comfort. The Sun's main face is made of mother of pearl, which embodies intuition and imagination, while the black jet of fossilized wood completes the face's features." The natural materials and the vividly contrasting colors "balance each other within a unified circle."²

As you make this third block remember the blessings you have received and the joy that we derive from the creative process of shaping fabric into beautiful and meaningful shapes. It is this delight which helps us through the darker times, when the sun on our face disappears and we feel fear and anxiety. For me at least, looking at the image of the Sunface brings me joy. I hope it does for you as well.



Photo by Reeze Hanson



- 1 Ancient Symbols.com. https://www.ancient-symbols.com/symbols-directory/sun_face.html
- 2 Shumakolwa Gallery. https://www.ancient-symbols.com/symbols-directory/sun_face.html

Photo Credits

Sunface Kachina Doll, in the style of Hopi artist Milton Howard, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/324751823121950587/>

Instructions

1. Print out the template page and applique layout guide (Fig. 1) if you do not already have a print edition of the pattern.
2. Tape the four-page layout guide together on the registration lines matching the outlines of each patch. Use tape on the back of all the seams to make it sturdy.
3. Assemble your fabrics and label each with the template for which it will be used.
4. Select a fusible product to trace the templates. Due to the many small pieces in this block Steam A Seam 2 Light is highly recommended due to its sticky properties.
5. Use a fine line Sharpie to trace the templates on the paper backing of the sticky side of your fusible web.
6. The templates are already reversed and will appear facing the opposite direction when fused in place.
7. Follow the instructions on the template pages for the number of templates to trace.
8. "Window" template H, the black Sunface background, leaving 1/4" of fusible web inside the traced lines.
9. When tracing templates E and F, trace the "cut out" sections. Do not cut out those areas until AFTER the templates are fused to the fabric. (Fig. 2)
10. Cut out the traced templates around, not on, the traced lines.
11. Remove the paper from one side of the fusible web templates and place them on the wrong side of the applique fabric. Fuse templates to the fabric. Cut out each template on the traced lines.
12. On templates E and F carefully remove the "cut out" sections with sharp pointed scissors. Discard the cut out sections.
13. Using an applique pressing sheet place all the templates for the Sunface (templates A, B, C, D, E, F, G) on the black background circle (template H) using the applique placement guide. (Fig. 3) Be sure to remove the paper from each piece prior to positioning and fusing them.

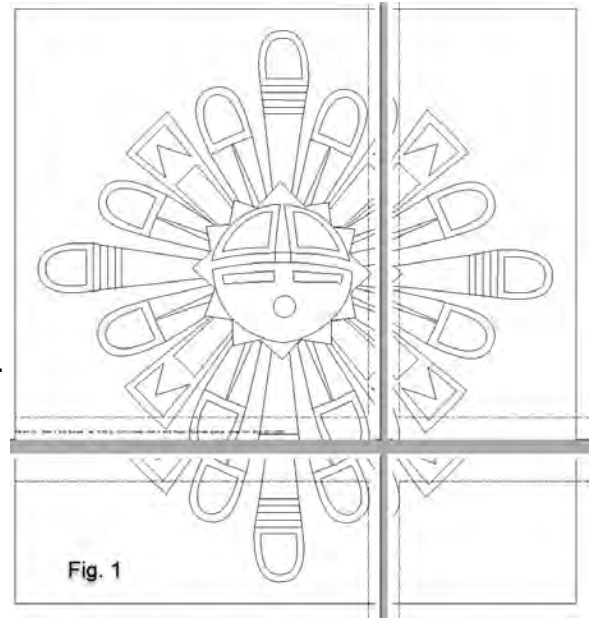


Fig. 1

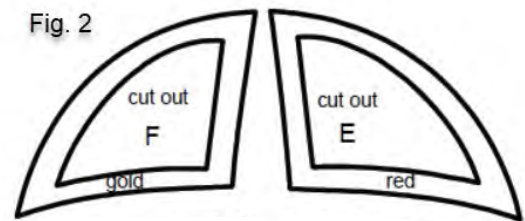


Fig. 2

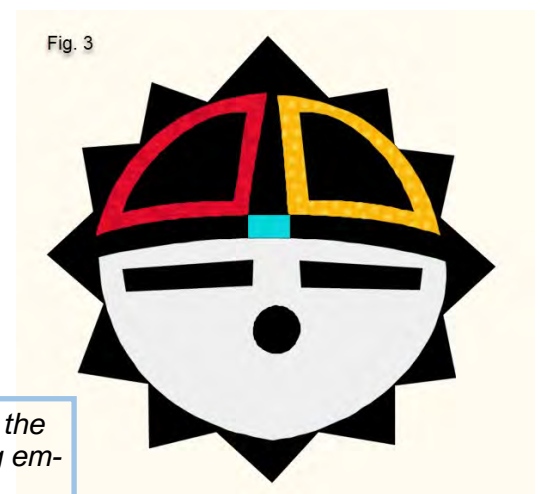


Fig. 3

NOTE: Because they are such small pieces, you may prefer to make the rectangle eyes, round mouth, and turquoise forehead rectangle using embroidery floss or other embellishments rather than applique.

14. On the applique pressing sheet assemble all the sun ray pieces. Place the black L, M, and T templates on the pressing sheet. (Fig. 4)

- Place templates N and O on black template M. (4)
- Place templates I, J, and K on template L. (8)
- Place templates P, Q, R, and S on template T. (4)

15. Fuse all the detail pieces to the sun rays.

16. Remove the paper from the back of the round Surface template H and place on the applique pressing sheet. Position the sheet on top of the applique placement guide with the Surface aligned with the placement guide.

17. Using bent nose tweezers, place the four T template rays in the north, south, east, and west positions, (Fig. 5) aligning them with the placement guide. Be sure that the bottom of each ray is tucked underneath the Surface (template H). Fuse the rays in place so they don't move on the pressing sheet, but DO NOT fuse the Surface to them yet.

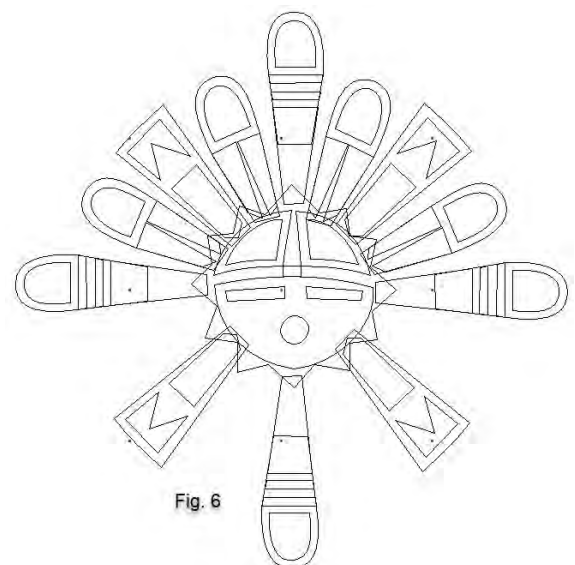
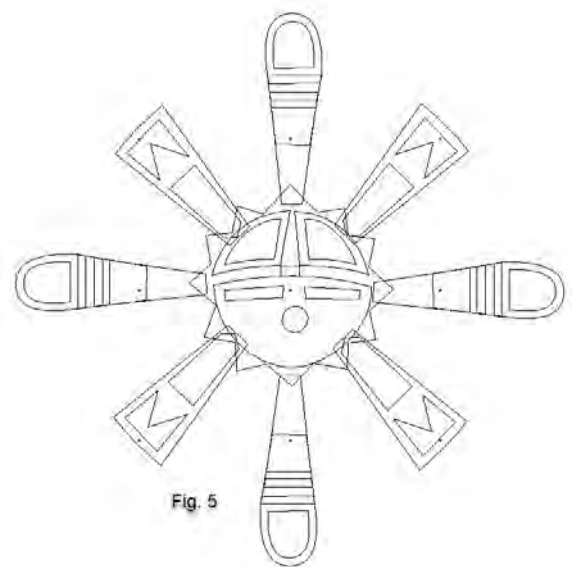
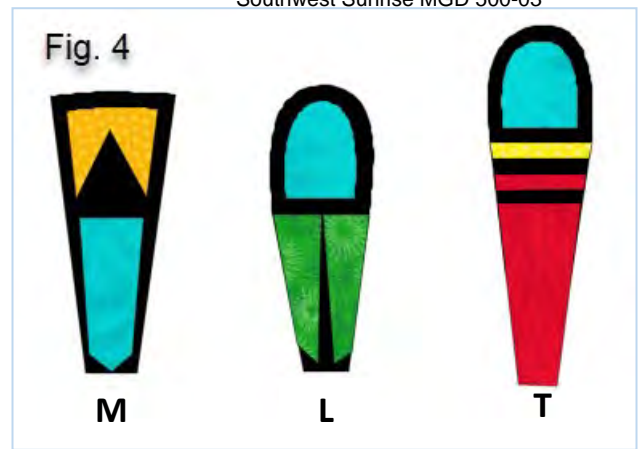
18. Place the M template rays in between each of T template rays, (Fig. 5) leaving the same amount of space on either side. Then position the eight L template rays on both sides of each M template ray. (Fig. 6)

19. Check to make sure that all the rays are aligned with the placement guide and the Surface center is covering the bottom of each ray. Fuse in place on the pressing sheet. Allow to cool completely.

20. Fold the background square in half vertically and horizontally forming light creases. These will be used as guidelines to place the completed Surface on the background fabric.

21. Turn the applique pressing sheet over and place on your ironing surface. **Peel the pressing sheet away from the applique**, leaving the applique, fused side up, on the ironing surface.

22. Place the background square right side down on top of the applique. Center the applique using the creases you pressed into the background fabric. Finger press a few rays just to get it to stick lightly to the background square.



23. Turn the background fabric square and applique over, and reposition the applique in the center of the background square. Fuse in place. Fuse again from the wrong side of the background fabric to make the bond permanent and remove any trace of the creases pressed in earlier.
24. Select the threads you wish to use to edge stitch your completed block. Refer to the edge stitch options in Block 1 instructions, and the stitching guidelines in the Block 2 video. Pin stabilizer to the back of the block and edge stitch by hand or machine.
25. If you wish to embellish the block with hand- or machine-stitched details, do so while the stabilizer is still attached.
26. When complete, remove the stabilizer and trim the block to 12-1/2" square keeping the Sunface applique centered in the block.



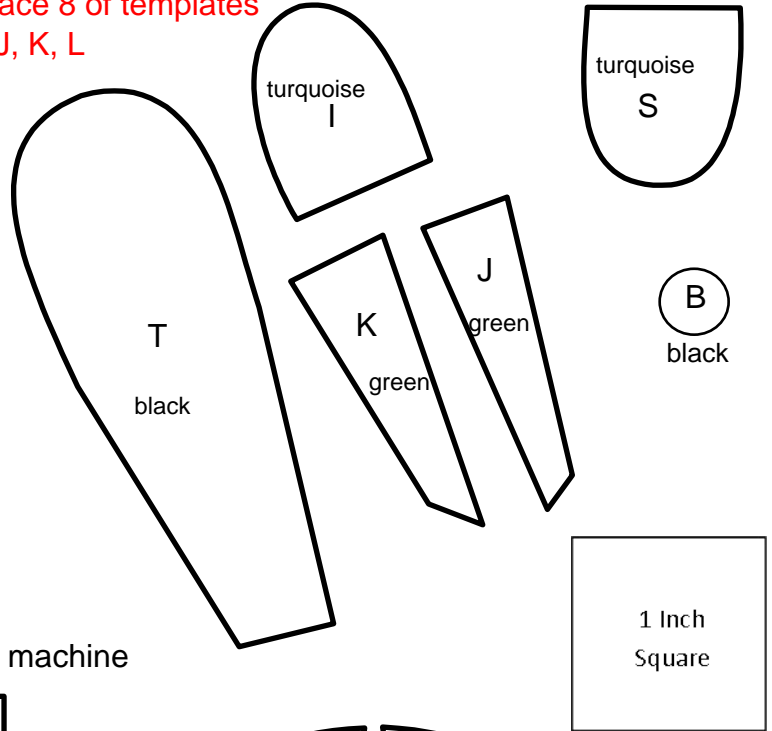
NOTES:

Block 3 Surface Templates

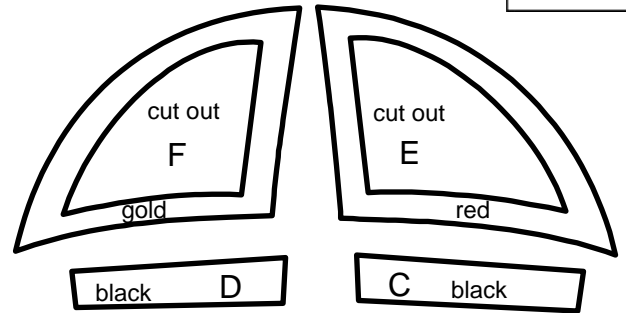
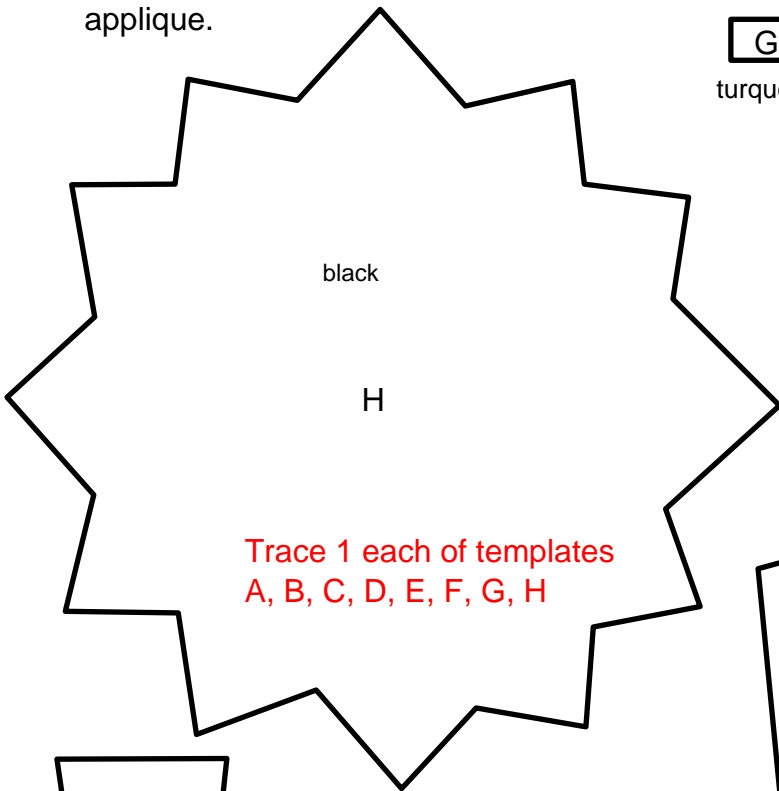
12" finished block size



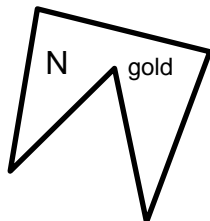
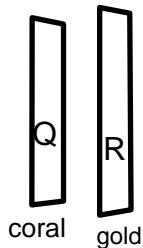
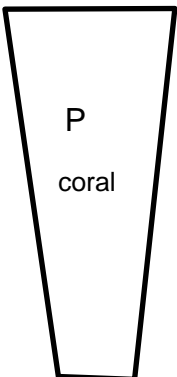
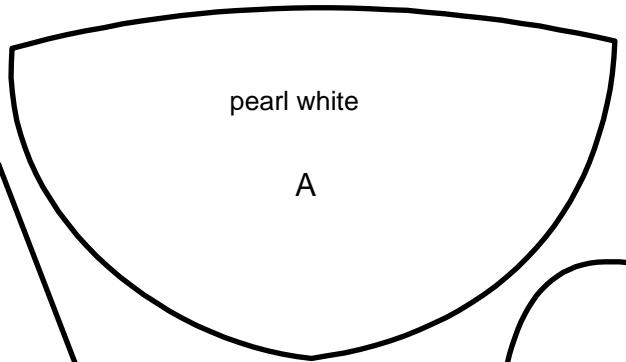
Trace 8 of templates I, J, K, L



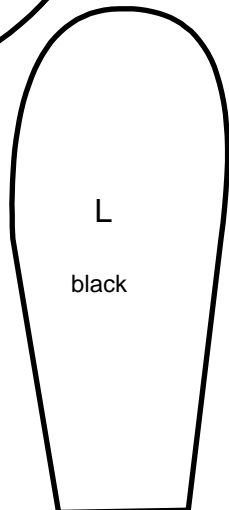
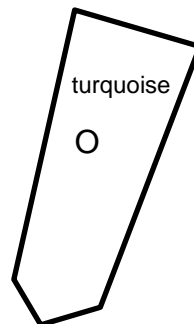
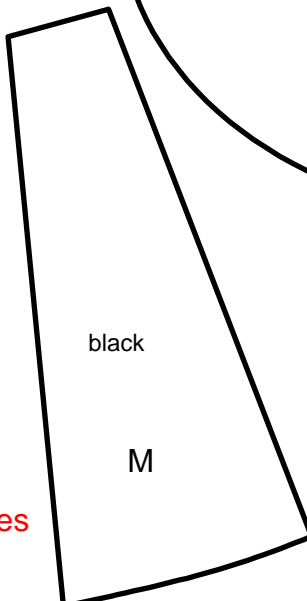
Templates are reversed for use with fusible web & machine applique.



Trace 1 each of templates A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H



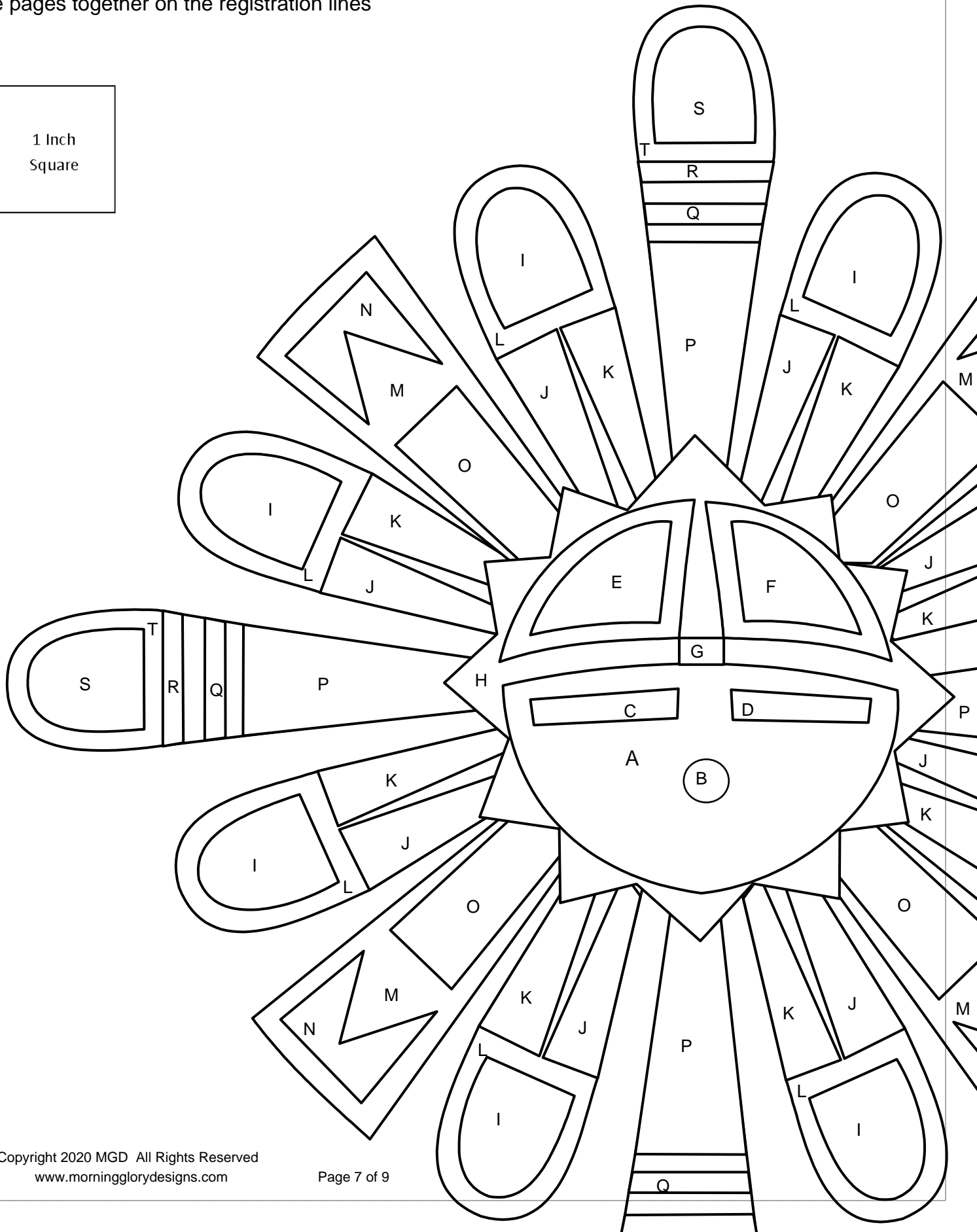
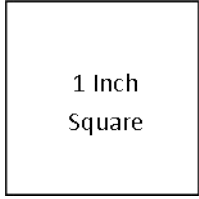
Trace 4 each of templates O, P, Q, R, S, T

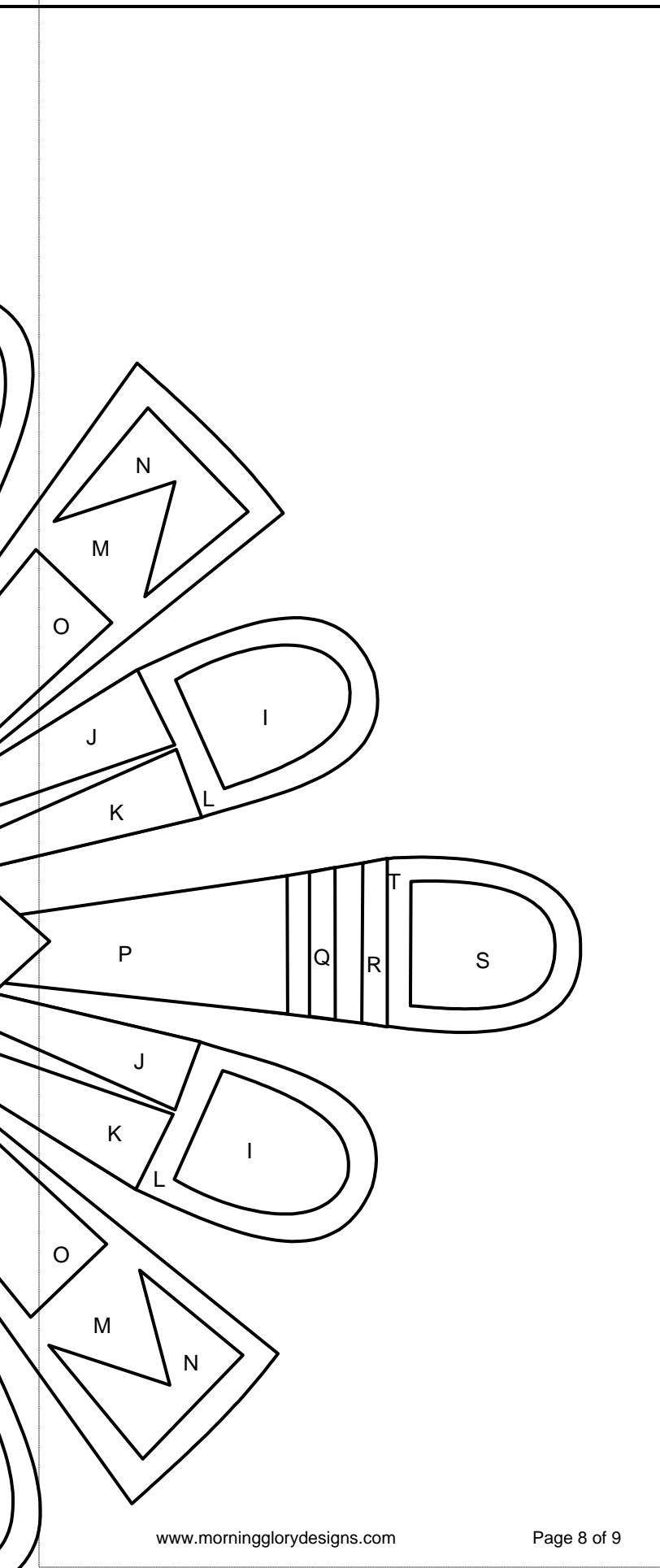


Block 3 Sun Face (12" finished block size)

Applique Layout Guide

Tape pages together on the registration lines





Block 3: Zuni Sunface
Southwest Sunrise MGD 500-03

