



February

Block of the Month

Valentine

6 1/2" block

Fabrics: Use a light background and a choice of reds or rich pinks for the valentine.

Piecing the block:

Place the fabric for piece #1, right side up, on the unmarked side of the paper; Pin in place. Make sure piece #1 covers the area marked 1 and extends a generous 1/4" on all sides. You can cut the piece larger than needed and trim the excess

fabric after the adjoining seams are sewn. If using photocopies, hold the paper up to a light source with the marked side of the block toward you, to facilitate proper placement.

Next, with the wrong side of the fabric facing you, cut the approximate size of piece #2. Remember, the marked side of the pattern is the wrong side of the block. Place piece #2 on top of piece #1, right sides together, along the joining seam line; make sure both fabrics extend at least 1/4" beyond the seam lines. Don't concern yourself with an exact 1/4" wide seam allowance until after the seam is sewn.

TIP: Check to make sure the piece is placed correctly and is large enough by holding the seam allowance edge and opening piece #2 to see if it covers the intended area plus seam allowances.

Next: Holding the fabrics in place lay the paper block with the marked side up under the presser foot and sew the first seam line between pieces #1 and #2. Extend the stitching a few stitches beyond the beginning and the end of the line.

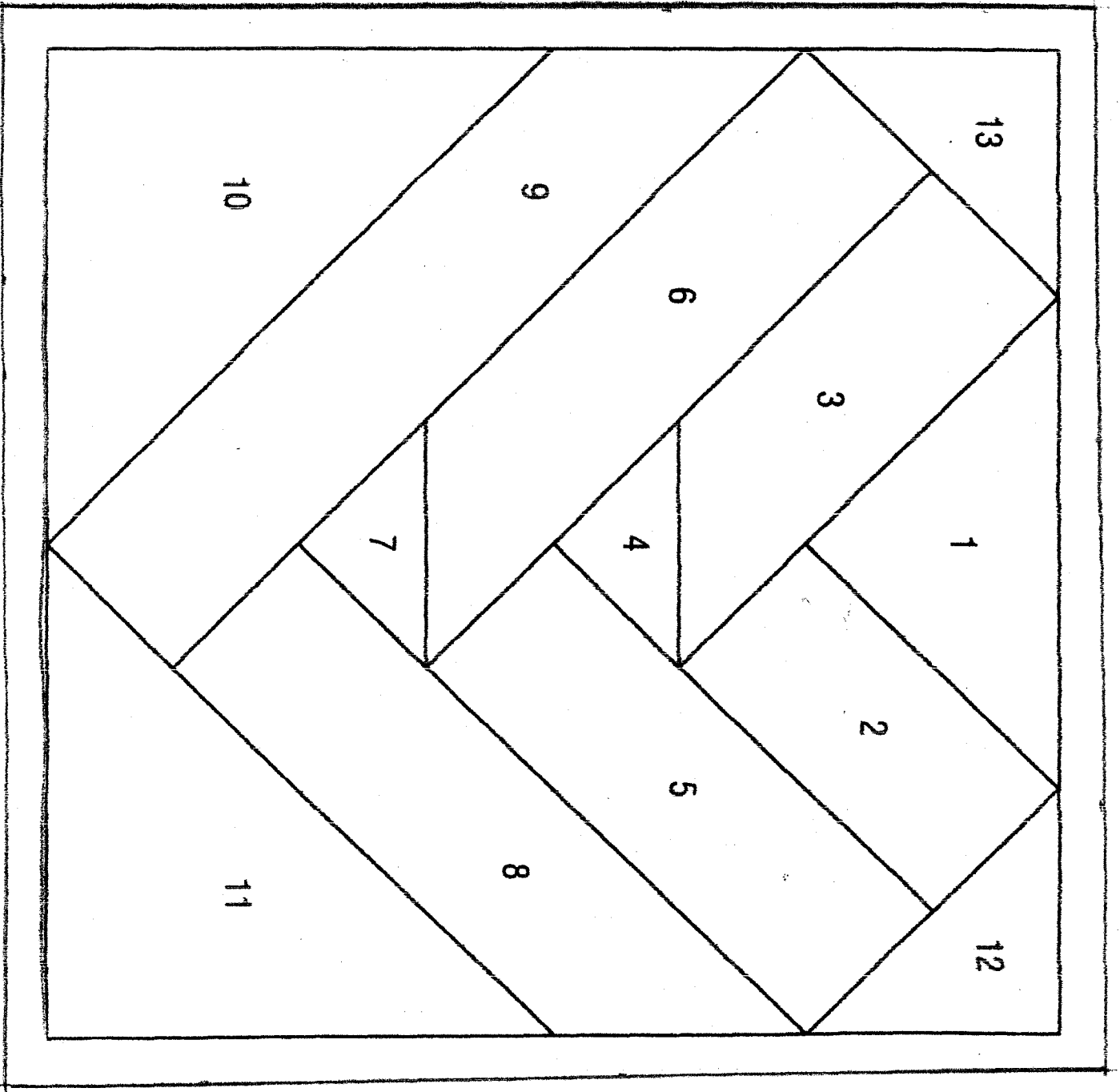
Next: Trim away any excess fabric in the seam allowance to 1/4". After the seam between #1 and #2 is sewn fold the paper pattern along the seam to expose the seam allowance of piece #1 and #2. Using a ruler trim a 1/4" seam allowance. Open piece #2 and finger press by running your fingers across the seam. Press with an iron on a cotton setting with no steam.

Next: Add piece #3 across the first two pieces. Sew the second seam line between #1/#2 and piece #3. After the seam between #1/ #2 and #3 is sewn fold the paper pattern along the seam to expose the seam allowance of piece #1/ #2 #3. Using a ruler trim a 1/4" seam allowance. Open piece #3 and finger press by running your fingers across the seam. Press with an iron on a cotton setting with no steam.

Continue adding pieces in numerical order repeating the same process.

Finally: Using a rotary cutter and ruler, trim the edges of the block, leaving a 1/4" wide seam allowance beyond the outside lines of the marked design.

Source: Easy Paper-Pieced Keepsake Quilts by Carol Doak



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