

Saturday 19th June 2013
10am – 4pm

Tumbling Stars

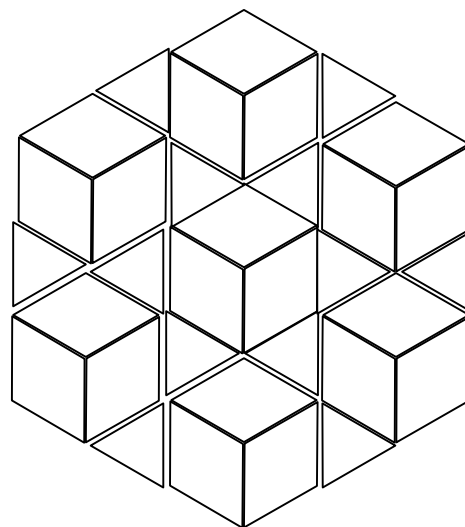
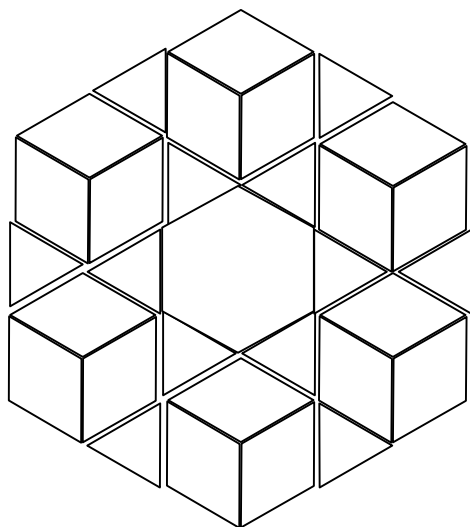
The traditional 3D Tumbling Blocks arrangement of diamond shapes was the starting point for today's class. Of course, we can never just leave things as they are, and always seem to ask the question "What if?..." This time Chris wondered what would happen if we kept the 3D part of Tumbling Blocks and shifted everything around so that the star shapes could be featured more prominently. It's just a little different, and we think you'll enjoy making your own Tumbling Stars by hand or machine.

Design pointers

There are several choices to make as you can see from the diagrams -

Do you prefer the look of the hexagons plus tumbling blocks plus stars or just the tumbling blocks and stars?

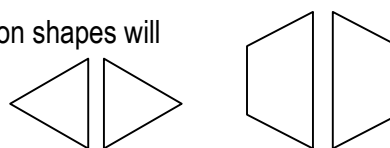
Do you want a background plus a star colour plus a different colour for the hexagons?



Use these diagrams to help you make your colour choices.

To actually make the design there are, of course, further choices to consider – you could stitch the stars by hand or by machine.

If you are going to stitch by machine then the diamonds and hexagon shapes will need to be split to allow for straight edge piecing rather than inset or Y seams.



If you prefer to stitch by hand then you will not need to make any further adjustments when cutting and planning.

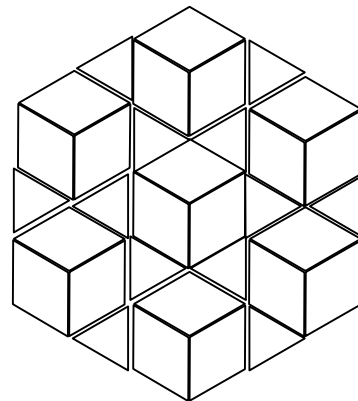
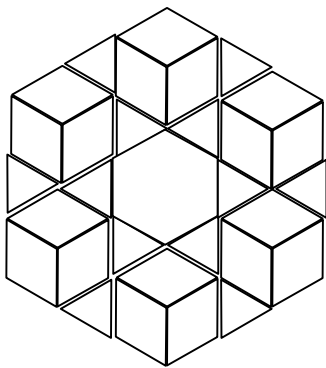
Hand piecing

Use the templates provided to mark and cut papers if you wish to work with the *English paper piecing* technique. For this technique you need to have accurate paper shapes cut and your chosen fabrics cut at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch larger on all sides of these shapes. Tack or glue the fabric over the shape and then using a whipstitch, join the shapes together as required.

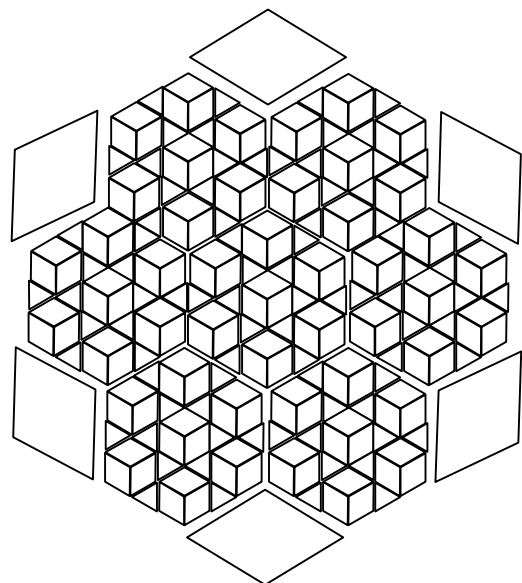
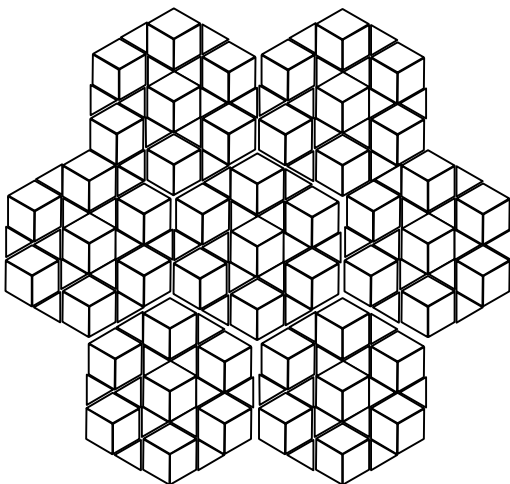
If you prefer hand piecing without the fuss of papers then you can follow the rotary cutting directions to cut your fabric shapes and carefully mark $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam lines to follow on the WS of the fabric. And if you prefer not to use a rotary cutter at all, then you could be really old-fashioned and mark around a finished size template on the WS of your fabric, allowing a generous $\frac{1}{4}$ inch plus around each set of lines and cut out your shapes with real scissors....

Stitch groups of three diamonds into Tumbling Block units.

Add triangles (and the centre hexagon if preferred) as stars and/or background to make large hexagon units.



Stitch hexagon units together.



Add large diamonds (or part diamonds) to complete the 'block'.

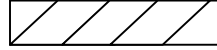
Machine Piecing

Decide on the placement of light, medium and dark fabrics and colour in a diagram to act as a guide. The following instructions are for the **light** to be at the **top**, **medium** on the **left** hand side and **dark** on the **right**.

From medium and dark cut a $2\frac{1}{4}$ inch strip of each.

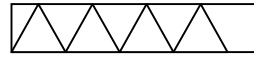
Cut a 60° angle at one end.

Cut 60° diamonds $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches long from the strips.



From light and contrast fabric(s) cut a $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip.

Cut into 60° triangles with a 3 inch base

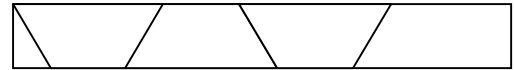


Arrange the triangles and diamonds into strips.

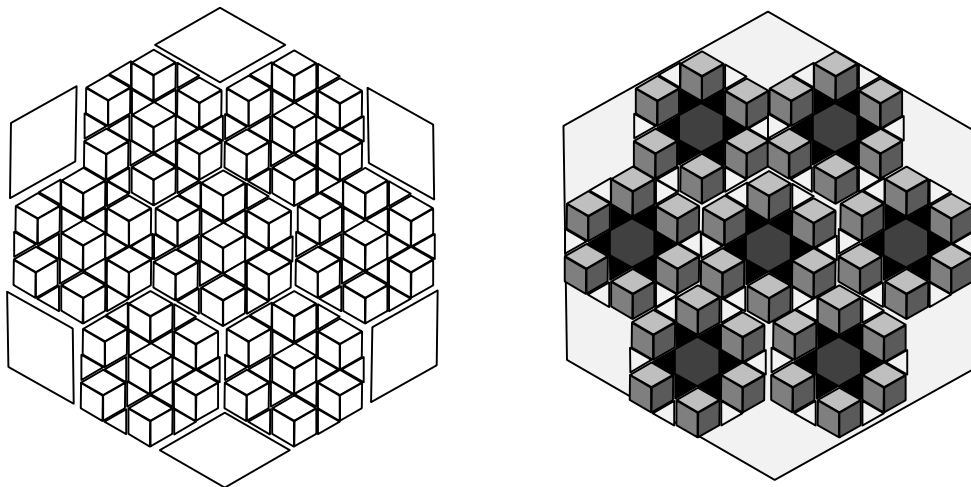
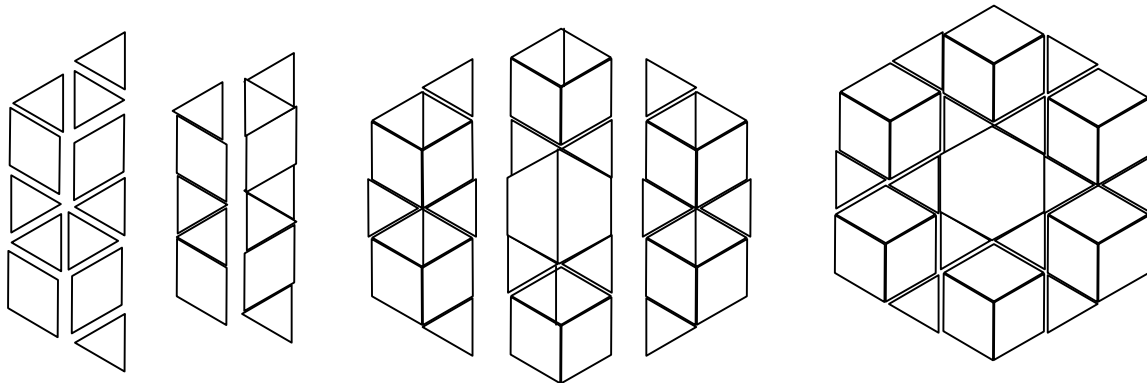
Stitch each strip.

Stitch strips together to complete design.

If you prefer a hexagon in the centre of the stars cut a $2\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide strip and cut 60° angles to make half-hexagons – $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches on the short side and 5 inches on the long



For large diamonds to complete design cut $6\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide strips and cut 60° angles $6\frac{5}{8}$ inches apart. For triangles cut a 6 inch strip.



Tumbling Stars

Templates. No seam allowance

