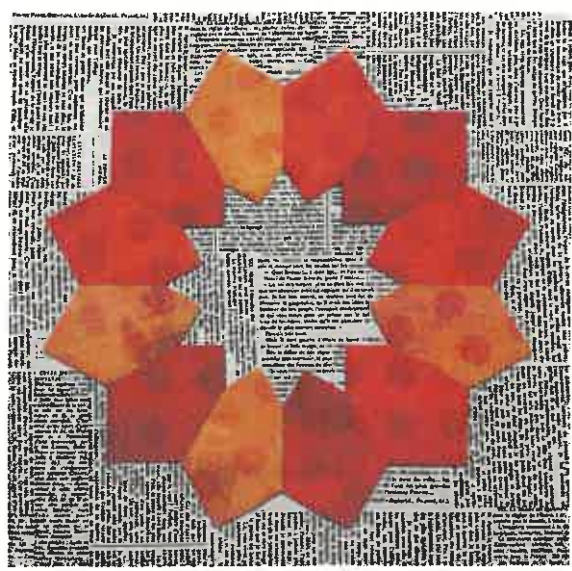


Dynamic Dresden Block

by Susan K Cleveland
PiecesBeWithYou.com

DESIGN N STITCH
with Quilters Select



I think you'll love these new ideas for creating nicely pointed Dresden wedges in units that lay flat on your quilt.

Features of these instructions are:

- Cutting accurate wedges is easy with the 30° Dynamic Dresdens® Ruler but if you prefer to work with a template, that option is provided.
- To get nice points on each wedge, the Prairie Pointer Tool is very helpful! Carefully turning points the traditional way works in a pinch.
- A foundation sew-and-flip technique assures that units are accurate and will prevent background fabric from shadowing through Dresden fabrics! If you prefer to sew wedges side by side the traditional way, that's OK.

Fabric requirements:

- (4) 6.5" background squares or (1) 12.5" square
- (3) 4" x 12" strips for Dresden wedges OR (2) 4" x 18" strips (or more)
- (1) 10" square of heavily starched white fabric for foundation (doesn't show in finished block)

Optional but helpful tools:

- Dynamic Dresdens® 30° Ruler - designed by Susan K Cleveland for RNK Distributing
- Prairie Pointer Tool created by Susan K Cleveland of Pieces Be With You®

SUSAN'S OTHER PRODUCTS:

- Dynamic Dresdens® book
- Dynamic Dresdens® rulers (18° & 30°)
- Prairie Pointer Tool
- Stitch by Stitch booklet
- Piping Hot Binding booklet & Groovin' Piping Trimming Tool
- Piping Cording
- Precision & Panache book



Susan K Cleveland

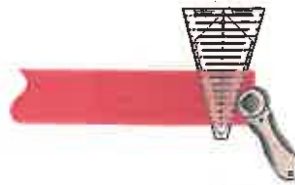
Cut Dresden Wedges

- Starch fabrics before cutting.
- Cut (3) 4" x 12" strips OR (2) 4" x 18" strips OR multiple 4" strips from many fabrics.
- If you are using a *Dynamic Dresdens™ Ruler*, cut 12 wedges as shown in the diagram. Use the portion of the ruler between the 1" and 5" lines. Mark these lines on the ruler to lessen the chance for errors!

If you don't have a *Dynamic Dresdens™ Ruler*, carefully make a template from template plastic. Cut 12 wedges from 4" strips.

When printing this document, be sure the printer options menu notes "100%" or "actual size" so the template prints accurately!

right-handers



left-handers



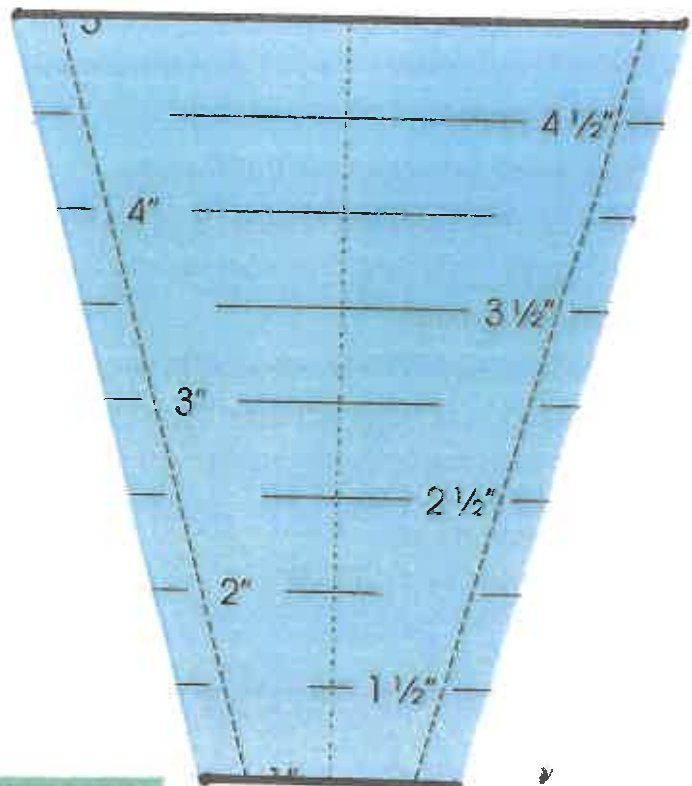
make first cut to start with correct angle



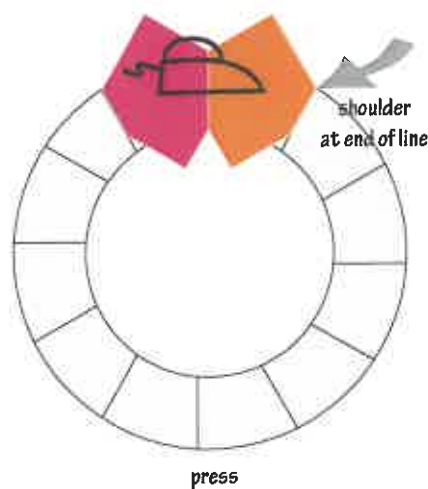
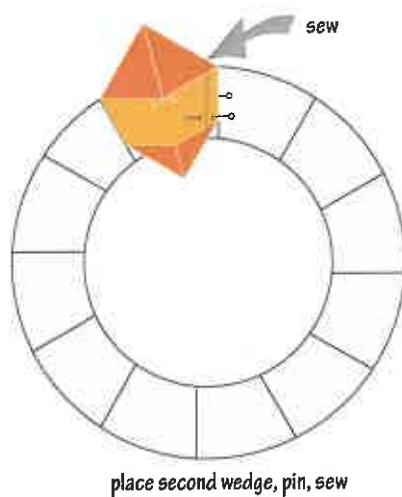
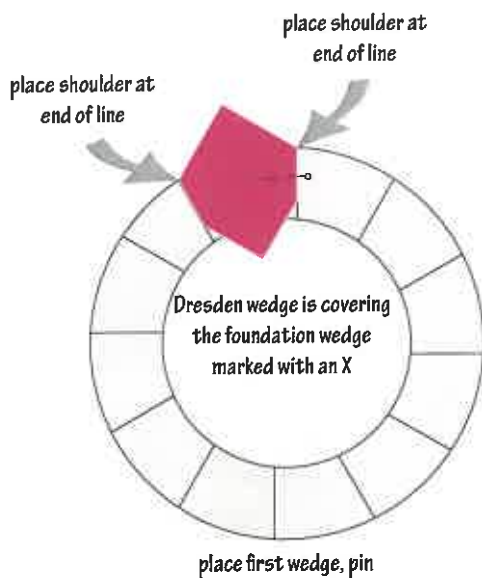
spin fabric & ruler end-for-end, cut wedge



spin ruler to cut next wedge, then continue (rotate ruler, cut ...)

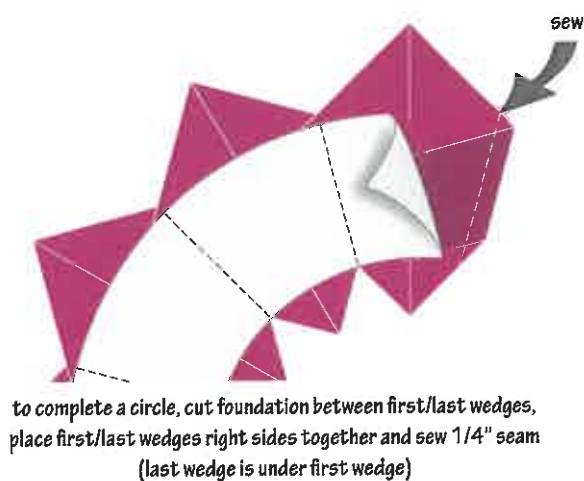


FASHION N' STITCH
with Quilting Galley



Construct Dresden Ring

- If you have one, place an open-toe foot on your machine. This will allow you to see the needle so stopping to backstitch at the end of the seam will be easier. If you prefer a $\frac{1}{4}$ "-foot, go ahead and use it.
- Adjust your machine's needle so it's a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the right edge of the foot.
- On a design wall or board, arrange the double-pointed wedges as desired.
- Place a Dresden wedge right side up on foundation in the section marked with an "X." (It's the widest section.) The wedge's wide shoulders should be at the top of the lines per arrows in diagram. *That is very important!* Pin.
- Place second wedge right side down over first wedge. Pin in place.
- Align right edge of sewing machine foot along right edge of wedges and stitch with scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance backstitching at beginning and end.
- Press newest wedge clockwise. The newest wedge's right edge should reach the next foundation line. If it doesn't, adjust seam allowance slightly. (If wedge is short of the next line by less than $\frac{1}{16}$ " there's no need to re-sew, simply press harder!)
- Continue around the foundation until all 12 wedges are in place.
- To join ends of a full circle, fold back first and last wedges and cut foundation anywhere between the lines. Place first and last wedges right sides together and sew. TaDa!



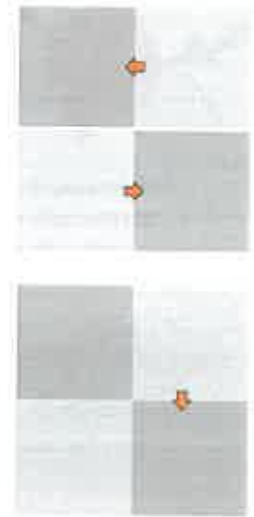
DESIGN N STITCH
with Quilting Spirit

Construct Block

- Piece background squares together pressing seam allowances as shown.
- Optional: To reduce bulky seam allowances, I suggest flipping the block wrong side up and removing a few stitches in the very center of the block to allow the 4 seam allowances to spin in a clockwise direction. This allows the seam allowances to all nest when the Dresden ring is sewn on.

Now you have a decision to make. I'll offer two options.

- **OPTION 1:** Place the Dresden ring onto the background and pin in place. With a thin thread coordinating with the Dresden fabrics, stitch in the ditch of a Dresden seam (between wedges) then pivot with the needle in the background fabric. Fold back a Dresden point to sew under the point over to the next ditch. Stitch that ditch then repeat until the entire ring is sewn to the background. Pull beginning and ending thread tails to the wrong side and tie in a knot.
- **OPTION 2:** Don't sew the Dresden ring onto the background until after the background is sewn into the quilt top and the whole thing is quilted. AFTER the quilt is quilted, ditch-stitch the Dresden ring to the quilted quilt in the manner described above. That's how I like to do it!
- **Note:** If your quilt will be used and laundered (as opposed to hanging on the wall for all eternity), then you will need to secure the points. Do this with any technique you enjoy. Here are some options:
 1. Stitch around the points with a thin thread and a zig-zag.
 2. Stitch around the points with a straight stitch near the folds.
 3. Sew a button near each point.
 4. Stitch a medium-sized zig-zag with a heavy decorative thread around all the points.



Make Foundation

Make a Dresden foundation from a 10" square of heavily starched white cotton fabric.

I strongly suggest using this technique as it produces a very accurate ring that will lay flat. The foundation also prevents the background fabric from showing through the Dresden fabrics, and the unit is more stable to work with.

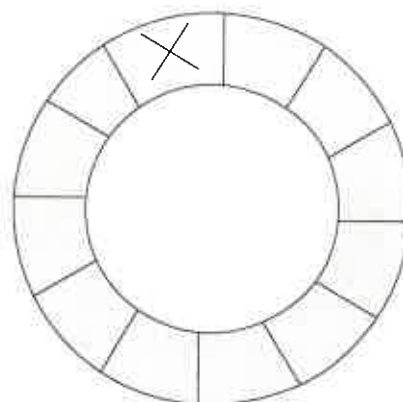
If, however, you prefer to sew wedges together side-by-side the traditional way, then do that.

- On the last page of these instructions, you'll find the foundation template. Tape the page to your table. Place heavily starched fabric over the foundation template and tape the fabric to the table as well.

- Using a pencil, trace the center X, the other X, inside circle, outside circle and straight lines. Where the tracing is incomplete, rotate the fabric half-way around, align the center X, then complete the tracing.

Wedges to the left and right of the wedge marked "X" are different sizes from the other wedges on the foundation. That's as it should be! (Please don't freak out.)

- ✦ Cut on the circles to create a "donut" with lines. These lines will be used as PLACEMENT lines for the wedges. They are not sewing lines! They mark the edge of the wedge.



make foundation for Dresden ring

Sew & Press Dresden Points

Make 12 double-pointed wedges following these instructions.

- Fold wedge lengthwise right sides together and stitch across the wide end with $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Begin at the cut edges and sew toward the fold. Use a small, 1.5mm stitch length. There's no need to backstitch here. Chain piecing is great, but leave thread tails of at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " at the fold so seams don't un-stitch.
- Finger press seam open and flatten the "little hat" or triangle at the point with your thumbnail or the handle of a tool (such as a stiletto).

The *Prairie Pointer Tool* can be helpful in this step. Lay wedge on pressing surface and simply slide the *Prairie Pointer Tool* inside then finger press seam allowance open! Use the tool's center line to be sure the seam is in the center.

- Lift wedge from pressing surface, then with your finger, gently turn point right side out.

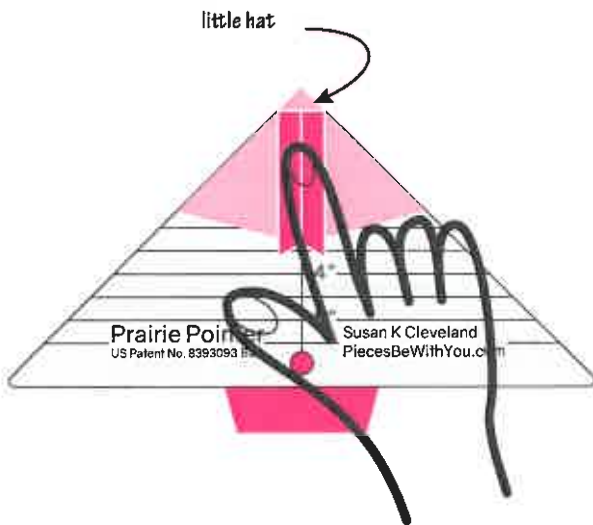
- Press.

The *Prairie Pointer Tool* will help avoid a pucker at the tip during this step. Lay wedge on pressing surface. Point the tool's tip downward then slide the tool into the wedge's point. Give it a couple gentle pushes until the point pops out. The tool's point needs to slide under the "little hat" in the point. Align seam with the tool's center line to be sure the point is straight up and down, not slanting.

Gently place iron onto point and immediately slide the tool out so it doesn't get hot. Don't pick up the *Prairie Pointer tool*. Slide it out by placing your fingers on the tool or pulling a ribbon that's been tied in the tool's hole.

If you don't have a *Prairie Pointer Tool*, use a pointed object to help get a nice point, but take care not to poke a hole!

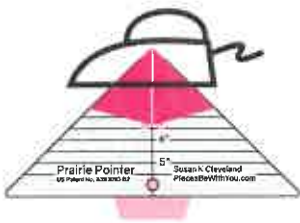
- Repeat for narrow ends.



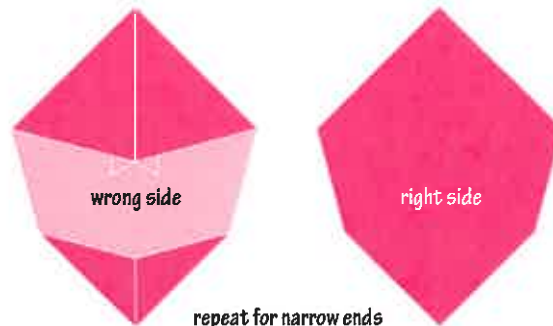
finger press seam open, flatten little "hat" at the top



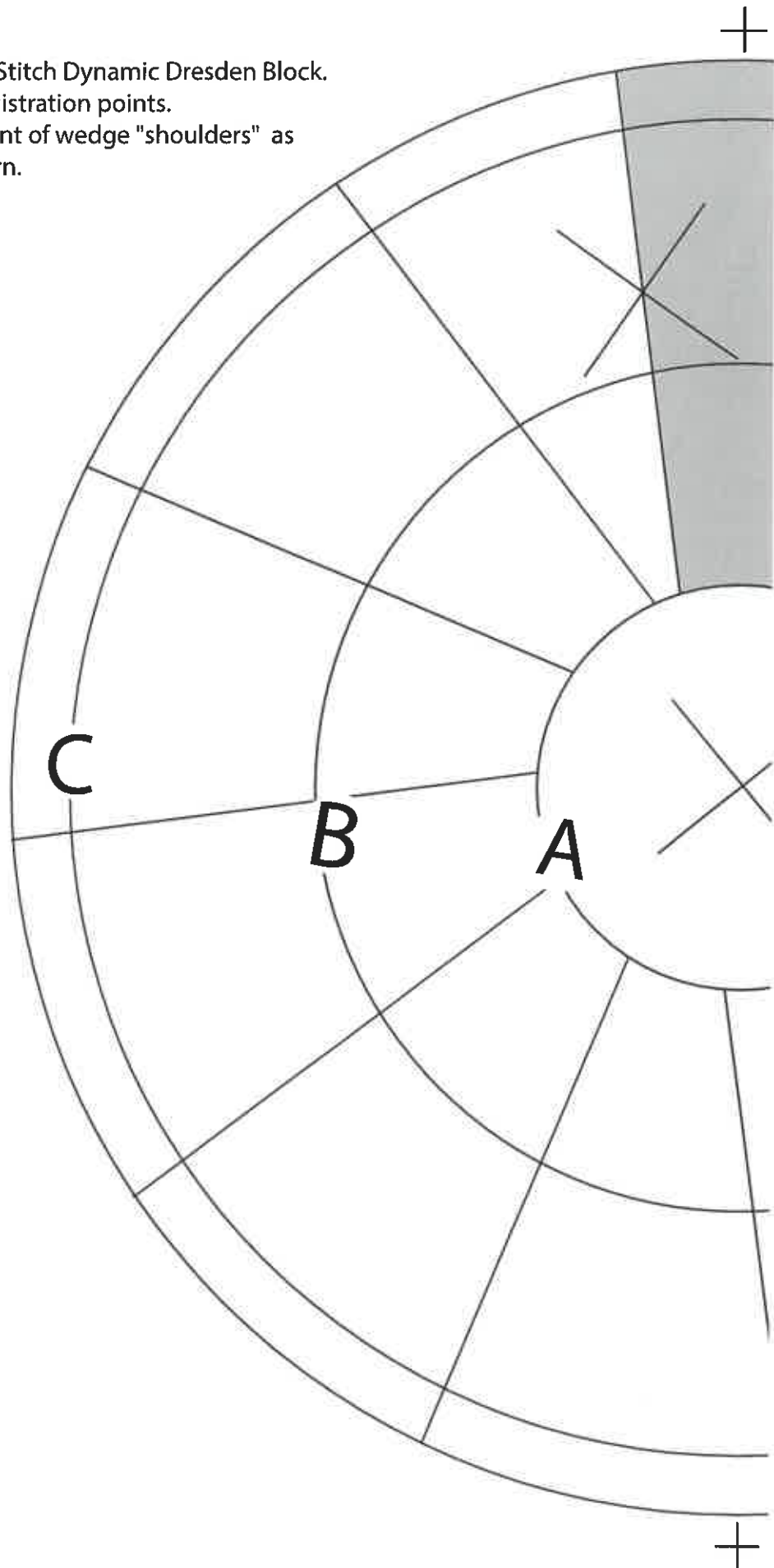
turn point right side out



slide tool in, place iron on wedge, immediately slide tool out then let iron rest on wedge



For use with Design N Stitch Dynamic Dresden Block.
Overlap and match registration points.
Use Line C for placement of wedge "shoulders" as
instructed in the pattern.



1"

