

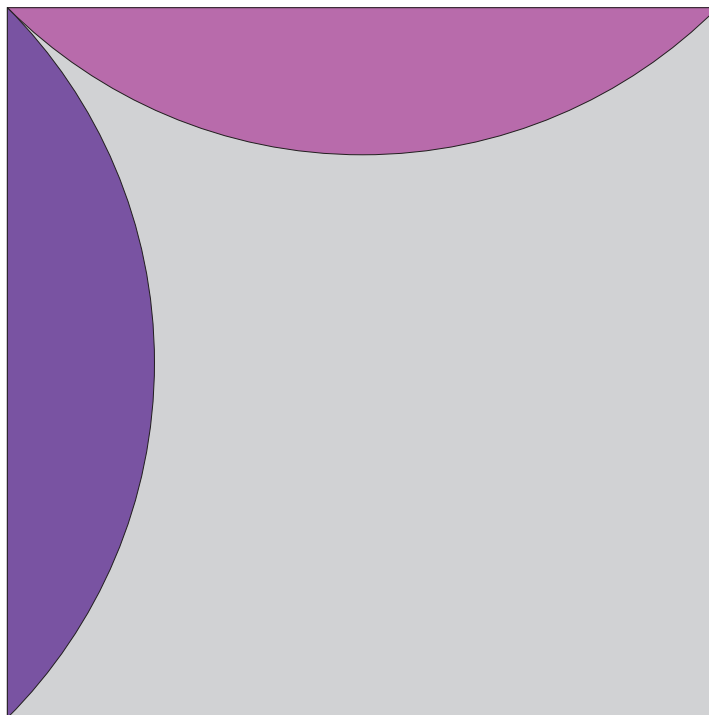
Quilt of the Month

November 2016

For Members of the MQG



MODERN QUILT GUILD



Robbing Pete

block by Rebecca Burnett, Toronto MQG

“Robbing Pete is an adaptable block that can be used in many ways. It can easily be used for anything from a baby quilt to a king-sized quilt. The block pays homage to the traditional block, while creating a new sense of movement when used with random placement and fabrics. Robbing Pete would be a great project for someone who is learning curved piecing.” –Rebecca Burnett

The Modern Quilt Guild's mission is to support and encourage the growth and development of modern quilting through art, education and community. www.modernquiltguild.com

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OBJECTIVE

Minimalism is the concept of extreme simplicity in design. It is the idea of distilling the design down to some of the most simple forms and shapes. In this Block of the Month lesson, we'll learn how to use minimalism (along with other modern quilting design fundamentals) with impact to create a modern quilt. This month's block is Robbing Pete, designed by Rebecca Burnett, which is a variation on the traditional quilt block, Robbing Peter to Pay Paul.

MINIMALISM IN QUILTING

We've always seen minimalist design appear in quilting. Early Amish quilts focused on simplicity, a reflection of Amish faith and daily practice.

Vintage quilts, often made with the fabrics quilters had on hand, sometimes used up large swaths of solids, leading to a minimalist and impactful aesthetic.

Art quilters and modern quilters alike have explored this design concept. As examples, Gwen Marston and Yoshiko Jinzenji both have studied the concept in their work and have been a great influence on modern quilters.

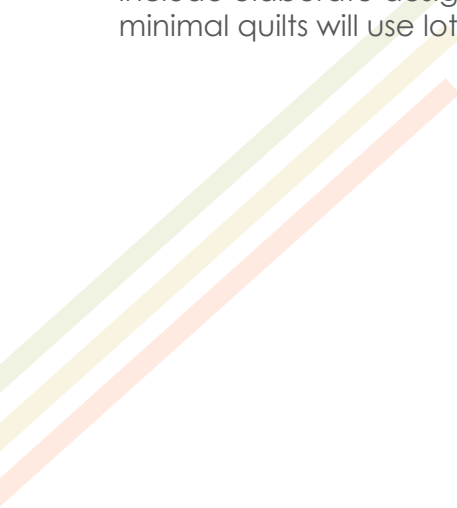
Minimal quilts use few colors and few shapes. Calm design and expansive negative space are both often used in minimalist design. A minimalist quilt will not be busy, cluttered or include elaborate designs. Due to this, often, minimal quilts will use lots of solid fabrics.

If you're interested in seeing more minimalist quilts, visit the [minimalist photo gallery on the modern quilt guild.com](http://thomodernquiltguild.com).

In this lesson, we have several layout options using a 16" version of the block. By varying color and layout with this one block you can find inspiration to create your own quilt design. You can create your own combinations and designs using a program like Adobe Illustrator or EQ7 — or just plain old-fashioned graph paper.

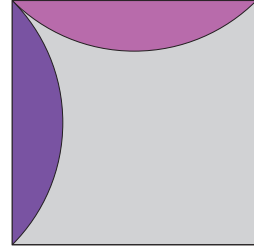
That there is often expansive negative space in minimal quilts lends itself to use of other modern quilting traits such as alternate grid work, asymmetry, bold, graphic color choices and use of solids.

Color often is minimal as well, keeping palettes monochromatic or limited to fewer than three colors.



EXAMPLES

In the following lesson, we'll show you how to make a three-color version of this Robbing Pete block designed by Rebecca Burnett. Templates for 16" and 6" versions of this block are included in the PDF. Once you've mastered the block, you can create a quilt using the pattern included at the end, or using one of our example quilts for inspiration. Have fun exploring minimalism with this block!



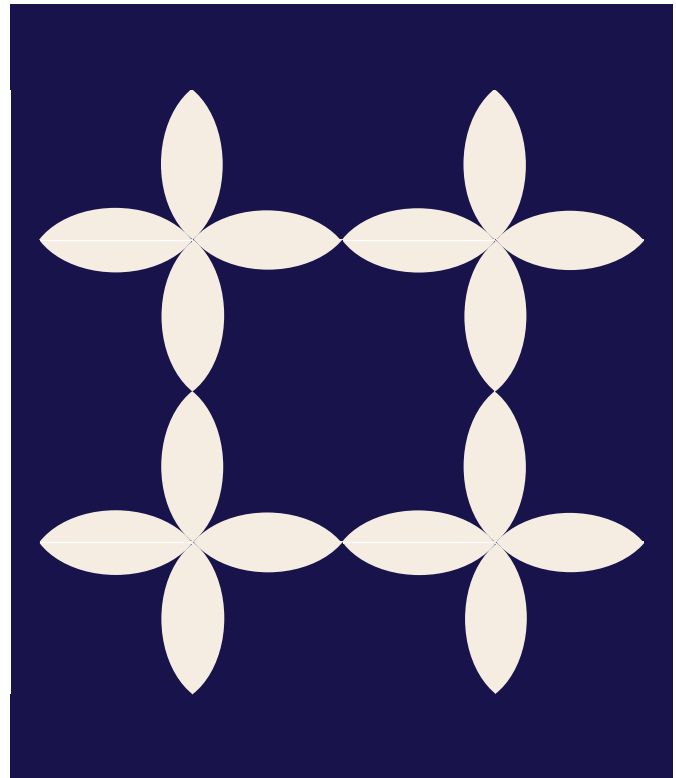
ON POINT

Here the 16" block is made four times, and turned on point to create one large graphic flower set asymmetrically in the gray background fabric. The contrasting bright orange on the dark gray creates a strong graphic impact.



HASHTAG

Here, the block is sewn up 16 times and is framed with a border of the background fabric. Using solid fabrics in all of these designs keeps the focus on the form and keeps the lines between shapes crisp and sharp.



EXAMPLES

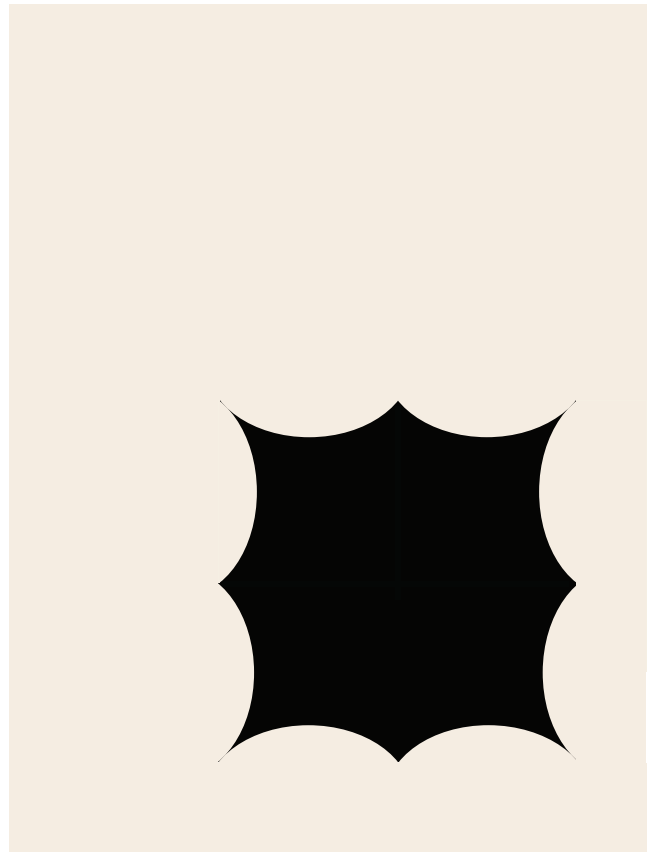
CORNERS

Just one block set in each corner of this quilt creates the feeling of a frame around a large open center. This design would allow for some great quilting to shine in the open space.



BLACK HOLE

Here four 16" blocks are used again, but by framing them in the "leaf" fabric color, a completely different design is revealed. This layout gives the impression of a hole in the fabric, creating a bold graphic element in the design .



FURTHER READING

- [Minimalism on Wikipedia](#)
- [Mimimal Quiltmaking by Gwen Marston](#)

ON POINT QUILT PATTERN

FINISHED SIZE

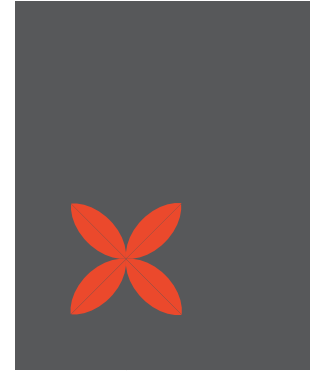
60" x 75"

MATERIALS

4-1/4 yards gray
3/4 yard orange
4 yards backing
1/2 yard binding

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Read through all instructions before beginning.
- All seam allowances are 1/4".
- Press seams open or to one side, according to your preference, except where indicated otherwise.
- Width of fabric has been abbreviated to WOF.
- Half-square triangle has been abbreviated to HST.
- Width of fabric is equal to at least 43".



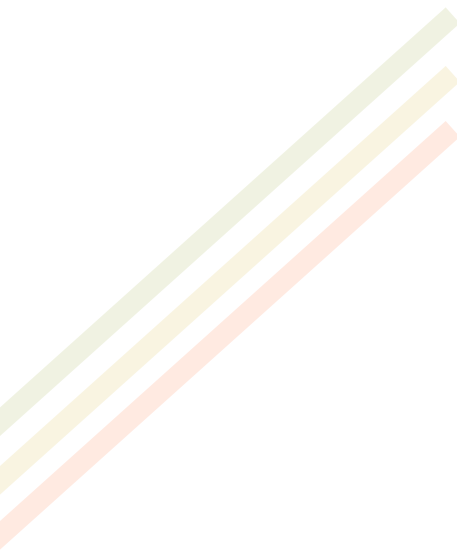
TEMPLATE PRINTING & CUTTING TIPS

For all template pages, print at 100%. Select "Do not scale" or "100%" in printer settings, if necessary. Check 1" test square after printing to ensure accuracy.

For pages 9-16, trim at solid line around the grid and tape pages together, matching the letters, then cut out the templates.

Take special care when cutting the fabric with the templates. Any differences between the printed template and the piece of fabric that is cut will result in difficulty as you match, pin and sew the pieces together. A smaller (28mm) rotary cutter will cut curves more easily than a standard (45mm) rotary cutter.

Clip or mark at indicated marking points around the edge of the template while the template is still fused to the fabric. Once pieces are cut, handle them sparingly and with care so as to not stretch any bias edges.



ON POINT QUILT PATTERN

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

From the gray fabric, cut:

[Figure 1]

- (2) 16-1/2" x WOF strips. Subcut:
 - (4) 16-1/2" squares. Place Template 1 on each square. Mark and cut the curve from each square of fabric. Transfer marks to the fabric with a fabric pen.

- (1) 47" x WOF strip. Open at the fold to see the entire width and subcut:
 - (1) 15-1/4" x 45-3/4" rectangle along the length of the fabric. Set aside for the right portion of the quilt.
 - (2) 23-1/2" squares. Cut each square in half once along the diagonal.

- (1) 60-12" x WOF strip. Subcut:
 - one 30" x 60-1/2" piece for the upper portion of the quilt

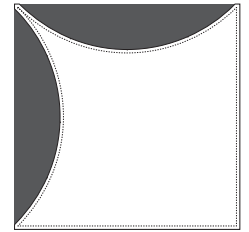


FIGURE 1

From the orange fabric, cut:

- (8) Template 2 pieces. Transfer marks to the fabric with a fabric pen.

From the binding fabric, cut:

- (7) 2-1/4" x WOF strips

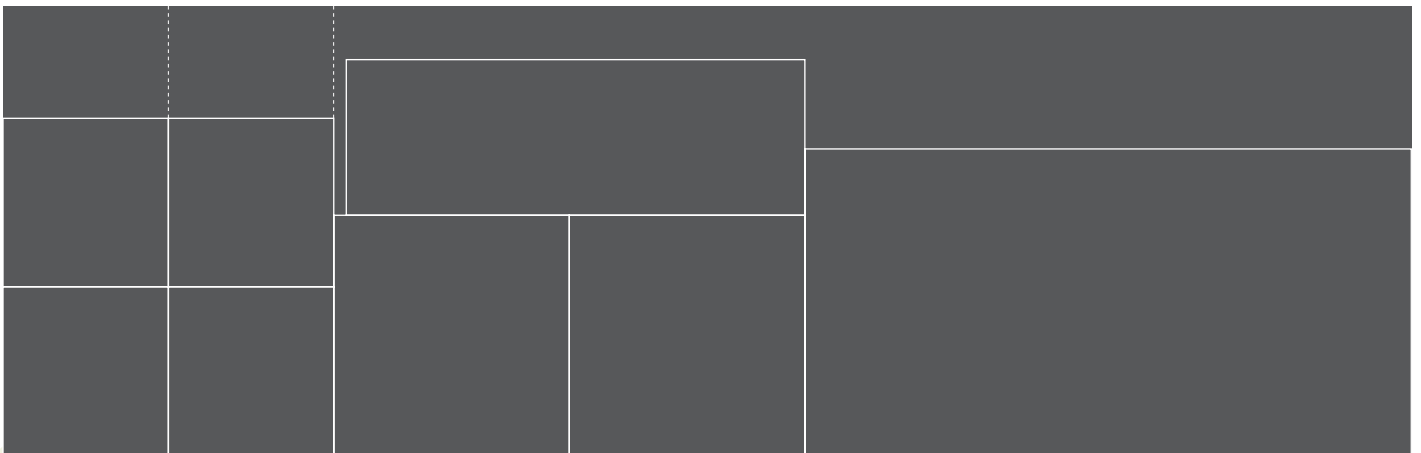


FIGURE 2: CUTTING DIAGRAM

PIECING TIPS

Use the marked points that were transferred from the templates to match and pin pieces together for sewing. Always pin in this order: centers first, then the ends, then midpoints in between. In order for the curves to be pieced together and match, these pinning steps are essential.

When sewing the curved pieces, sew with a smaller stitch length and use the “needle down” feature on your machine (if available). Sew with the Template 1 piece on the bottom. Having

the Template 2 piece on top will allow your machine's feed dogs to help ease in some of the curve as you sew.

Option: Using the seam lines marked on the templates, draw the seam line on the wrong side of your fabric. Sew on this marked line to maintain a perfectly even seam allowance.

Press all curved seam allowances toward the Template 2 curve and clip the seam allowance, taking care not to clip the stitches.

BLOCK ASSEMBLY

Step 1: Sew a Template 2 pieces to one curved edge of Template 1 piece, matching and pinning the marked points along the curve. Clip and press the seam to one side. [Figure 3]

Step 2: Repeat Step 1 with the remaining curved edge of the Template 1 piece. Resulting block should be 16-1/2" square. Make four blocks. [Figure 4]

QUILT ASSEMBLY

Step 3: Arrange the four blocks into two rows of two, as illustrated. Sew the blocks together to form rows, pressing the seams open. Sew the rows together, pressing the seam open. [Figure 5]

Step 4: Sew the longest side of a gray triangle to one edge of the block unit. Press the seam toward the triangle. Repeat for the remaining three edges of the block unit. [Figure 6]

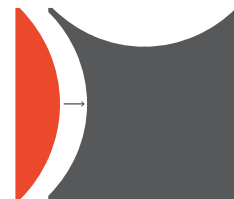


FIGURE 3



FIGURE 4

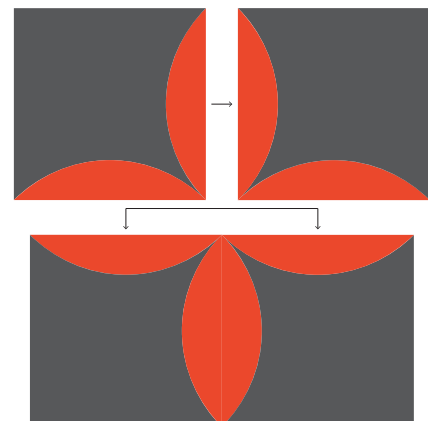


FIGURE 5



FIGURE 6

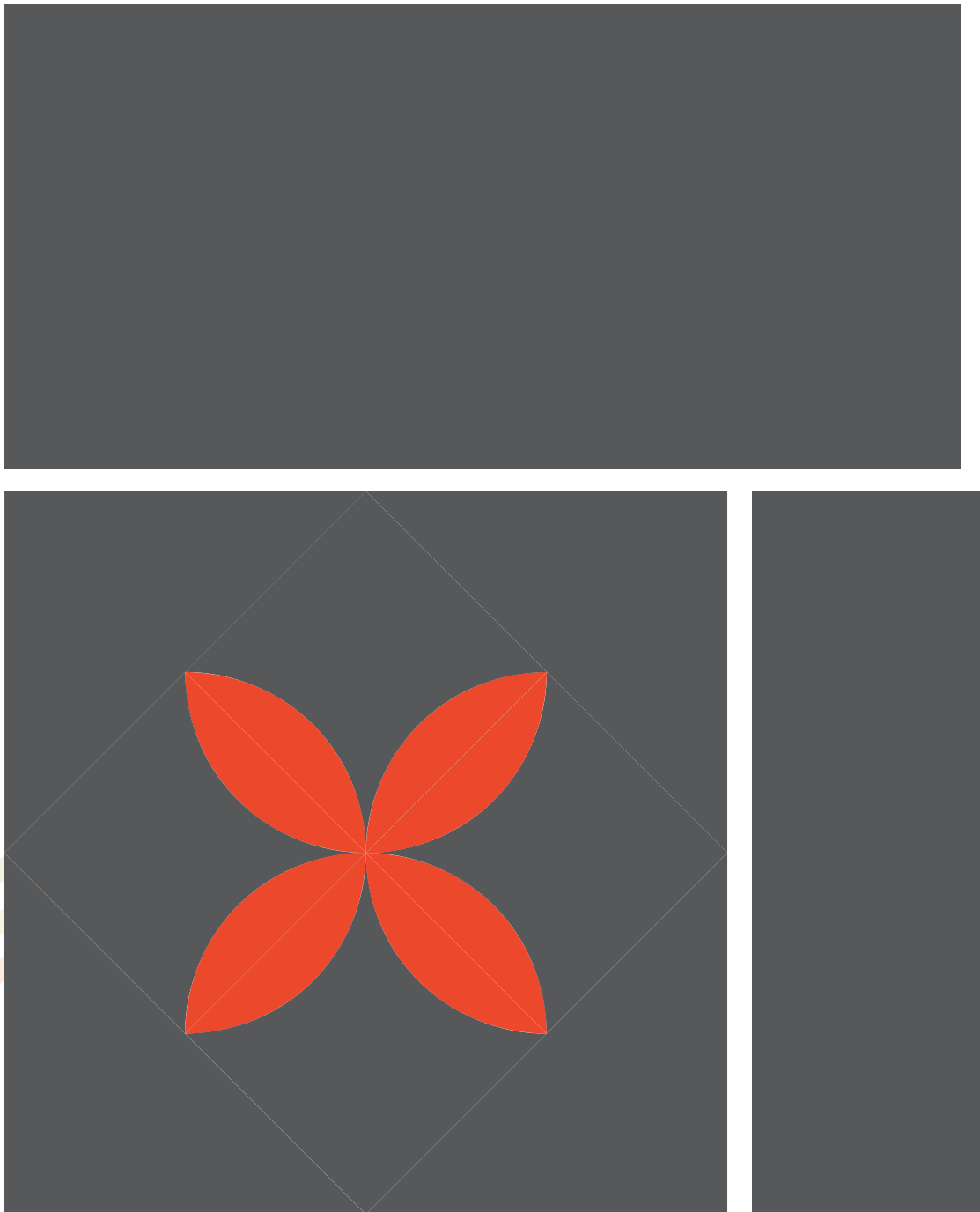
QUILT ASSEMBLY

Step 5: Sew the 15-1/4" x 45-3/4" gray piece to the right edge of the completed Step 4 unit. Press the seam toward the gray piece.

Step 6: Sew the 60-1/2" x 30" gray piece to the right edge of the completed Step 4 unit. Press the seam toward the gray piece. [Figure 7]

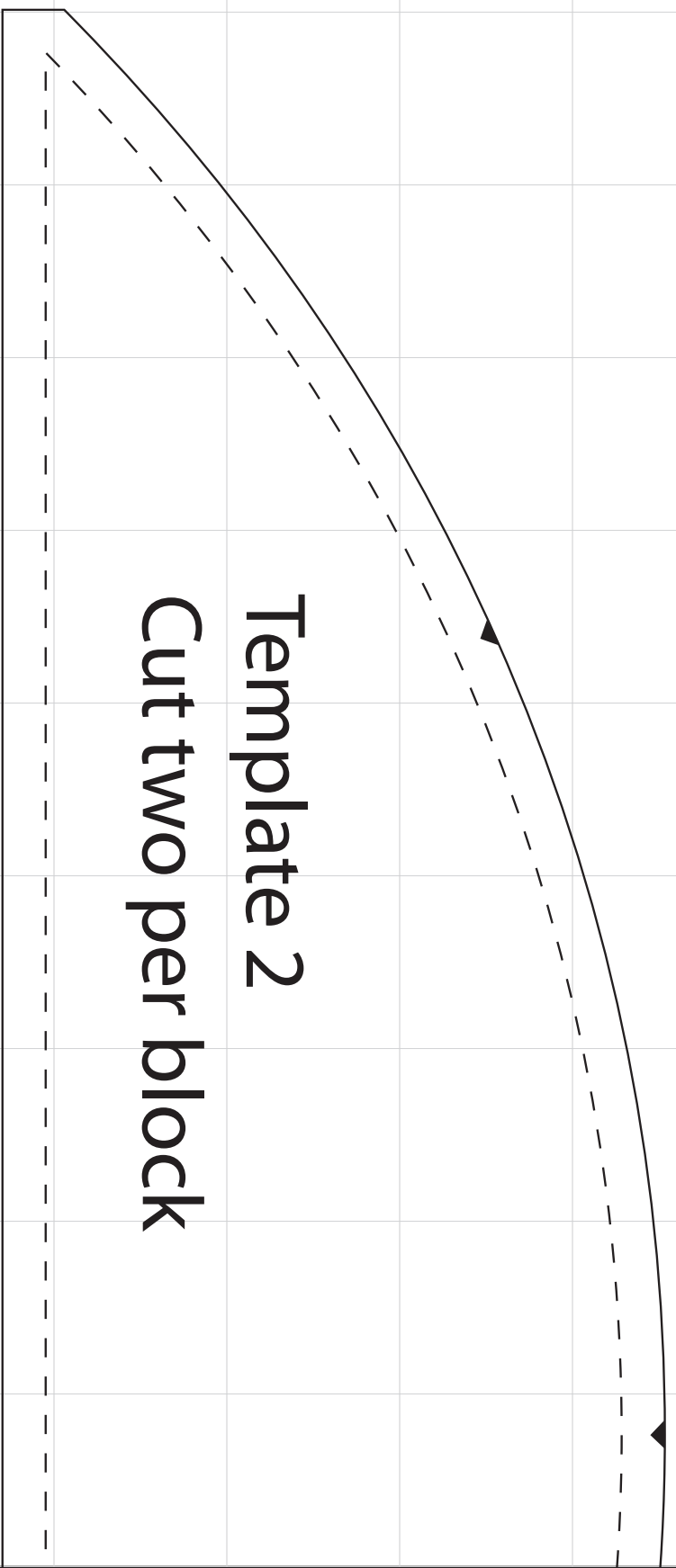
Baste, quilt as desired and bind.

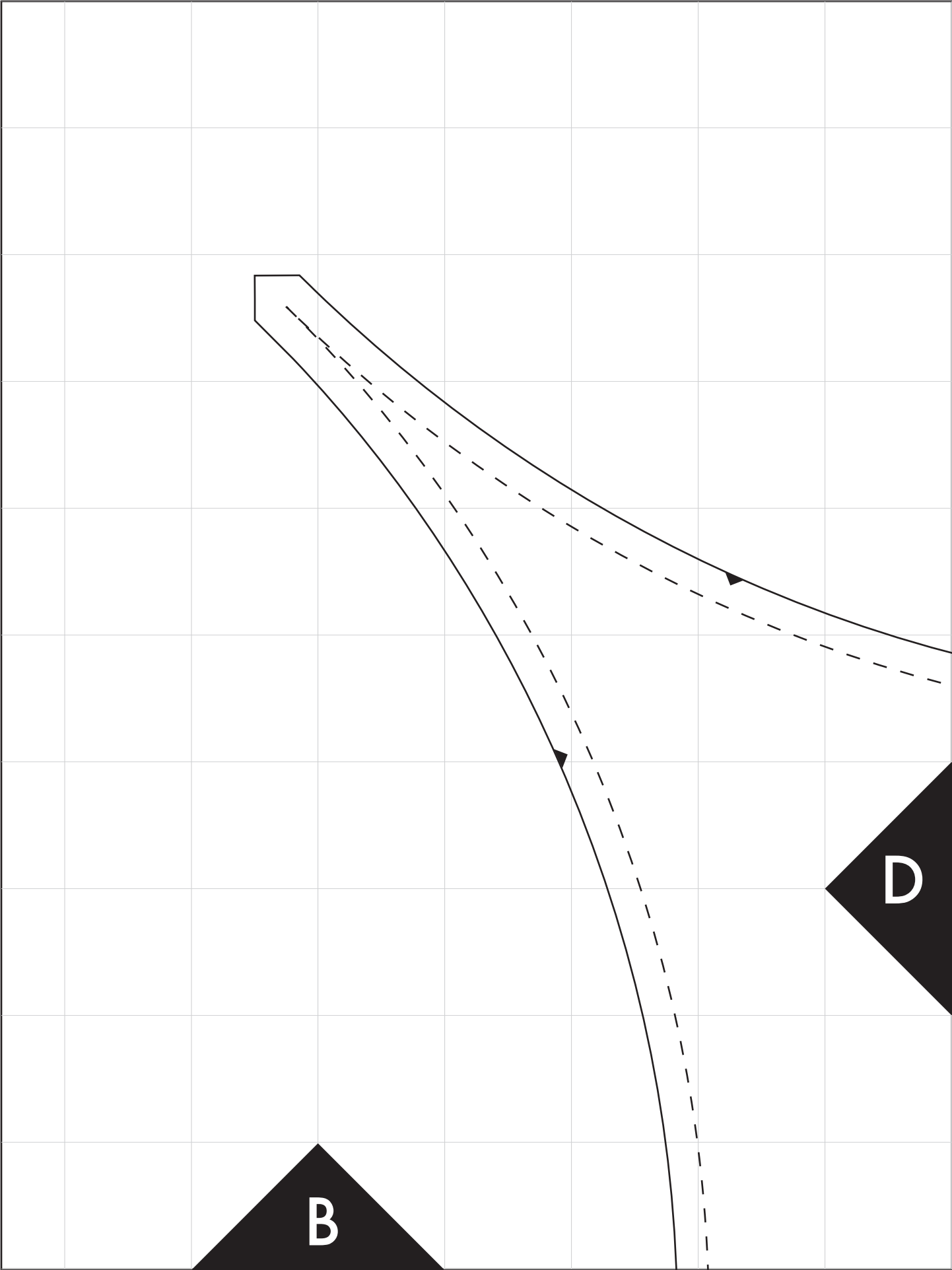
FIGURE 7

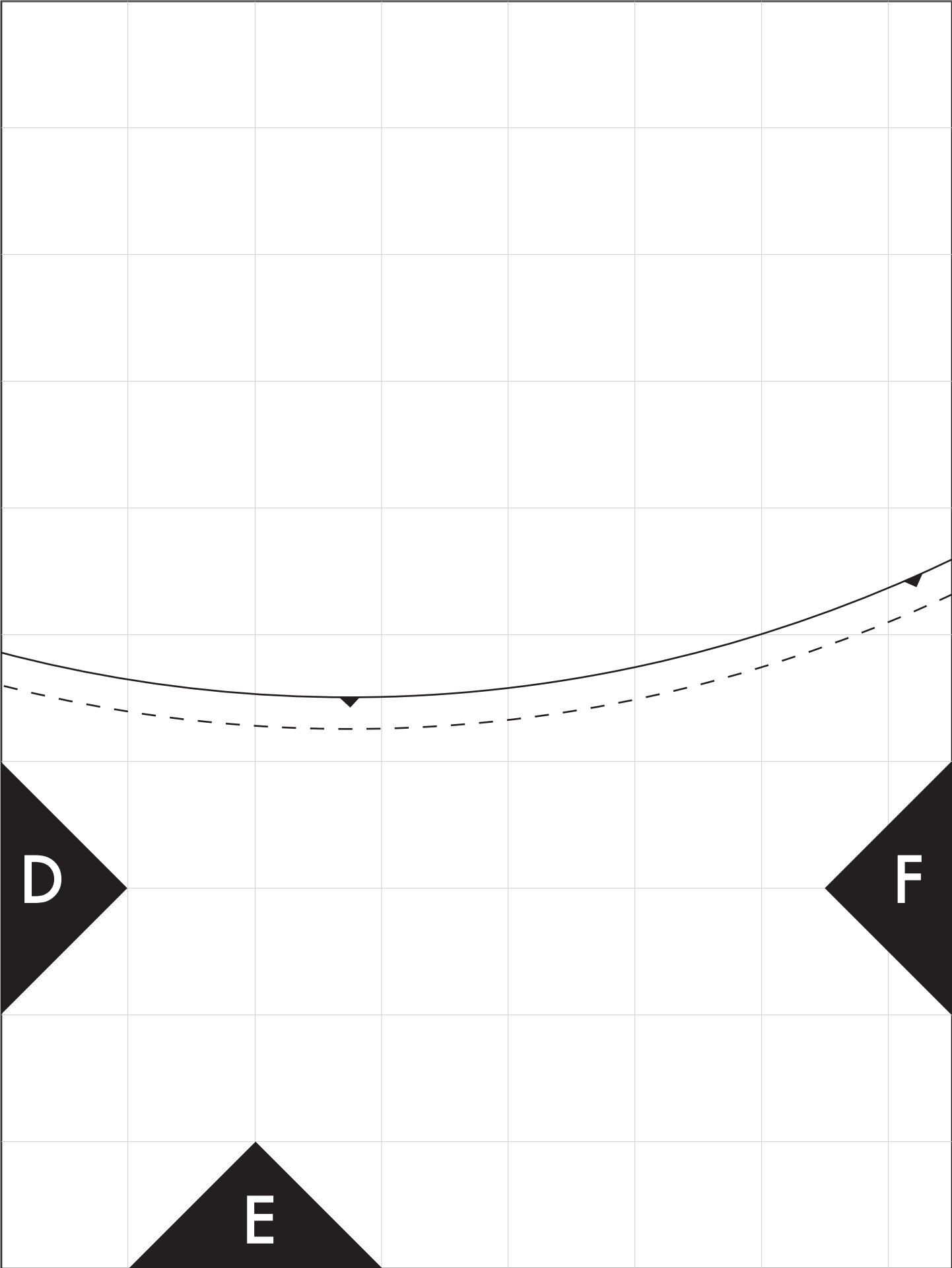


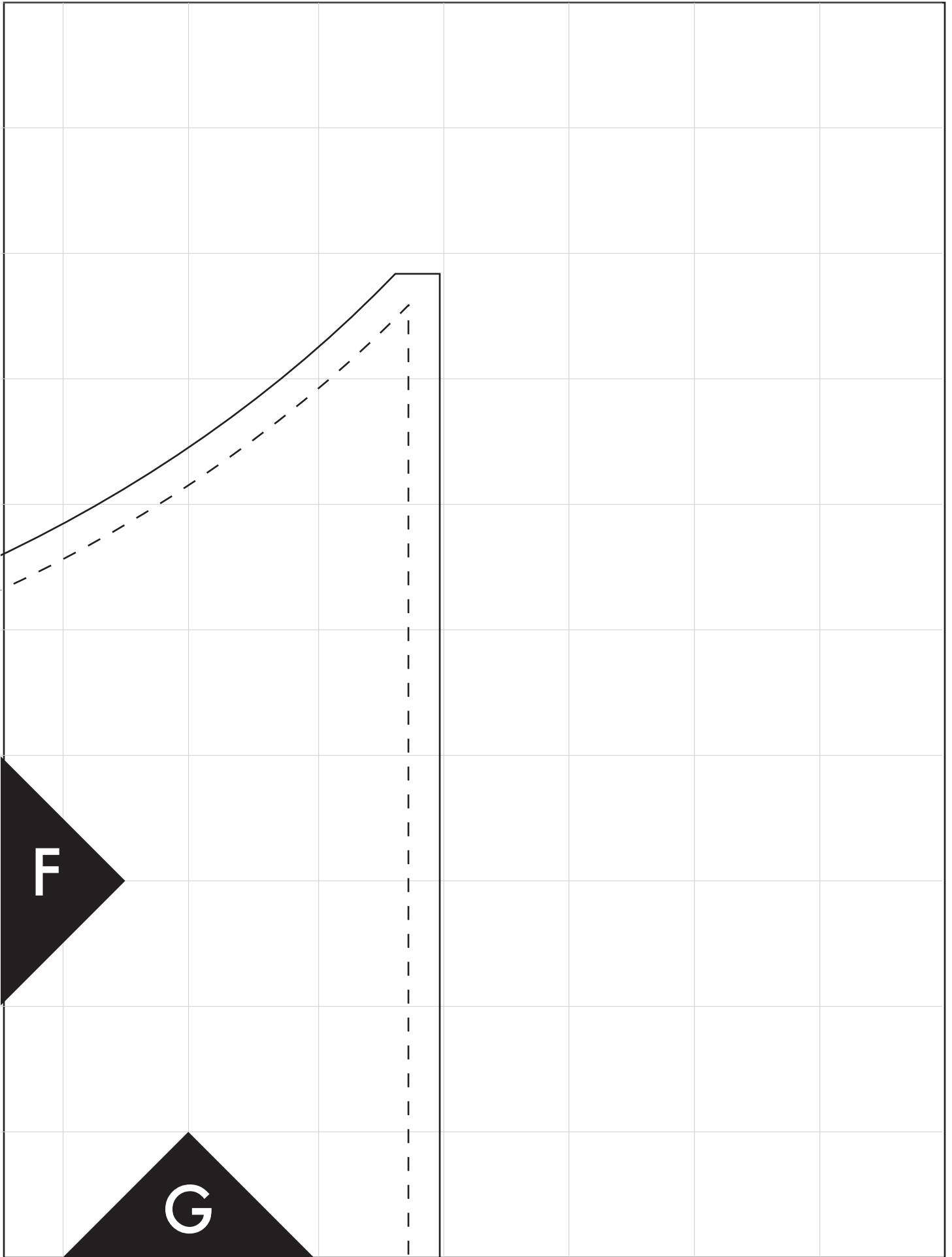
1 inch test square

Template 2
Cut two per block



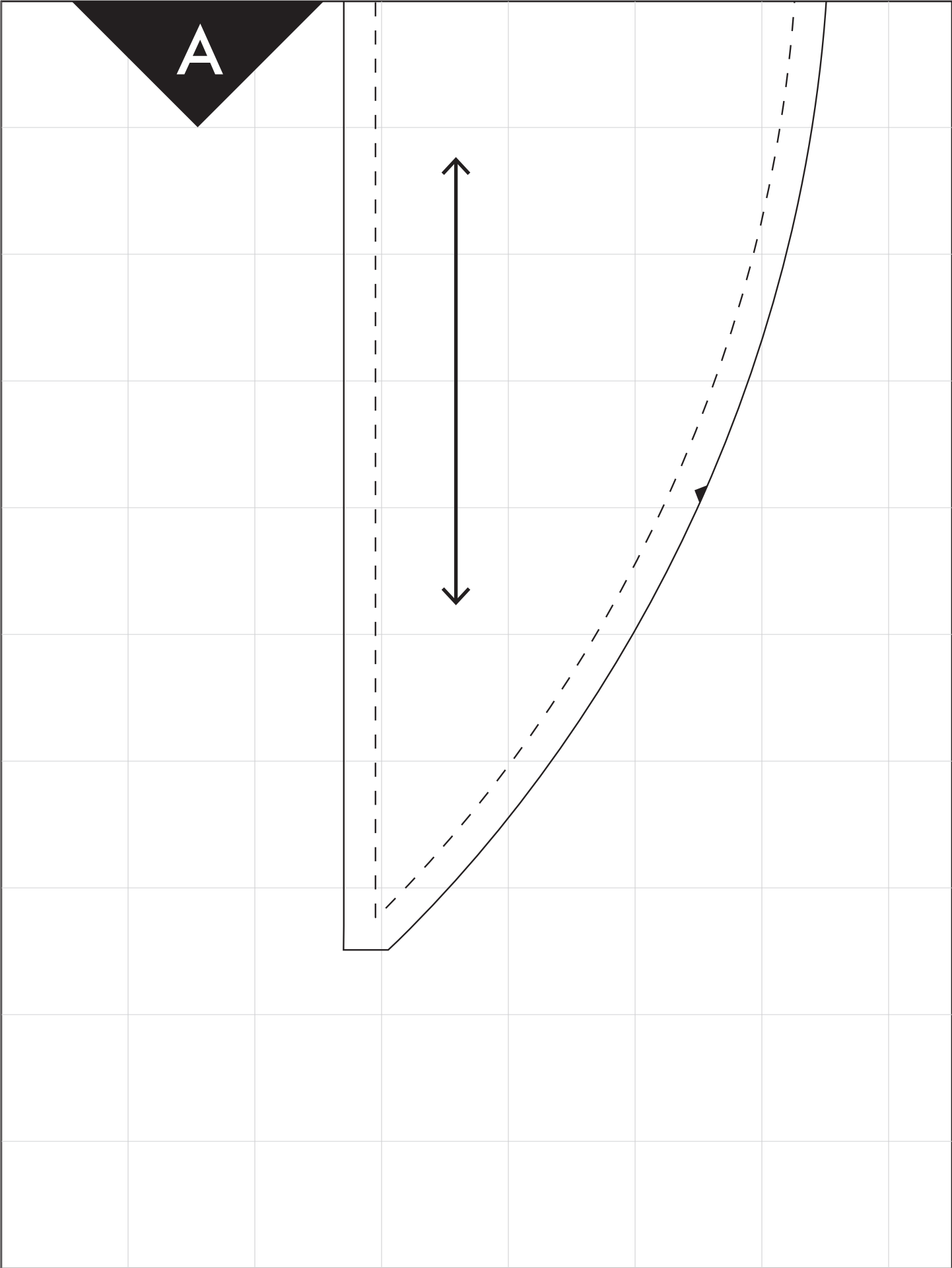


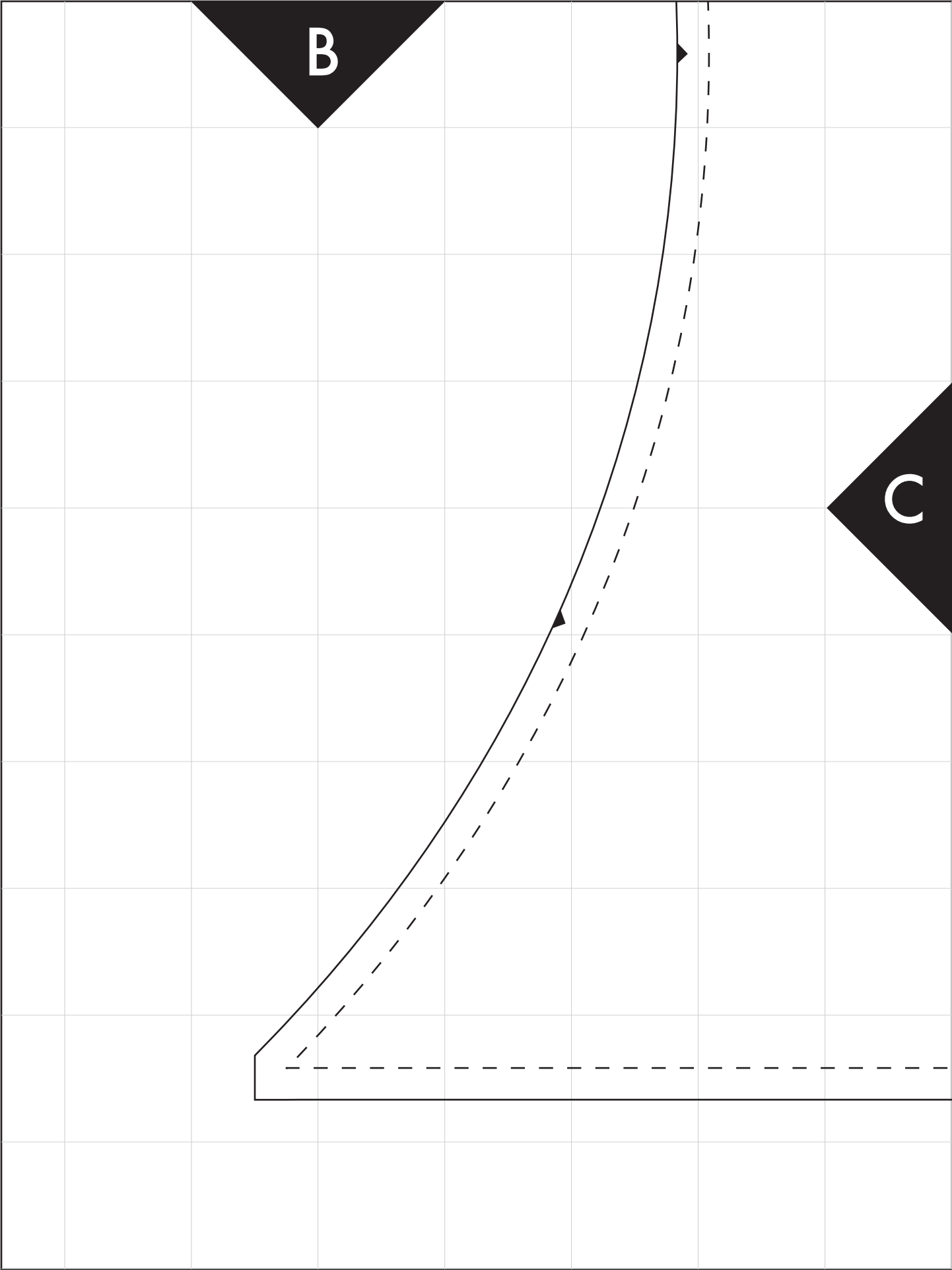


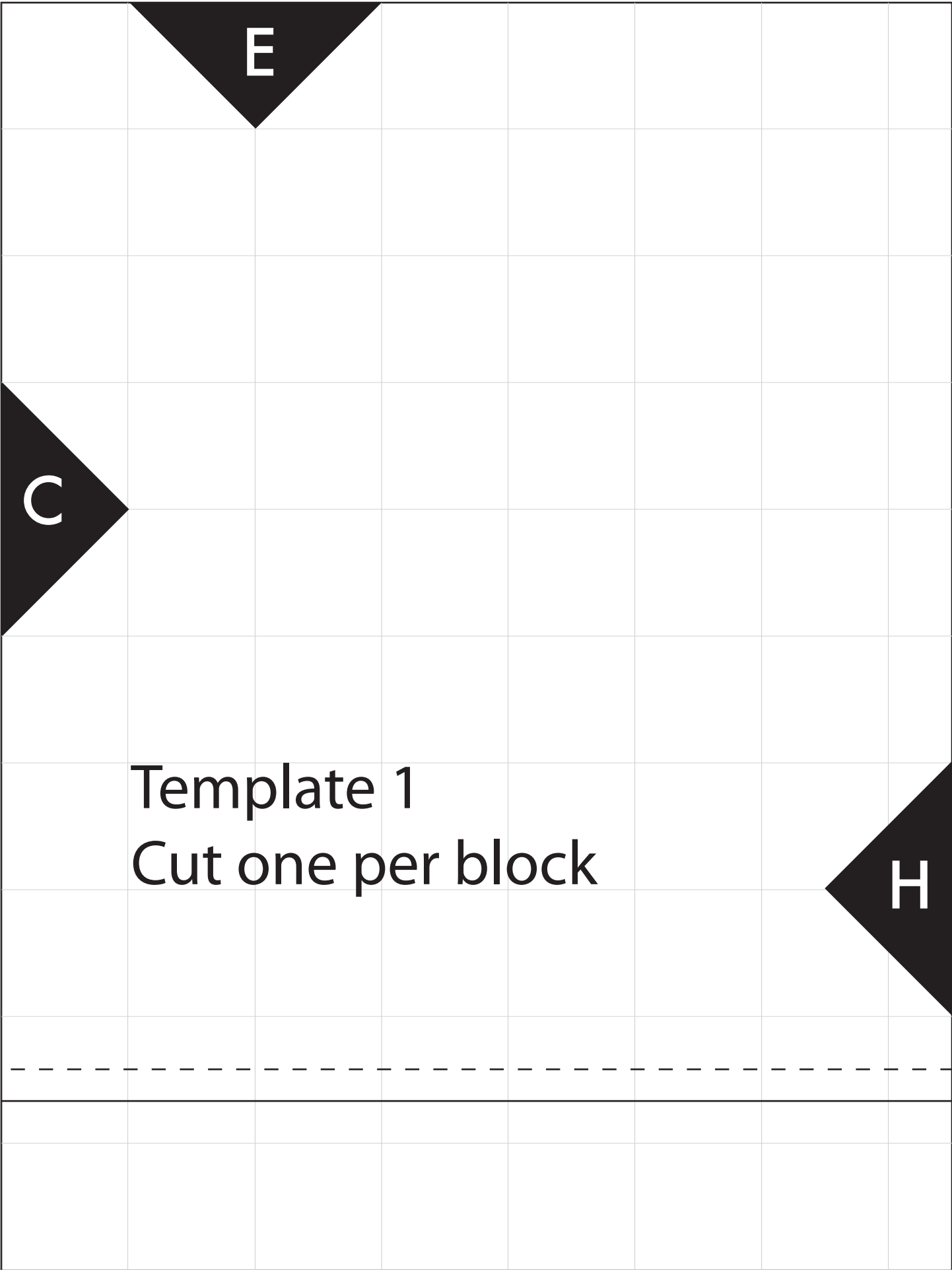


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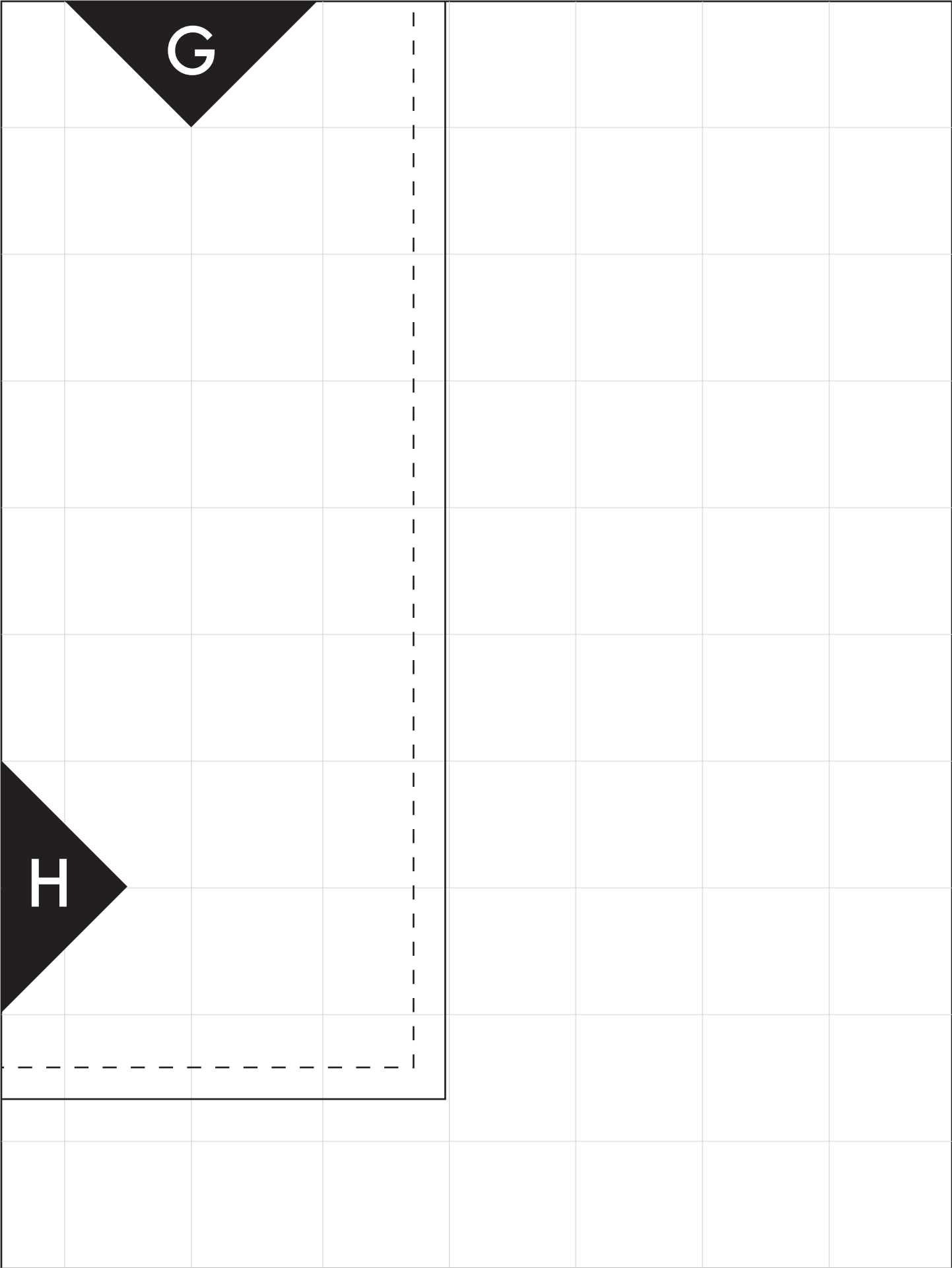


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Template 1
Cut one per block

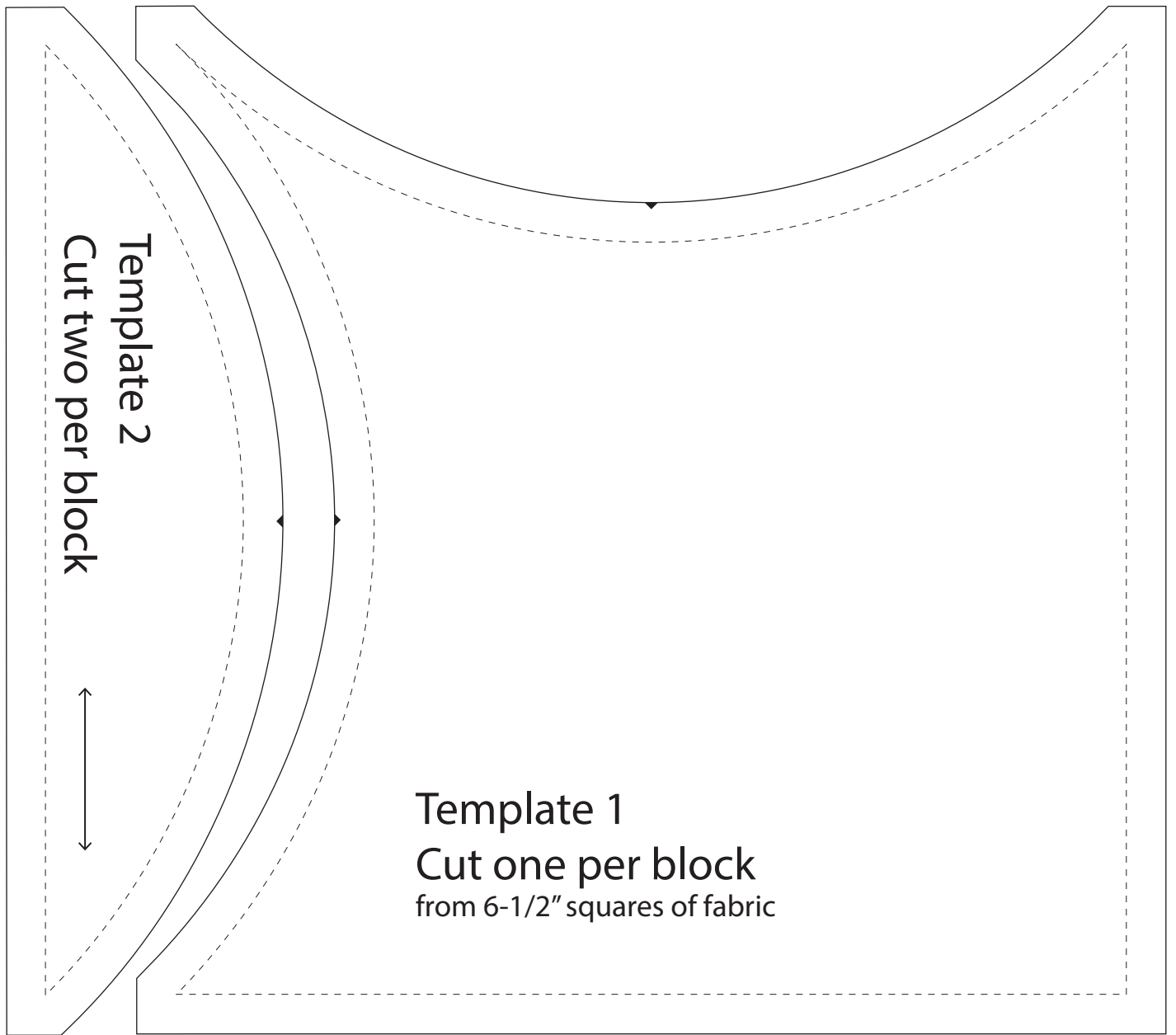
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G

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6" Block Template





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www.modernquiltguild.com

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