

SUMMER 2009 BLOCK OF THE MONTH

GSQ Feathered Star

This one is just for you
DO NOT TURN IN

This block is not a regular block-of-the-month. This block is the medallion center for the 2008-2009 BOM Star Sampler quilt. It finishes at 21-inches (21-1/2 unfinished) and can be made from any fabrics of your choice.

A feathered star is a complicated block. This one has been designed to simplify the construction process. There are four Y-seams, one between each set of star points. You may be more comfortable sewing the Y-seams by hand, but the machine technique provided here works well for me.

I strongly recommend that you print out the 9 pages that contain the “picture” of the completed block and trim them and tape them together to make a layout design.

PRINTING A PDF FILE: When you select the print command for a PDF file, look carefully for the instruction on the screen called “Page Scaling.” Make sure that Page Scaling is set to **NONE**. Measure something on the printout that has sizes indicated to be sure your printer has printed accurately.

For this block:

- Assume a two-color block
- Use rotary cutting instructions, where possible
- Use templates for non-standard shapes: diamond (which can also be rotary cut); mirror-image wedges (which can also be rotary cut); and the large home-plate-shaped wedge. The templates in this document have the inner line (the finished piece size) and a ¼ inch seam allowance (the lighter outer line). I recommend you use your ruler to add a ¼ inch seam allowance to the INNER, darker line, to ensure the greatest accuracy.
- Use the recommended construction technique, which ensures straight piecing except for 4 Y-seams
- Make half-square triangles by the quick-piecing method. Put two squares right-sides together, with a diagonal line drawn across the back of the light square. Sew a scant quarter-inch on either side of the drawn line. Cut apart on the drawn line to make two half-square triangle units. Press to the dark fabric.

If you have questions or run into problems, feel free to contact me, Rita Owen, at reowen@msn.com.

FEATHERED STAR CUTTING

Background fabric:

- Cut four (4) 6-5/8 x 6-5/8 inch squares
- Cut sixteen (16) 2-1/4 x 2-1/4 inch squares (for half square triangle quick-piecing)
- Cut sixteen (16) 2-1/4 x 2-1/4 inch squares. Cut in half once, diagonally, to make 32 triangles
- Cut four (4) home-plate-shaped wedges, using the enclosed template. Make sure the 1/4 inch seam allowance is accurate

Star fabric:

- Cut one (1) 6-3/8 x 6-3/8 inch square (this is the center of the star)
- Cut sixteen (16) 2-1/4 x 2-1/4 inch squares (for half square triangle quick-piecing)
- Cut eight (8) 1-7/8 x 1-7/8 inch squares
- Cut mirror-image wedges
 - Keep fabric folded, wrong sides together, as it came off the bolt
 - Cut a 3-1/2 inch strip, selvedge to selvedge
 - Make a 45-degree cut at one end of the strip (cutting through 2 layers, or 4 layers, depending on how comfortable you are cutting through multiple thicknesses)
 - By cutting through at least two layers, wrong-sides together, you are cutting the mirror images so it doesn't matter which direction the 45-degree angle is pointed
 - Look at the templates in this document to get an idea of what the wedge should look like
 - Measure exactly 5 inches along the strip from the triangle tip at the 45-degree cut, and cut straight across the strip
 - Measure exactly 5 inches along the strip from the new straight cut and cut a 45-degree cut angled back toward the straight-cut end
 - Repeat, as necessary, until you have 4 "left" wedges and 4 "right" wedges
 - TEMPLATE ALTERNATE (which I prefer):
 - Use the enclosed template
 - Cut out the paper template. Place on the fabric, folded wrong sides together, and pin in place with straight pins. Use pins that don't have a big ball-end
 - Make sure you have an accurate 1/4 inch seam allowance
 - Cut out 4 "left" wedges and 4 "right" wedges. If you are cutting through two layers of fabric (wrong sides together), you are cutting a pair of mirror image wedges at one time (you only need to use one of the two wedge templates!)
- Cut eight (8) diamonds
 - Cut strip 1-7/8 wide
 - Make a 45-degree cut at one end
 - Measure exactly 2-5/8 inches from the triangle tip at the 45-degree cut, and make another 45-degree cut, in the same direction as the first cut. Repeat,

- as required, to cut 8 diamonds
- TEMPLATE ALTERNATE (which I prefer):
 - Use the enclosed template
 - Cut out the paper template. Place on the fabric. (I cut 4 layers at a time). Pin the template in place with straight pins (at least 2, to keep the fabric from skewing)
 - After you've cut out the diamonds with the $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam allowance, trim the ends as indicated on the template
 - Cut a total of 8 identical diamonds

USING THE FULL-SIZE BLOCK PICTURE

- Print out all 9 pages of the block picture at the back of these instructions
- Cut and paste the pages together. The block should measure 21-inches
- It helps if you lay out all the pieces, as you cut them
- As you finish each unit, lay it on top of its place on the block picture. This will help keep everything oriented properly

CONSTRUCTION

Make all the "feather" strips first. Be careful with the placement of the half-square triangles in each unit

1. Half-square triangles (HSTs)
 - a. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of 16 background $1\text{-}\frac{7}{8}$ inch squares
 - b. Put 1 star fabric $1\text{-}\frac{7}{8}$ -inch square right sides together with 1 background $1\text{-}\frac{7}{8}$ square
 - c. Sew a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch on both sides of the diagonal line
 - d. Cut on the diagonal line. Press to the darker fabric (makes 2)
 - e. Make a total of 32 HSTs
2. UNIT 1 – make 4
 - a. Sew 2 HSTs together, with the star fabric triangle in the lower left corners
 - b. Add one background triangle to the left side of this unit with the 45-degree angle slanting up to the left



c. Looks like this:

3. UNIT 2 – make 4
 - a. Sew 2 HSTs together, with the star fabric triangle in the lower right corners
 - b. Add one background triangle to the right side of this unit with the 45-degree angle slanting up to the right
 - c. Add one star-fabric square to the left of this unit



d. Looks like this:

4. MAKE THE STAR POINT UNITS (UNIT A)
 - a. Units 1 and 2 are added to the triangle ends of the home-base-shaped

- background wedge
- b. Sew Unit 1 to the left side of the wedge, looking at it right side up. Make sure the tail of the background triangle protrudes beyond the edge of the wedge so that you start sewing the quarter-inch seam in the V formed between the tail of the triangle and the edge of the wedge
 - c. Press toward the wedge
 - d. Align Unit 2 along the right edge of the triangle part of the wedge, again letting the tail of the background triangle extend beyond the edge of the wedge so that the ¼ inch seam starts in the V formed between the trail of the triangle and the edge of the wedge
 - e. Add two mirror-image wedges to the Unit 1 and 2 edges, using a Y-seam. Here's the method that works best for me:
 - i. First, lay the mirror image wedges right sides up with the completed unit above to make a rectangle unit, so you can see how the placement works
 - ii. Turn the left wedge right sides together with the completed unit, and sew a partial ¼-inch seam from the outside edge toward the center (just an inch or so is sufficient). Alternately, you can also pin, but I found myself catching my fingers on pins
 - iii. Repeat with the right wedge, sewing a partial ¼ inch seam from the outside edge toward the center
 - iv. Now, fold the two-partially sewn wedges right-sides together and align and pin the shortest edges together. On the side where you're going to sew, mark a quarter inch point down from the top edge and in from the right edge. This is the point where the stitching will stop and be secured with a backstitch or stay-stitch
 - v. Sew the seam from the ¼ inch point at the top (toward the center of the unit) all the way to the bottom
 - vi. Press the seam to one side
 - vii. Now, finish the partial seam, first for the left-hand wedge, ending the stitching ¼ inch from the end, securing with a backstitch or stay-stitch. If you sew this the way I did, you'll see the point where the center join ¼-inch seam ended and can use that as your guide
 - viii. Repeat to finish the partial seam for the right-hand wedge, ending the stitching ¼ inch from the end, securing with a backstitch or stay-stitch
 - ix. Your "star point" unit is complete
 - x. Finish all four star point units and set aside

5. UNIT 3 – make 4

- a. Sew 2 HSTs together, with the star fabric triangle in the lower left corners
- b. Sew 1 background triangle to the left side of a diamond unit and 1 background triangle to the right side of a diamond unit, to make a rectangle
- c. Sew the diamond/rectangle to the left end of the HST unit



d. Looks like this:

6. UNIT 4 – make 4

- a. Sew 2 HSTs together, with the star fabric triangle in the lower left corners
- b. Sew a star fabric square to the left end of the HST unit (press toward the

square)

- c. Sew 1 background triangle to the left side of a diamond unit and 1 background triangle to the right side of a diamond unit, to make a rectangle
- d. Sew the diamond/rectangle to the right end of the square/HST unit



e. Looks like this:

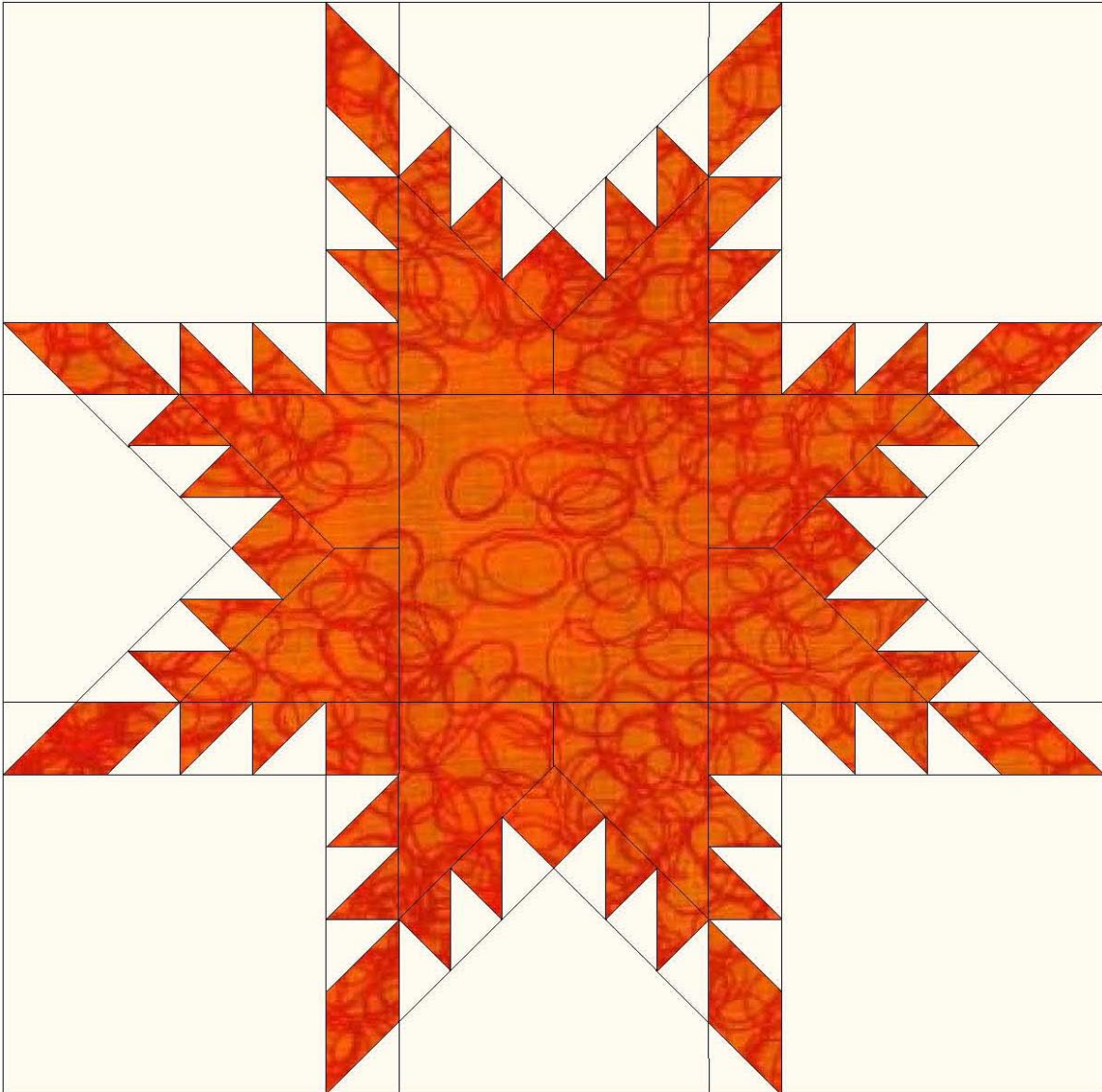
7. MAKE THE FOUR CORNER UNITS (UNIT B)

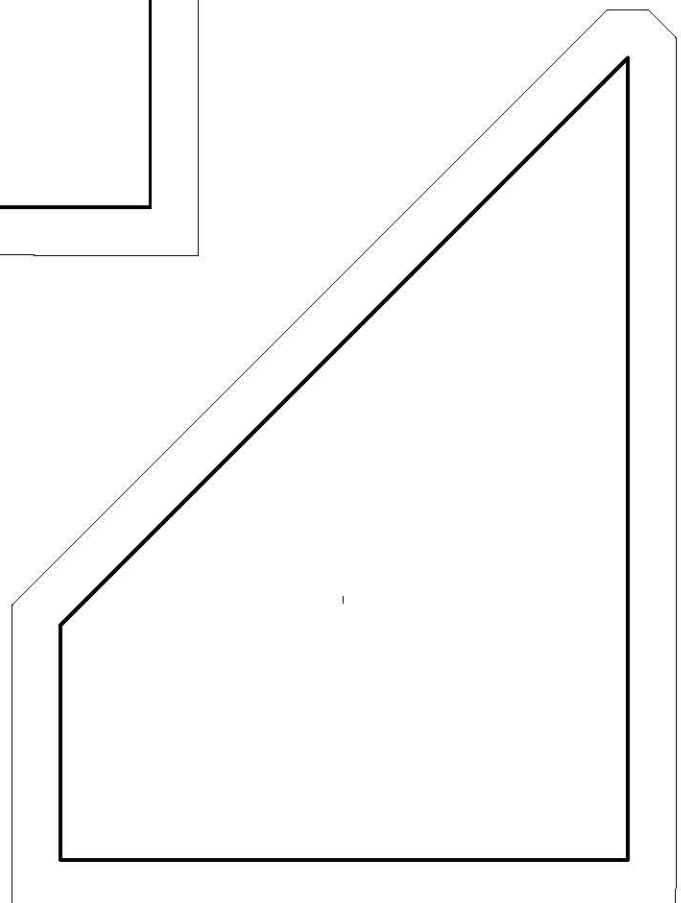
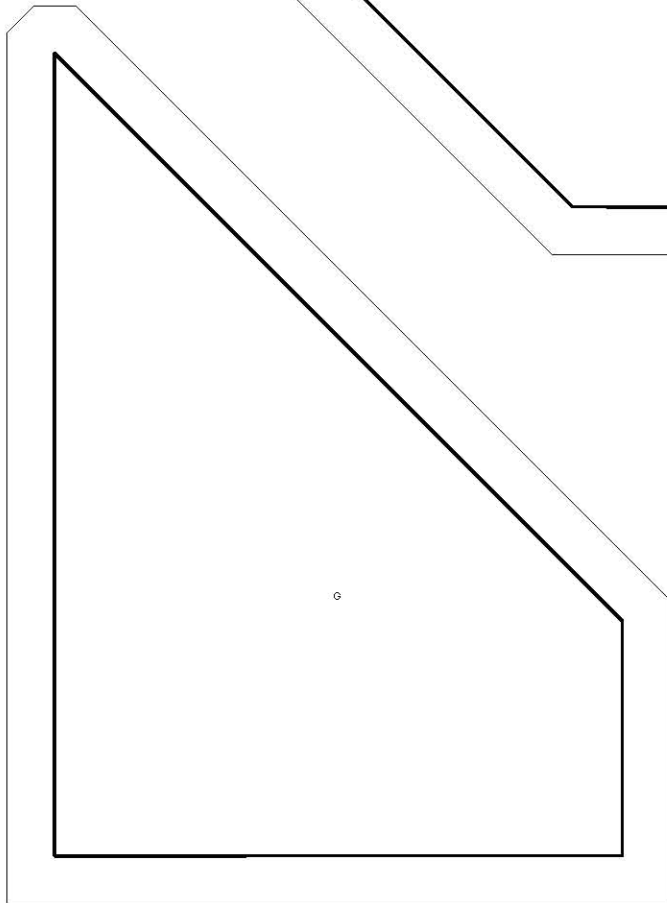
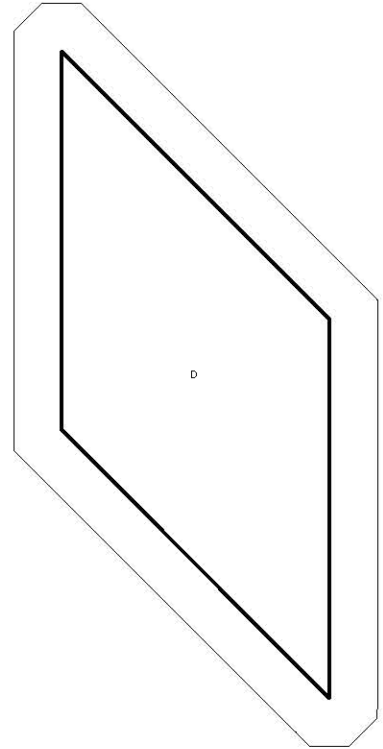
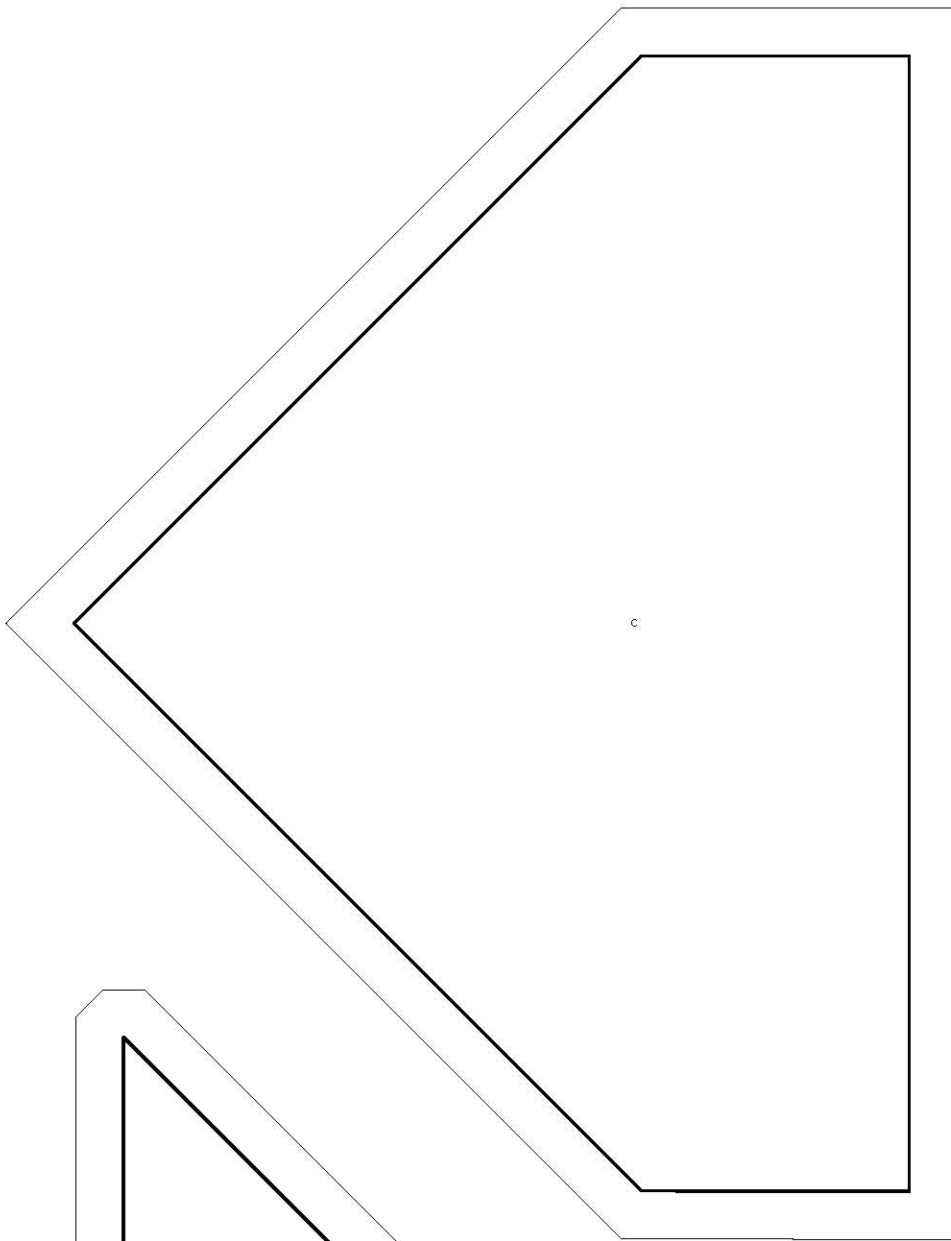
- a. Sew a unit 3 to the bottom edge of a $6\frac{5}{8}$ x $6\frac{5}{8}$ inch background square. Press toward the background square
- b. Sew a unit 4 to the right edge of the background square
- c. Repeat, to make 4 corner units

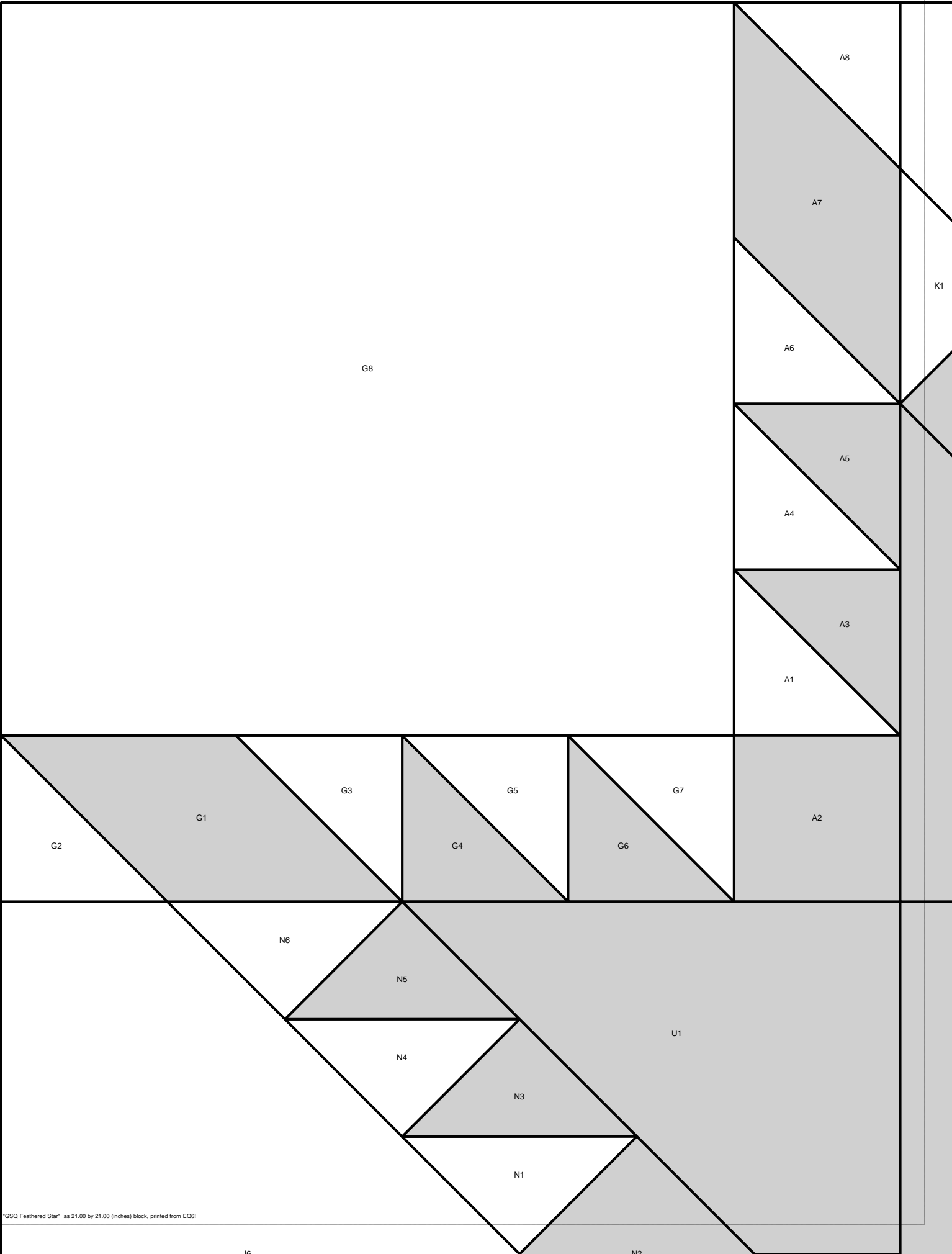
8. PUT THE ROWS TOGETHER

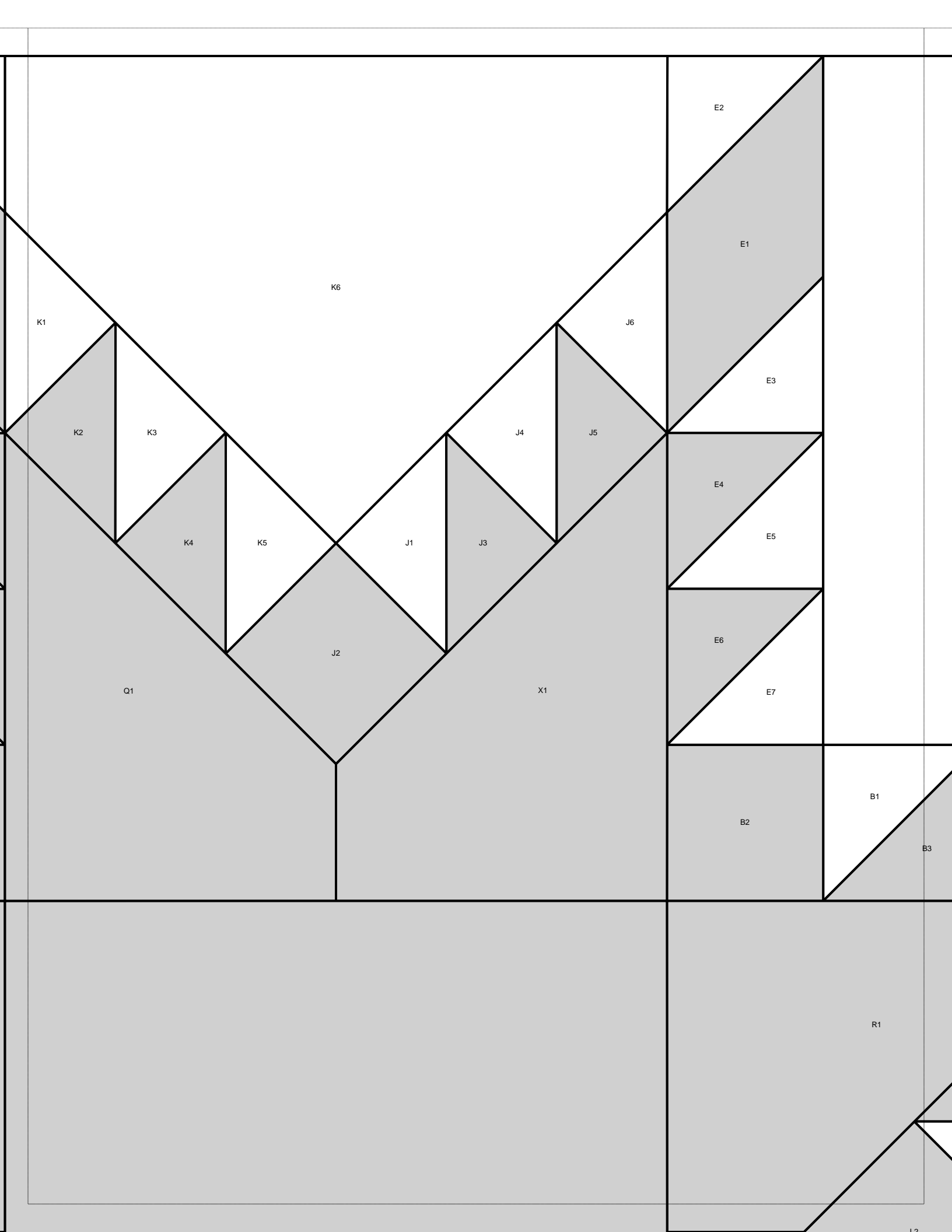
- a. Row 1: Unit B, Unit A, Unit B (I pressed toward Unit A)
- b. Row 2: Unit A, $6\frac{3}{8}$ -inch star fabric square, Unit A (I pressed toward Unit A)
- c. Row 3: Unit B, Unit A, Unit B (I pressed toward Unit A)

Give yourself a round of applause, step back, and admire your feathered star block! This one is yours to keep. It can become the center medallion for a star sampler quilt. Or add some borders and turn it into a miniquilt.

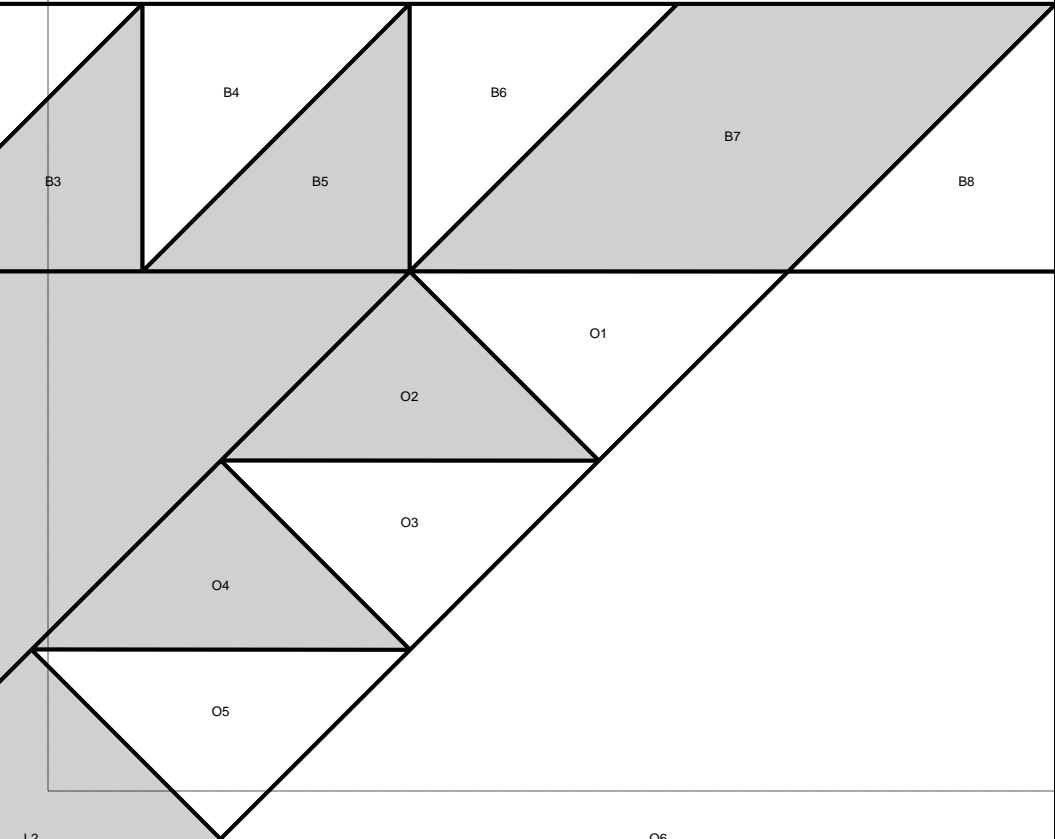


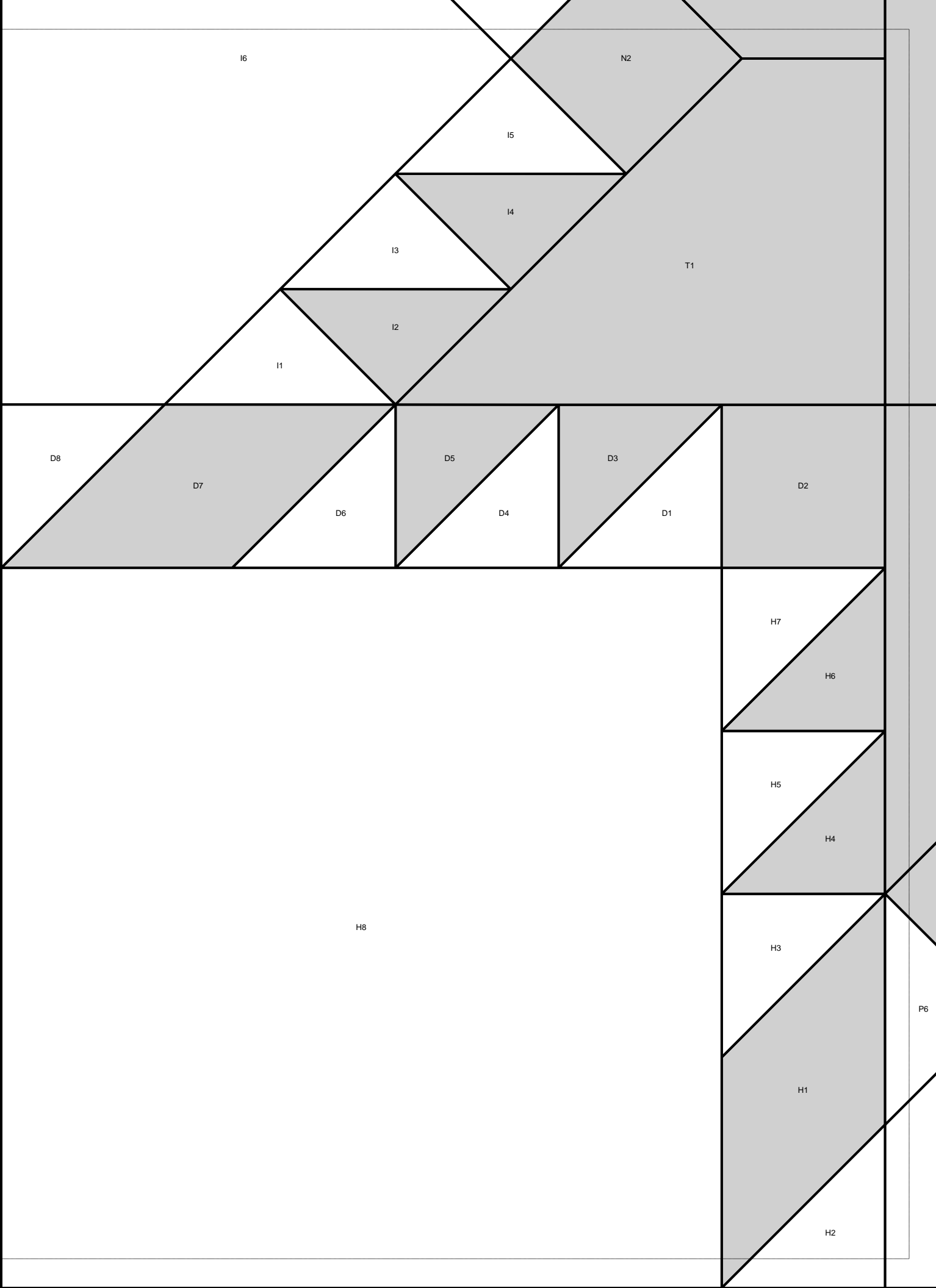


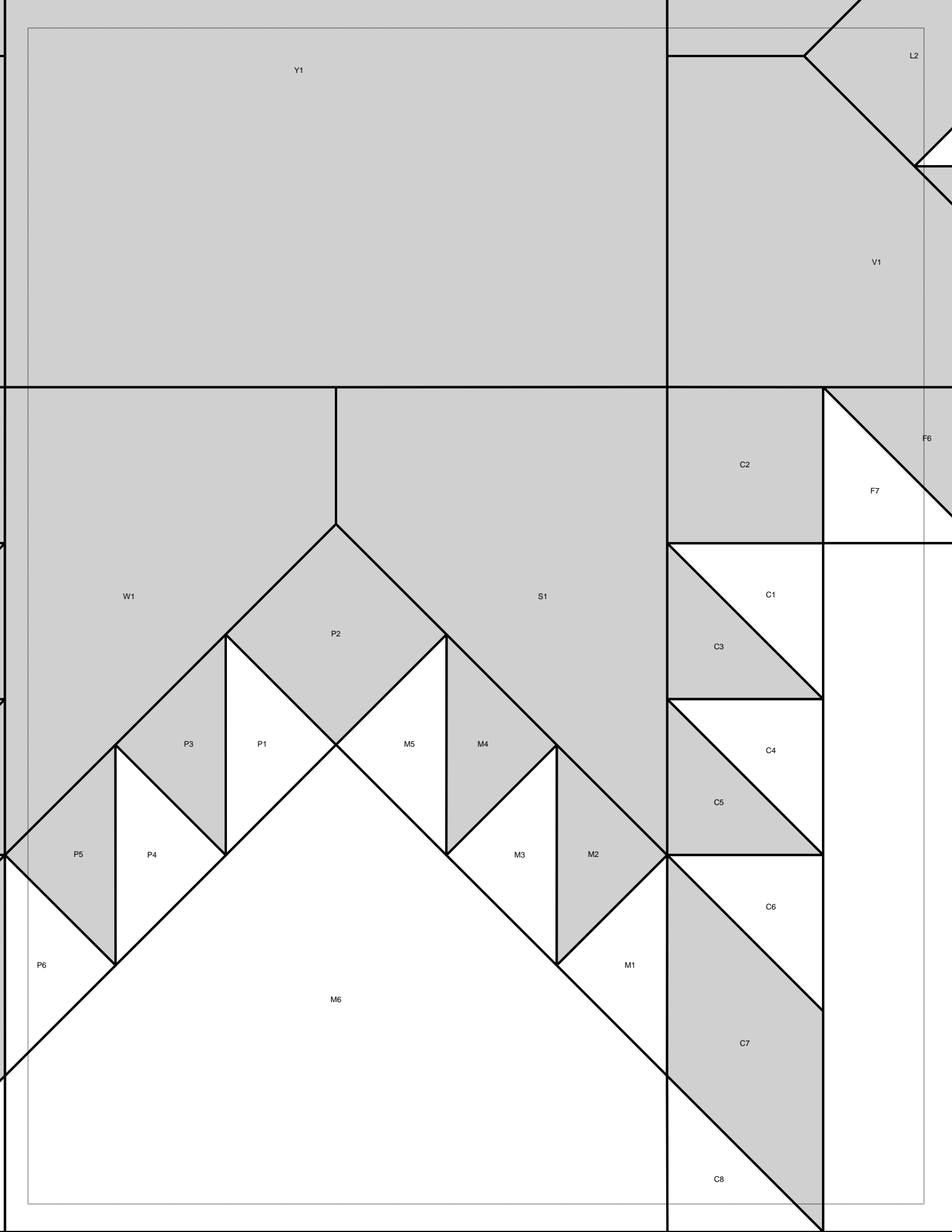




E8







Y1

L2

V1

F6

F7

C2

C1

C3

C4

C5

C6

C7

C8

S1

W1

P2

P3

P1

P5

P4

P6

M5

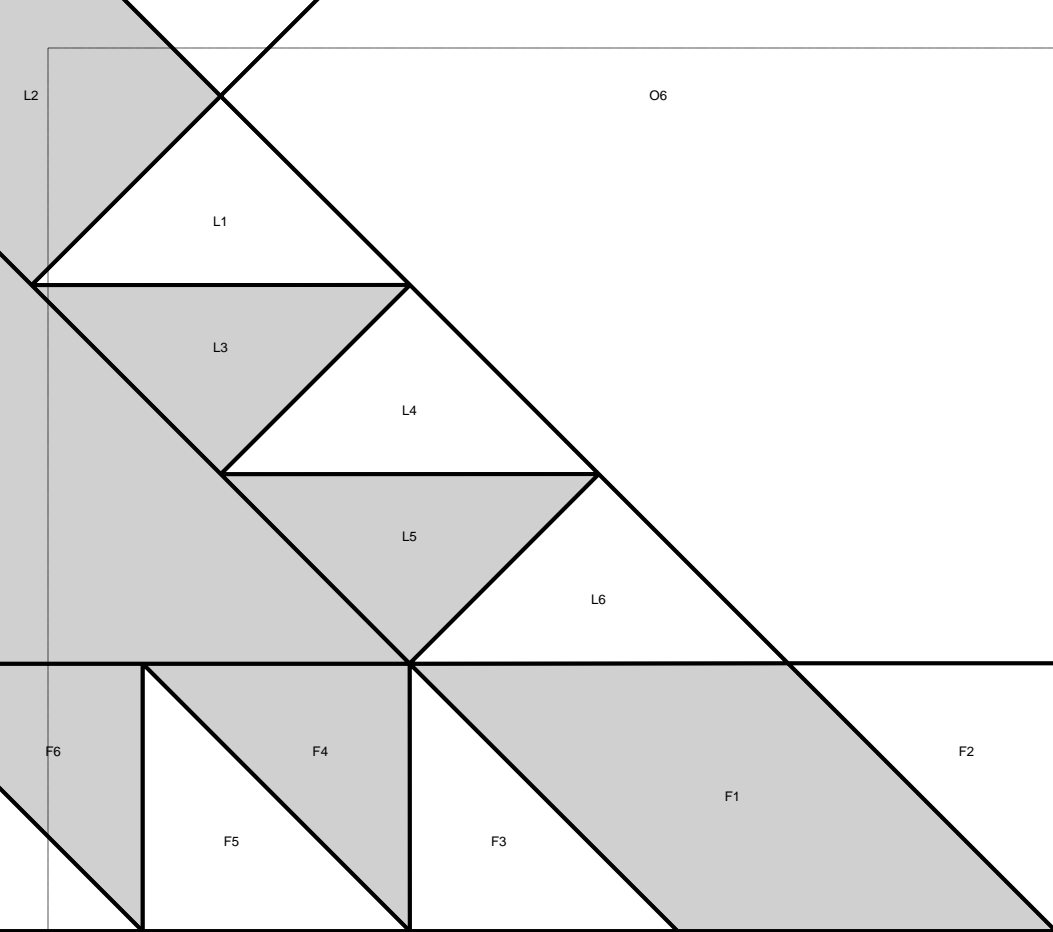
M4

M3

M2

M1

M6



F8

