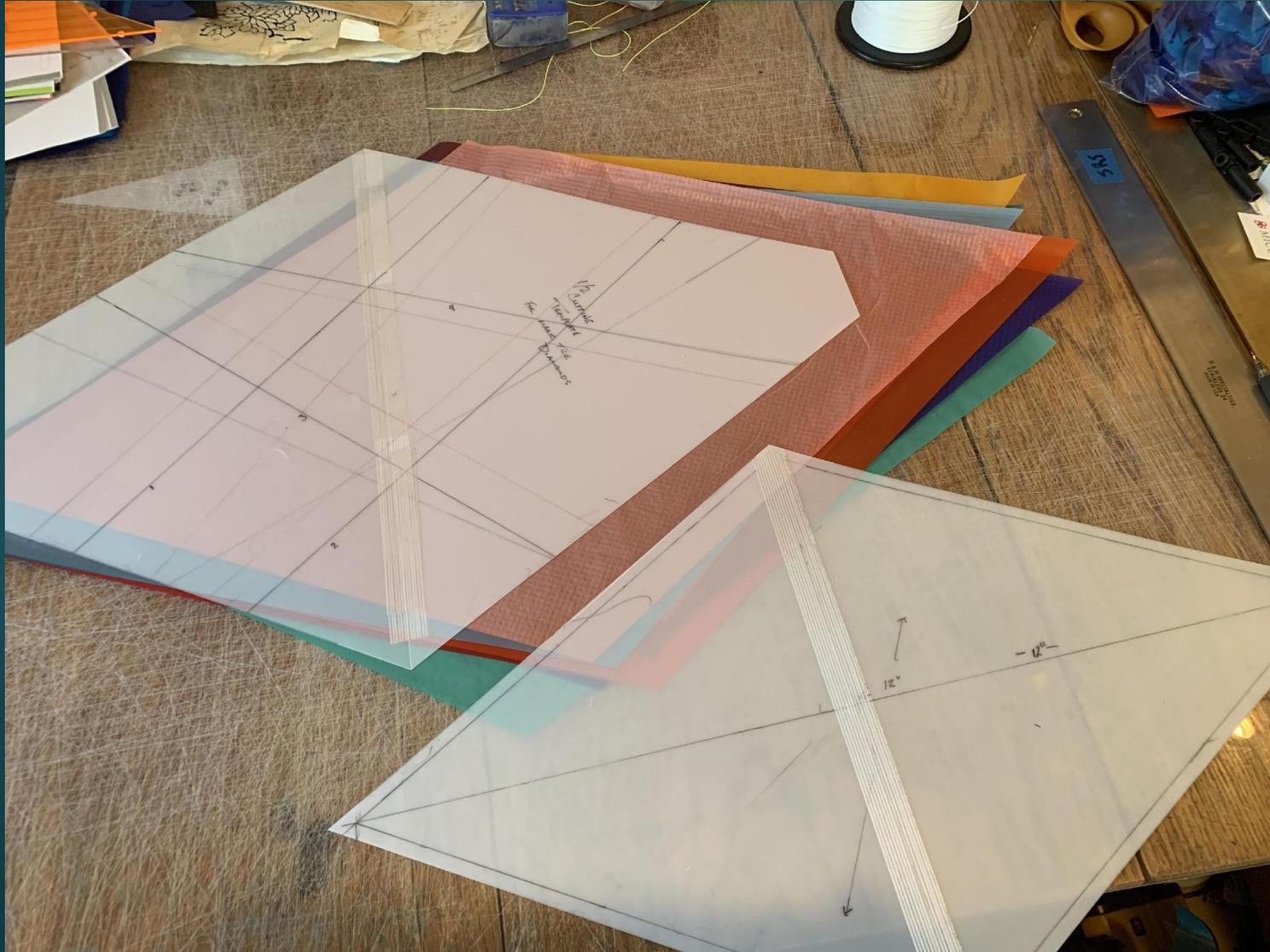




An Easy 9-Piece Block

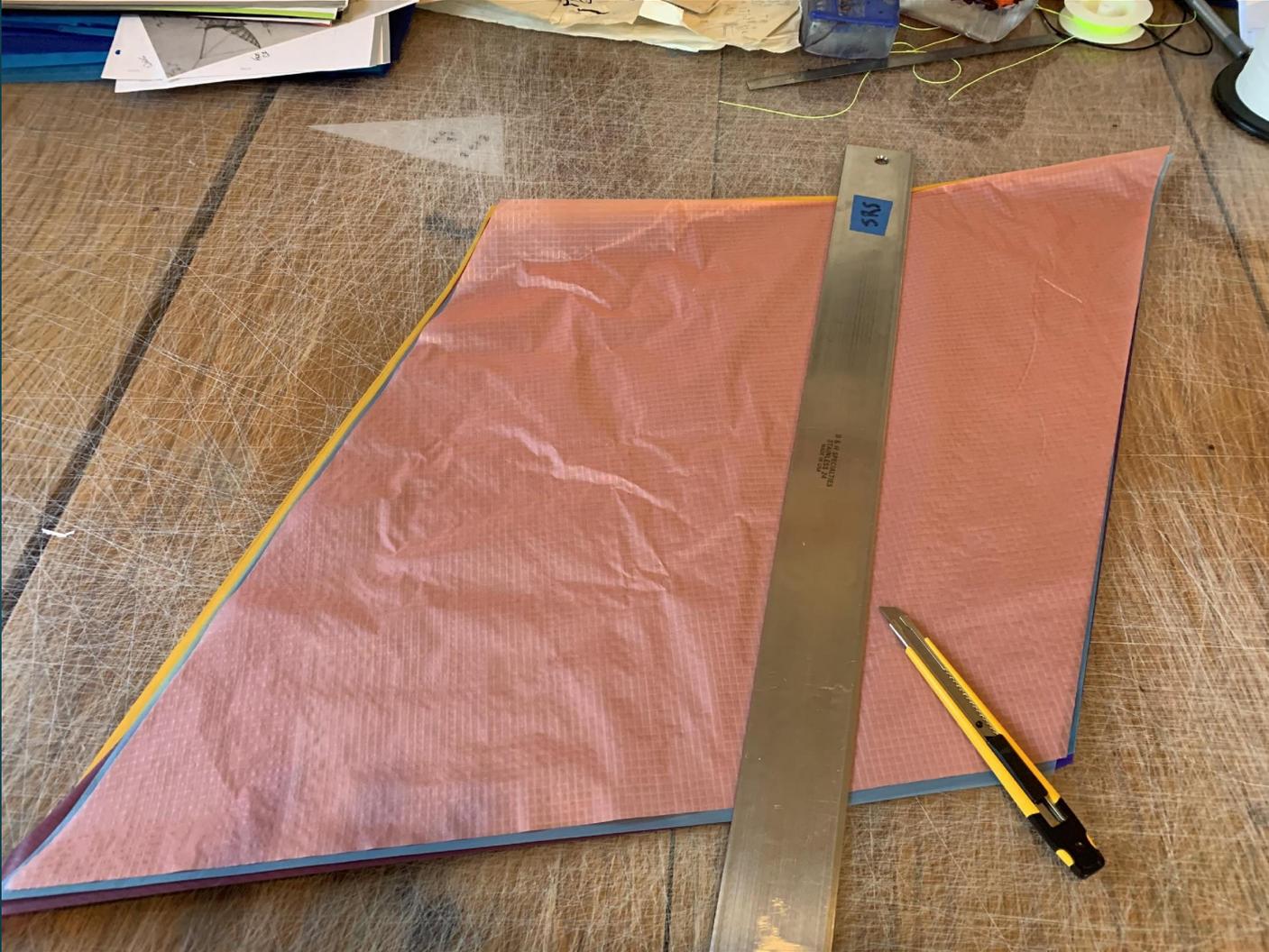
10 STEPS TO 9 PATCHWORK BLOCKS FOR USE IN A VARIETY OF KITE
APPLICATIONS

Step One:



- ▶ I make two templates, using template plastic you can find at quilt stores or online at quilting sites.
- ▶ The larger one is used to cut 9 different colors. We'll use the smaller one later.
- ▶ I like the larger one to be at least 1" larger, all around, so that I ensure the final sewn blocks will fit the template. The smaller one will be used to mark and cut the final blocks to exact size.

Step Two



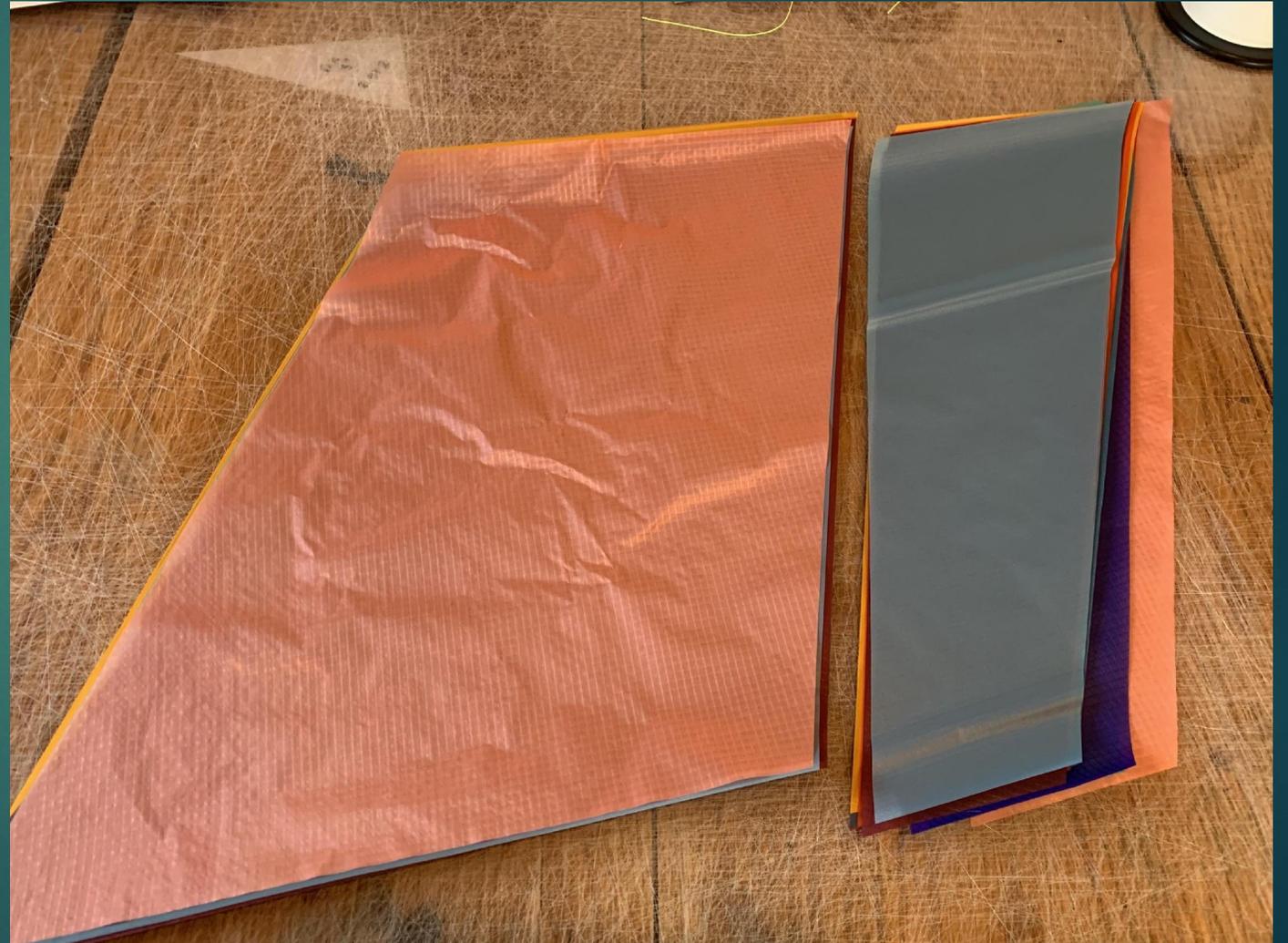
Stacking the nine layers accurately, I select a line about 1/3 from the right edges.

This cutting line doesn't have to be parallel to the edge, in fact, I like it to be more random.

Note: If your panels aren't stacked accurately, your later seam lines will be more random throughout the project. (I like this, and do it intentionally, but be careful – too much variation and your final blocks won't fit the final template)

Step Two, some more;

- ▶ Holding the straightedge firmly on all nine layers, cut the right hand section away from the whole.
- ▶ Take the top color from the right-hand-stack and place it at the bottom of that stack
- ▶ I cold-cut with a razor knife and heavy straight-edge.



Step Three



This slide brought to you by
KITEBOARDING.COM, supplier of
thread for this project.

Sew each of the nine layers back
together along the cut line.

You'll end with 9, two-color panels.

Step Three Note:

- ▶ For those of you who don't sew a lot of straight seams, here's a step I do in EVERY project.
- ▶ Crease the seam-line (and the folded selvage) by drawing it over the edge of your sewing table.
- ▶ This ensures that your seam is flat and straight.
- ▶ Sew down the selvage with a zig-zag stitch (I use the machine's Hem-stitch)



Step Four

- ▶ Here are the nine panels cut and stacked in the same order as they started.
- ▶ I've turned the stack 180 degrees so the second cut will be on the right side of the stack, again.



Step Four



The stack is in the same order as it was in Step One. Don't let the panels get out of order!

More Four

- ▶ Like in Step Two, lay the straightedge about 1/3 into the panel.
- ▶ Hold the panels firmly and cut this line.
- ▶ (I didn't mention it earlier, but I use a new break-off blade to accurately make these cuts)



Another Step Four



- ▶ Here, like in Step Two, I now have two stacks of 9 colors.

Final Four



This time, take the top, two-color piece and place it on the bottom of that stack. (If you think about it, that's the same side that we took the first color to the back. I rotated the stack because it's easier to cut in this orientation).

Now, we'll sew all nine panels back together and the result will be nine, three-color panels.

Again, it's very important to keep the stack in order.

Step Five

With our nine-panel stack,
rotate the stack 90 degrees

Straighten the stack so it is
almost aligned (if you were a
quilter, the stack would be
perfectly aligned and your
seams would all match).
Ours won't! And I don't want
them to!



More Step Five



- ▶ As we have done before, make a cut-line about 1/3 inside the right edge.
- ▶ See how closely the edges of the nine panels are aligned? You can allow yours to be a little more “messy” than mine are, here.
- ▶ With all the seams stacked, it’s easy for these panels to become misaligned when you cut. Hold firmly and cut accurately!

Step Five, more!



Here we are again, but wait!
This time we're going to take
the top THREE layers from the
right-hand side,...

Last of Five

- ▶ ,... and put them at the bottom of the right-hand stack.
- ▶ Now, sew all nine panels back together.
- ▶ As you can guess, you'll now have nine, six-color panels (all different!).



Step Six



Here's a good time to check your nine layers.

Without changing their order, take a look and ensure that you have nine, six-color panels, all different from one another.

Step Six, again

- ▶ Turn your stack 180 degrees so that the larger, three-color side is on the right.
- ▶ We cut about 1/3rd inside the right edge.
- ▶ Again, take the top three layers of the left-hand side and place them to the bottom of that stack.



Six Plus

Here's where you'll see what those variations in stacking your panels will give you in the nine-piece panels.

If you sew things back together and intentionally don't align the edges, the interior of your patchwork block will have seamlines that "miss".

A quilter would make all these seams meet – I can assure you that it's impossible to do that with ripstop. So don't worry about it!



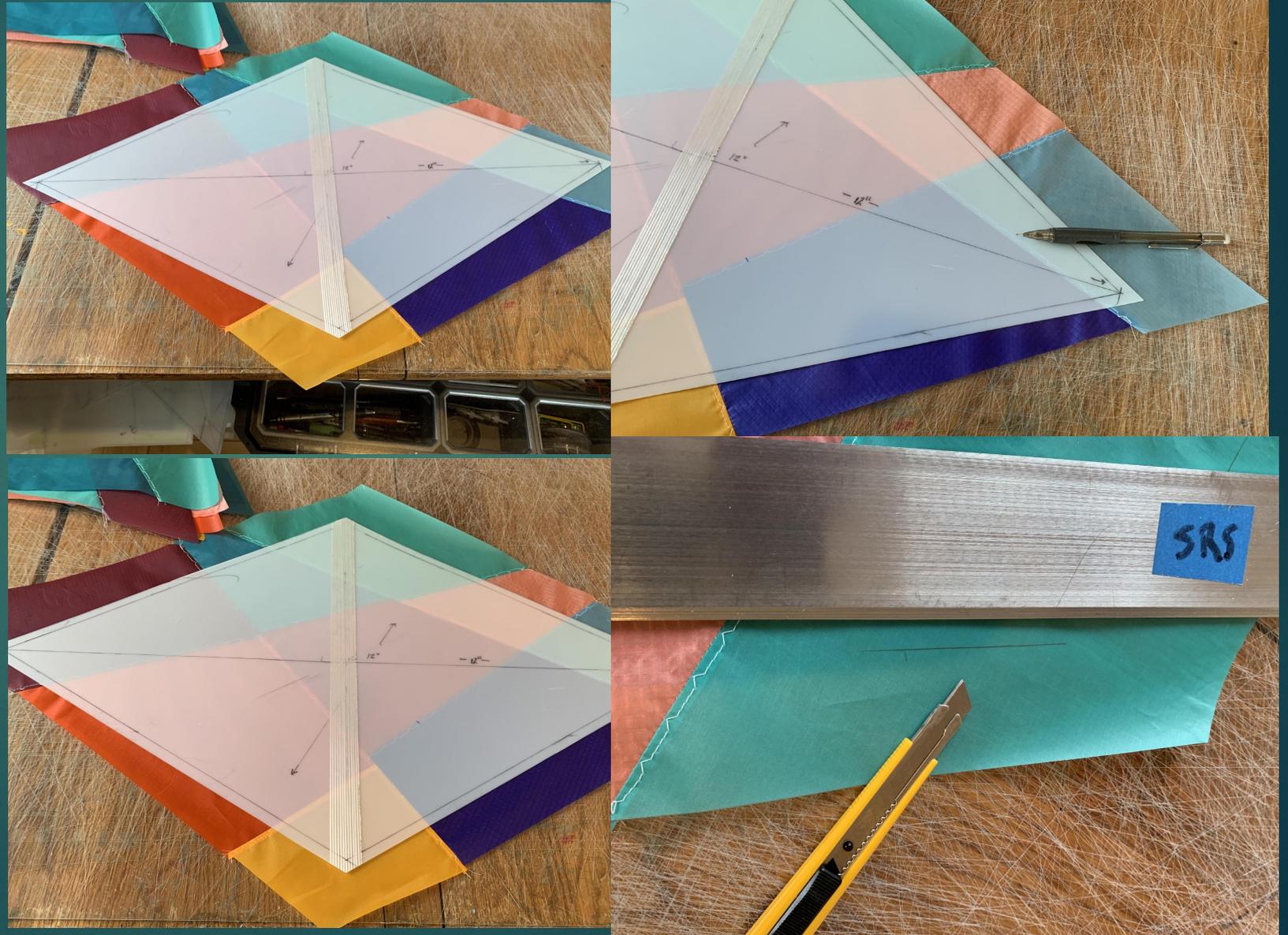
Step Seven

Here's where your second template comes in to play.

Our finished, nine-color panels are oversized.

We place the smaller template and mark each panel for cutting.

Notice that you have a lot of leeway in laying this template on each panel. Changing the positioning of this template will ensure that your edge-seams will NOT line up exactly with the panel next to it.



Step Eight

Here you have it: Nine, nine-color blocks that can be arranged together for a final kite project.

Look at the edges and see how randomly they align with the block next one another.

Since every block is cut accurately, when you sew them together you must align corners exactly.



Step Nine (not really a step)



The beginnings of a Hata?



A Lozenge kite?

A Party-banner?

More, not-a-step-nine



Of course, the technique can be used with several shades of the same color. In these I don't really worry about nine colors, simply follow the steps and end with nine, nine-patch blocks.

Above is a four-block "Hata", a 16-block kaku-dako, and a wing-section of 9 light blues.



Step Ten

- ▶ Now it's your turn to start at Step One and make your own nine-color, nine-patch, geometric patchwork block!
- ▶ Use the nine blocks on their own or as part of a larger project, you'll find that the technique is fast, accurate, and eye-pleasing
- ▶ I'll post the kite that I've made with these blocks, SOON! (Like on the next slide)

Here it is!!

