

# Japanese Fan Block Quilt

Custom Blocks and Settings

Jacintha Bennell







# Custom Quilt Layout

- Useful when designing a quilt from scratch
- If a quilt pattern you like is just to big or small and you want to make one in a different size



# Custom Quilt Layout

What is involved?

- Determining block size and the number of blocks in rows and columns - horizontal or on-point layout - to fit your chosen size
- Making the fan block



# Fan Quilt

- Fan blocks are not subject to any internal divisions - like 4 or 9 patch blocks - so they can be any size
- Are you going to use sashing?



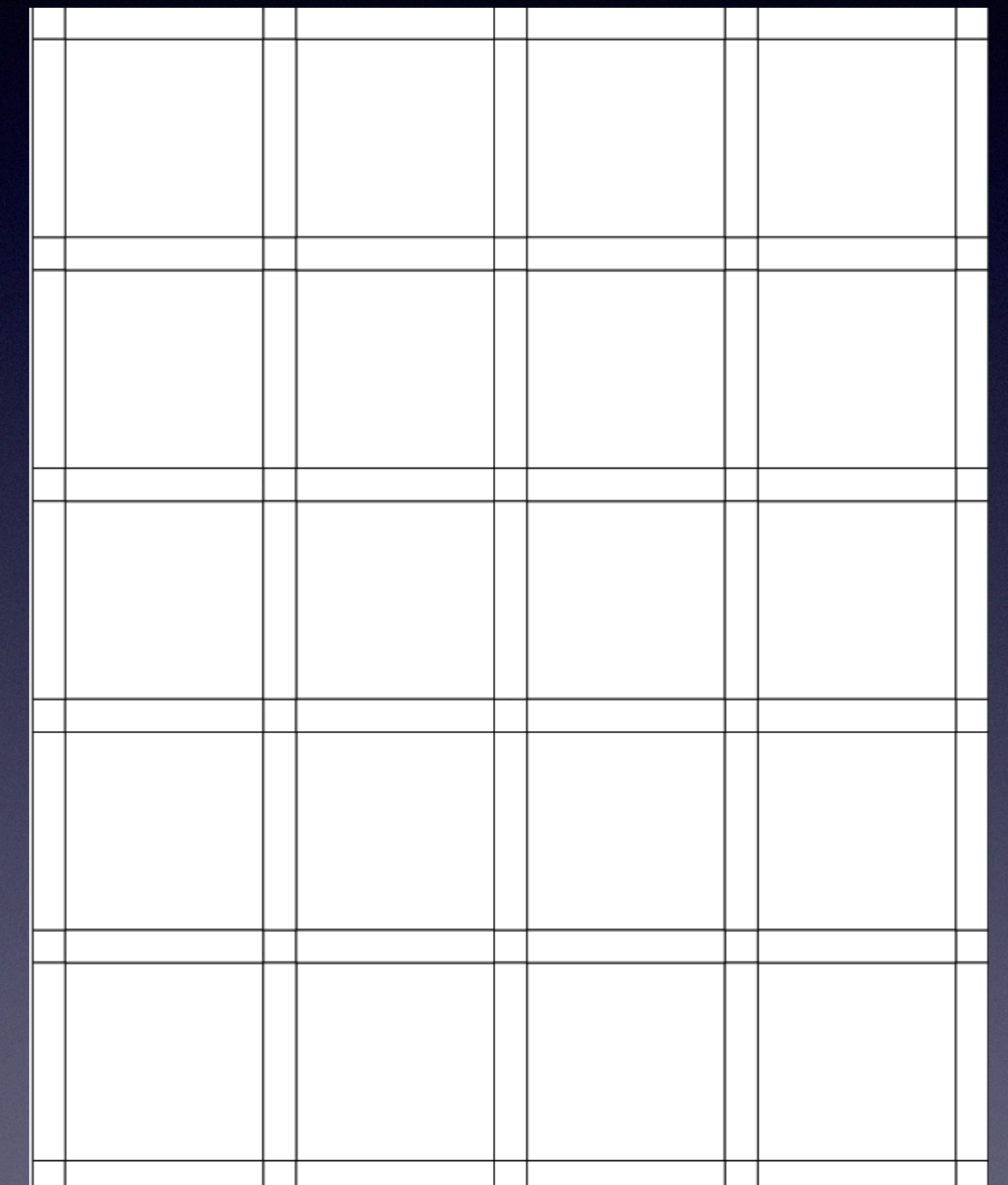
# Horizontal Setting

- No sashing: Fairly simple to determine blocks, column and rows
- Example: 60" width - can be a row of 5 - 12" blocks, or 6 - 10" blocks.  
Divide the quilt width with the number of blocks in a row to get blocks size
- For the length of the quilt, once you have determined the block size as above determine how many rows will be needed to make the desired quilt length
- It is an iterative process - assess various combinations to select the block size, number of blocks in columns and rows that best fit your planned quilt size.



# Using Sashing

- Drawing your planned quilt layout will help visualize what you need to calculate and adjust
- Example: for a quilt approximately 48 x 60 with sashing between blocks and border sashing. No quilt border
- If you were not using sashing - and 12" blocks, 4 in a row and 5 in a column. With sashing you would have to reduce the block size or the number of blocks in a row/column
- If you wanted 2" sashing and 4 blocks in a row this would take up  $5 \times 2" = 10"$  in width. This leaves 38" for blocks
- For quilt length with 5 rows:  $6 \times 2" = 12"$  in length leaving 48" in length for blocks
- You could then adjust your block size to 10" for example keeping 4 blocks in a row, and 5 in a column and go slightly over your planned 48x60 quilt size





# Summary of Horizontal Layout

- Do you want a sash border or just sashing between blocks and rows?
- Start with an estimate of the block size, number of blocks in rows and columns and sashing width
- Decide which item you want to keep constant: your blocks size or your sashing
- Add the total sashing width in rows and columns and deduct it from the total planned quilt width and length - this gives you the number of inches available for blocks
- Again an iterative process - if your block size is fixed you need to adjust the number of blocks in rows/columns and/or sashing (sash border) to keep your planned quilt size
- If your sashing is fixed you will need to adjust your block size to keep your planned quilt size



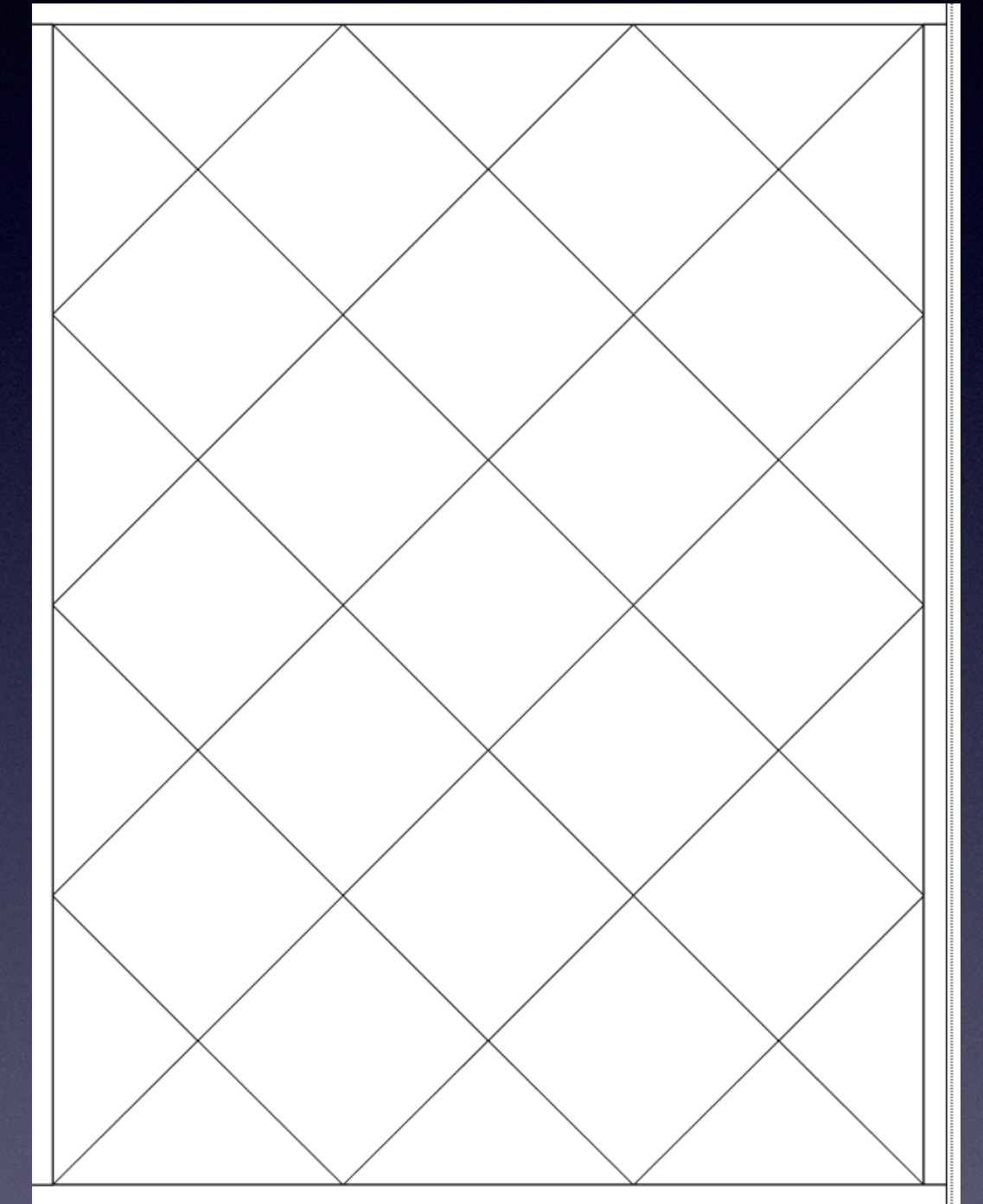
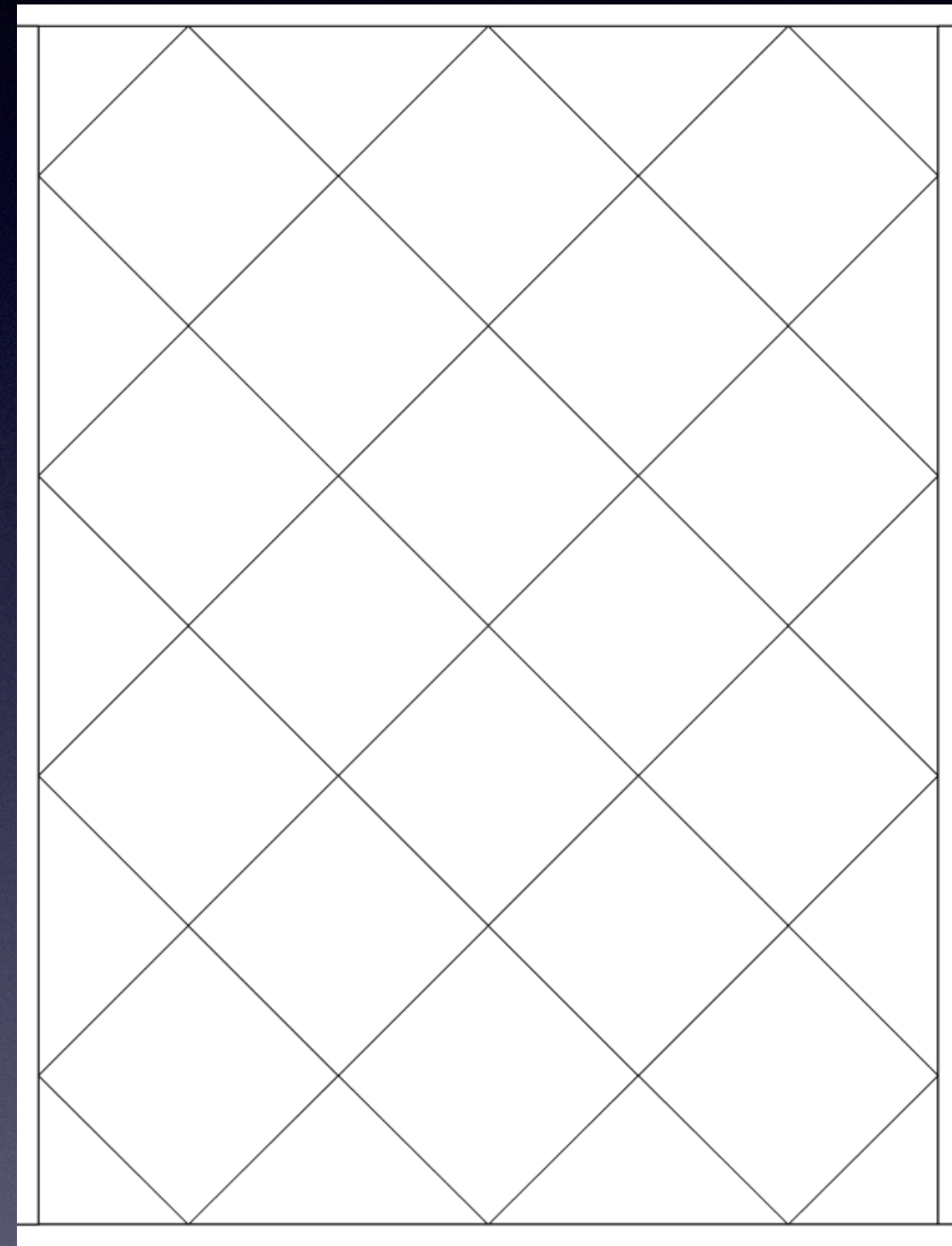
# On-point Setting

- Same process to determine block size and quilt size
- Blocks on-point take up more width
- Sashing takes up more width



# On-point settings

- Different approaches determine cornerstone block sizes
- Number of blocks differ by 1 less (in 2nd layout)
- Corner setting triangles are bigger in second layout





# On-point block Sizes

Block Size	On-point width
4"	Just over 5.5"
5"	7"
6"	Just under 8.5
7"	Almost 10"
8"	11.2"
9"	Almost 13"
10"	14"
11"	15.5"
12"	Almost 17"



# Sashing

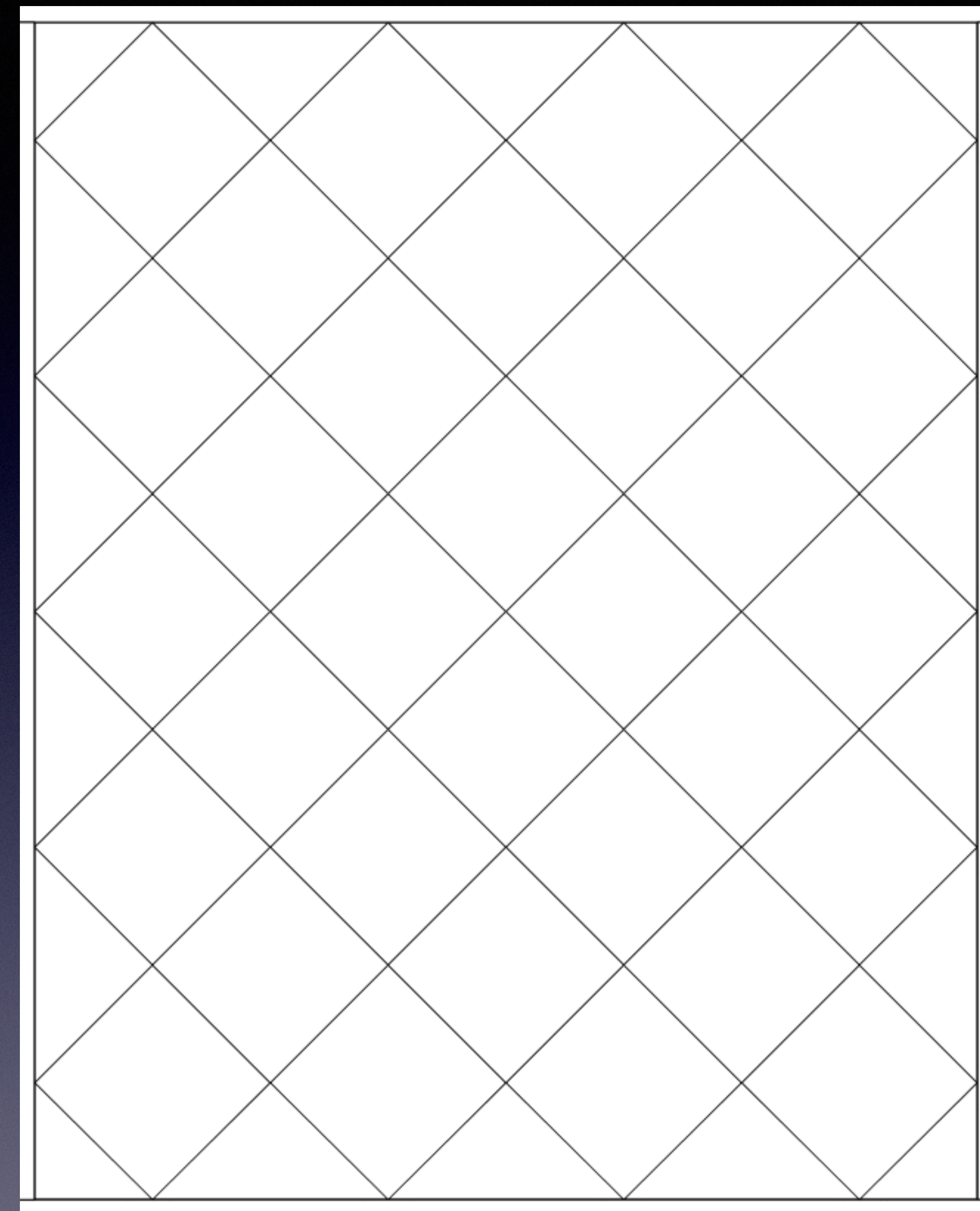
- On-Point Sashing Width

Sashing Width	On-point width
1"	1 3/8
1.5"	2 1/8
2"	2 3/4
2.5"	3 1/2
3"	4 1/4



# On-Point

- Determine approximate quilt width and length
- Your blocks on point will take up more width than in a horizontal setting
- You may be making smaller blocks





# Example

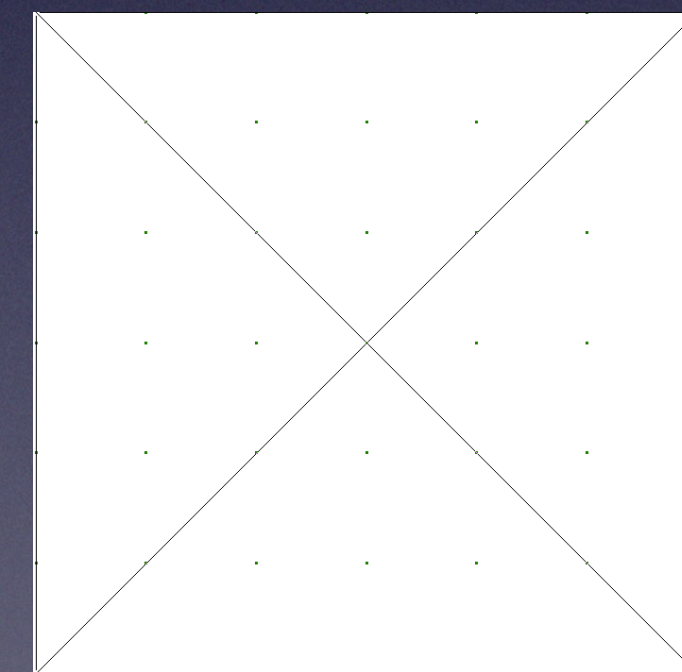
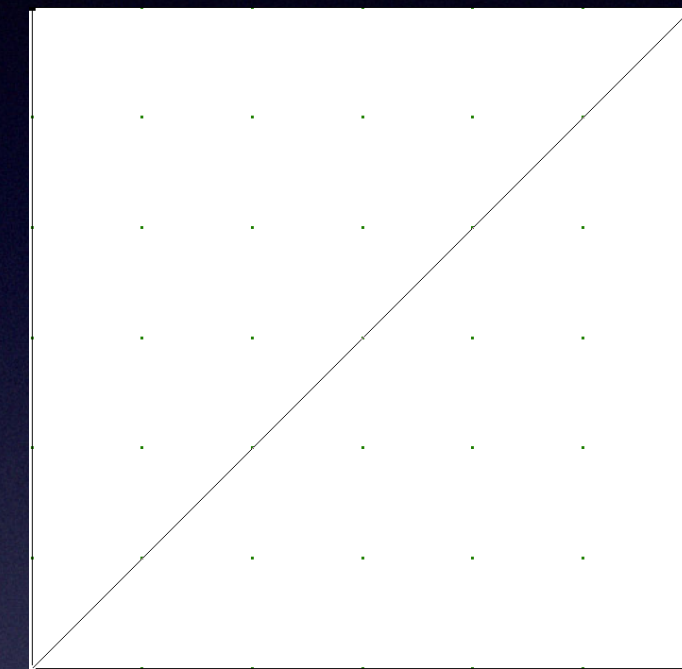
- Wanting to use a 10" fan block - in an on point setting this block will take up 14" of width
- If you wanted a maximum of 4 blocks per row and 5 blocks per column your quilt size would be:
  - $4 \times 14" = 56"$  width -  $5 \times 14" = 70"$  length
  - Compare this size to the quilt size you had in mind initially
  - Too large? - use smaller blocks or less per row/column and calculate again
  - Too small? - make larger blocks or more per row/column

8"	11.2"
9"	Almost 13"
<b>10"</b>	<b>14"</b>
11"	15.5"
12"	Almost 17"



# On-point Setting Triangles

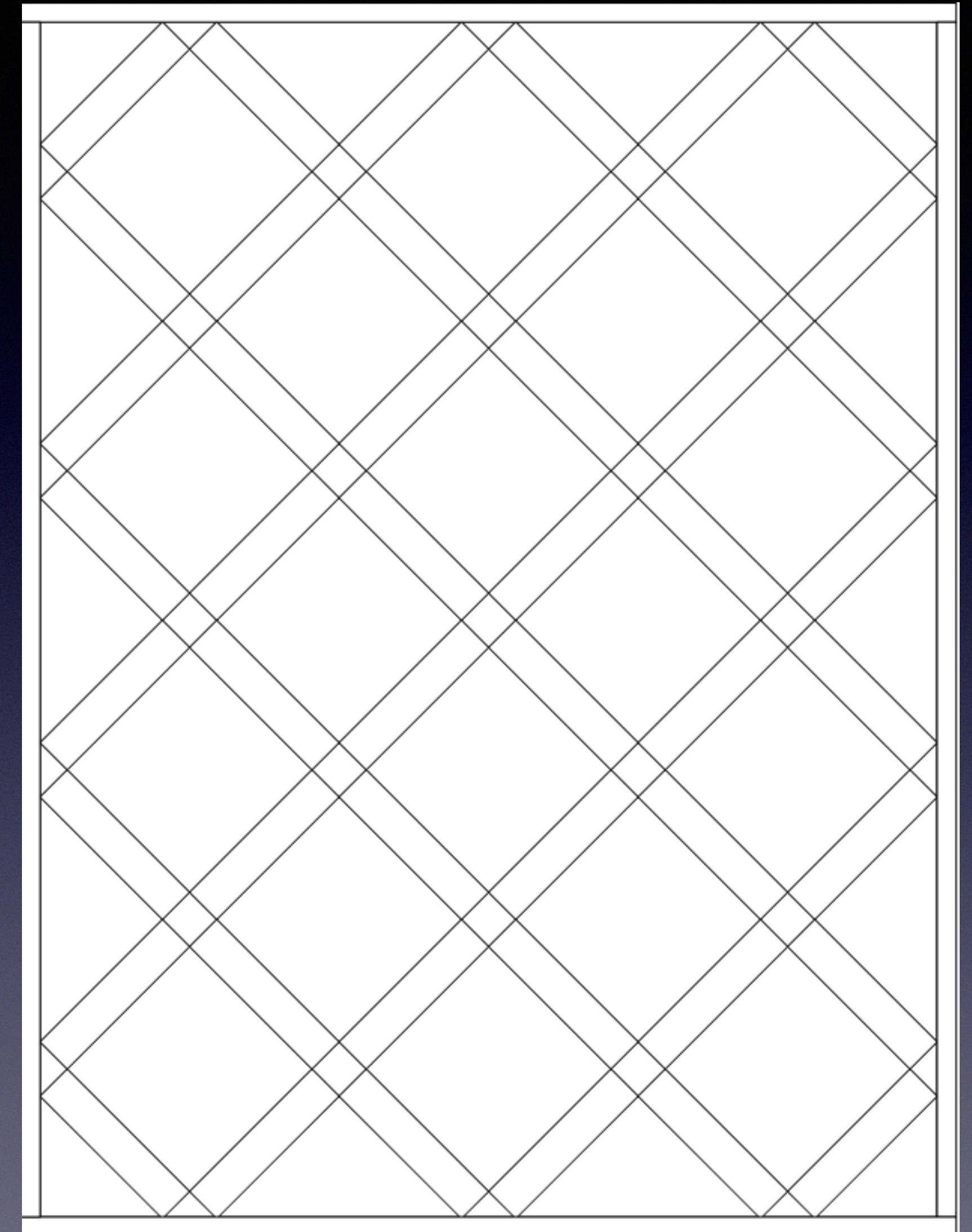
- Calculation similar to HSTs
- Side setting triangles - Block size plus 1"
- Cut in half diagonally
- Corner Triangles - Block size plus 1.5
- Cut in 4 triangles
- You can cut triangles slightly larger if desired and trim quilt after assembly





# On-point with Sashing

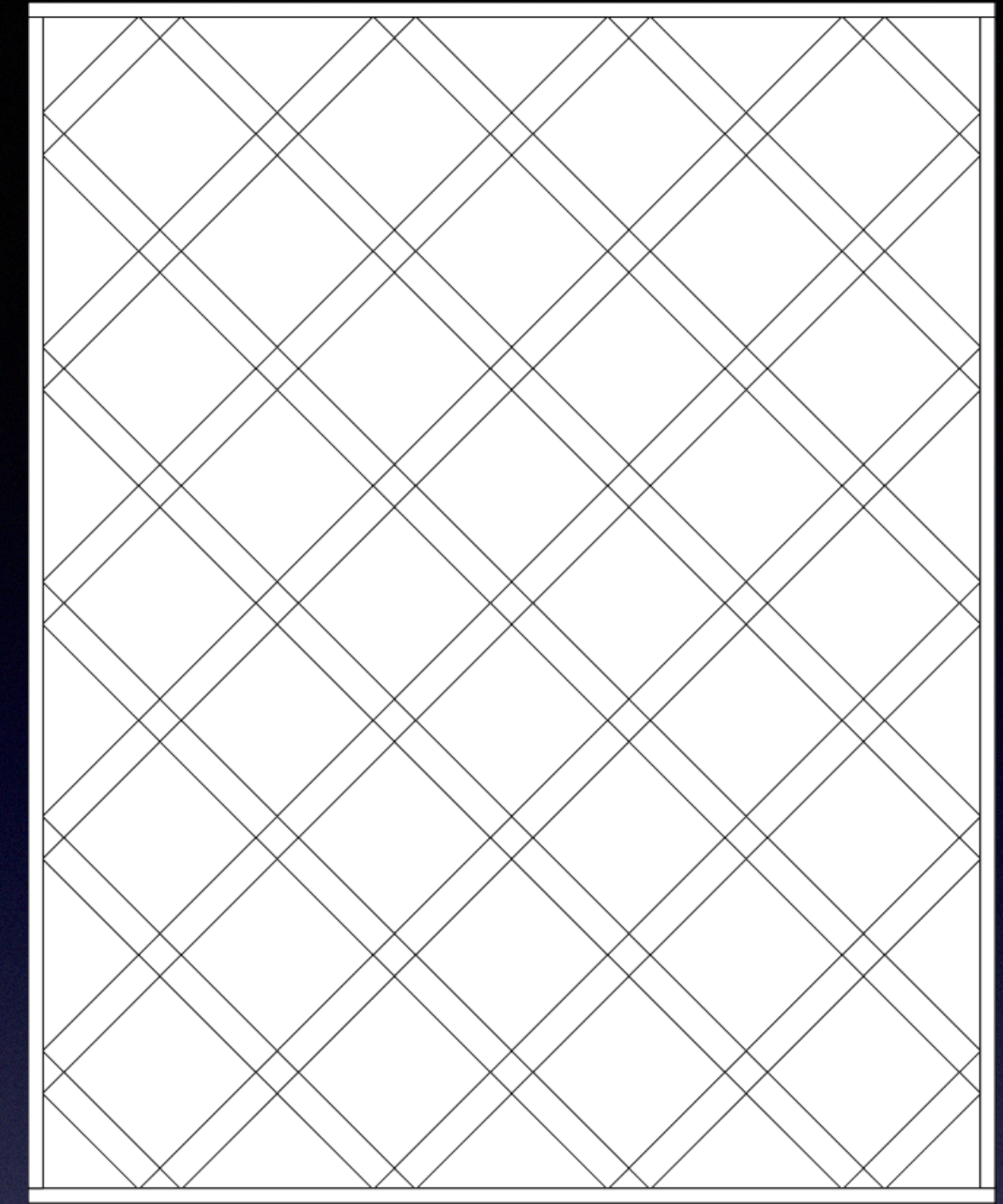
- Draw your custom layout to help visualize your calculations
- Determine your approximate desired quilt width and length
- Use an iterative process as in horizontal layout with sashing
- Your corner and side triangles will need to be bigger due to the added sashing





# Example

- Desired quilt size: approximately 60 x 80
- Prefer to make 9" blocks - this means about 13" in diameter per block
- In this example you have 4 blocks per row and 5 blocks vertical
- Used up space for blocks alone in width would be  $4 \times 13" = 52"$  of the available 60
- In length 5 blocks:  $5 \times 13" = 65"$  of the available 80

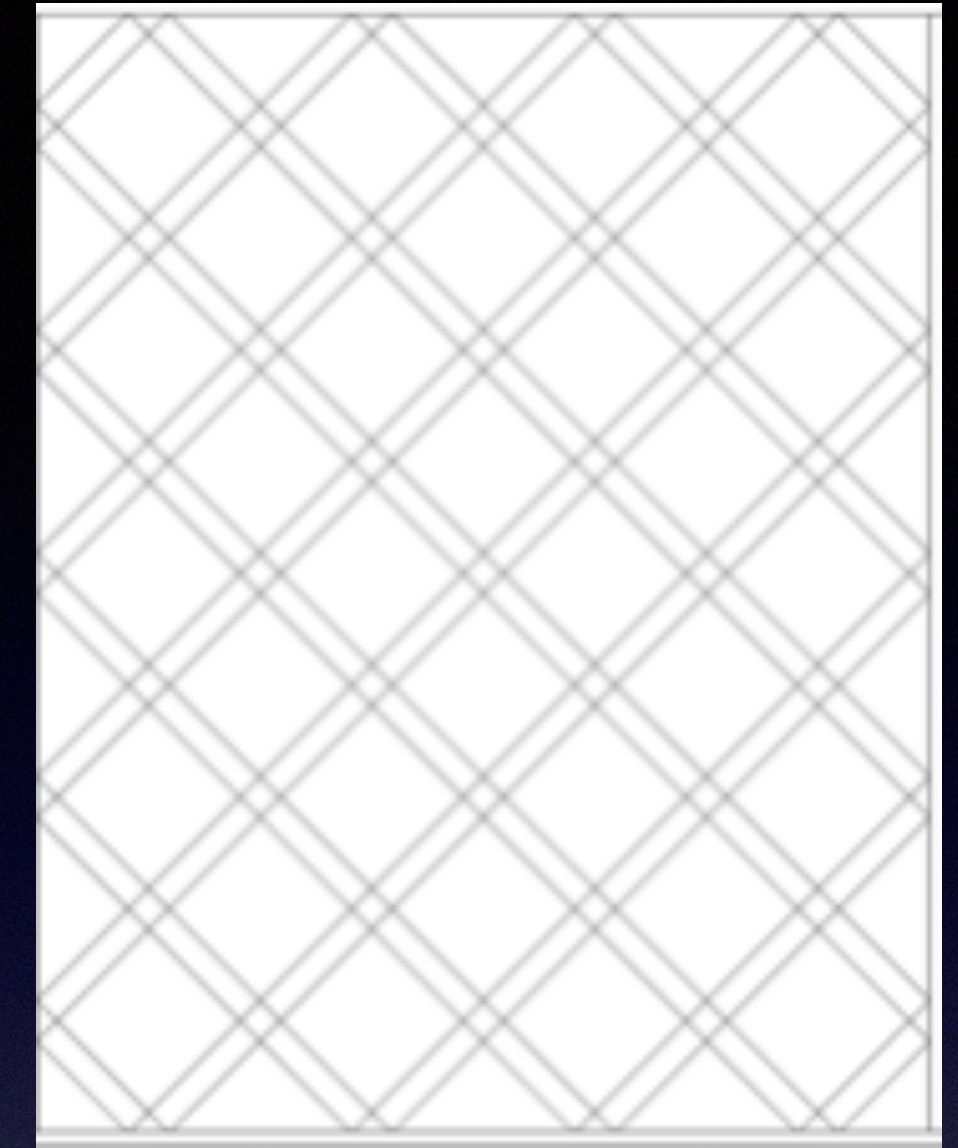


7"	Almost 10"
8"	11.2"
<b>9"</b>	<b>Almost 13"</b>
10"	14"
11"	15.5"



# Example Cont'd - Sashing

- Blocks in a row take up 52" of the available 60, leaves 8" total for sashing in width
- Quilt length of 80" minus 65" for blocks in columns leaves 15" for sashing
- Horizontally there are 4 on point sashing intersections
- Vertically there are 5 on point sashing intersections
- If you divide the available 8" width by the 4 sashing points you have available  $8/4 = 2"$  per individual on point sashing
- Using 1.5" sashing strips (which on point are  $2\frac{1}{8}"$ ) would work
- For length  $5 \times 2\frac{1}{8} = \text{just over } 10.5"$
- This makes the quilt 60" width and 75.5" in length close to the initial size of 60" x 80"



Sashing Width	On-Point Width
1"	1 3/8"
<b>1.5"</b>	<b>2 1/8"</b>
2"	2 3/4"
2.5"	3 1/2"
3"	4 1/4"



# Making the Fan Block





# Required tools

- Freezer paper
- Ruler (or compass drawing tool)
- Protractor

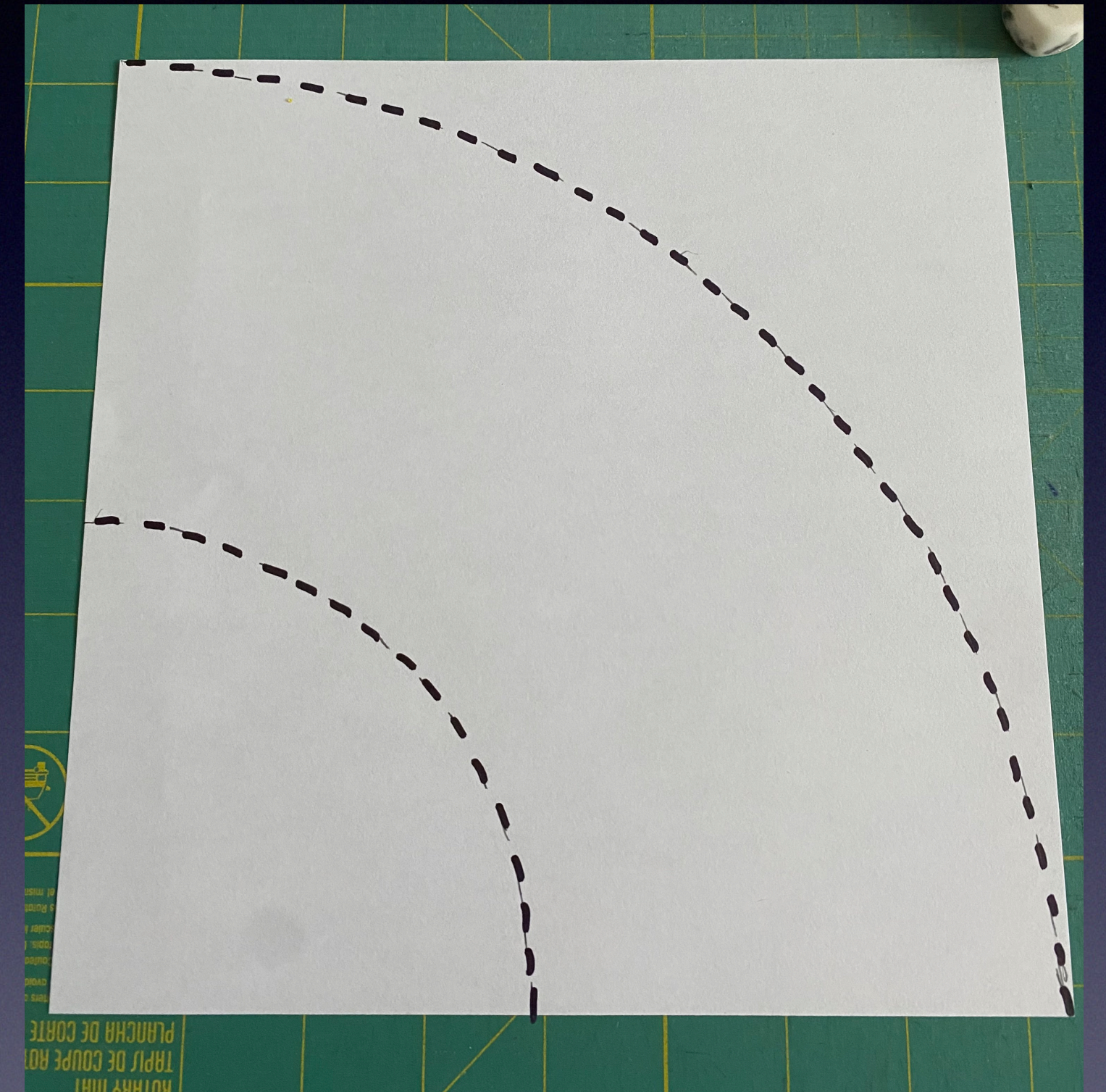
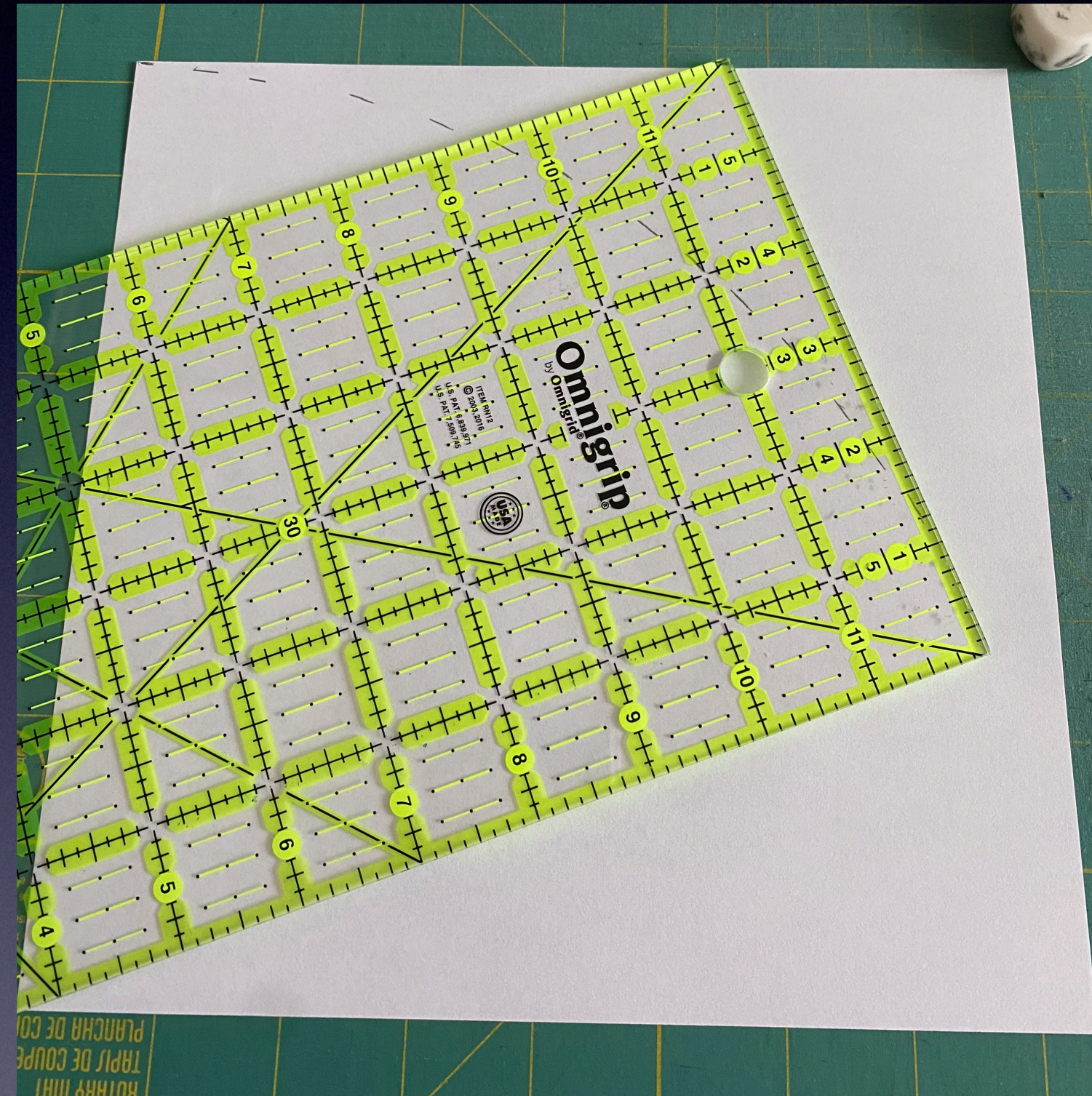
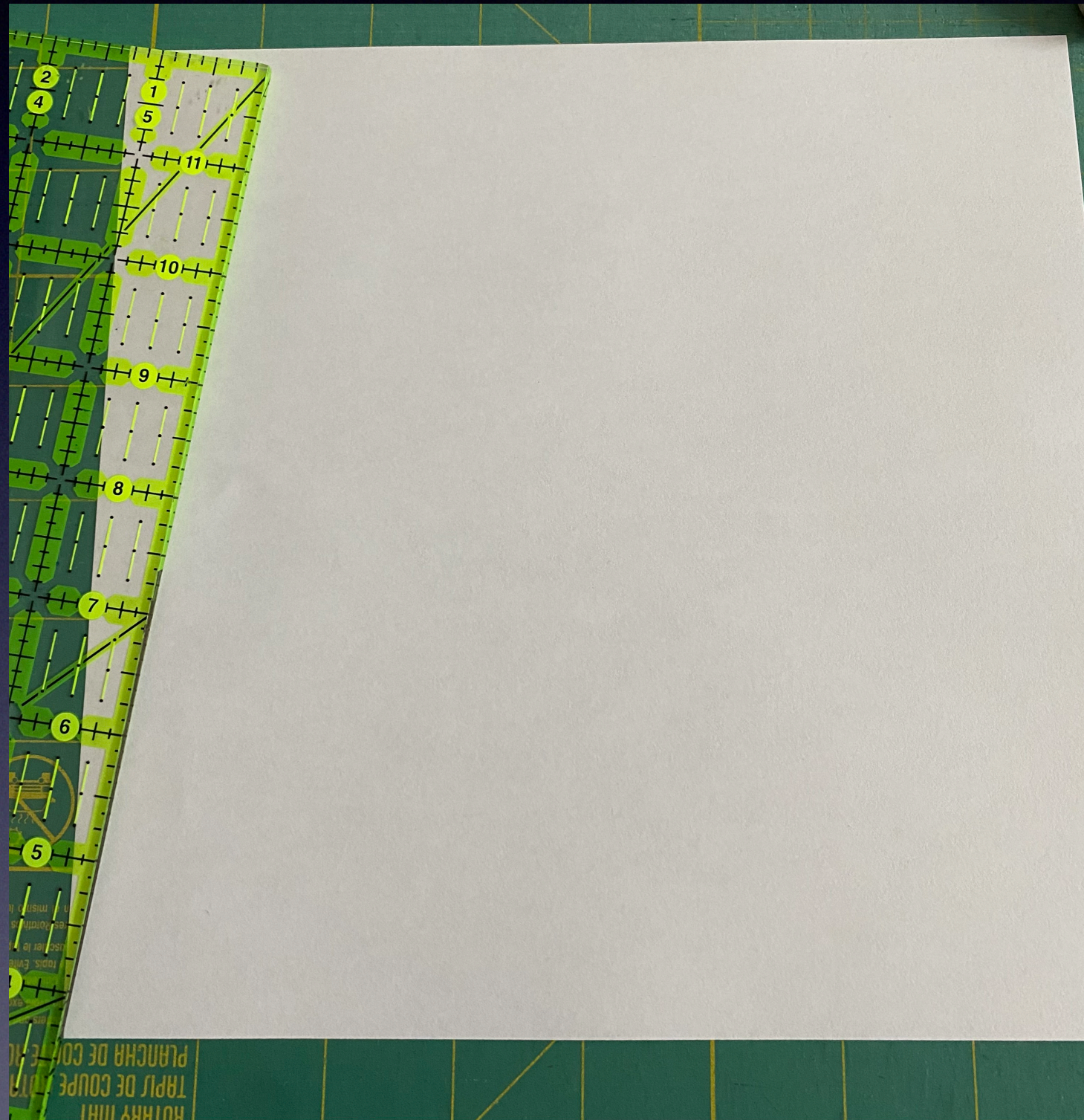


# Drawing the block

- If you want the small triangle at the bottom of your fan deduct 1" from the size of your block
- Draw a square the size of your block (minus the 1") on freezer paper
- Use your ruler to draw an arc starting at the top right and finishing at the bottom left



# No compass drawing tool?

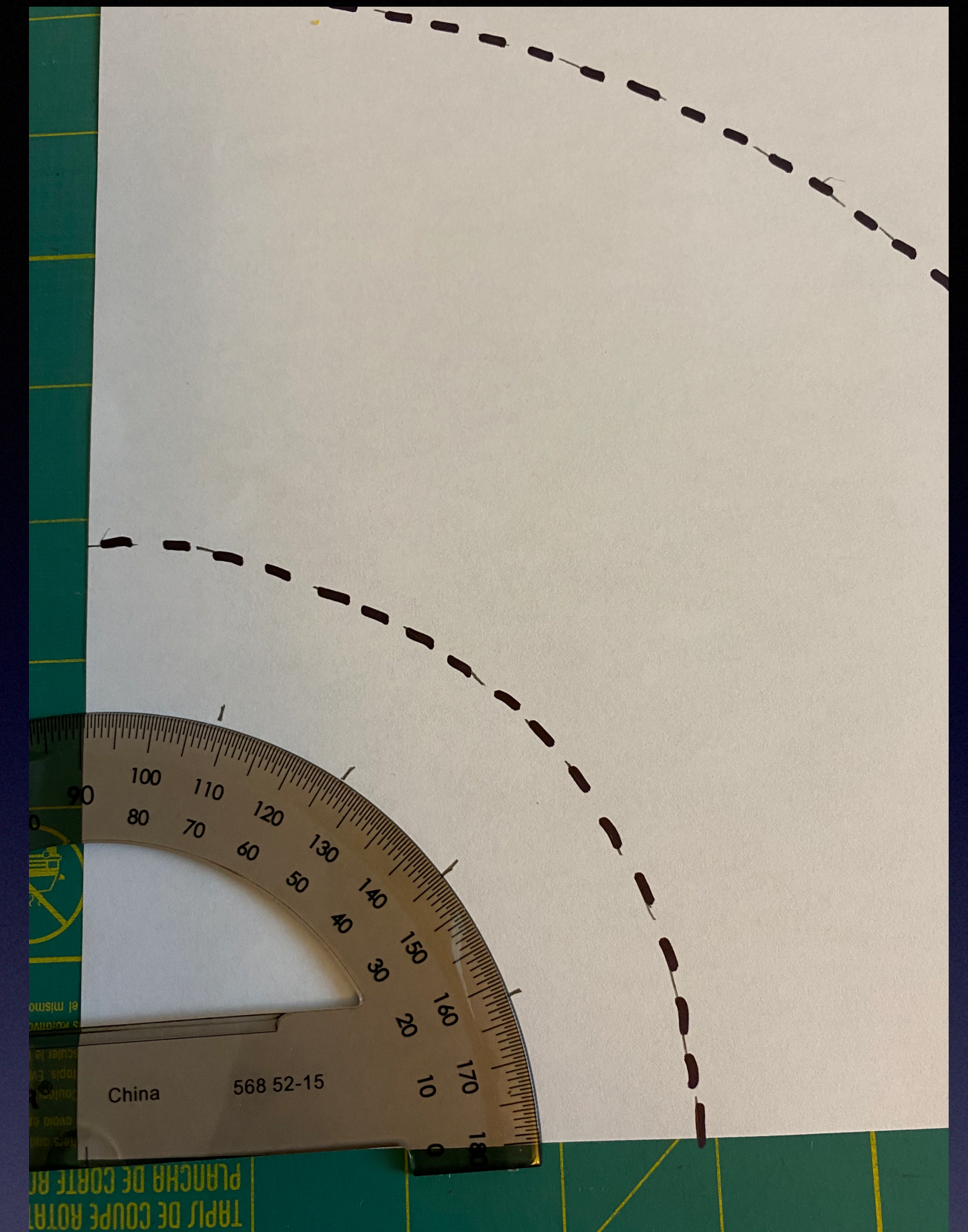


Use your ruler!

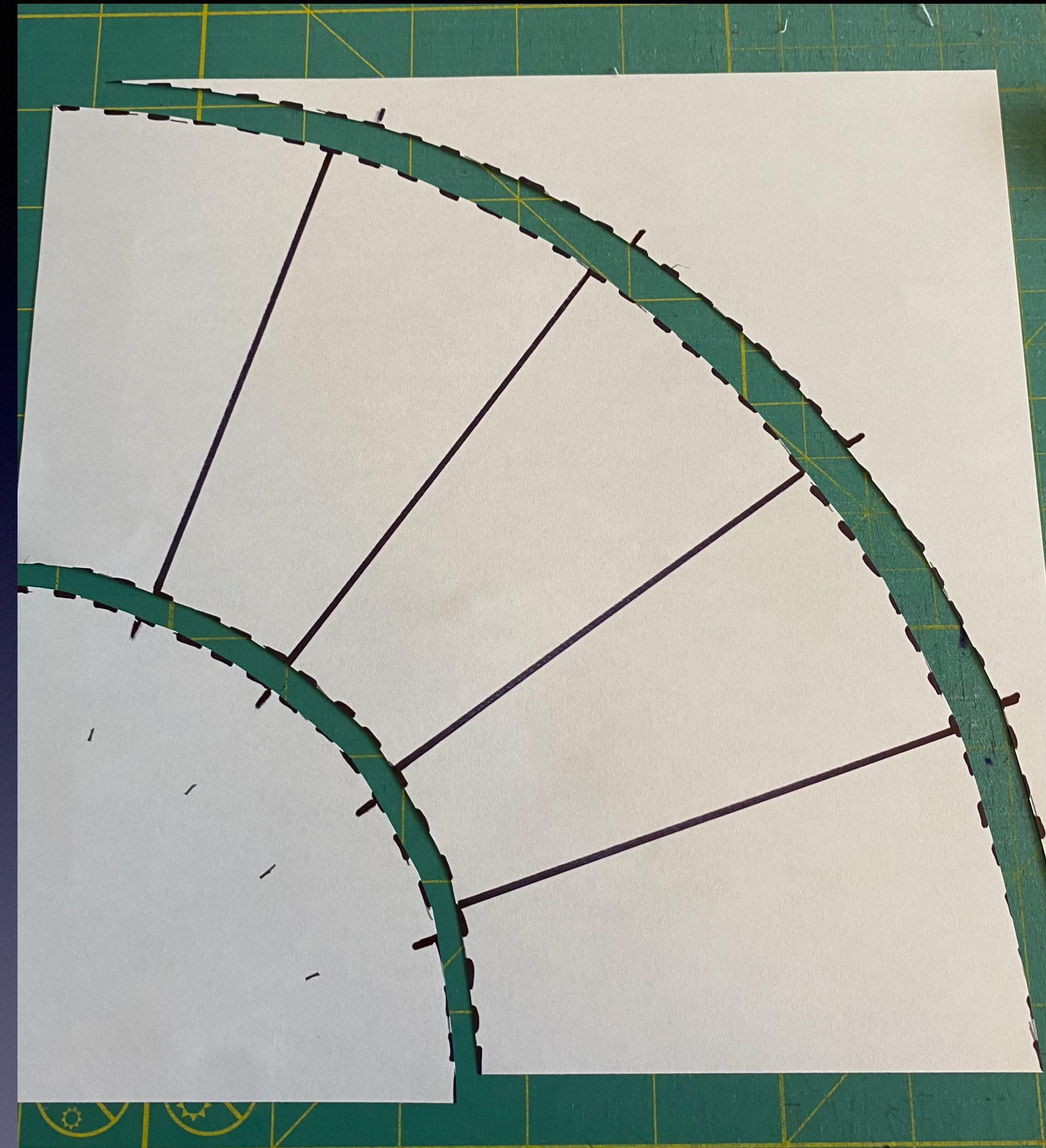
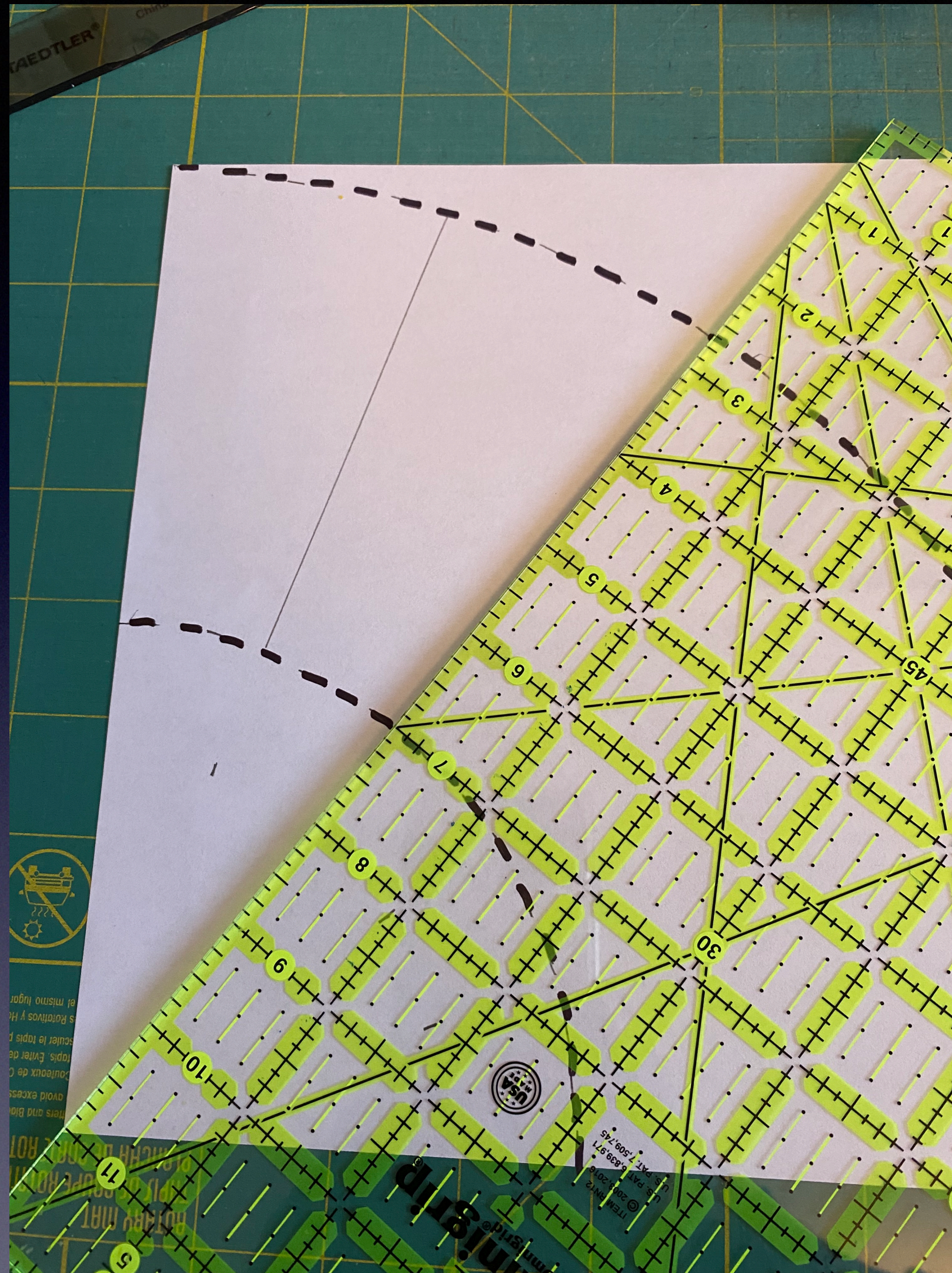


# Fan Pieces

- Decide how many pieces there are in your Fan
- Total angle available is 90 degree
- Divide the 90 degree by the number of blade fan pieces
- Example: 5 pieces - each piece requires  $90/5=18$  degrees
- Using the protractor mark the following degrees: 108, 126, 144, 162

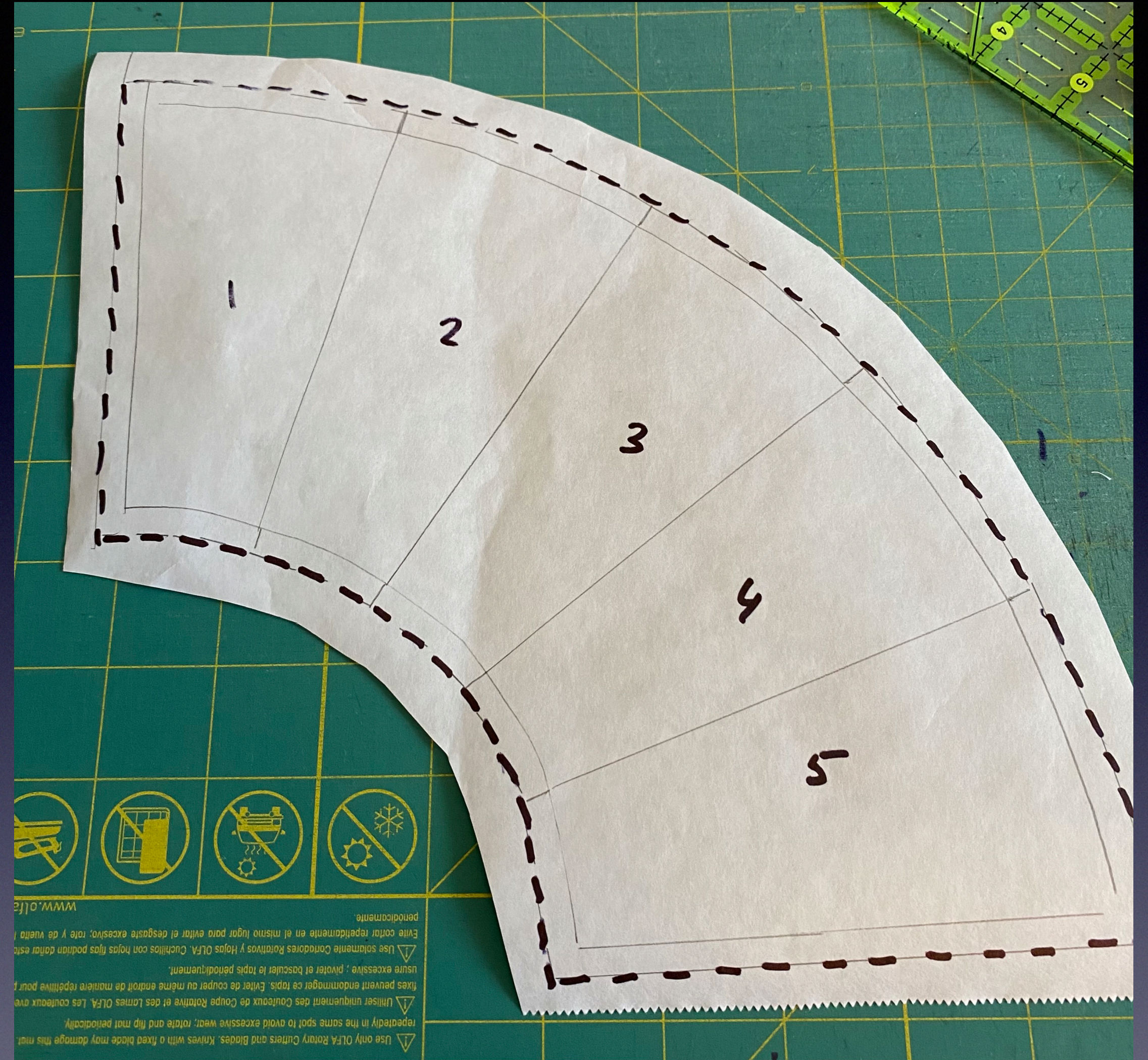
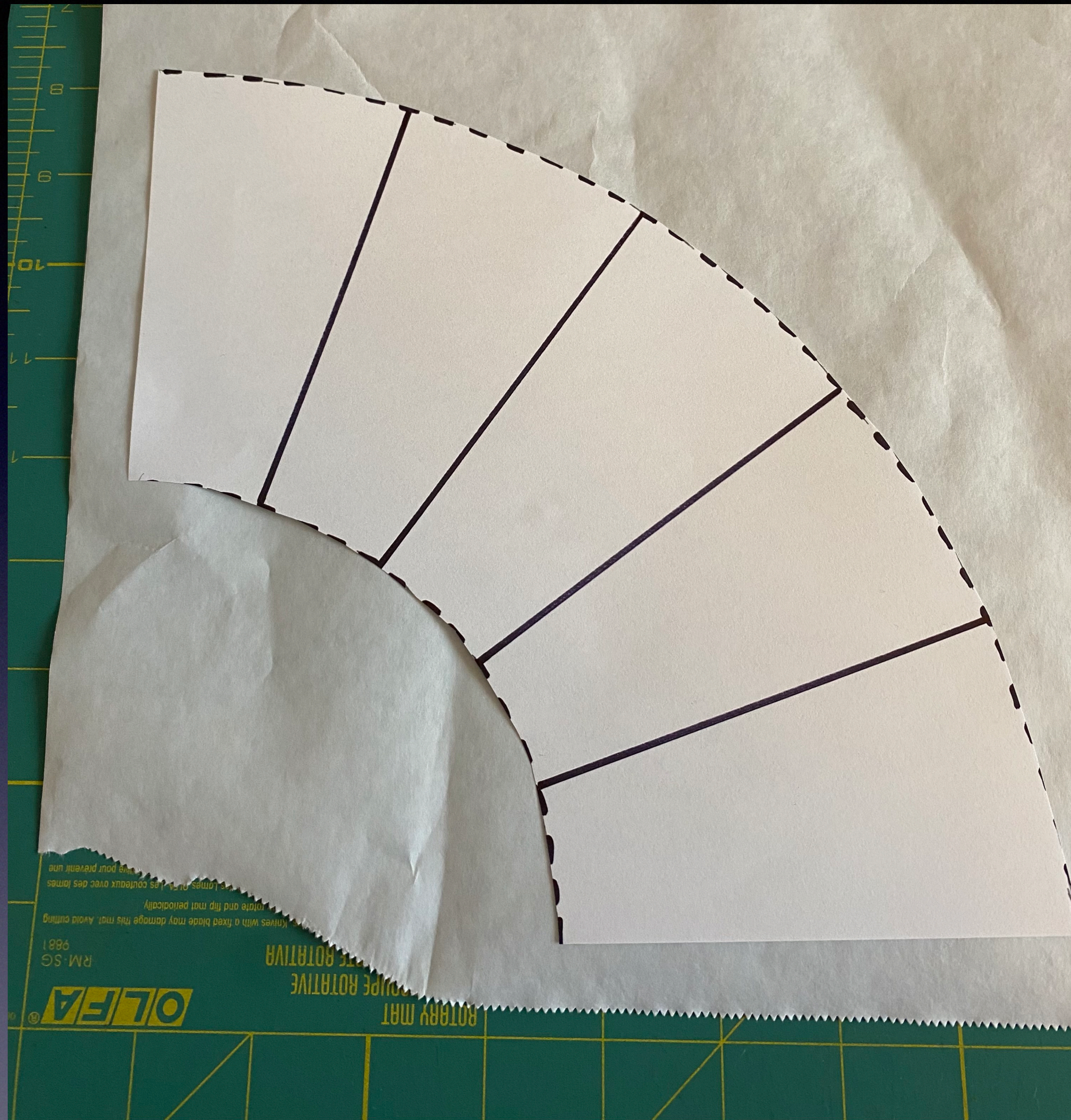






Draw your blade sections and cut your big fan pieces

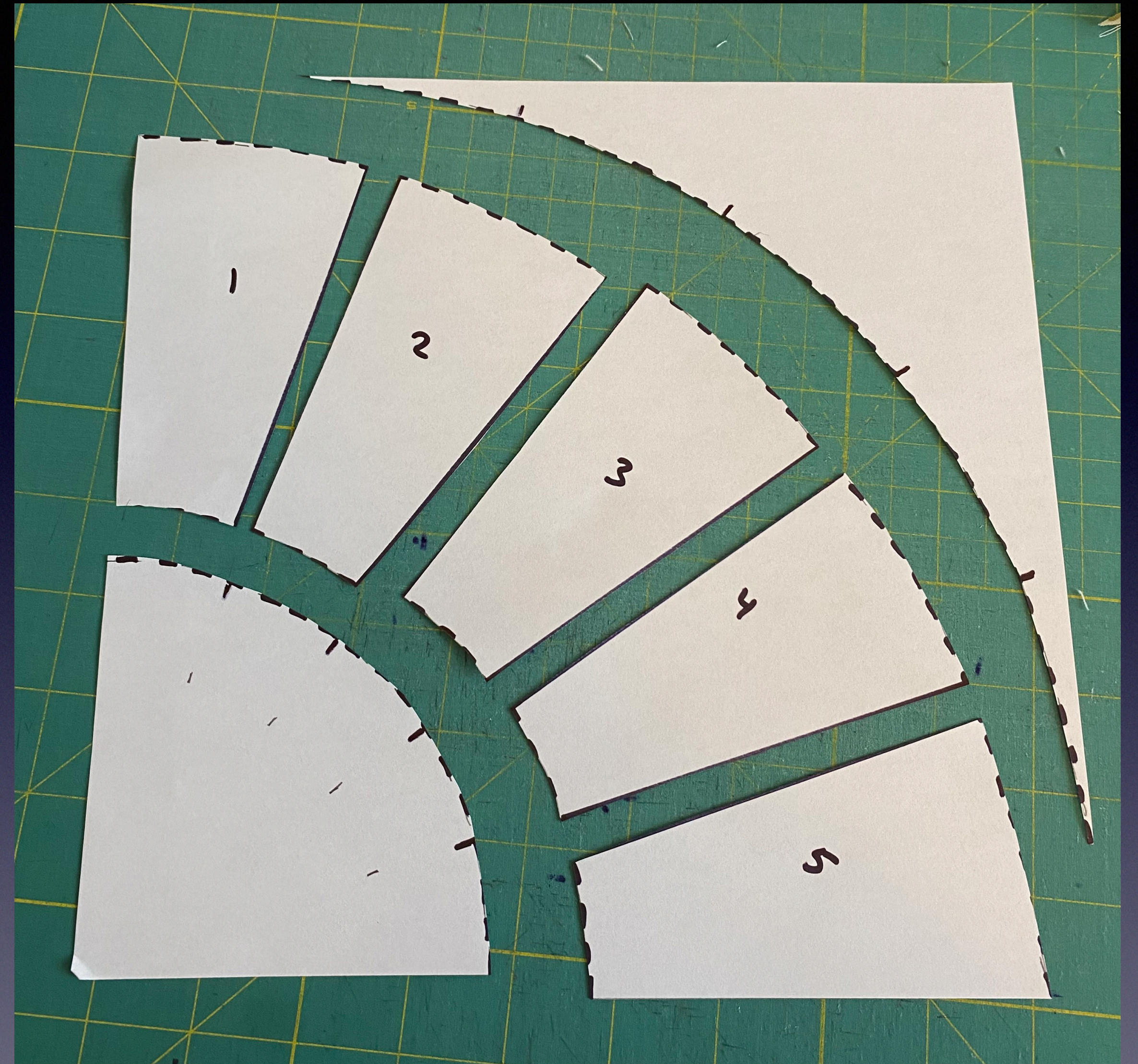




Paper piecing



Cut your templates





# How to cut your curves

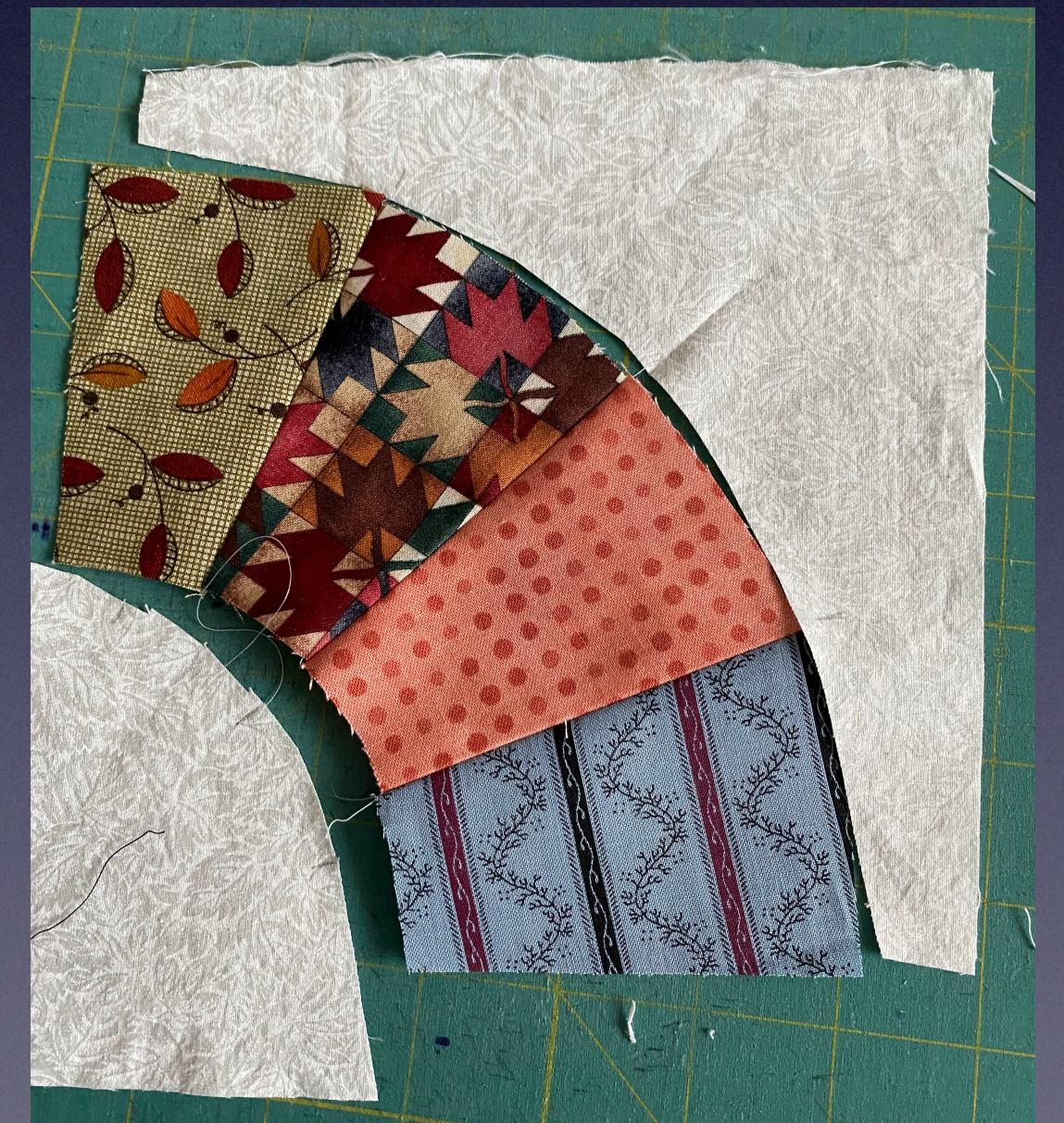
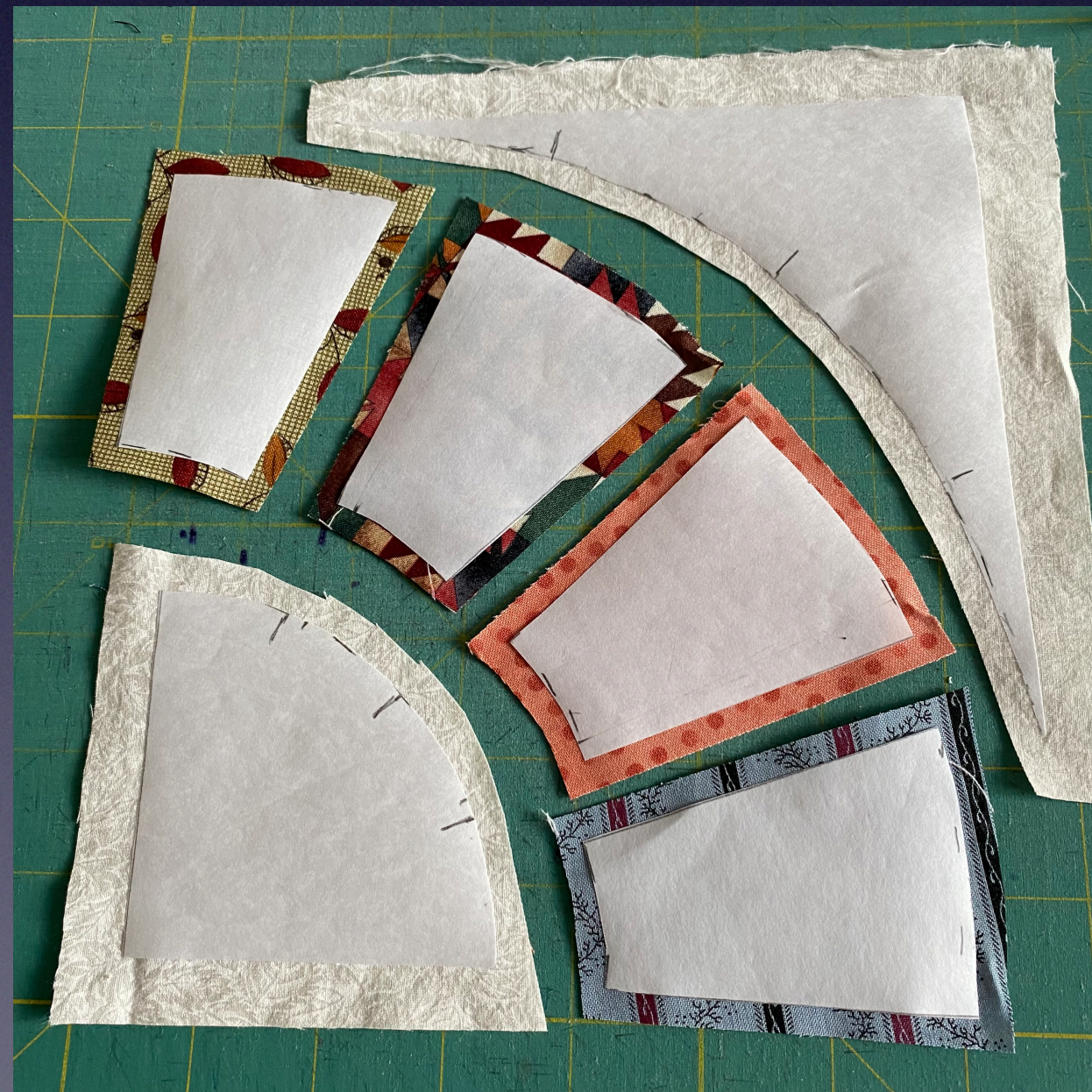
- Place ruler with 1/4 inch mark at the edge of the template
- Cut that small part
- Move your ruler up and realign 1/4 mark with next section
- Continue cutting and repositioning until curve is cut





# Piecing the fan blades

- Cut the individual fan blades fabric pieces
- Sew the pieces together to make the fan blade section





# Tips for Curved Piecing

- Concave piece goes on top of the convex piece
- Match your registration marks to align the pieces properly
- Use pins or small dabs of glue to secure various points along the curve
- Sew slowly and use your fingers to keep edges aligned and avoid pleats











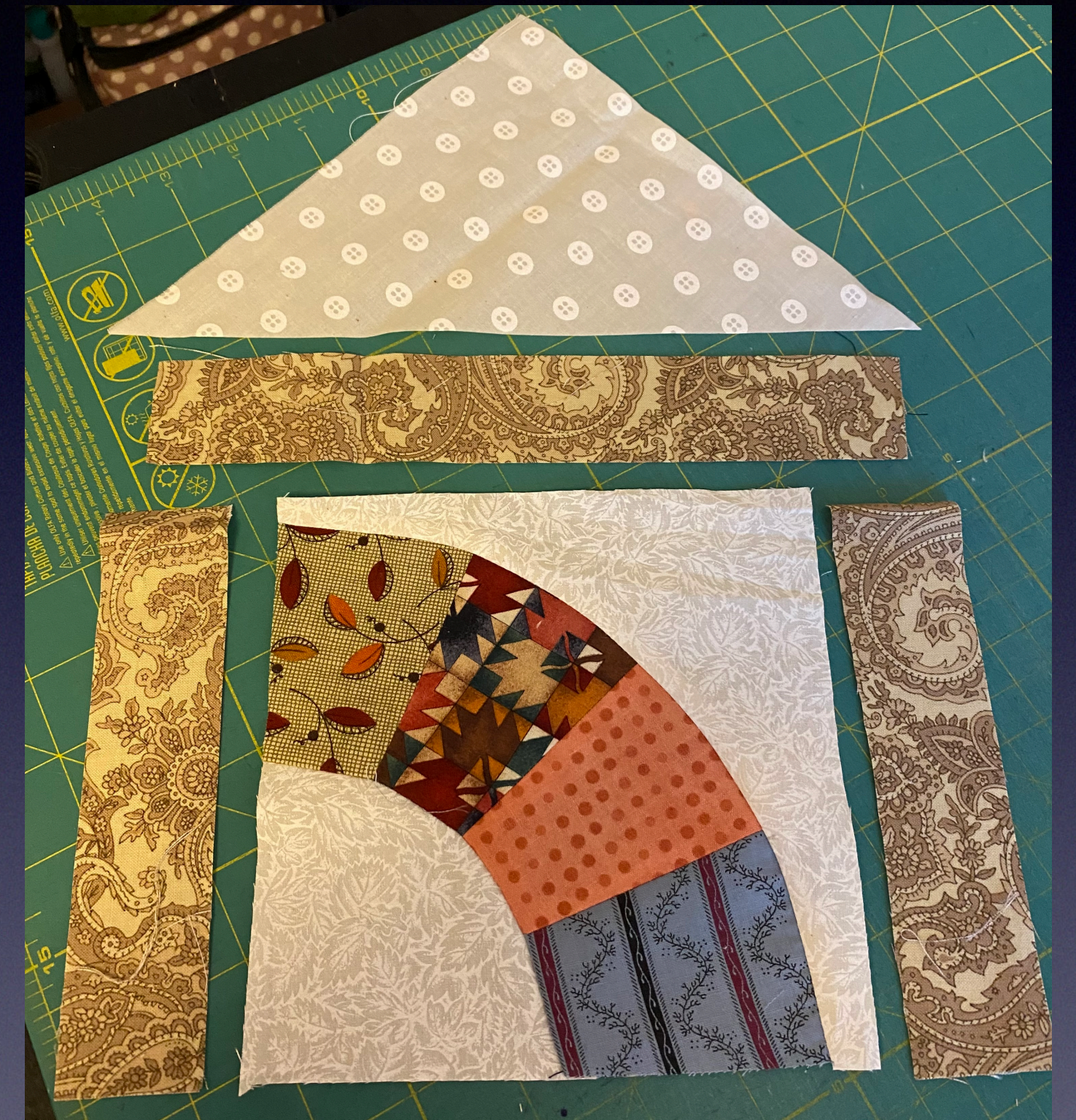
# Pressing the block

- Press seams between the fan blade sections open
- Press curved seams towards the concave part.



# Quilt Assembly

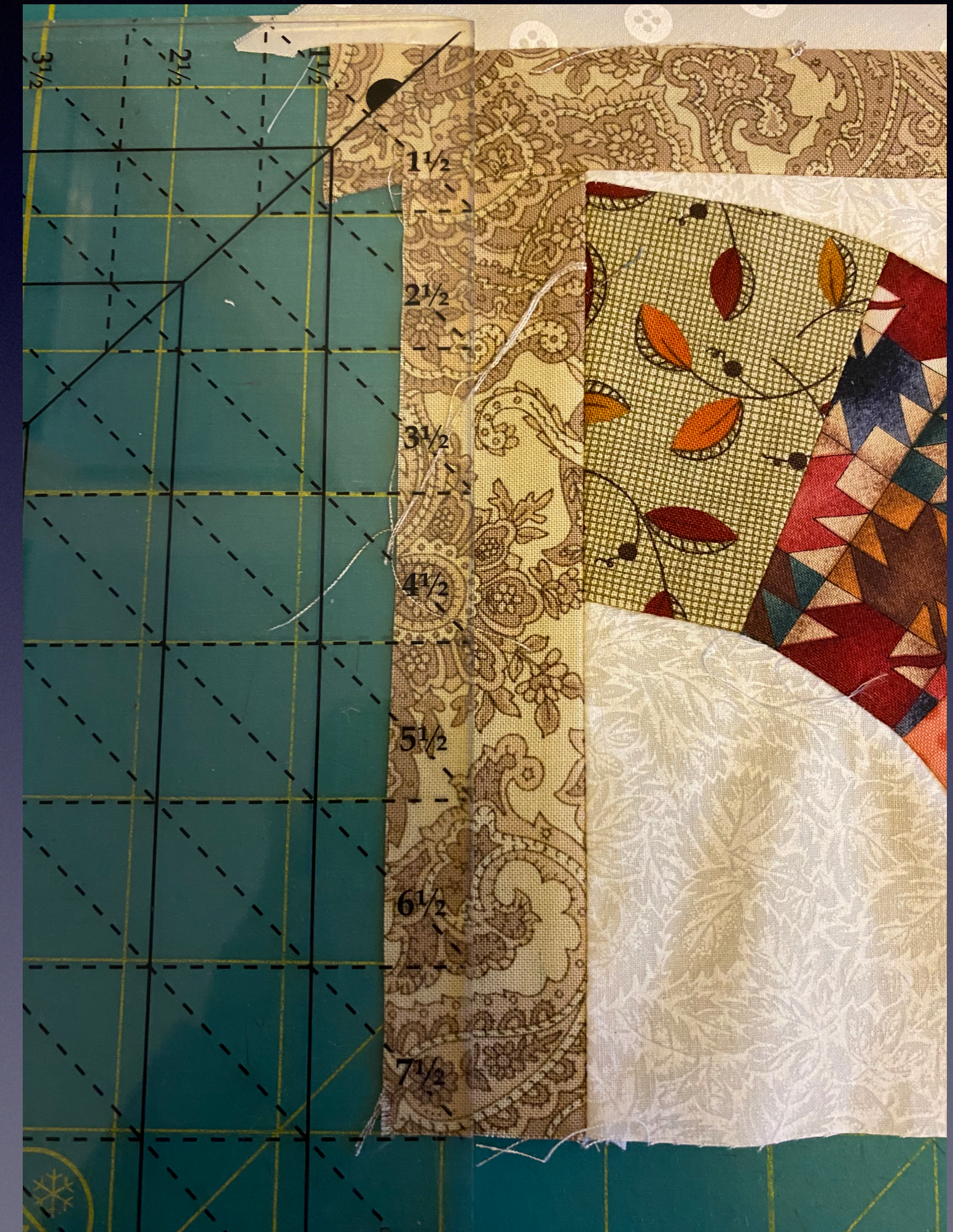
- Start with one corner block
- Sew strips of sashing to the sides of the block
- Sew 1 strip of sashing to the top of the block (length = size of block plus 2x width of sashing)
- Sew the corner triangle to the top of the block's sashing





# Sizing the Side Triangles

- Because of the use of sashing the rule of block size plus 1 inch no longer applies
- Easiest way I found on determining size of fabric piece to cut for side triangles is to put a ruler at the bottom of the block with sashing attached and see the distance from the bottom of the block to 1/4 inch above the top sashing
- In this case 7.5 inches
- To that I add 0.5 inch and cut 8" square fabric block
- Cut the 8" fabric square in half for 2 side triangles





- Attach both side triangles
  - Note that the side triangles are slightly too large - this can be corrected when trimming the quilt once assembled
- Sew a strip of sashing along the bottom of the side triangles and block
- Ready for second diagonal row





# Completing Quilt Assembly

- For each diagonal row sew the sashing between the blocks and along the sides
- Sew the side triangles to the ends of the diagonal row, lining up the bottom of the block with sashing with the edge of the side triangle
- Add a strip of sashing to the bottom of the diagonal row
- Sew the rows together



- Any questions?

**THANK YOU**



- Or you can keep your 12" blocks but reduce the number in rows and columns
  - 3 x 12" blocks in rows = 36" width leaving 12" for sashing
  - $12"/4 = 3"$  sashing instead of 2"
  - Quilt width maintained at 48"
- 
- 4 x 12" blocks in column = 48" length
  - 5 x 3" sashing between rows = 15"
  - Quilt length would now be 63"

