Tessellating Fish

Because of the interlocking nature of this design, there is no traditional block. Instead, the fish are assembled in vertical strips. The pattern pieces provided make a single fish that is 3" wide (high) and 5-3/4" long.

This pattern contains 6 pages, and includes:

- **Tessellating Fish** pattern, without seam allowances (pieces are organized on pages for less waste during copying)
- assembly instructions
- table of percentages for resizing pattern when photocopying
- coloring page to experiment with your own color ideas

**Important:** To ensure pattern size accuracy when printing from Adobe Reader, either:

1) UNcheck the "Fit to Page" box (earlier versions of Reader) OR
2) set "Page Scaling" to None (later versions of Reader).

After printing the pattern pages, verify the size accuracy using the "Print Size Check" arrow, which measures exactly 1" (2.54 cm) from tip to tip.

For other finished fish sizes, photocopy the pattern pieces at the percentages shown in the table at right. Note that the fish length measurements are only approximate, due to converting decimals to the nearest 1/8".

Remember to add 1/4" seam allowances around each section while piecing. If you like, make one photocopy at your desired finished block size, then measure and draw 1/4" seam allowances on your copied pattern. Then copy your adjusted pattern as many times as needed for your project.

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To get a finished fish this height:  

| fish size | copy pattern pieces at this percentage | approximate finished fish width | for prairie point fin, cut square:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-1/2&quot;</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>2-7/8&quot;</td>
<td>1-1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&quot;</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>3-7/8&quot;</td>
<td>1-1/2&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-1/2&quot;</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>4-3/4&quot;</td>
<td>1-3/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&quot;</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>5-3/4&quot;</td>
<td>2&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-1/2&quot;</td>
<td>117%</td>
<td>6-3/4&quot;</td>
<td>2-1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4&quot;</td>
<td>133%</td>
<td>7-5/8&quot;</td>
<td>2-1/2&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5&quot;</td>
<td>167%</td>
<td>9-1/2&quot;</td>
<td>3&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6&quot;</td>
<td>200%</td>
<td>11-1/2&quot;</td>
<td>3-1/2&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7&quot;</td>
<td>233%</td>
<td>13-1/2&quot;</td>
<td>4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8&quot;</td>
<td>267%</td>
<td>15-3/8&quot;</td>
<td>4-1/2&quot;</td>
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</table>
**Color Selection:** Choose at least 4 contrasting fabrics for the fish, plus another fabric for the background around the edges of the design. More colors are better!

**Important:** Plan out your color placement in advance, using the coloring page provided. Otherwise, sewing your project will be unnecessarily difficult.

If you simply **must** cut and sew right away ;-), start by preparing all pattern piece As in your chosen fabrics. Lay them all out on a design board and rearrange until you like the color placement. Then sew the pattern pieces D and E accordingly.

**Fins:** The fins are optional, but add a nice detail, particularly with the larger fish sizes. Fins may be added one of two ways:

1) **Paper piecing:** Pattern piece A is marked for paper piecing, with the fin as piece 1.

2) **Prairie points:** for each fin, cut a square of fabric according to the fish length (see table on page 1). Fold the square in half diagonally, wrong sides together, press; fold the triangle in half again. Place prairie point as shown on pattern piece A for the fin, with raw edges of fin aligned with the raw edge of pattern piece A. Pin or baste in place until the column is sewn to its neighboring Column 2s, which will secure the prairie points in the long seams.

The tessellating fish design is made up of 2 different repeating vertical rows, or columns.

**Column 1** consists of pattern piece A repeated as many times as needed for the desired length; pattern pieces B and C are used to finish the top and bottom, respectively, of the column.

**Column 2** is made up of pattern pieces D and E repeated as needed; pattern pieces F and G are used to finish the top and bottom.

Alternate Columns 1 and 2 for the entire width of the quilt. The left and right edges are both finished with Column 2s, which will be slightly trimmed on either side. The red dotted lines above show the finished seam lines (at the very ends of the fish noses!); when trimming, remember to keep a 1/4” seam allowance for joining to borders.

**Eyes:** Add the eyes with embroidery, fabric paint / marker, or by sewing on beads or buttons. Please remember to use beads or buttons only on quilts for children over 3 years of age.

Add 1/4" seam allowances around all pattern sections.

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Pattern pieces for finishing top and bottom edges

Add 1/4" seam allowances around all pattern sections.

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