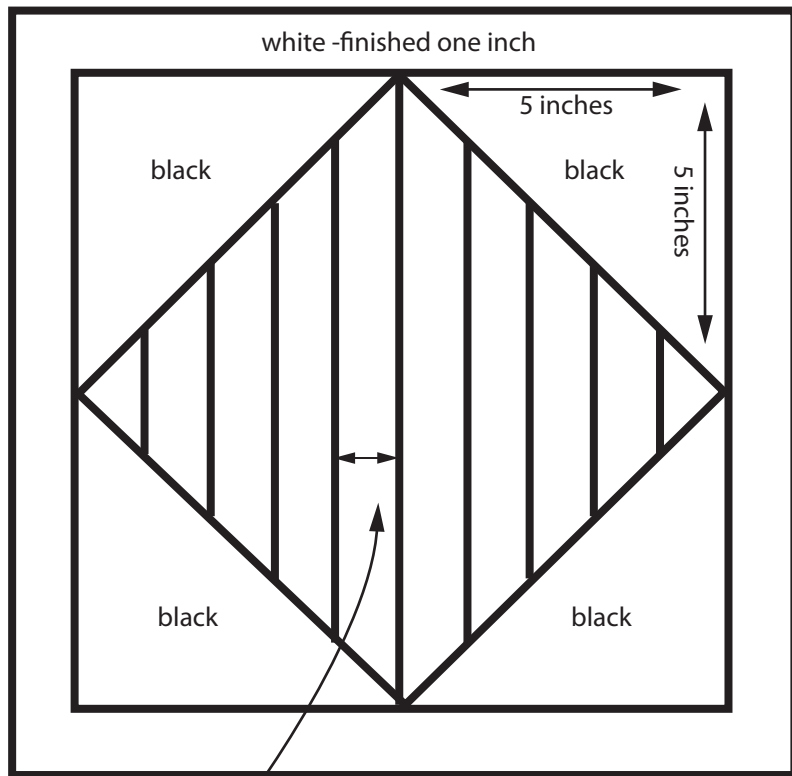


AGAINST A DARK BACKGROUND



finished
1"

Bee Saunders designed this block of the month. It's simple and graphic, but should be especially effective (with or without sashing) once lots of blocks are put together. For the block name, you can blame her astro-physicist husband, this being the title of a book by one of his favourite, recently deceased authors, Iain M Banks.

FABRICS

Background: Kona black and Kona white - both provided at May meeting.

Striped centre: 10 (ideally different) fabrics, each 1½" wide, and ranging in length from 3" to 12". They should be small to medium-scale prints or solids in a single colour. The colour choice is yours! If you make multiple blocks, please make them different.

CUTTING

Black fabric - from the provided rectangle:
Cut 2 squares 6" x 6", and cut each on the diagonal to make a total of 4 triangles.

White fabric - from the provided rectangle:
Cut 2 rectangles 1½" x 10½"
Cut 2 rectangles 1½" x 12½"

Coloured fabrics:

Cut a series of ten 1½" strips, the longest of which will need to be around 12" long.

CONSTRUCTION

Use ¼" seam allowances.

Pressing the seams open in the striped centre section will make the block lie flatter.

1. Piece the ten coloured pieces together, with the longest lengths at the centre and working outwards towards to the shortest pieces, in a diamond shape.
2. Trim the resulting pieced section into a 7½" x 7½" square, making sure that the central seam is exactly centred within this square.
3. Mark the centre of one of the squares sides, and the centre of one of the black triangles. Sew the triangle onto the square, making sure these marks align. Repeat for remaining three sides.
4. Add the white border rectangles and, if required, trim the block to 12½" x 12½".

