

Block-of-the Month  
Karen G. Fisher

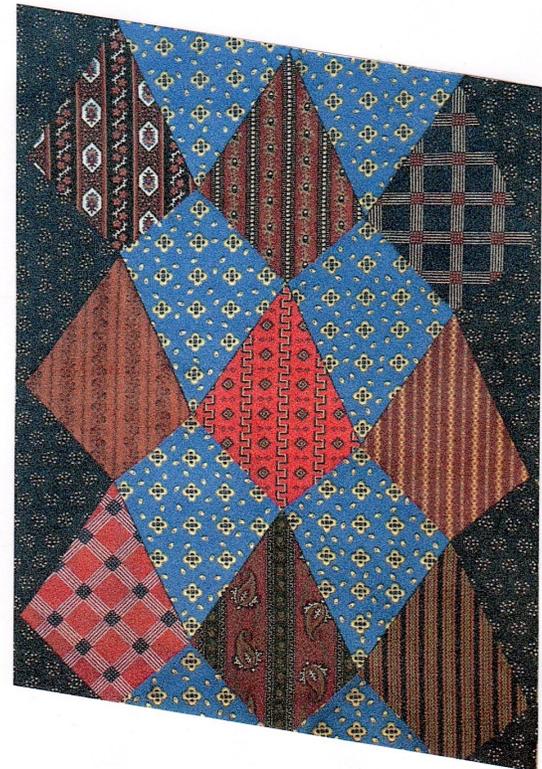
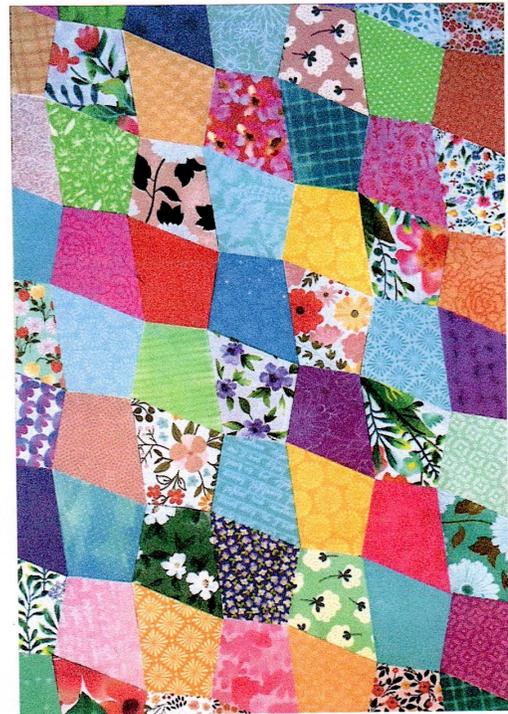
**“Kite”**

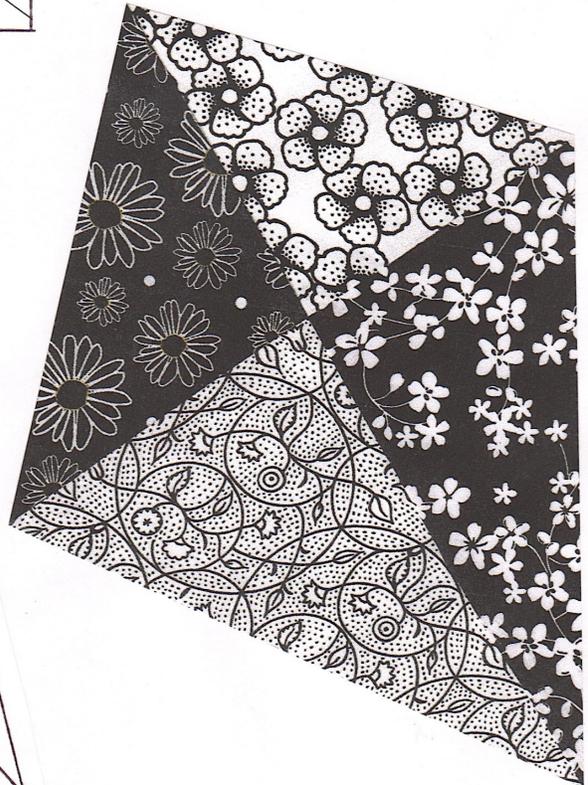
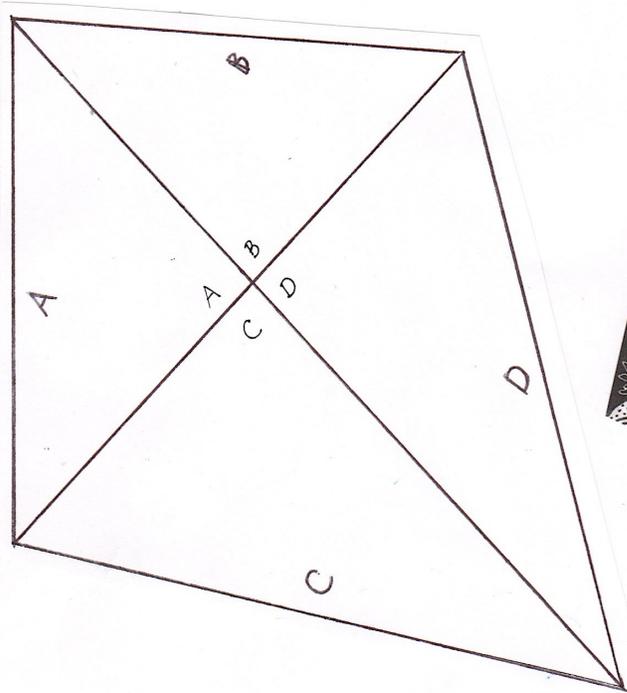
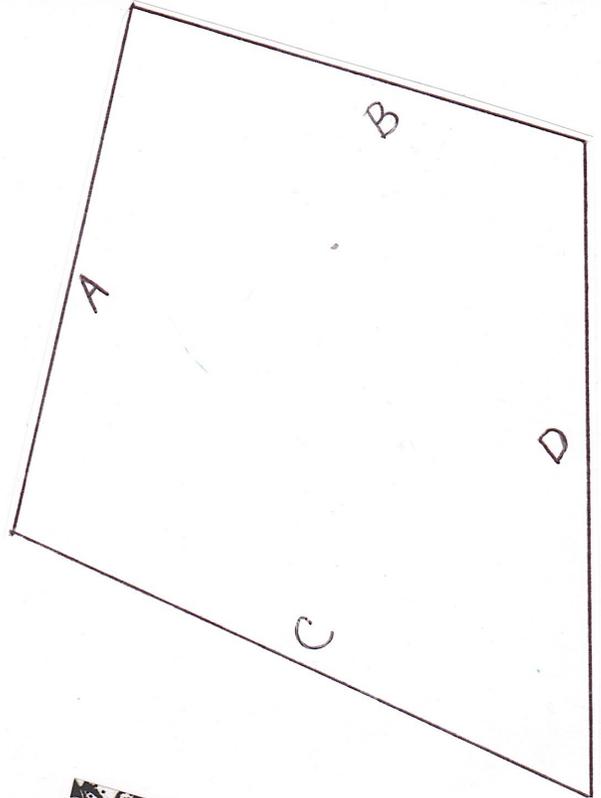
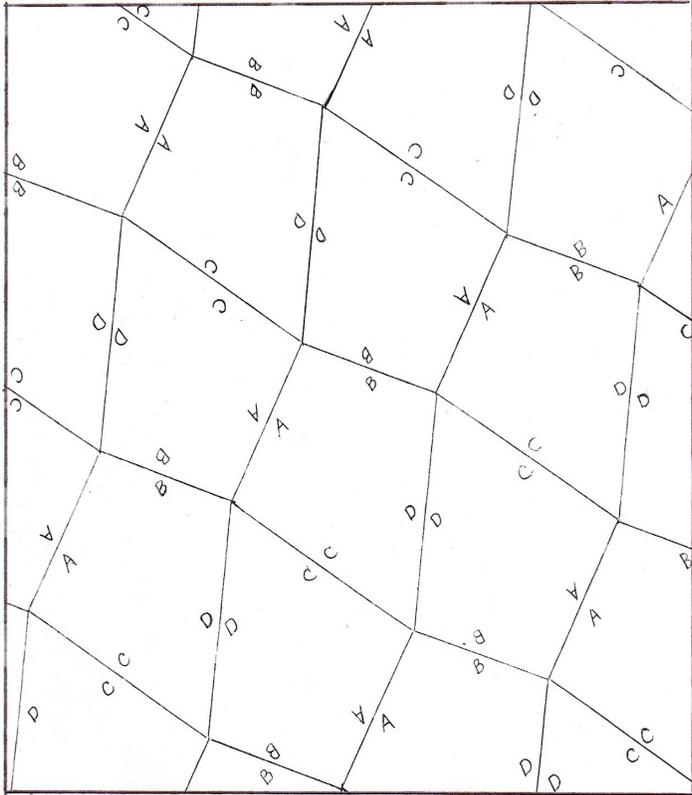
I saw a “kite” quilt years ago, in the offices of a Quilting Magazine in Denver. The idea stuck with me until I tried one, a very small one, and I thought it would be fun to make it bigger.

Any of you who have made “Charm” quilts, where all the pieces are the same shape, and you use lots of different fabrics, have worked with similar shapes. As you already know, triangles, diamonds, squares, flowerpots/thimbles, and apple cores are used in those charm designs.

To expand on that a little, an irregular Kite shape also fits together this way. It’s called a tessellating shape because it does this—no other shapes are needed. Any four-sided shape will do this, sometimes just by stacking (squares and rectangles), sometimes by rotating or flipping top-to-bottom (Apple Core, Thimble). Diamonds don’t exactly stack, but they are easily assembled as rows, or joined one at a time in specific arrangements.

For the basic “kite”, I am giving you a pattern with no seam allowance. Decide what size you want your kite to be by using your copy machine. I like it at 200%, then I add the usual ¼” seam allowance. You may find you like it smaller or larger, depending on the fabrics you have (scrappy is fabulous!). Also note that the pattern has A, B, C, and D indicated on the four sides. This pattern rotates, so A always matches with A, B with B, and so on. I am including a diagram showing how this works. Once you have several pieces/blocks together, it will be easier to see how to progress. Also, once I make my pattern/template full size, I mark it on one side, FRONT or BACK so that I lay it on my fabric the right way. You don’t even need to worry about a grain line in your fabric, because the four sides are four different angles. Great for fussy-cutting.





I have included a few variations to try. The four-piece one also works very well at 200%. After enlarging, cut apart and add seam allowances. For the two paper-pieced variations, I have given you the separate quarters of each block ready to enlarge to 200%.

You will see on the templates that the sides and piecing numbers are included. With paper piecing, everything ends up backwards from what you began with. I am not sure if this shape can both rotate and flip, so be careful to make all your diamonds going the same direction. Or get adventurous and see how far you can push the design, and make it truly yours.



Assembling the blocks requires lots of starting and stopping, joining the kites one by one, the same way we work with hexagons. Take your time, and create a really unique look.

