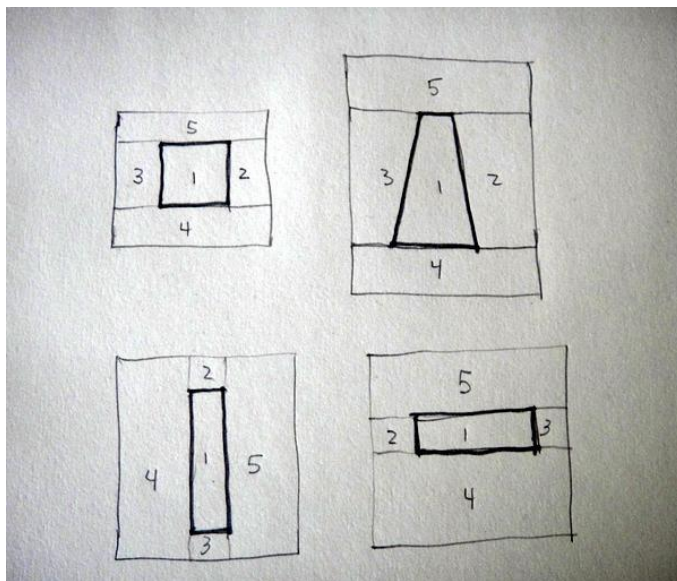


Home Base Patchwork



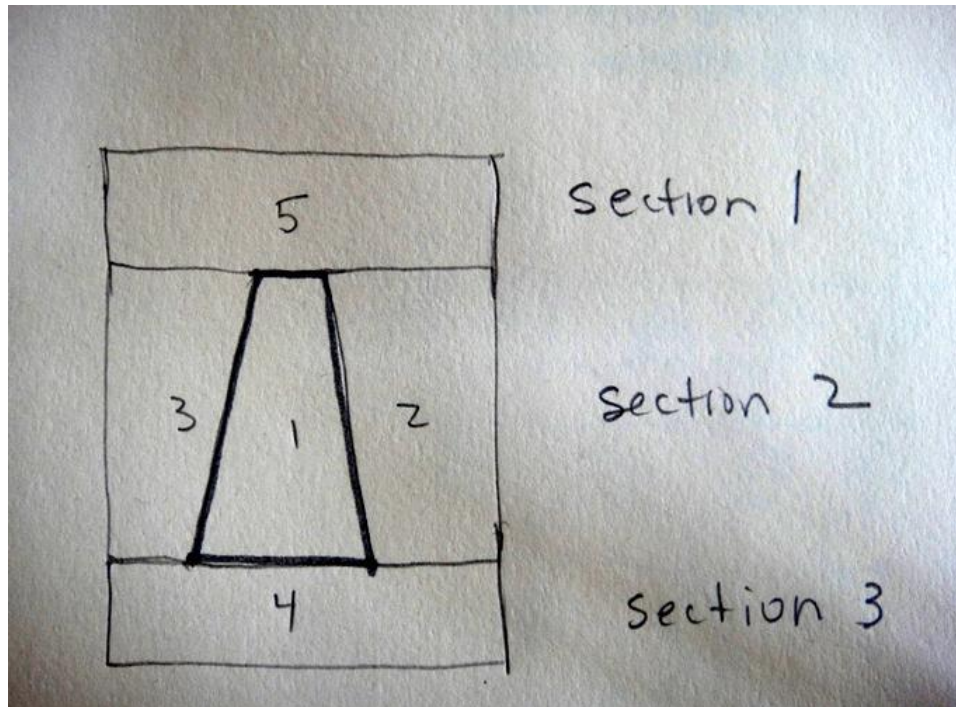
The simplest technique I use for the patchwork beast, comes from a concept taught to me by a drawing teacher many years ago. I had trouble with getting started and he helped me tremendously by explaining how to find the core shape in a figure. I call this Home Base Patchwork. It involves starting with a simple shape embedded in a background. This shape forms the heart of the beast. The main body. From there, you can add heads, and legs, and wings and things. It is sort of like playing Mr

Potato Head or Cooty if you remember those kids toys. I think it is a great way to start, especially for the beginner.



There are 3 basic shapes I like to work with. The square, the chopped triangle and the long rectangle. You can make almost anything from them and they are easy to do.

With all patterns, I like to start with a sketch. The drawing can be quite simple, just to get an idea of how the pieces can fit together. A point of reference. A little plan. I have done some sketches for you to work from, just in case pencil and paper are not your thing. When making a pattern, it is best to work with straight lines and in banded units, either horizontal or vertical. In this demo, there are 3 horizontal sections.



Section 2 is your main design unit here; I have darkened the shape that will evolve into the beast. This area will be pieced together first and then the top and bottom added later. I use a combination of free style piecing and planned patterning in building a little cloth like this. I find it easy to do and it can be made quite complex as you learn.

For my beast bases there are 2 focuses, the figure and the background. These two elements will form the base. The steps I follow for all my Home Base patterns are basically the same.

[Video](#)

1. Choose a background. This can be a solid fabric, or a previously pieced base which can make things more interesting.
2. Make a template for your core shape that included the 1/4" seam allowance. Draw this on paper and cut it out.
3. Place your shape on your background, where ever you want it to be, and pin it in place. Trace around it, extending the top and bottom edges outward to the edges of your base. For some

patterns, this can also be done vertically, but the idea is to form a line to define the center section.

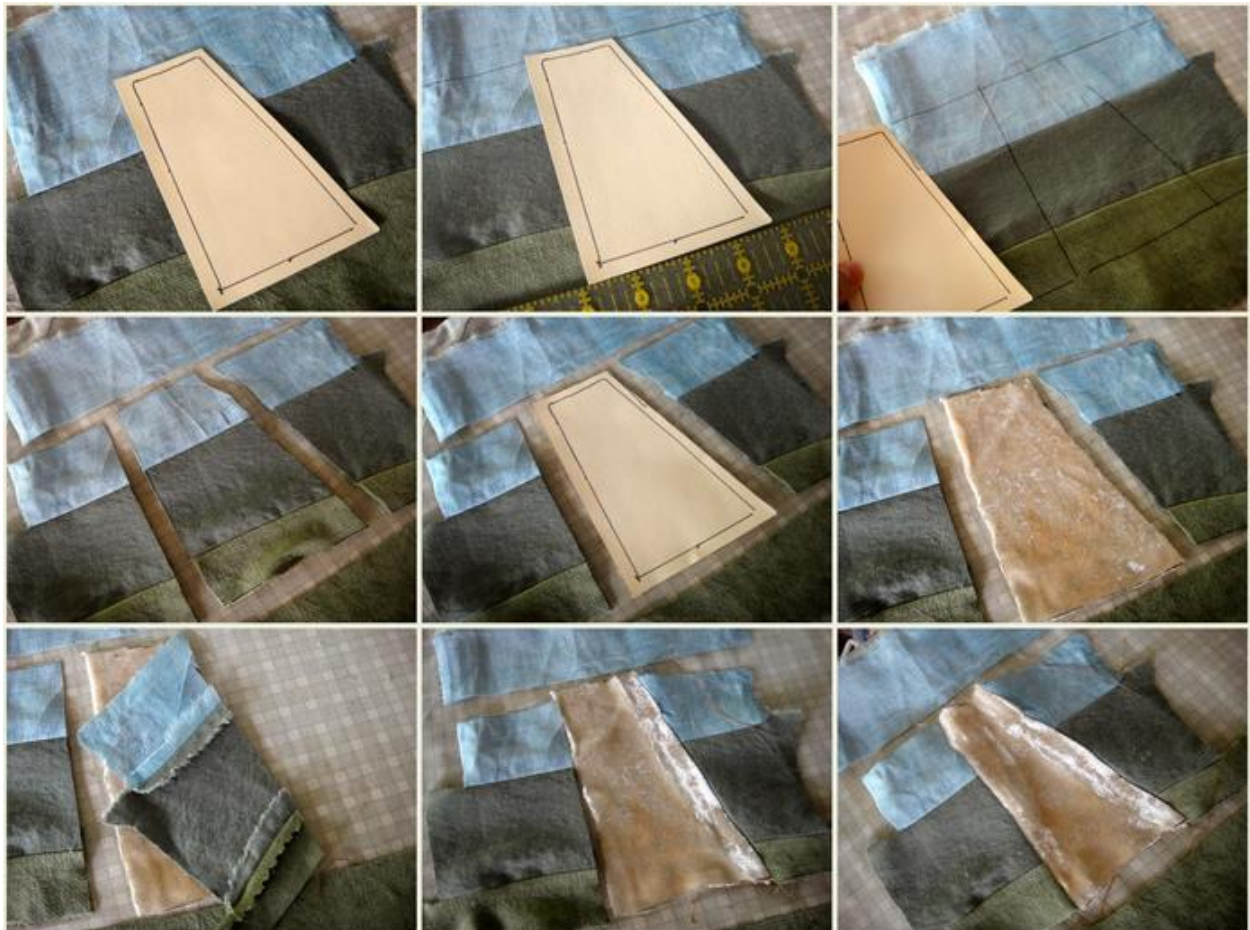
4. Cut all the lines. leaving your pieces flat and in place, so you can keep track of where you are.

5. Trace your home base pattern piece onto your chosen fabric and cut out. Place it into your configuration, removing the piece it replaces (save that for something else)

6. Make sure you like everything. Ha!

7. Flip piece 2 over onto the beast piece, match seams, pin and stitch, press seams open.

8. Sew the seam between piece 1 and 3 in the same manner. you now have completed your center section. In case anything has shifted in your process, even out the straightness of the edge of the section with rotary cutter or scissor before attaching the top and bottom sections. press all seams open.



Your layout will often change size a little after sewing so don't expect it to be exact. I don't take too much care with the seams, the shifts and inaccuracies add character to the piece. You can trim the edges of your block and even add more around it later if necessary.

Now you can start imagining how to decorate your new friend and give it life. It is good to make up a few of these, to practice and to play with. they can even be combined to form communities of beasts.

