

# AUSTRALIA QUILT made by Brigitte Giblin



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# AUSTRALIA QUILT made by Brigitte Giblin, 2017

Finished size - approx. 65" (165cm) square

This is a kitsch - 50's looking project, with applique centre and hand pieced large hexagon borders. It's a whimsical quilt to make for family members living overseas and incorporates well known Australian flora and fauna. Personalise it by adding elements and novelty prints that are meaningful to you and your family. For the backing, I have pieced together a vintage Tasmania tablecloth and 5 Australian tea towels.

## MATERIALS:

- 1m10 suitable fabric for the centre background panel, to end up with a 42" finished square
- .6m aboriginal print background fabric used for the joining elongated-hexagons in the borders and the 4 corner blocks
- an assortment of small and medium sized prints for the applique and borders
- about 10-12 large print fabrics for the hexagons in borders
- A selection of themed or novelty fabrics - e.g. Aboriginal prints, native bird or animal prints, Australian flowers, pineapples, bananas etc.
- solid red or your preferred colour for letters
- scrap of solid black for swans
- Approximately 6m of thin - 1/2" to 5/8" finished border fabric
- Scraps of rick-rack to embellish
- template plastic 2 sheets or freezer paper
- 2B pencil and hand sewing tools

## METHOD:

Applique pieces: plastic templates can be made for the applique pieces or simply cut the shapes from the paper pattern and trace around them carefully to mark the top of the fabrics for needle turn applique.

The map of Australia is first pieced together and then applied to the background in the centre of the quilt.

**NOTE:** the applique shapes are finished size - add a generous 1/8th inch seam allowance when cutting fabrics.

Borders: make accurate plastic templates including 1/4" seam allowance for hand piecing the borders. "Eye-ball" the 1/4" seam allowance when sewing pieces together. Consistency is important and care taken to stop 1/4" from edges for ease of pivoting seams. If you need a sewing line as a guide, cut templates without the seam allowance and trace around each shape on the wrong side of fabrics. Add 1/4" seam when cutting fabrics. Pin through the corners and sew only on marked lines.

As a guide for border fabrics, cut prints for 2 borders and repeat these in the same sequence for the other 2 borders.

Note that the fabric for the elongated-hexagons - pattern piece B - between the large print hexagons - A - has been repeated throughout the borders and in the corner blocks. See quilt picture for fabric placement.

## LAYOUT:

Mark a 42-1/2" square on the background fabric for the centre panel. This will eventually be your cutting line. Remember to position applique pieces away from the sewing line which is 1/4" inside the marked cutting line. Do not cut edges of panel until all applique is completed

and you are ready to sew on borders.

Place the pieced map of Australia in the centre of the background panel and baste in place ready for applique - don't forget Tasmania! Mark a quarter circle with a radius of 11-1/2" in each corner for placement of coffin shapes.

Cut all major shapes, such as animals, boomerang, 7-pointed star and lettering, including seam allowance and arrange into position using the picture as a guide. When you are happy with placement, baste the shapes in place and then applique the edges. Use other smaller shapes to fill the gaps between the main elements of the quilt.

### ASSEMBLY

When the applique is complete, press lightly and then cut the centre panel on the 42-1/2" marked lines. Sew a thin border to the top and bottom of the centre panel first, and then sew a hexagon border to each of these sides - checking placement of repeat fabrics. Next, sew a thin border strip to each side of the quilt centre, including the hexagon border sides. Sew a thin border strip to the top and bottom of the remaining 2 hexagon borders. Sew a corner background square to each end, and then sew to the centre of the quilt. Hand piece the shapes for the corner blocks and then applique to the 4 corner background squares. Trim the background corner squares so that the edges align with the pieced borders. You may wish to add another thin border strip at this point.

### QUILTING

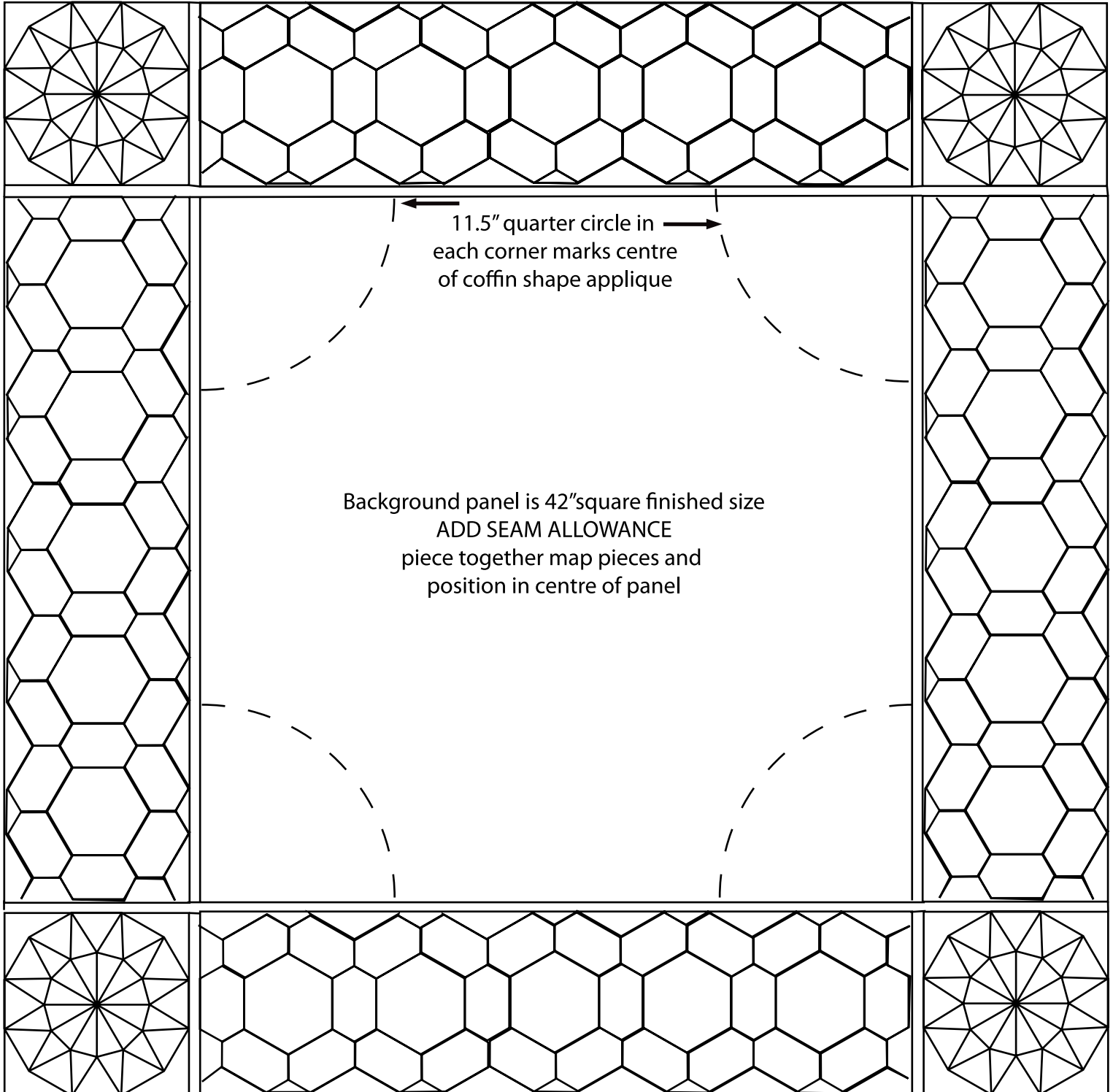
Simple outline quilting in different colours will suit this project. Have some fun with pearl 5 threads or French Sajou lace-making 'cocoons', which come in boxes of 12 different colours.

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AUSTRALIA QUILT made by Brigitte Giblin - 2017

finished size: approx 65" square



3" hexagon with 1/4" seam allowance  
for hand piecing borders on Australia Quilt  
made by Brigitte Giblin

LARGE PRINT HEXAGONS

A

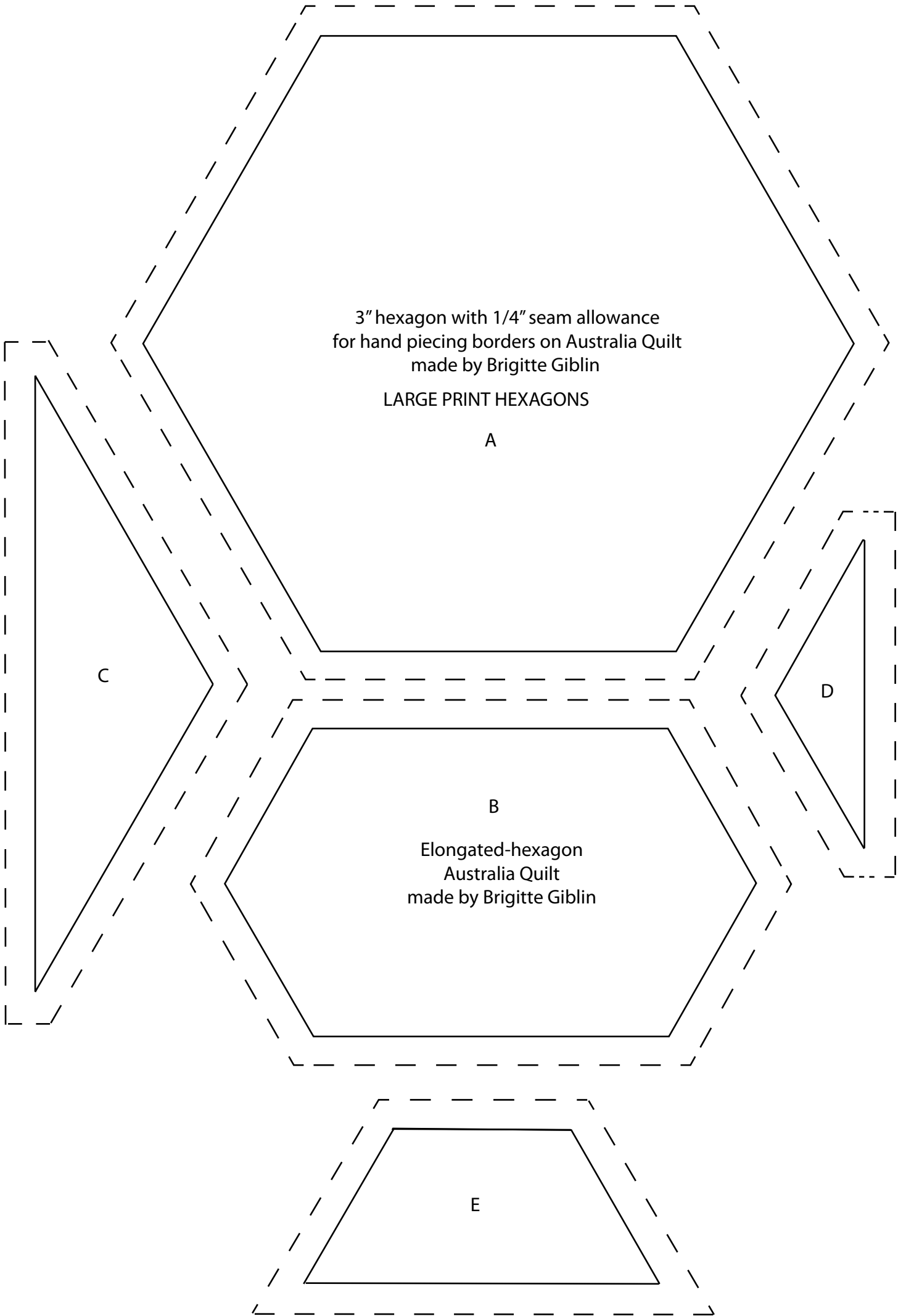
C

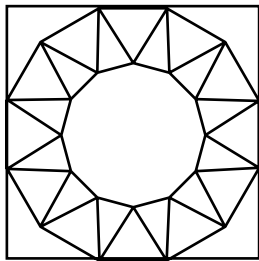
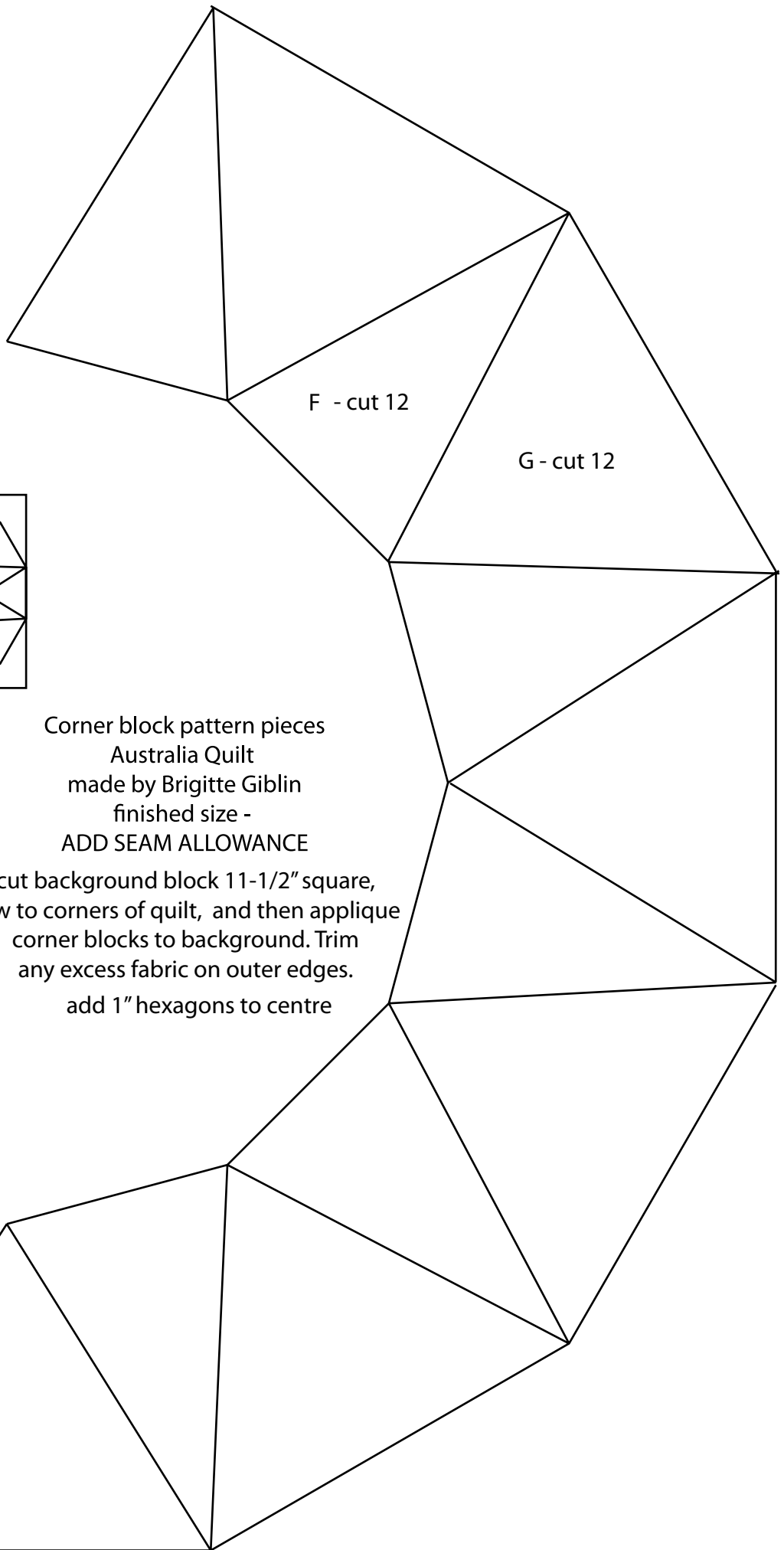
D

B

Elongated-hexagon  
Australia Quilt  
made by Brigitte Giblin

E

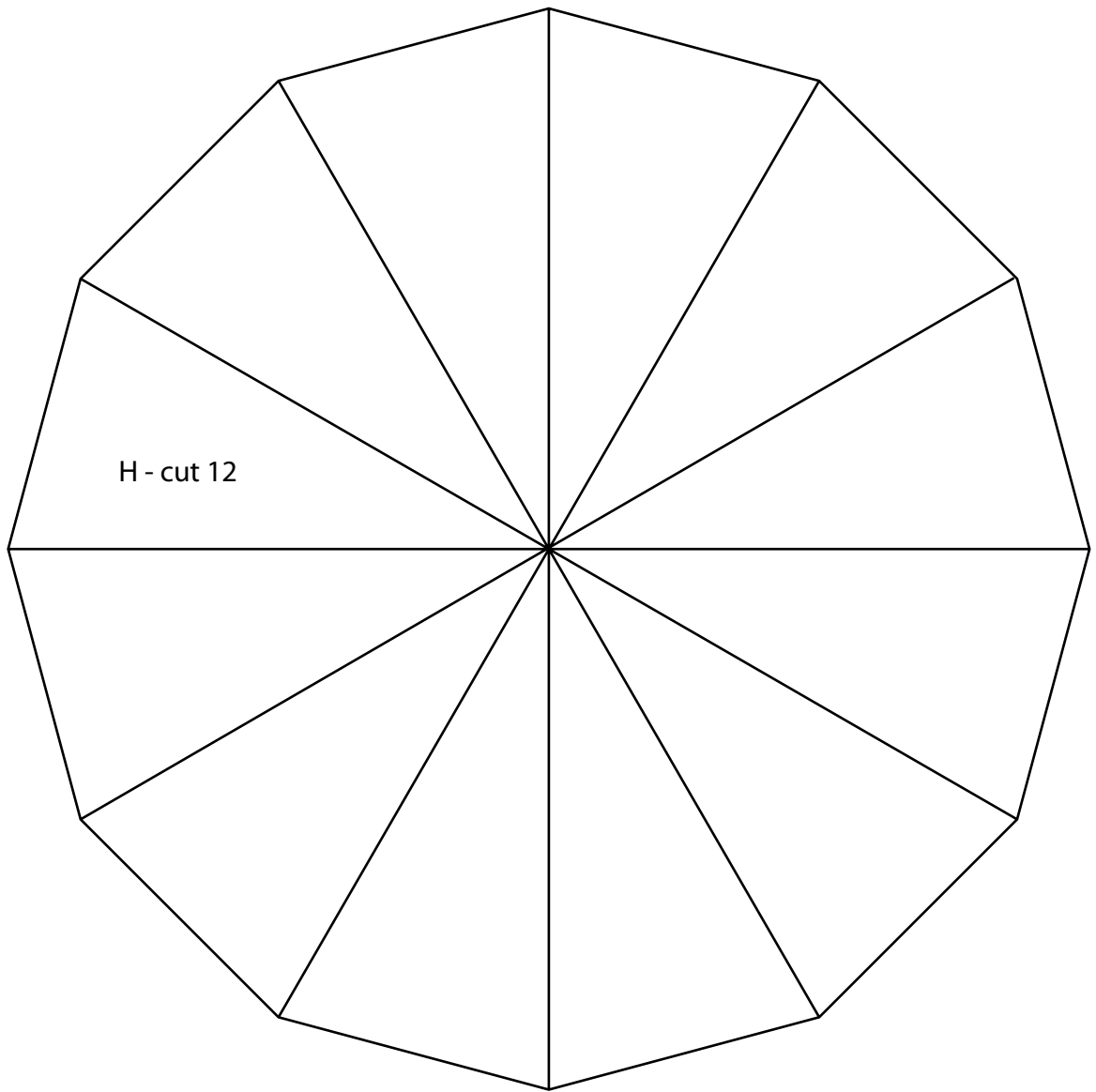




make 2

Corner block pattern pieces  
Australia Quilt  
made by Brigitte Giblin  
finished size -  
ADD SEAM ALLOWANCE

cut background block 11-1/2" square,  
sew to corners of quilt, and then applique  
corner blocks to background. Trim  
any excess fabric on outer edges.  
add 1" hexagons to centre



Corner block pattern pieces

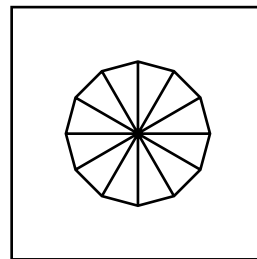
Australia Quilt

made by Brigitte Giblin

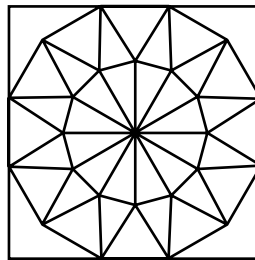
finished size -

ADD SEAM ALLOWANCE

cut background block 11-1/2" square,  
 sew to corners of quilt, and then applique  
 corner blocks to background. Trim  
 any excess fabric on outer edges.  
 add 1" hexagons around shape

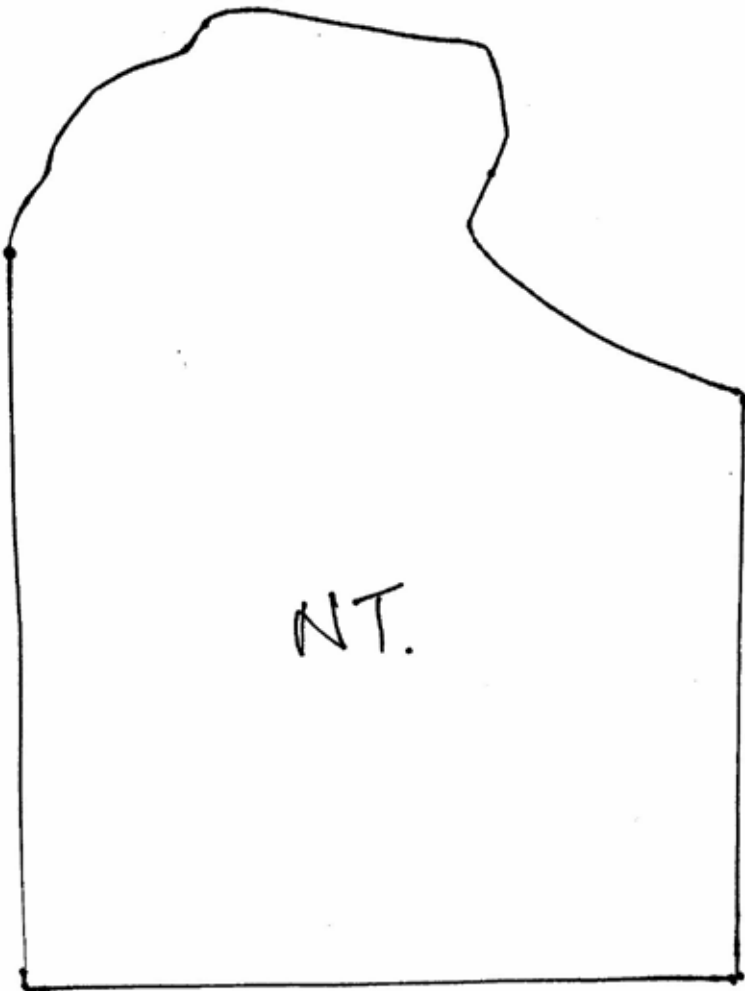


make 2



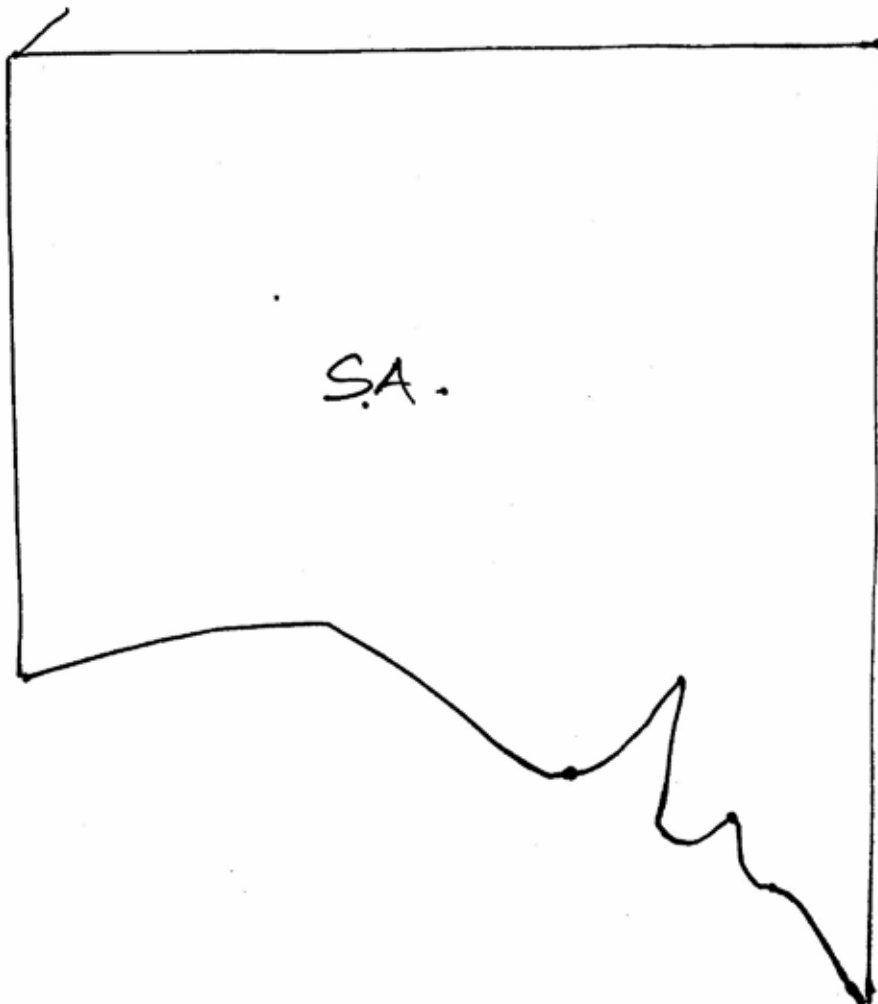
OR - optional - make 4 blocks combining both corner  
 pattern pieces

© B. Gublin



NT.

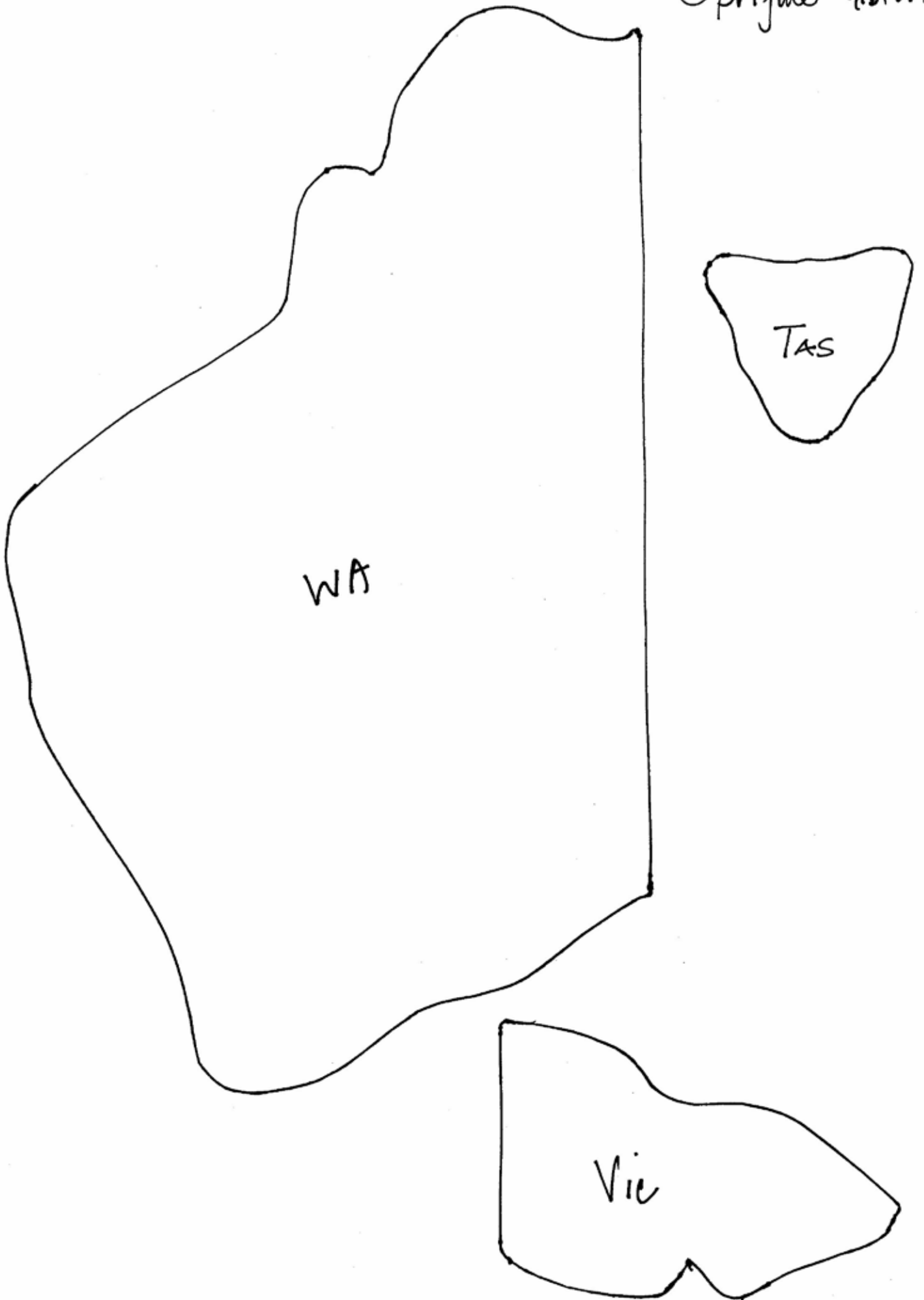
Cut shapes  
inside  
the lines



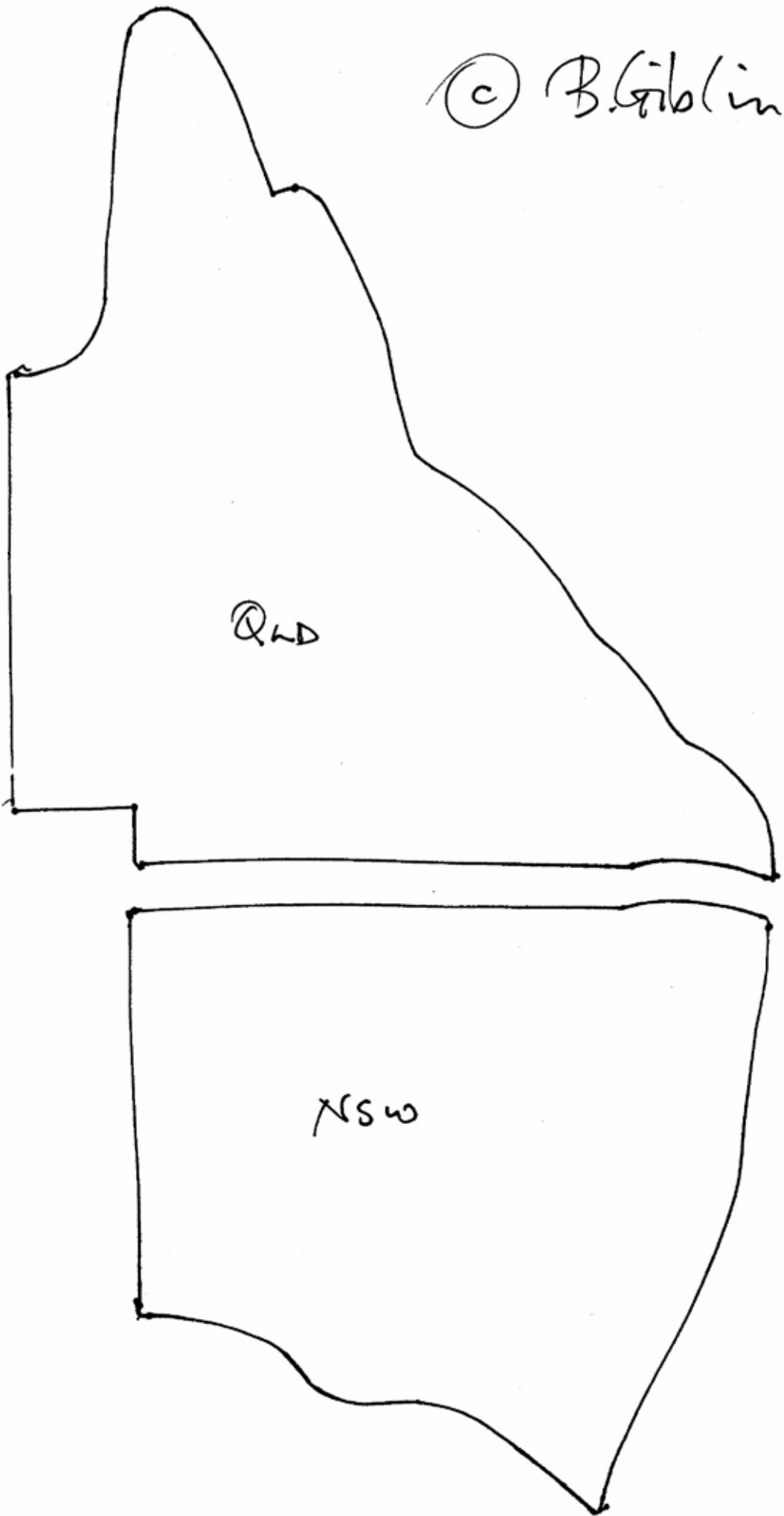
SA.



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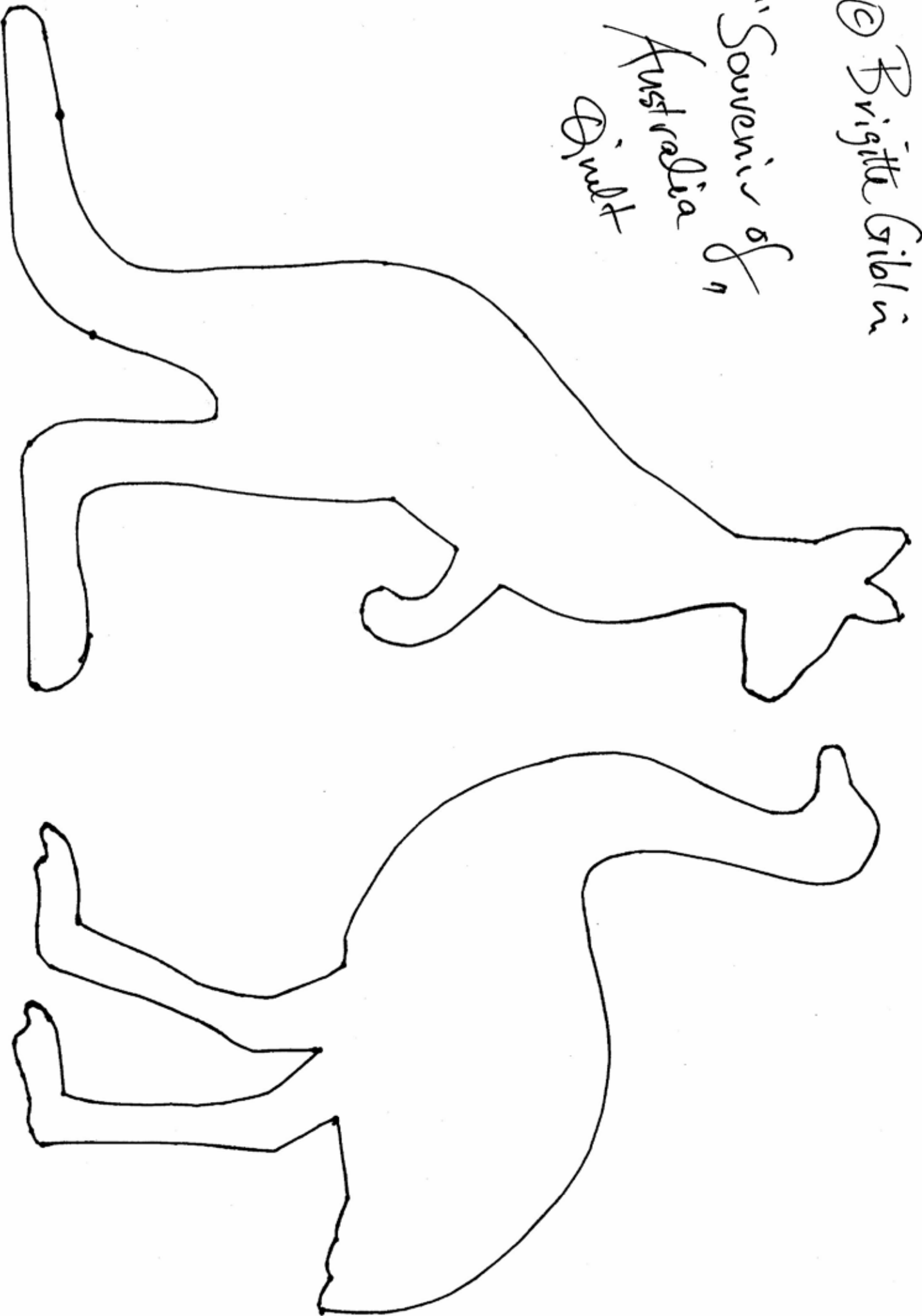


QLD

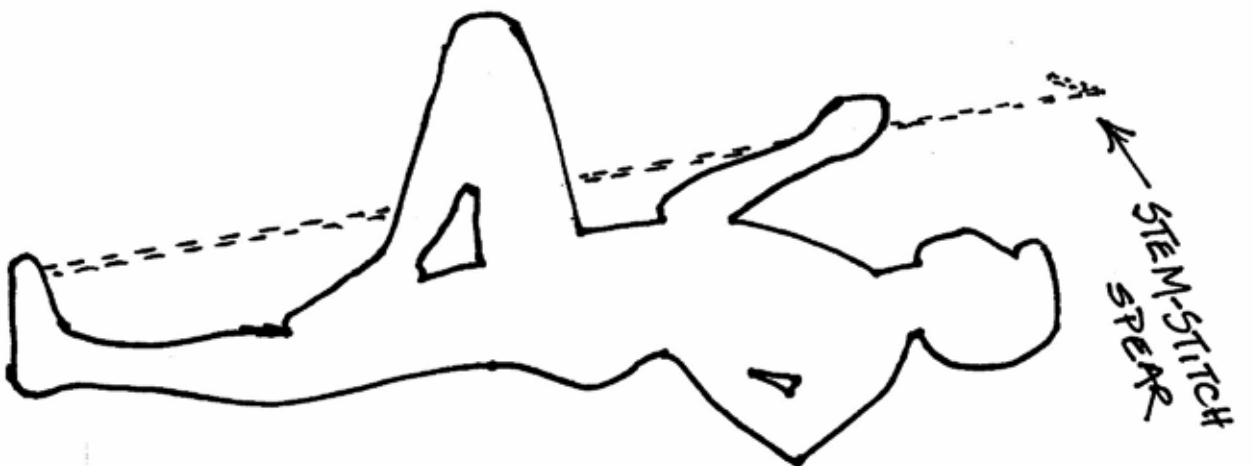
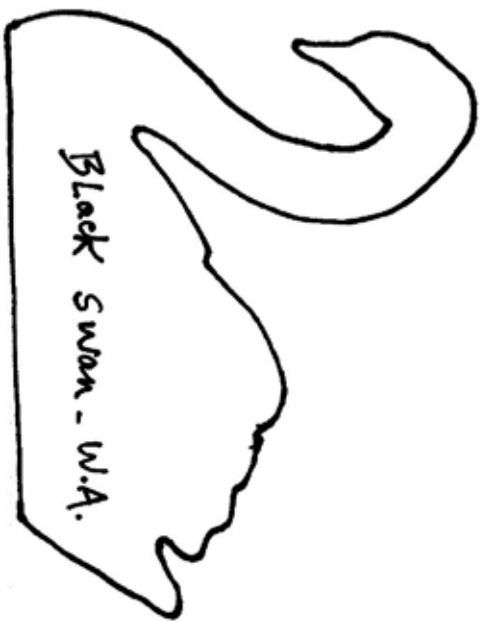
NSW

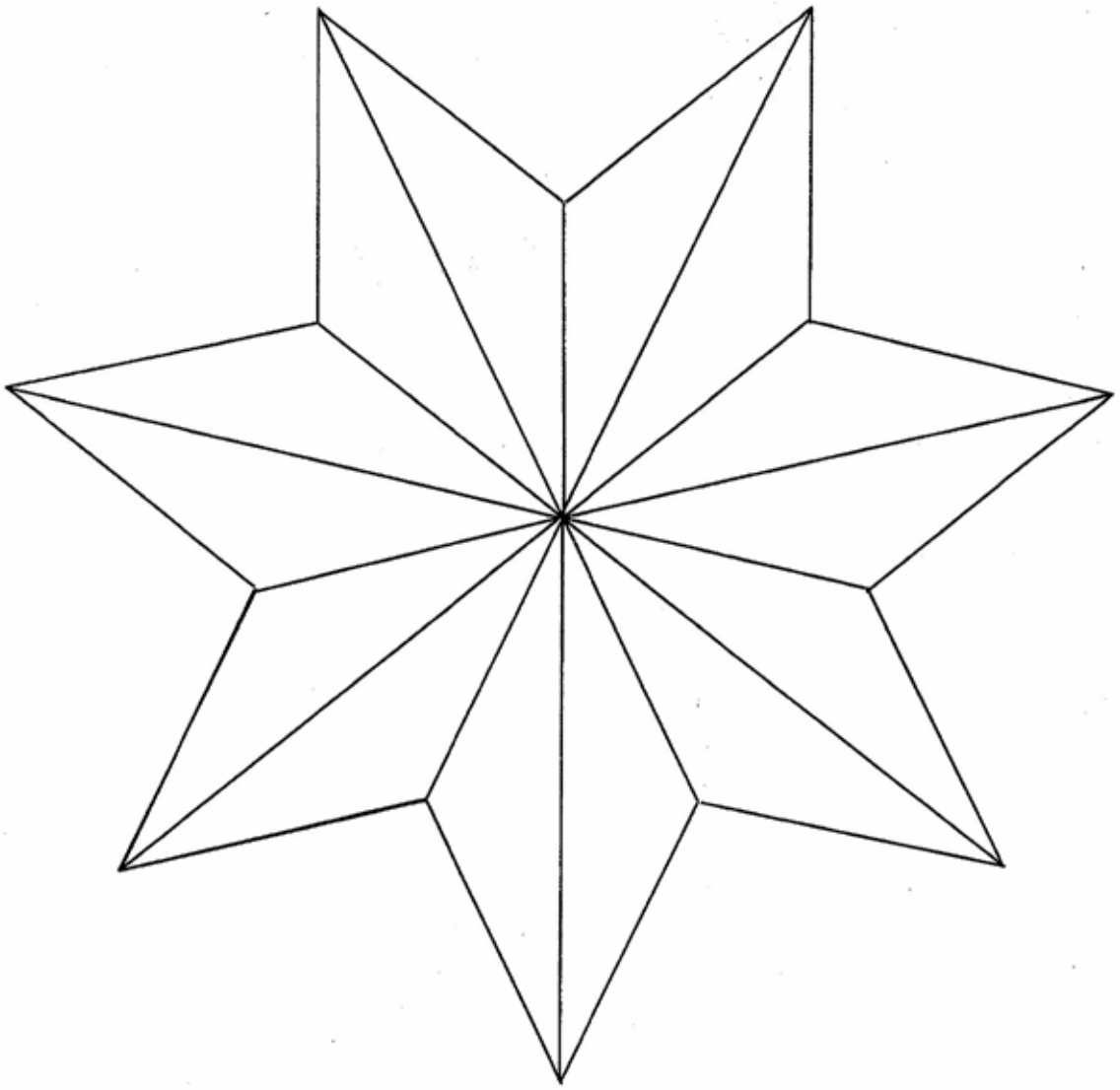
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"Souvenir of"  
Australia  
Quilt

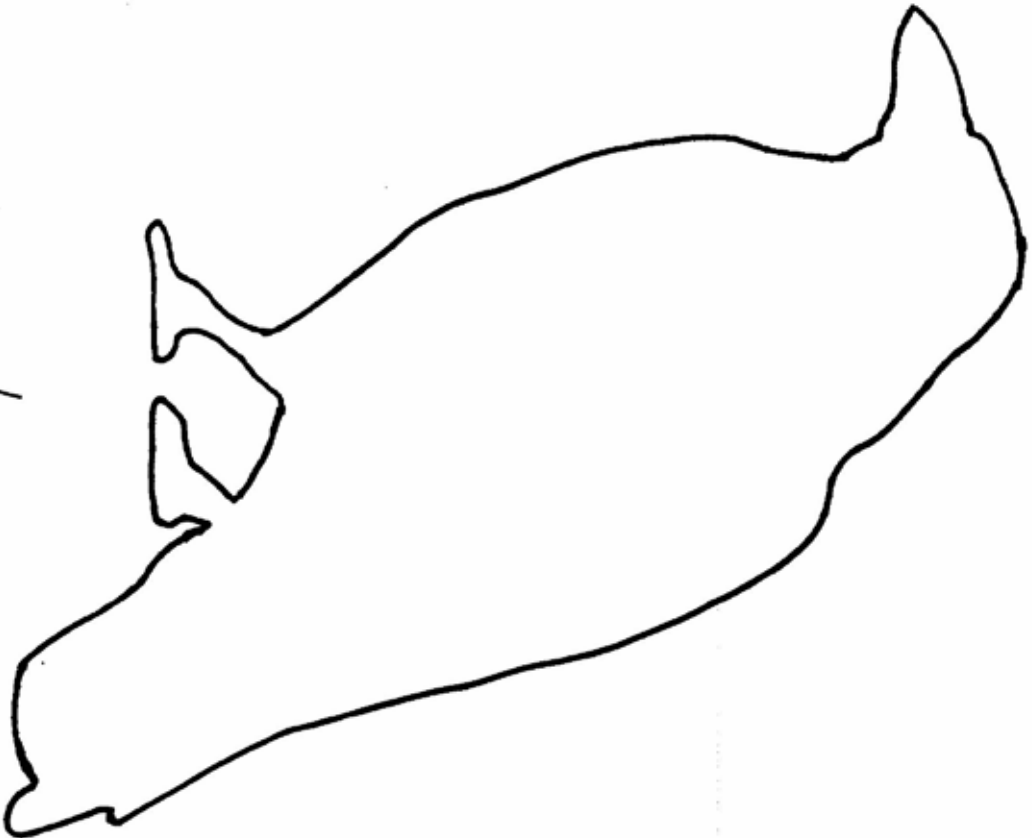


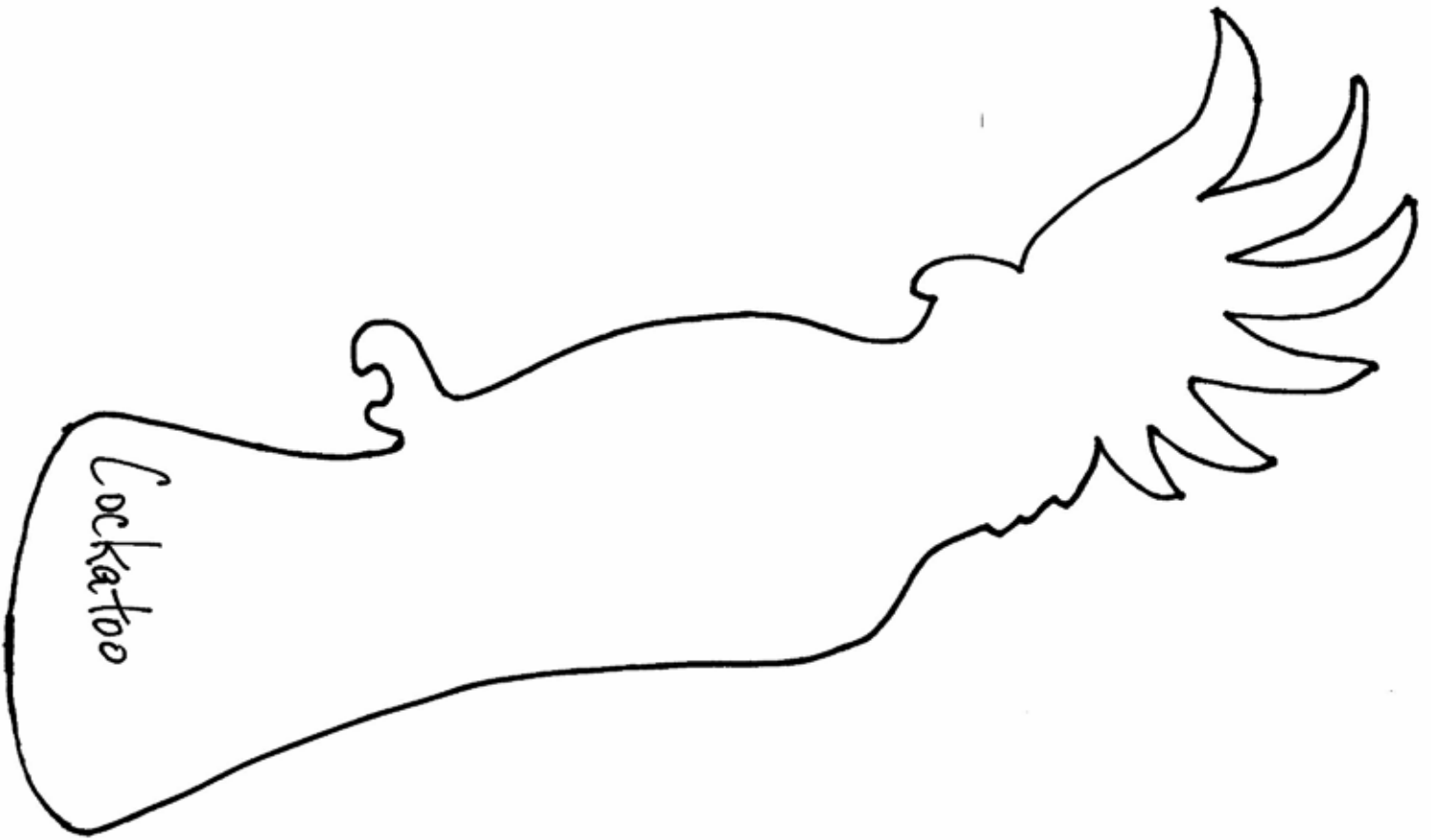
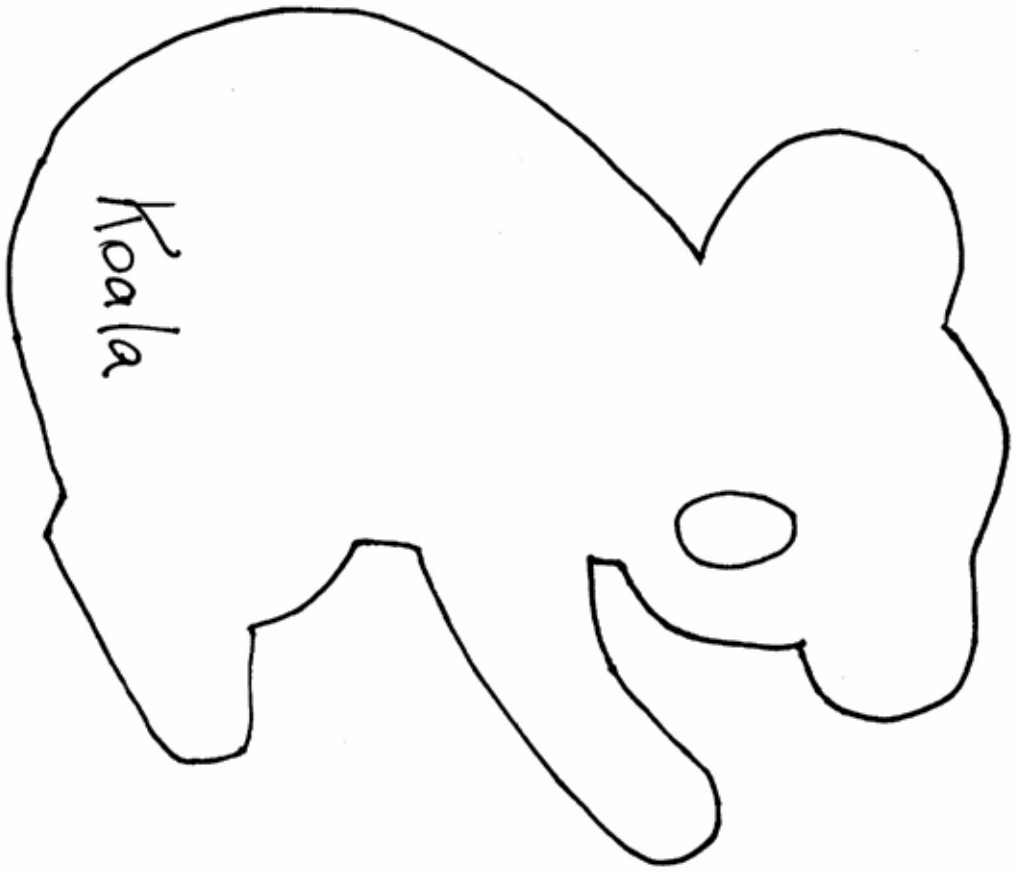
RETT  
OUT  
A

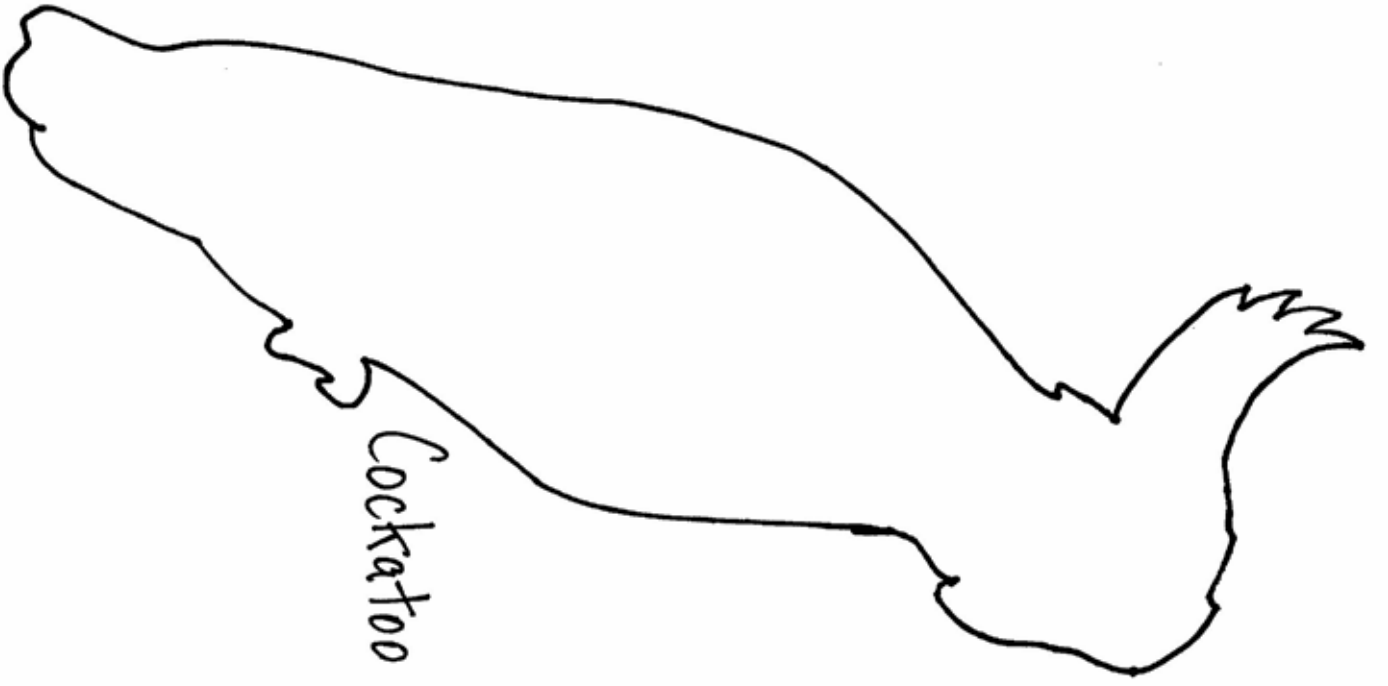




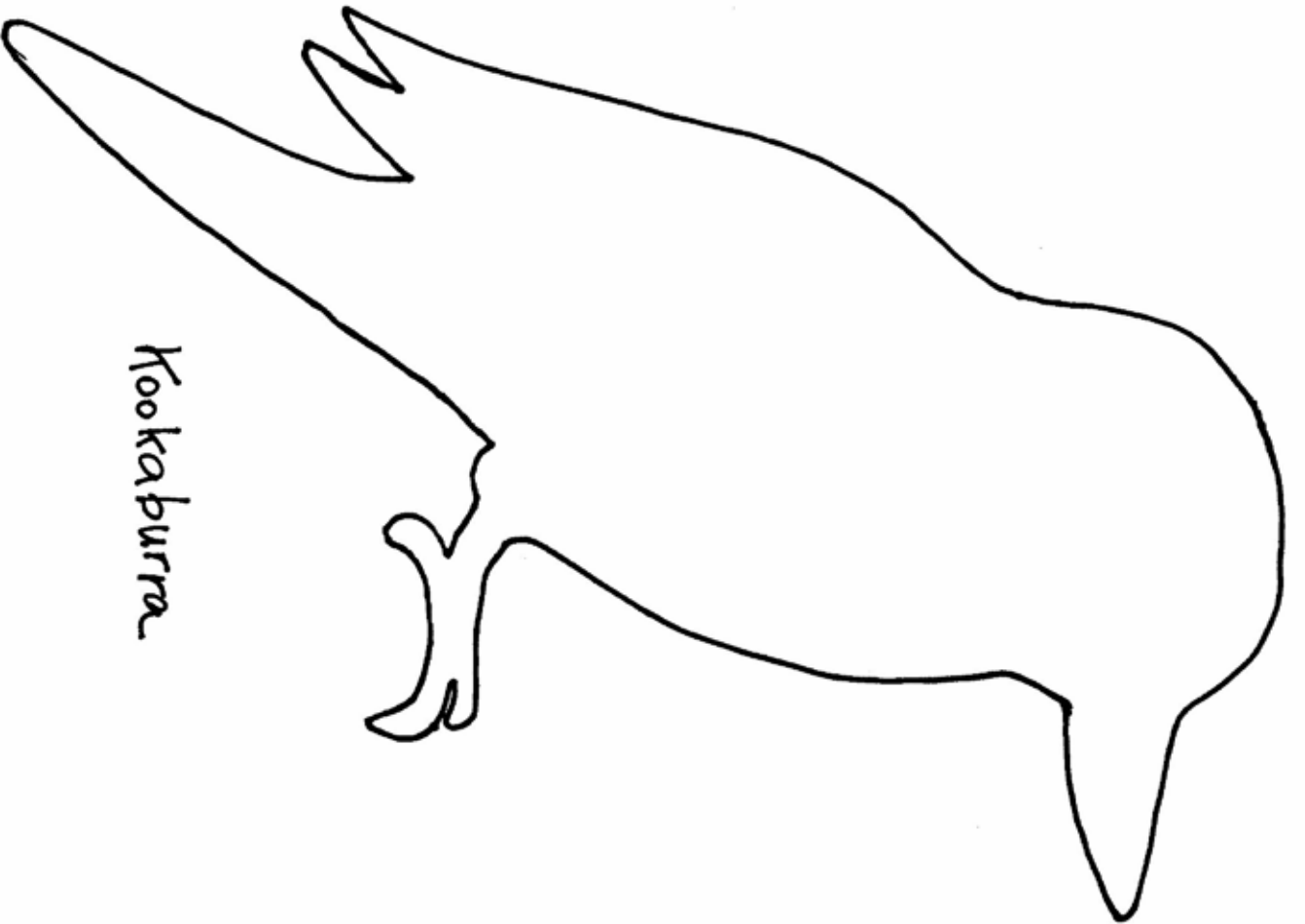
Magpie / blackbird







Cockatoo



Kookaburra

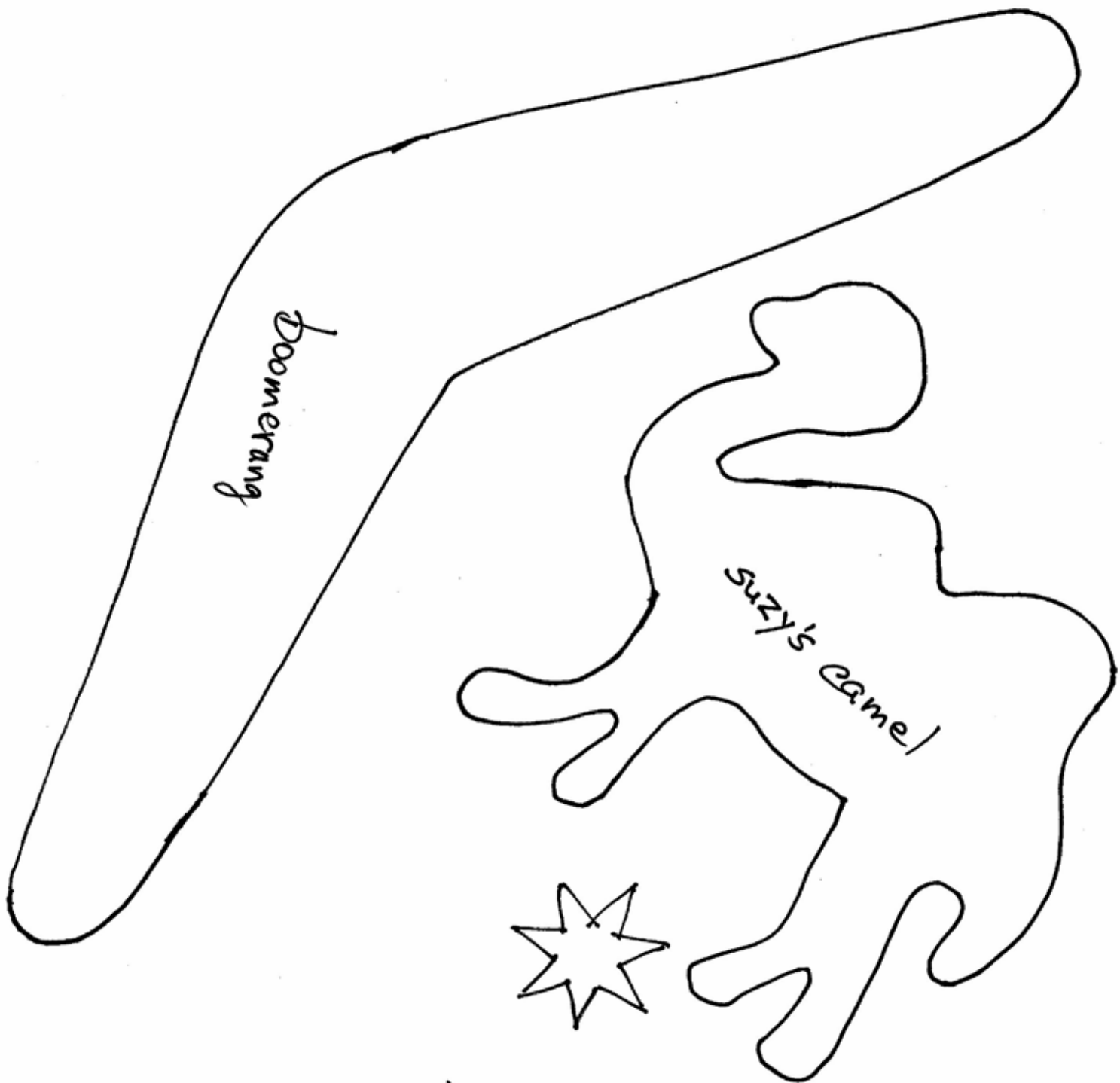
Doomerang

Suzy's Camel

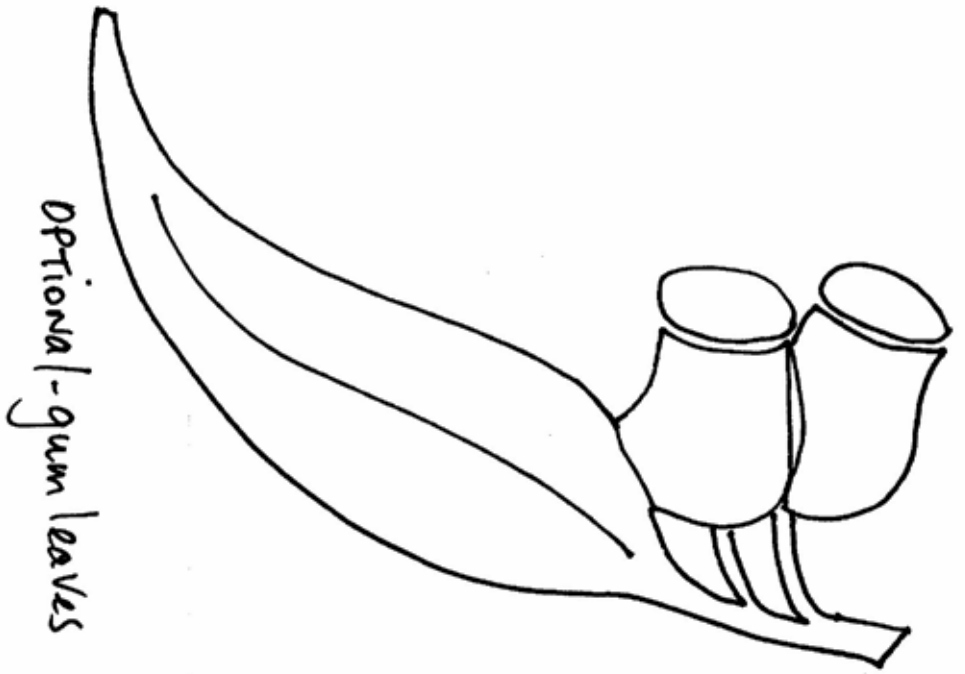


Find a fabric with  
prints of  
stars to  
Applique.

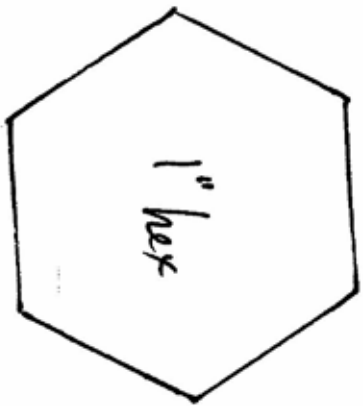
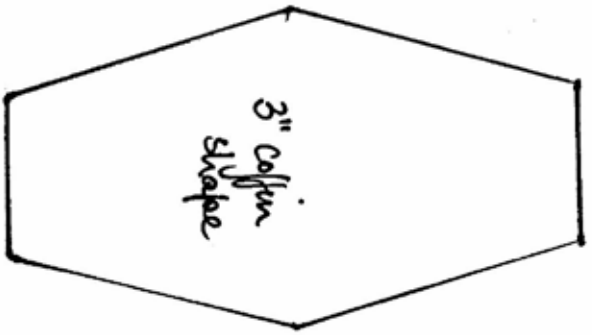
Southern Cross







Optional - gum leaves



↑ for corner blocks