

# Mare-y Christmas

a 12" quilt block

designed by Shelly Pagliai



This block features applique with a bit of embroidery embellishment. The applique is simple (there are only 26 pieces!) and you can use your own favorite method for doing it. I used the needle-turn method, because it's my own personal favorite, but you can use fusible if you prefer. Once your block is finished, you can turn it into a wall hanging, or a pillow, or use it in a quilt.

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

15" x 15" piece of white for snow background  
5" x 15" piece of light blue for sky background  
7" x 10" scrap of brown for horse  
5" x 12" scrap of white-on-white for snowman and horse's hat  
4" x 4" scrap of red for barn

Assorted small scraps of the following:

Gray for barn rooftop and doors  
Black solid for snowman's hat, horse's nostril and eye  
Black print for horse's mane  
Red solid for horse's hat and snowman's hat band  
Red print for snowman's scarf  
Orange for snowman's nose  
White solid for horse's eye and teeth

Embroidery floss:

Brown for snowman's arm, and fence line  
Black for snowman's eyes, buttons, and outline, and horse's teeth outline and jawline  
Red for snowman's mouth and the letters

## INSTRUCTIONS

I recommend that you read through all the instructions before beginning.

Print out the four applique sections and tape them together on the dotted lines to get the full-size applique pattern.

For the applique background, cut a 13 1/2" x 11 1/2" piece from white.  
From the blue background piece, cut a 4 1/2" x 13 1/2" rectangle.

Along the top edge of the white piece (which will be one of the long sides), and about 1/2" down from the edge, using your full-size applique pattern, trace the line where the blue background ends and the white background begins, about 1/2" down from the top. Trim the fabric 1/4" above the line.

Position this curved edge of the white piece overlapping one long edge of the blue background piece, as shown, and pin in place.



Applique the white piece to the blue piece.

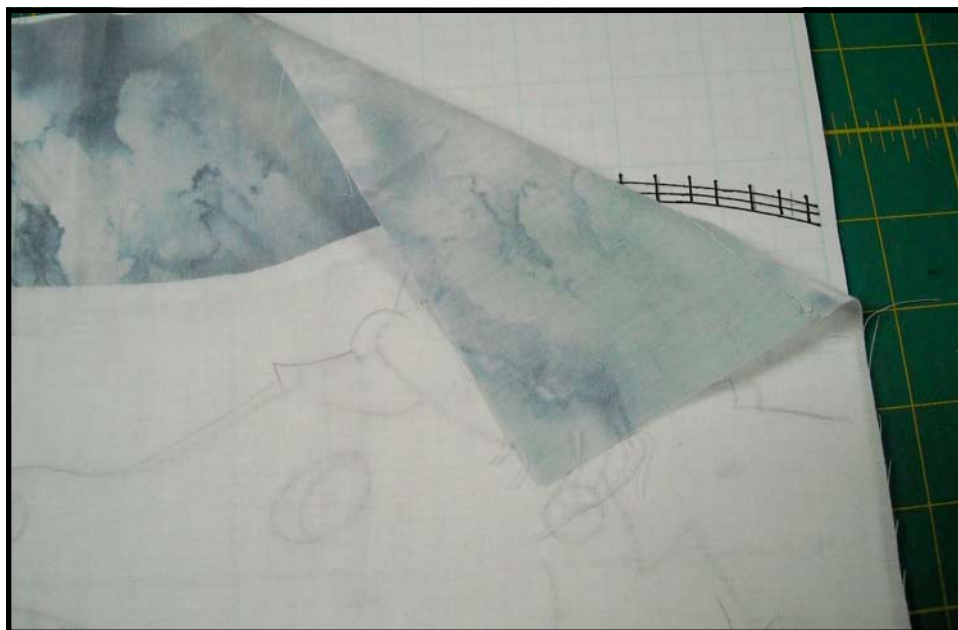


On the back side, trim away the excess blue fabric 1/4" from the stitching line (so it doesn't shadow through).



If necessary, press the background piece, then line it up on top of your full-size pattern, aligning the fence line on the pattern with the fence line on the background piece (where the blue and white pieces meet). Pin or tape in place so neither piece moves while you trace.

Lightly trace the main outline of each section onto the background fabric with a marking pencil that you are sure will erase or disappear, or can be washed or ironed out. It's not necessary to do the inner details of each piece, just the main outline for positioning purposes.



Now that you have your background prepared, you're ready to begin the applique.

If you are using the fusible method of applique, you will need to reverse the design. No seam allowance will need to be added to the pieces, except where another piece overlaps it. Where a piece has an edge that gets overlapped by the next piece, or hangs off the edge of the block, you'll want to leave a bit of a seam allowance so the raw edge can get caught.

If you are using the needle-turn method of applique, seam allowance needs to be added to each piece.

What I usually do is photocopy or print my pattern a second time, and use the copy to cut up for the applique templates. Just cut each shape out on the line and use it as your template. Since each piece is different, the paper will hold up for one tracing just fine. (For the fusible method, you can just trace them onto the paper side of the fusible webbing — after reversing the design, of course.)

I'll walk you through one piece to get you started, and then you'll just continue on. You will applique all the pieces down in numerical order, starting with, obviously, piece number 1, which is the bottom "ball" of the snowman.

Cut out your template on the line, then place it right side up on the right side of your fabric. We're using the white-on-white for the snowman here. Leave enough room for the seam allowance when placing it on your fabric.

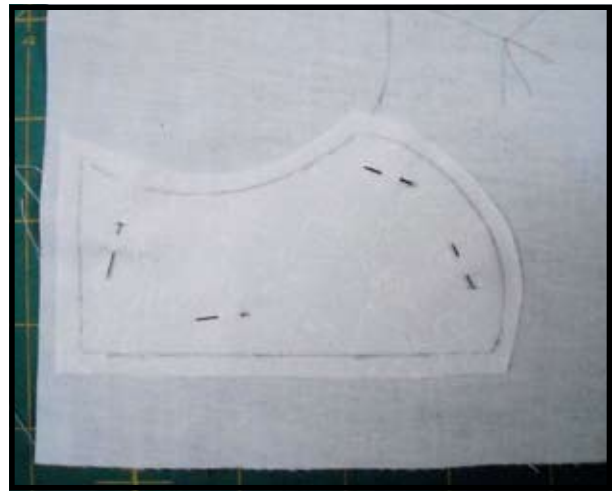


Using a washable or erasable marking pencil, trace around the shape onto the fabric.

Cut the piece out  $\frac{3}{8}$ " -  $\frac{1}{4}$ " **outside** the drawn line.



Position the piece onto the background fabric in its proper position, and pin in place.



You only need to applique edges that are “outside edges”. Where the piece hangs off the edge of the block, or gets overlapped by the next piece, just leave that part unsewn. You may baste it in place to hold it in position, if you wish, or just leave your pins in to hold it until it’s held down by the next piece.



Repeat this process with piece #2, and keep going in numerical order. Here’s what it will look like when you’ve finished with pieces #1- 8 . . .

Then you'll move on to the barn,  
pieces #9-12 ...



And next, the horse ...

But there's one tricky part on the horse that I  
need to tell you about. Refer to the pictures for  
what I'm talking about here.

When you get to piece #23, only stitch down the  
right edge of the piece to begin with.



Then go ahead and put on piece #24, which will  
overlap the top left part of piece #23, but you  
want to leave the bottom left portion of piece #23  
unstitched until you get piece #25 stitched in place,  
because ...

Piece #25's right edge goes under piece #23's left  
edge. Once you get it tucked under piece #23, then  
you can finished stitching down piece #23's left  
edge. It's not as bad as it sounds ...



Once you're done with that, all that's left is piece #26, and you're finished with the applique and can do the embroidery.

Refer to the photo of the block on page 1, if necessary, so you can see where I did the embroidery.



Using 3 strands of black floss, I outlined the snowman with outline stitch, so that the white-on-white would show up against the white background.

Using 3 strands of black floss, I satin stitched the snowman's eyes and buttons, and outline stitched the horse's jawline.

Using 2 strands of black floss, I outlined the horse's teeth, and made the individual teeth lines using outline stitch.

Using 3 strands of brown floss, I outline stitched the snowman's arm.

Using 3 strands of brown floss, I used straight stitch to make all the fence posts, then stitched the rails across them using the backstitch to hold them down.

Using 3 strands of red floss, I used satin stitch for the snowman's mouth, and outline stitched all the letters.

When you're all finished, press the block and trim it to 12 1/2" x 12 1/2" square. You're ready to use it in whatever project you see fit. Pat yourself on the back, you're all done!

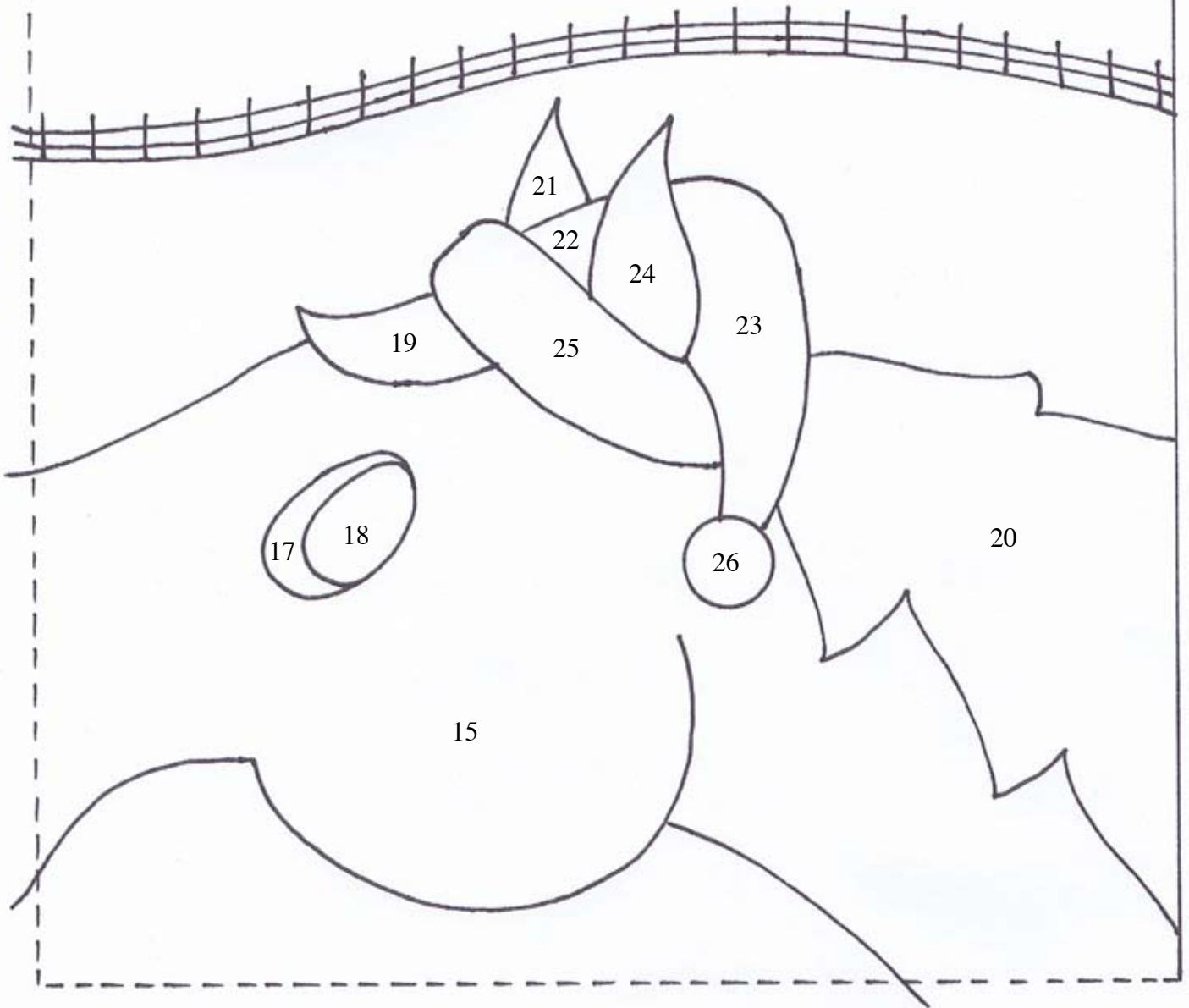
If you need a bit more clarification on how I do my needle-turn applique, I wrote a tutorial on appliqueing a leaf here:

<http://prairiemoonquilts.wordpress.com/2011/10/04/how-to-applique-a-leaf/>

For help with embroidery stitches, visit:

<http://www.welovefrenchknots.com/>

Upper Right Section

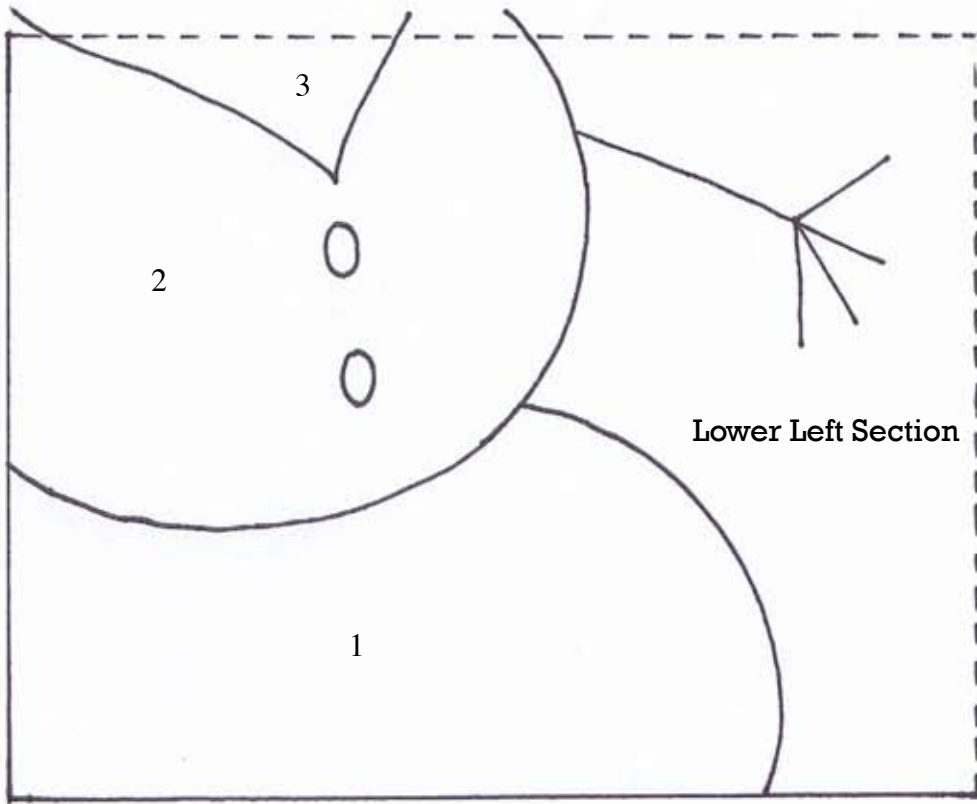


Join the four sections on the dotted lines to make the entire design.



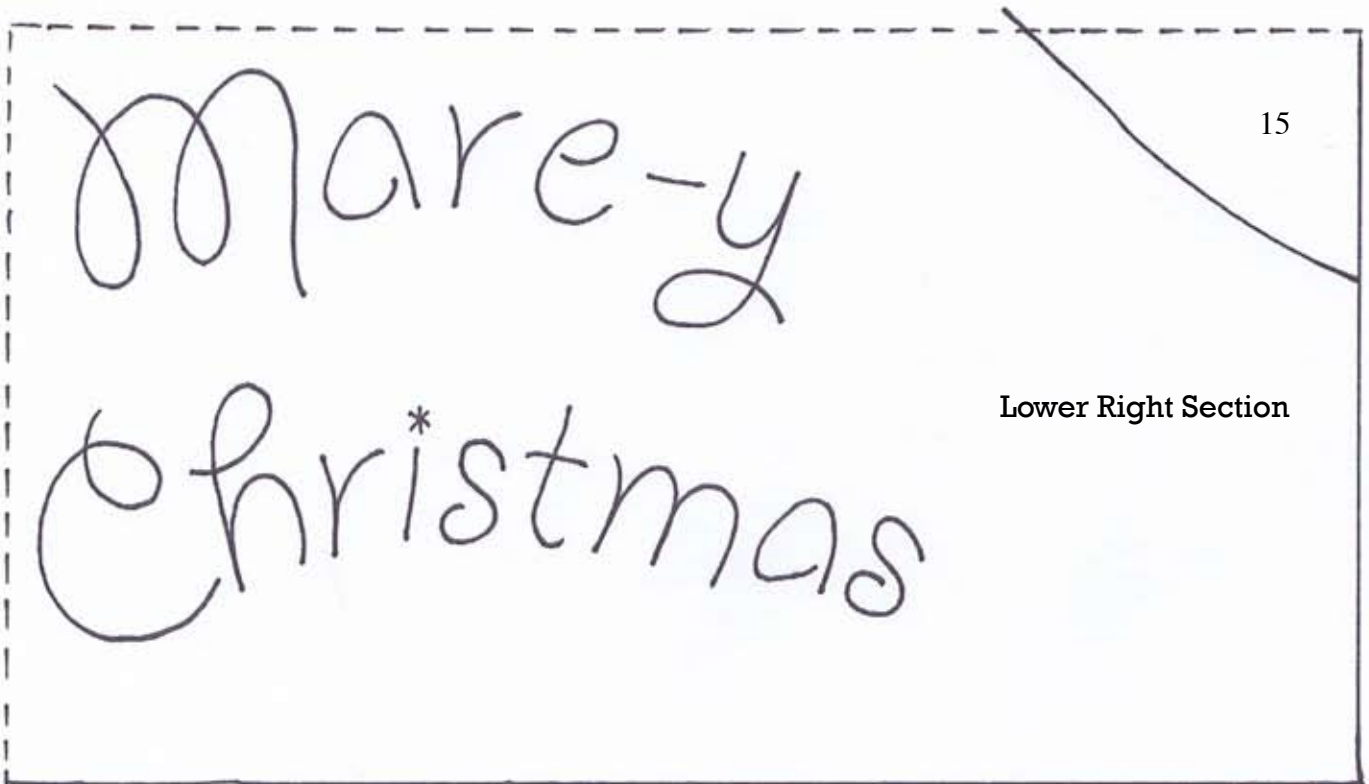
When printing out the pattern, make sure that the line above measures 1" long to ensure that you have it printed the correct size. If it doesn't, then enlarge or reduce accordingly.



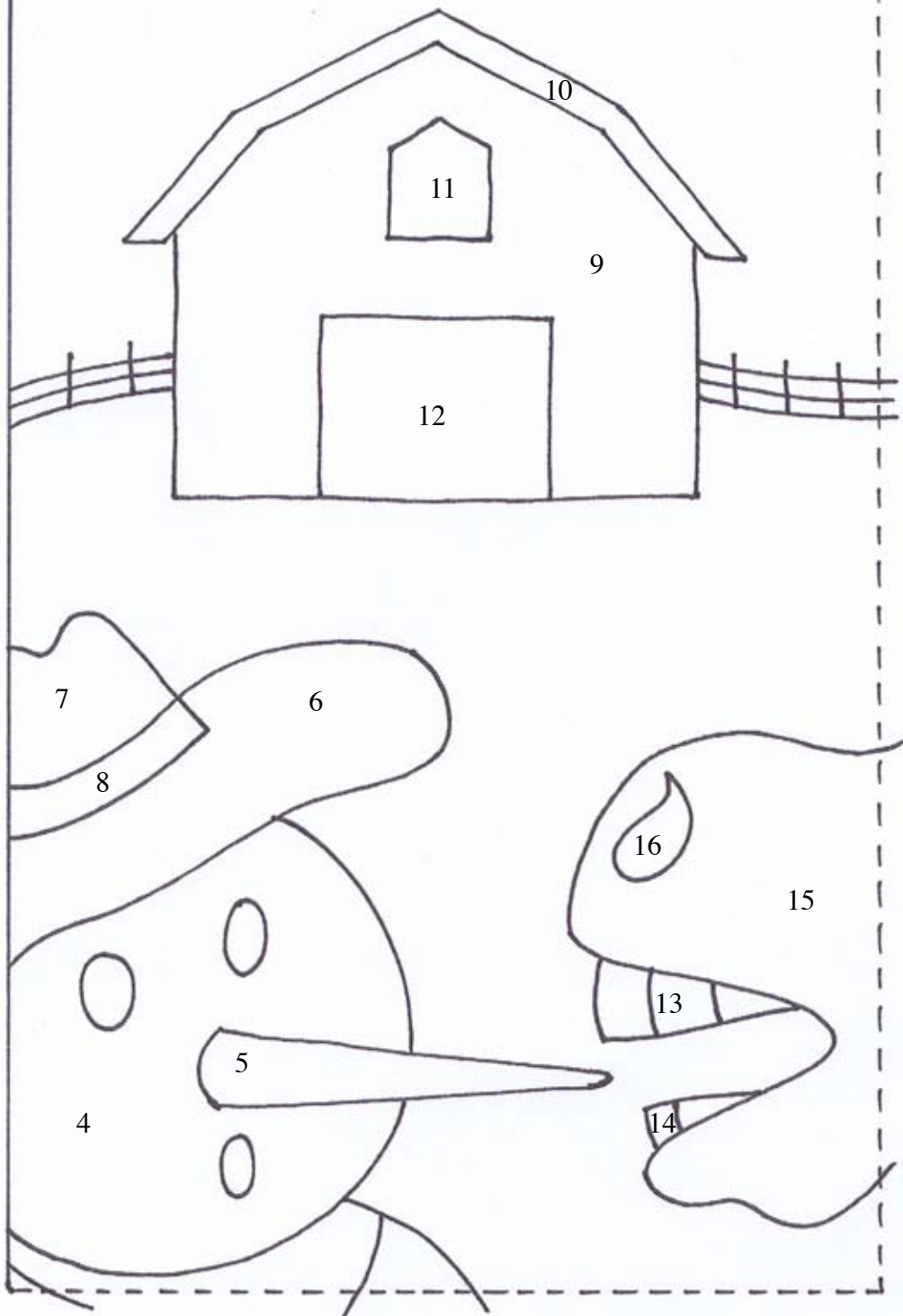


Join the four sections on the dotted lines to make the entire design.

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Upper Left Section



Join the four sections on the dotted lines to make the entire design.



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