

skullz roundup by julie Elliot



finished block: 8" x 8" square
finished pillow: 16" x 16" square
skill level: confident beginner familiar with
paper-piecing (or at least not afraid to try!)

The concept of modern traditionalism was the inspiration behind this project, reports designer Julie Elliott of Larkspur, Colorado. Her latest quilting obsession is playing with the pineapple block, and looking for new ways to use this old favorite.

“My first attempt was *Going Rogue* (see Page 3 photo) and I received a lot of positive feedback. I've continued to re-imagine this block and *Skullz Roundup* was one of the designs that resulted from those efforts,” she says.

She says she asked herself what would happen if a single motif was applied into each of the four corners created when four blocks were joined. *Skullz Roundup* was the answer. The design can be used in a wall hanging or a pillow, as presented here. While Julie's pattern includes a zipper, you can opt to do a simple overlapping pillow back.

overall materials

- 1/4 yard skull feature fabric(s) to fussy cut for the centers of (4) pineapple blocks and for the center medallion. You will need small skulls for each block center and one, larger skull for the center medallion. (Julie used *Skull Bandanna* by Timeless Treasures for the 4 block centers and *Gothic Skulls* by Michael Miller Fabrics for the center medallion applique.)
- An assortment of low-volume white/cream prints totaling no more than 1/4 yard
- (4) 5" x 5" squares of low-volume white/cream prints cut in half on the diagonal
- Assortment of orange prints (Julie used 5) totaling no more than 1/4 yard
- Assortment of black to gray prints totaling no more than 1/4 yard
- (2) 5" x 5" squares light gray print, cut in half on the diagonal
- (2) 5" x 5" squares black fabric, cut in half on the diagonal
- 1/2 yard black Halloween print for backing and binding
- (4) 8" finished pineapple block templates printed on specialty foundation piecing paper, vellum or copy paper
- Template plastic
- Fabric marker
- Glue stick
- 4 3/8" x 4 3/8" square of freezer paper
- Batting: 18" x 18" square
- 18" x 18" square piece of muslin
- 14" zipper (optional, depending on your choice of finishing technique)
- 16" x 16" square pillow form

cutting instructions

From template plastic, cut:

- (1) 2" x 2" square and (1) 5" x 5" square

Using the 2" x 2" square template and fabric marker, fussy cut:

- (4) 2" x 2" square skulls to use in the center of each of the 4 blocks

Using the 5" x 5" square template and fabric marker, fussy cut:

- (1) 5" x 5" square skull to use as the center medallion

From the white/cream prints, cut:

- 1 1/2" strips from each print

Sub-cut into:

- (16) 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" rectangles
- (16) 1 1/2" x 3" rectangles
- (20) 1 1/2" x 3 1/2" rectangles
- (20) 1 1/2" x 4" rectangles

From the orange prints, cut:

- 1 1/2" strips from each print
 - Sub-cut into:
 - (12) 1 1/2" x 3" rectangles
 - (8) 1 1/2" x 3 1/2" rectangles
 - (8) 1 1/2" x 4" rectangles

From the black to gray prints, cut:

- 1 1/2" strips from each print
 - Sub-cut into:
 - (4) black 1 1/2" x 3" rectangles
 - (4) charcoal 1 1/2" x 3 1/2" rectangles
 - (4) medium gray 1 1/2" x 4" rectangles

From the black Halloween fabric, cut:

- 18" x 18" square for the pillow back. NOTE: This may be adjusted depending on the zipper installation technique you prefer.
- 2 1/4" x WOF strips for the binding. Sew the strips together, end-to-end, to create one long strip.

Make (4) copies of the 8" finished pineapple block foundation template. Based on the following diagram, label the pieces in each block to identify what color is used in each numbered piece.

piecing instructions for each block

1. Place the 2" skull square, right side up, on the unprinted side of the foundation, centering the square to ensure adequate seam allowance around all four sides. Use a glue stick to secure the fabric in place.
2. Using standard paper piecing instructions, complete the block using the 1 1/2" strips, according to the color diagram you have marked on each piece.
3. For the (4) corner triangles of each block, use the half-square triangle black, light gray and white/cream triangles cut earlier.
4. Trim all seam allowances to 1/4" as you sew.
5. Trim final block to 8 1/2" x 8 1/2" square.



Going Rogue was Julie Elliott's first playtime with Pineapple blocks.

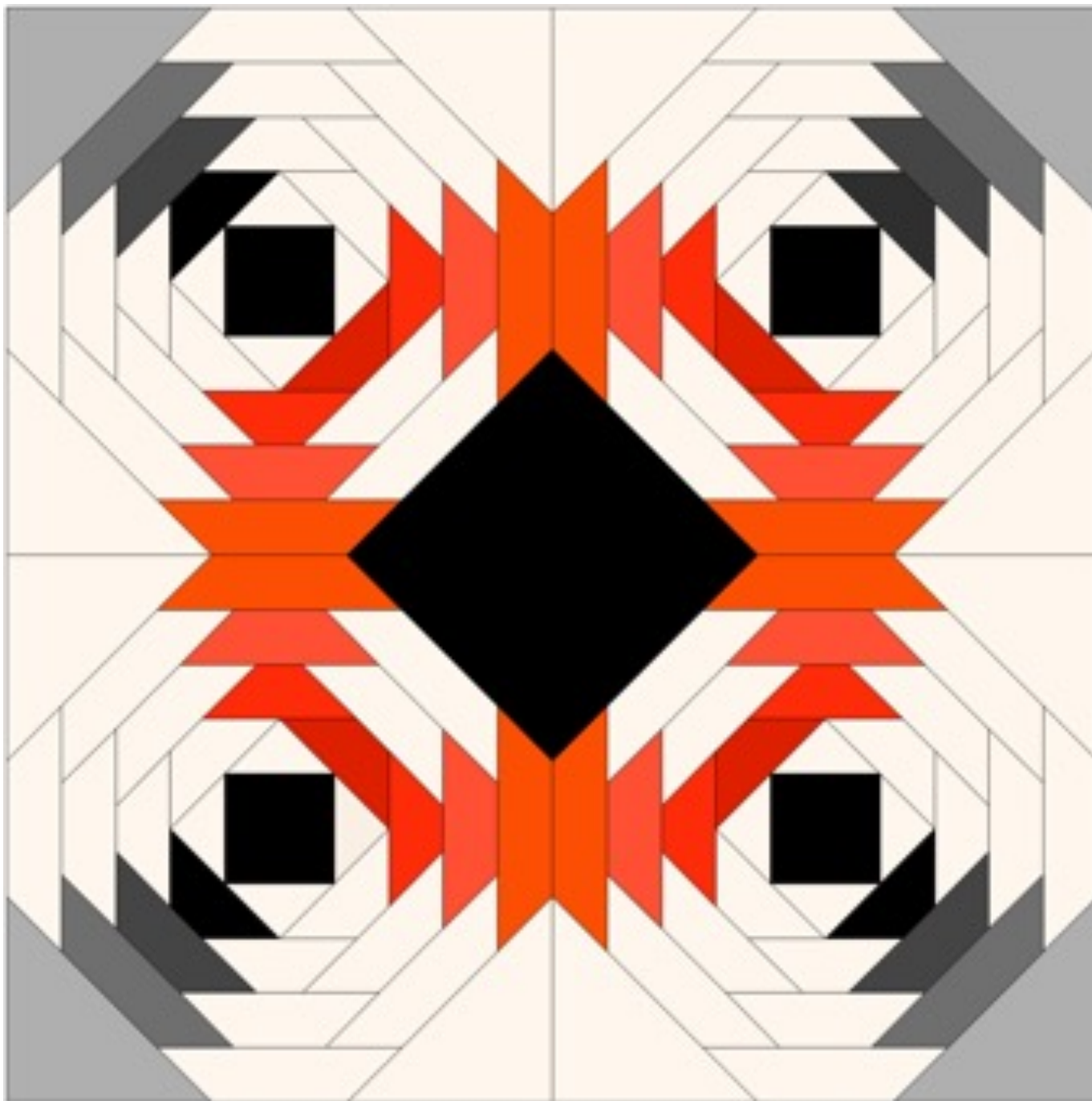
getting it together

1. Sew the four blocks together, with the black triangles meeting in the center.
2. Center the 4 3/8" x 4 3/8" square of freezer paper to the wrong side of the 5" skull center medallion and iron into place. On each of the four sides, press the seam allowance to the wrong side. Remove the freezer paper and pin the medallion to the center of the pillow top, being sure to cover all portions of the four black triangles. Applique into place.
3. Baste together the pillow top, batting and muslin. Quilt as desired. Trim to 16 1/2" x 16 1/2" square.
4. Using your preferred method, install the zipper in the center of the pillow back. Trim to 16 1/2" x 16 1/2" square.
5. Pin the quilted pillow top to the pillow back, wrong sides together. Using a long basting stitch, baste the pillow top and back together, using a 1/8" seam. This step will help hold the pillow top and back together as you bind the pillow. (Tip: If the zipper pull is close enough to the raw edge of the pillow back that moves the presser foot out of alignment for your seam allowance, just partially unzip the pillow. You'll probably need to do this when you stitch on the binding, as well.)
6. Bind as desired.
7. Open the zipper and install the pillow form.

about the designer

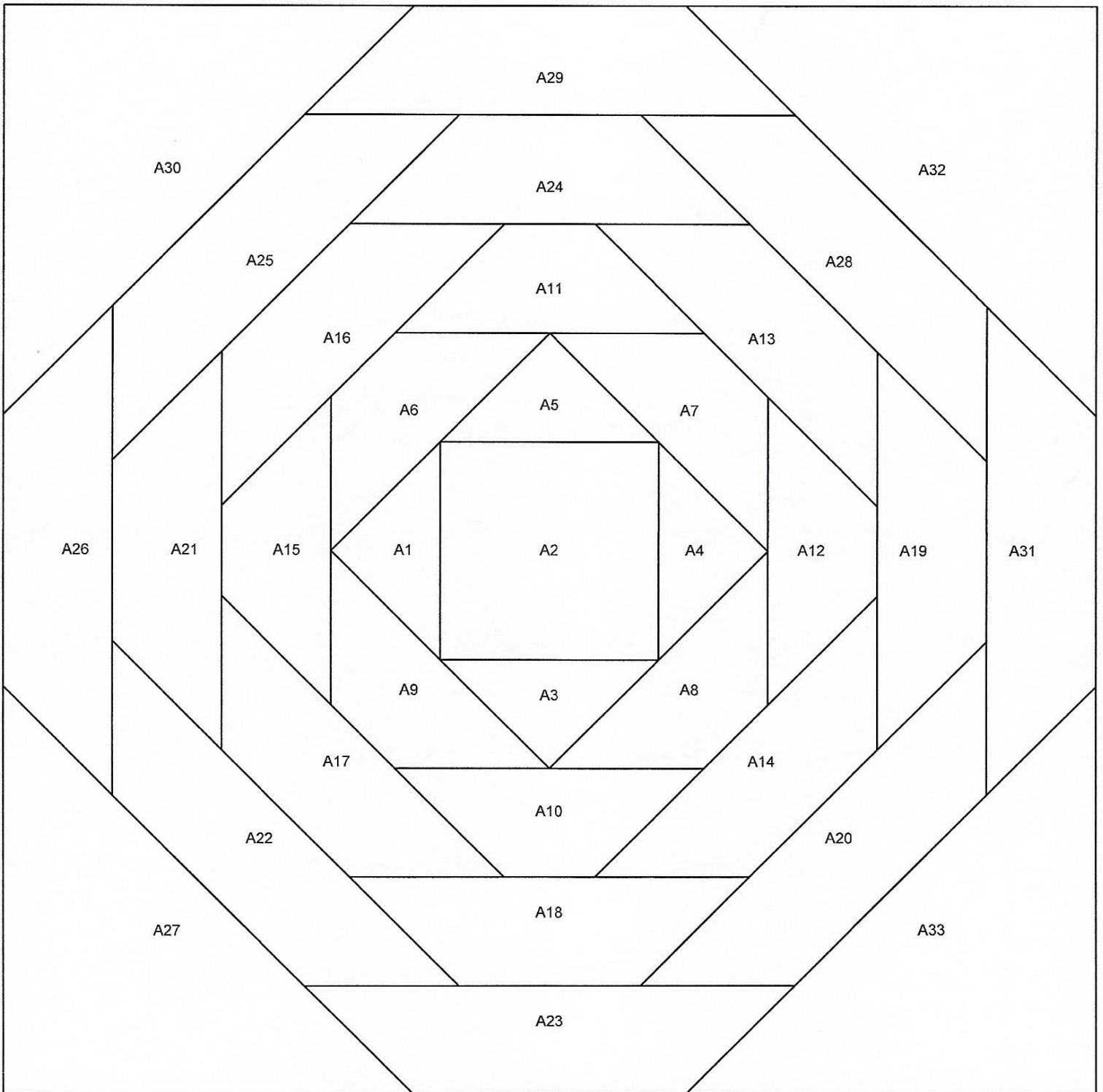


For as long as she can remember, Julie Elliott has been a maker. Following in her grandmother's and mother's footsteps, Julie has focused her creative energy on needlework, mainly quilting. She loves all forms of quilting regardless of the label – traditional, modern, or art quilt – and is currently focused on exploring new ways to re-imagine traditional blocks and patterns. Jurors have selected Julie's work to hang at QuiltCon, sponsored by The Modern Quilt Guild, and AQS QuiltWeek® in Paducah, Kentucky, sponsored by the American Quilter's Society.



Use this illustration for color and block placement.

Skullz Roundup Foundation Template



Please make 4 copies of this pattern to complete the pillow.