



Yup'ik Block

PatternLite



This is my variation of the Yup'ik block designed by Nicolette (Nikki) "Quluqaaq" Corbett for the Smithsonian's quilt-a-long series for 2026.

I found other Yup'ik artists who interpreted the water symbol as a river, and borrowed from them, the water flowing down the side of mountain. (Main inspiration credit goes to Jennifer Angaiak Wood.)

Block finishes at 10" square.

Please go to <https://americanindian.si.edu/quilting/> to download the original pattern.

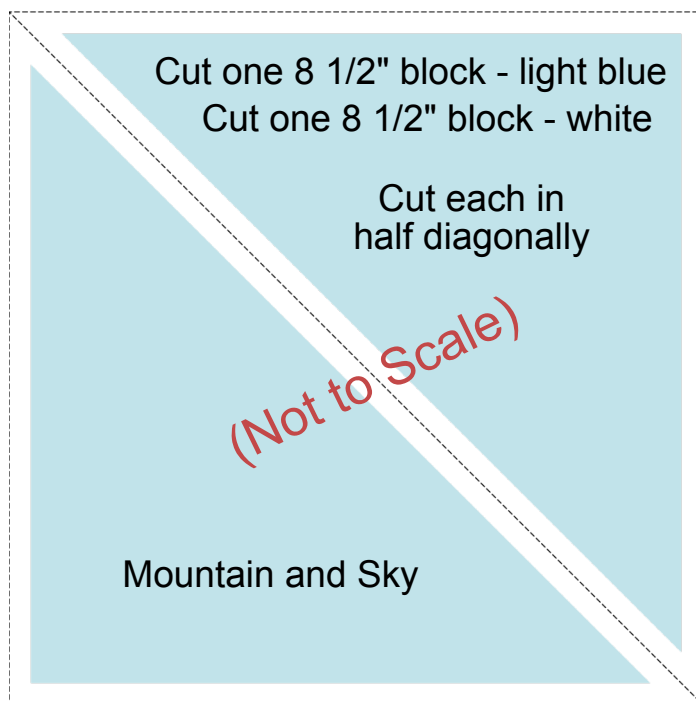
Note: Cutting the background as shown below will yield bias outer edges. Handle carefully so as not to stretch the block out of shape.

Appliqué the wavy edge of the river on each of the two mountain (blue) triangles, matching up the outer straight edge. Press.

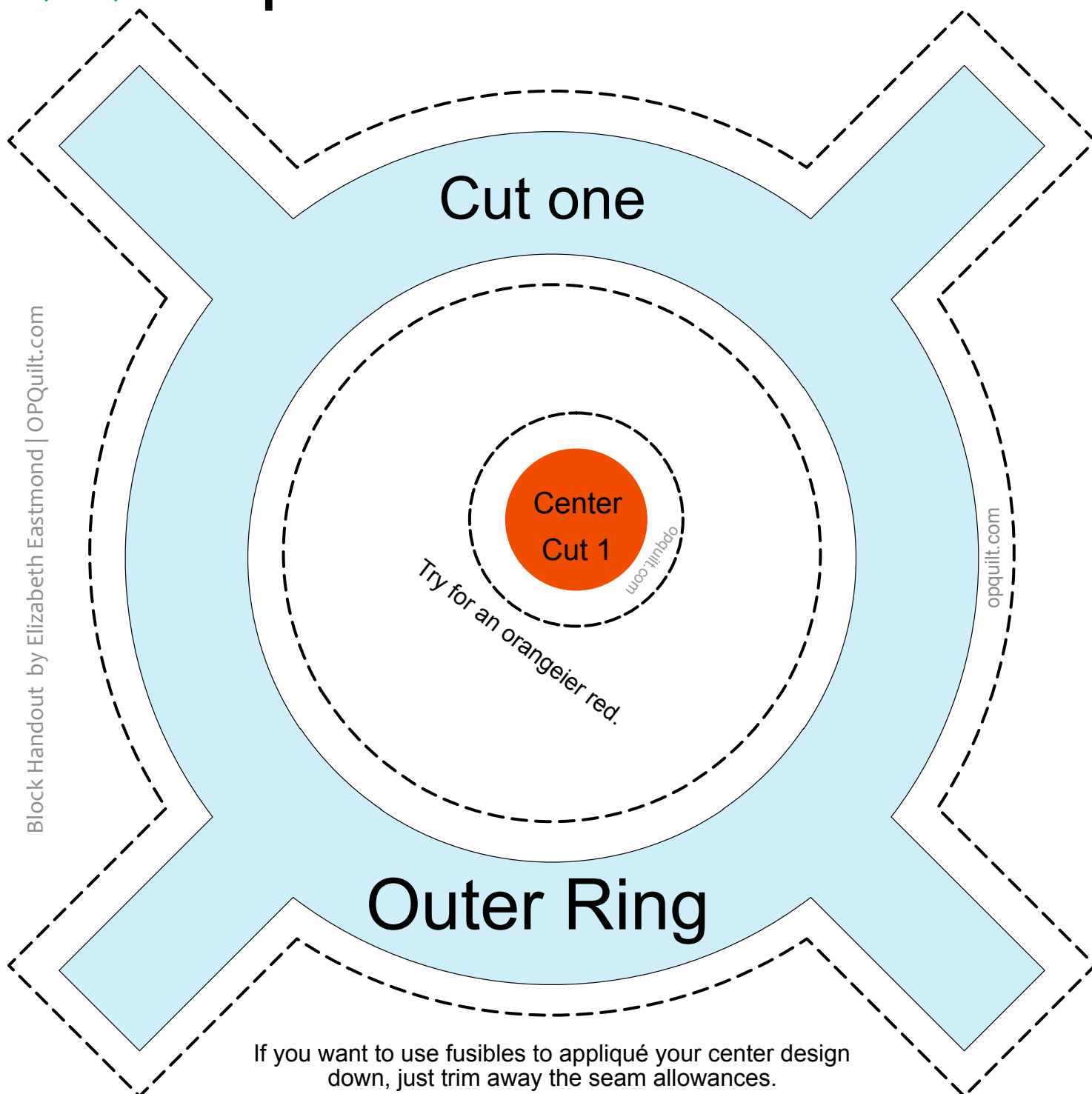
If desired, cut out the mountain fabric from behind the river to eliminate bulk.

Sew one mountain to one sky; press seam towards mountain. Then sew that unit to another mountain-sky unit. Press and twirl center seam allowances on the back to flatten them.

Feel free to change the wavy edge to suit your style: curvier with more rounded edges, if you want. You can also make each river different.

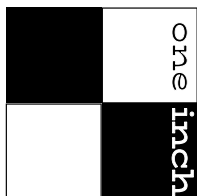


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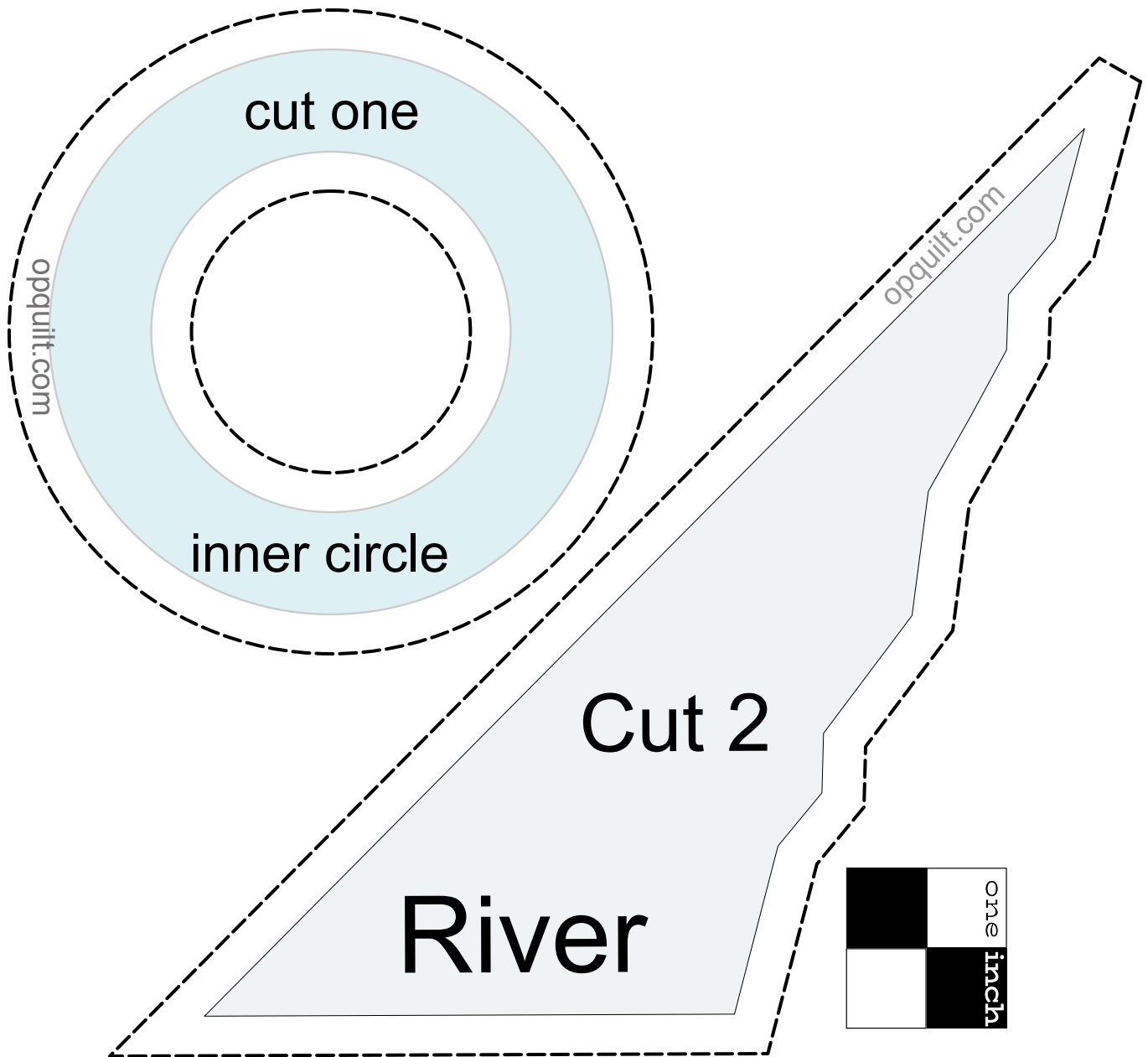
If you want to use fusibles to appliqué your center design down, just trim away the seam allowances.

Make the background, which includes appliquéing down the rivers. Center and appliqué the *ellam yua* symbol (the center circle and two rings). Press well. Trim to 10 ½" – the block will finish at 10" square.



Yup'ik Block

Block Handout by Elizabeth Eastmond | OPQuilt.com



Elizabeth
OPQuilt.com 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

PatternLite



Write if you have any questions—

Email: opquilt@gmail.com

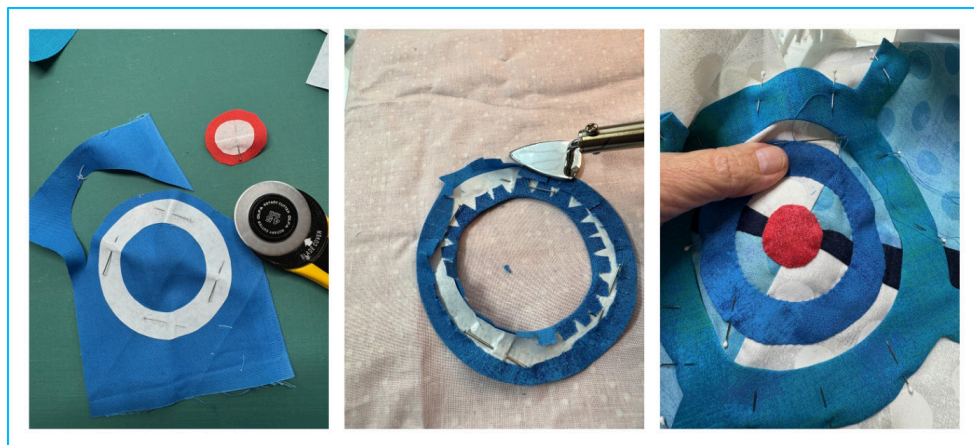
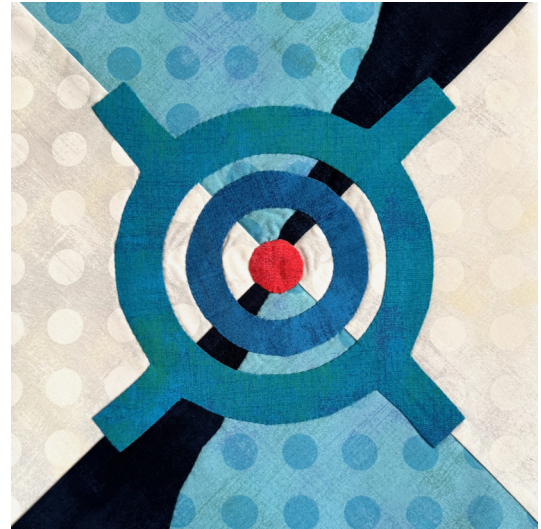
Web: www.opquilt.com

Instagram: [occasionalpiecequilt](https://www.instagram.com/occasionalpiecequilt)

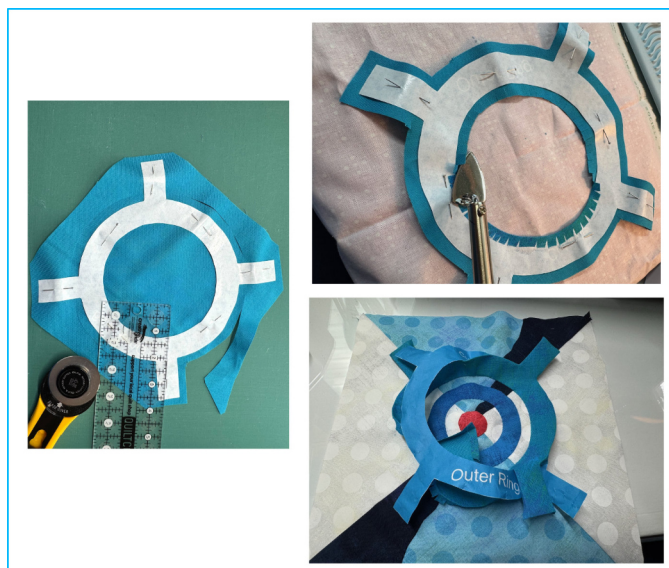
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I cut out the piece, used the freezer paper method to shape the appliqué, then stitched down the edge.

I cut out the extra behind the "river," then sewed the mountain and sky pieces together.



I used freezer paper to make mine. I cut out the inner circle, pinned it to cloth and cut around it about $\frac{1}{4}$ " both inside and out. I clipped around the edges.



I used a small iron to press the seam allowances over the waxy side of the freezer paper, and let it cool. Then I pinned it to the block, and stitched the inner circle. I removed the paper, re-pinned the circle and stitched that down.

I did a similar method for the outer symbol.

Press well from the back on a padded surface. Trim to $10\frac{1}{2}$ " square.