

# Tuffet

By Myra Mitchell

Skill Level: Intermediate

Tuffet Size: 18" x 18"

**Print the templates on pages 5–8 on 11" x 17" paper.**



## Making the Tuffet Cover Foundation Piecing the Center Units

Trace the lines and the pivot points from the foundation unit top and bottom sections onto the muslin, aligning the arrow on the template with the straight of grain of the muslin. Repeat to make 4 muslin foundations.

Foundation-piece 2" x 22" strips of fabric onto positions 1 and 2 of the muslin, sewing from the wide end to the narrow point (fig. 1). Trim the

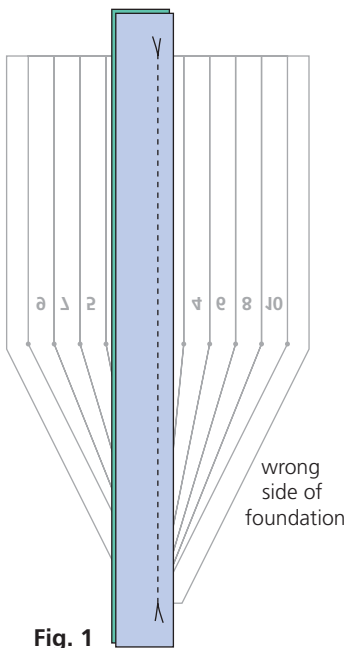


Fig. 1

seam allowance to ¼" and the top and bottom of the strips even with the edges of the foundation.

Foundation-piece a strip of fabric onto position 3, starting at the wide end and stopping with the needle down at the pivot point. Pivot the fabric strip and continue sewing to the narrow point. Trim the fabrics. Likewise, foundation-piece the strips onto position 4–10. Repeat to cover the 3 remaining muslin foundations with the fabric strips.

## Patch Piecing the Corner Sections

Onto the wrong sides of each patch A, Ar, B, Br, C, and Cr, lightly trace ¾" seam lines and pivot points. Clip into the seam allowance of the concave edge of each patch, stopping just before the pivot point (fig. 2).

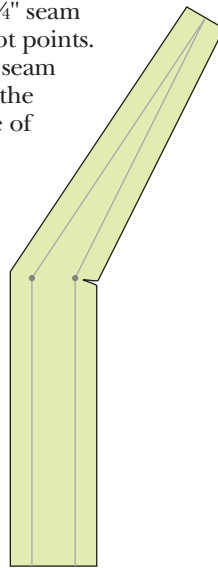


Fig. 2

With right sides together, match pivot points of patches A and B and pin the patches together as shown. Start stitching at the narrow end, back stitch, and stop at the pivot point with the needle down. Backstitch, and then stitch forward, again stopping at the pivot point with the needle down (fig. 3).

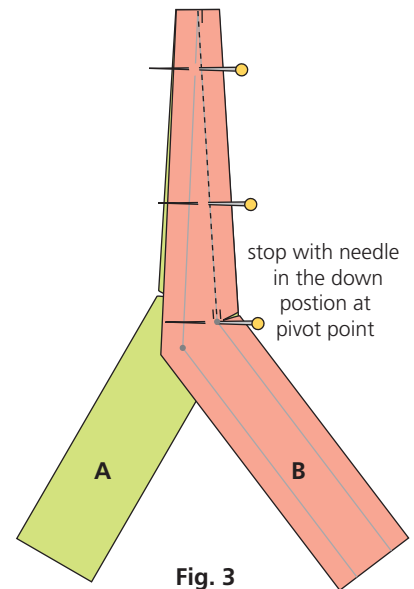
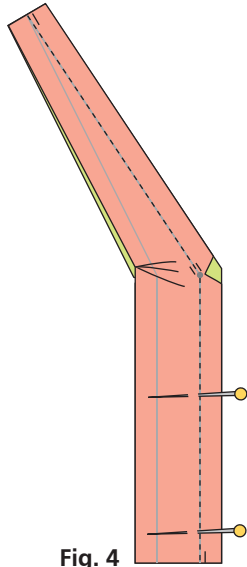


Fig. 3

# Tuffet continued

Pivot patch B to align the raw edge with patch A. Pin the patches together. Sew a few stitches, backstitch to the pivot point, and then sew forward to the bottom end and backstitch (fig. 4).



Likewise, sew a C patch to the B patch to complete a corner section. Repeat to make a 3 more corner section with patches A, B, and C and 4 corner sections with patches Ar, Br, and Cr.

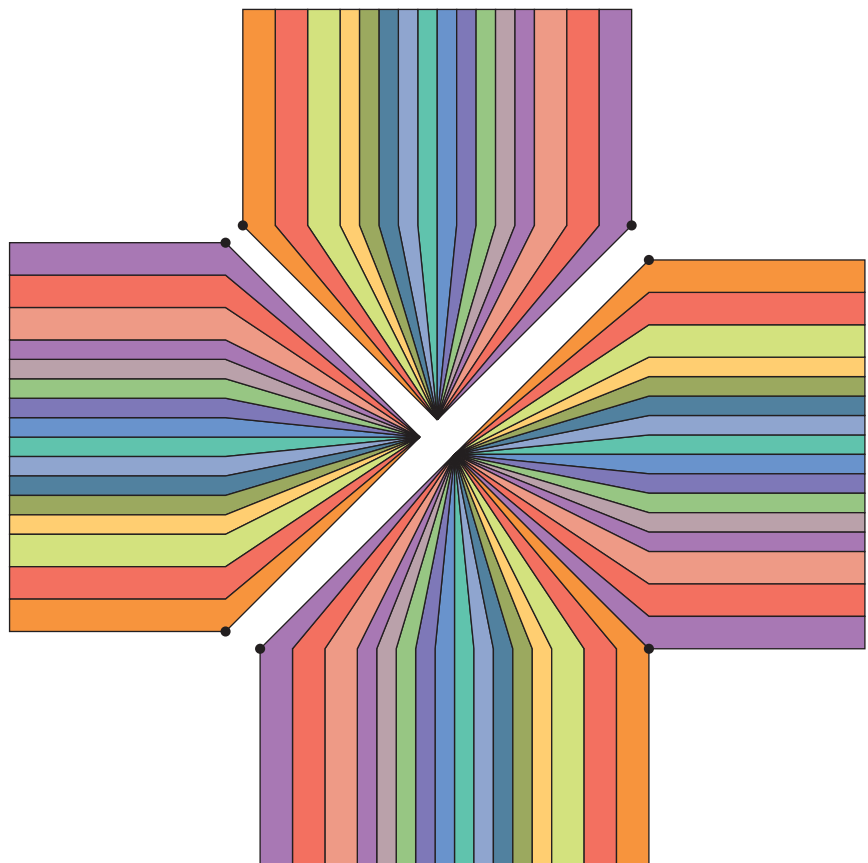
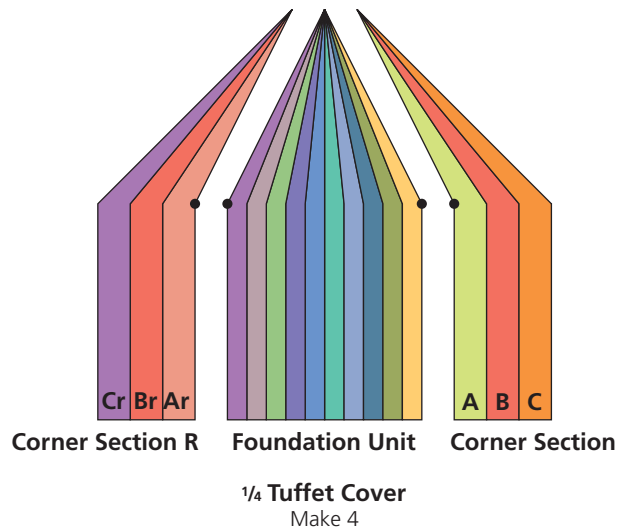
## Joining the Sections

For this step, refer to the  $\frac{1}{4}$  tuffet cover diagram.

Clip into the seam allowances of the A and Ar patches at the pivot points.

With right sides together, layer a corner section on top of a foundation unit. In the same manner as you sewed the A and B patches together (figs. 3 and 4), join the section and the unit together. Repeat to sew a reverse corner section to the foundation unit. Make 4.

Refer to the tuffet cover assembly diagram for this step. Join a pair of  $\frac{1}{4}$  tuffet covers together, starting at the narrow end, stopping at the pivot point, and backstitching at both ends. Starting at the pivot point, trim the seam allowance to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " , narrowing it to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " at the opposite end. Press the



**Tuffet Cover Assembly**

seam allowance open. Repeat to join the remaining pair of  $\frac{1}{4}$  tuffet covers together.

Join the 2 pairs, starting and stopping at the pivot points and backstitching

at both ends. This completes the top of the tuffet cover. To finish the sides, sew from the pivot points to the bottom raw edges, backstitching at both ends.

# Tuffet continued

## Making the Tuffet Base

Smooth any rough edges of the plywood with sand paper.

Using a permanent marker, draw centerlines on the plywood. Draw 2 dots in the center. Measure the width of the bun feet or wood legs and divide this number in half. Using that figure, measure in from both sides of a corner of the plywood and mark a dot. Repeat for each corner (fig. 5).

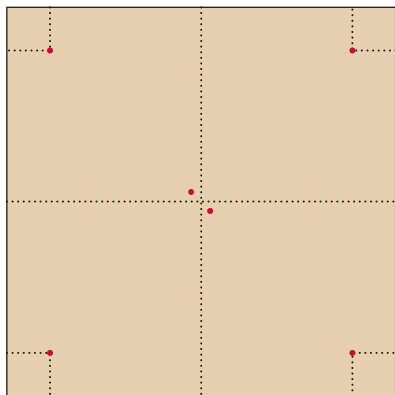


Fig. 5

Drill holes through the 6 dots. On the unmarked side of the plywood, hammer the tee-nuts through the drilled holes.

Spray the unmarked side of the plywood with upholstery adhesive. Center the foam rubber on the plywood and press into place (fig. 6). Let the adhesive dry.

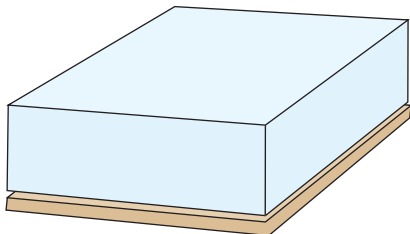


Fig. 6

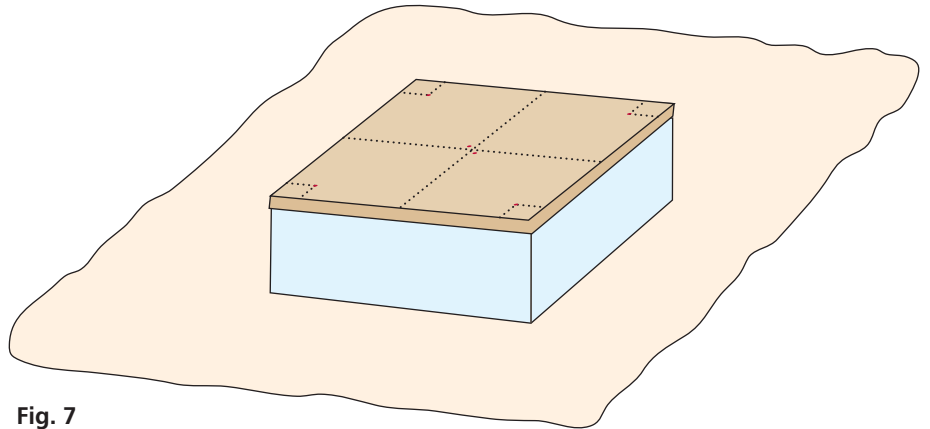


Fig. 7

Center a piece of the upholstery-weight batting on top of the foam rubber (fig. 7). Wrap the batting to the underside edge of the plywood, staple it in place, and trim excess.

Place the tuffet cover over the batting and foam rubber and check for fit. If there are any flat spots, remove the tuffet cover and add a second layer of batting. Trim and staple the batting to the plywood.

## Adding the Tuffet Cover

Center the tuffet cover on the base. If it is loose, adjust the seam widths as needed. Turn the base upside down and gently pull the cover to make a snug fit. Staple the edges of the cover to the underside of the plywood, working from side to opposite side. At the corners, trim the cover to expose the 4 drilled holes and staple the cover around the holes.

## Covering the Button

Make a circle pattern supplied with your button, adding  $\frac{3}{4}$ " all around. Use the pattern to cut circles from the 6" squares of fabric and batting.

Remove the shank from the button and discard it and the back cover. Layer the batting on the wrong side of the fabric circle. Double-thread a hand-sewing needle with upholstery thread and knot the ends together.

Make a running stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge of the circles. Place the button in the center of the batting and gather the thread tightly around the button (fig. 8). Securely knot and then trim the thread.

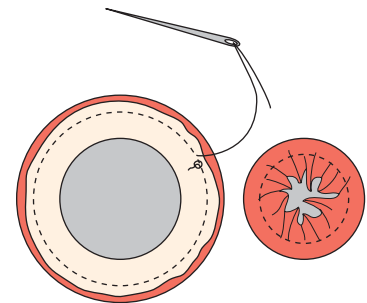


Fig. 8

Double-thread the needle with upholstery thread and knot the ends together. Stitch from side to side and back again. Repeat 3 more times (fig. 9). This "spider web" of thread will act as a shank when you sew the button to the top of the tuffet.

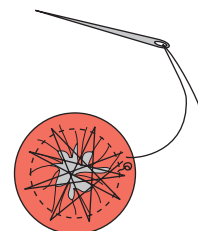


Fig. 9

# Tuffet continued

## Attaching the Covered Button

Turn the tuffet upside down. Push the unthreaded eye of a 12"-long upholstery needle through a center hole in the bottom of the plywood, passing it through the foam rubber, batting, and center of the tuffet cover until the eye of the needle is exposed. Pass 2 strands of upholstery thread through opposite sides of the spider web shank on the back of the covered button (shown as purple thread in fig. 10). Thread the 12"-long needle with the thread ends.

Pull the threaded needle back down through the batting, foam, and plywood. Remove the thread from the needle, leaving the thread ends loose and the button extending a few inches away from the tuffet cover.

Likewise, push the needle through the other center hole at the bottom of the plywood and through the tuffet layers until the eye is exposed. Pass 2 strands of upholstery thread through opposite sides of the spider web (shown as blue thread in fig. 10). Thread the 12"-long needle with the thread ends and pull the needle out through the bottom hole.

Place a small scrap of batting between the plywood and the threads. Make an indentation on the top of the tuffet by pressing down on the button while another person pulls the ends of the threads. Securely tie off the thread ends. Tightly pull the thread ends to one side and staple them to the plywood.

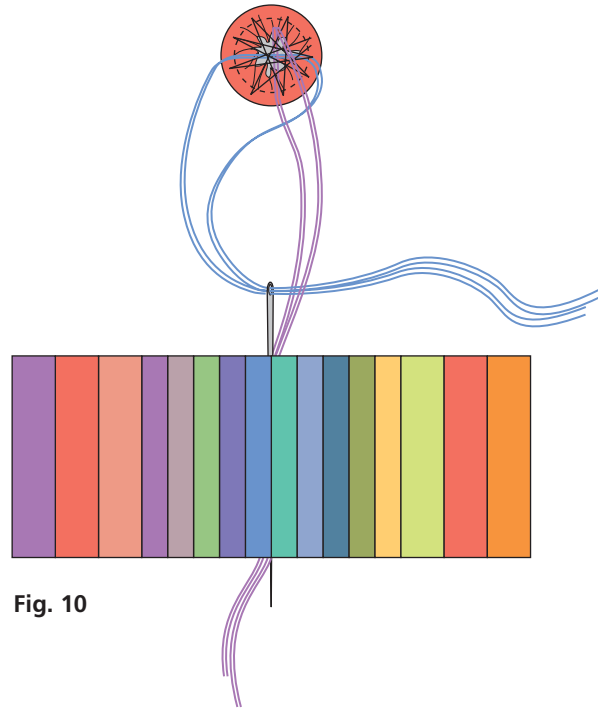


Fig. 10

## Covering the Tuffet Bottom

Turn the tuffet upside down. Center the 19" square of fabric right side up on the plywood.

Starting at the midpoint of an edge, fold the fabric under and align the fold with the edge of the plywood. Use a staple gun or upholstery tack to secure the folded fabric in place. Smooth the fabric and repeat for the opposite edge of the plywood. Repeat for the remaining sides of the plywood.

Continue around the plywood until all edges of the fabric are folded and secured.

## Attaching the Bun Feet or Wood Legs

If needed, prime and paint or stain the bun feet or wood legs.

If needed, use a  $\frac{5}{16}$ " bit to drill holes in the legs. Drill the holes just long enough for the pointed bolt end (the end with the large ends) to screw into the holes.

Screw a hanger bolt into a leg. Repeat for the other legs.

On the plywood board, find the predrilled holes for the legs and make openings in the fabric to completely expose the holes.

Screw the feet into the holes of the plywood base until snug (fig. 11).



Fig. 11

## Adding Optional Embellishments

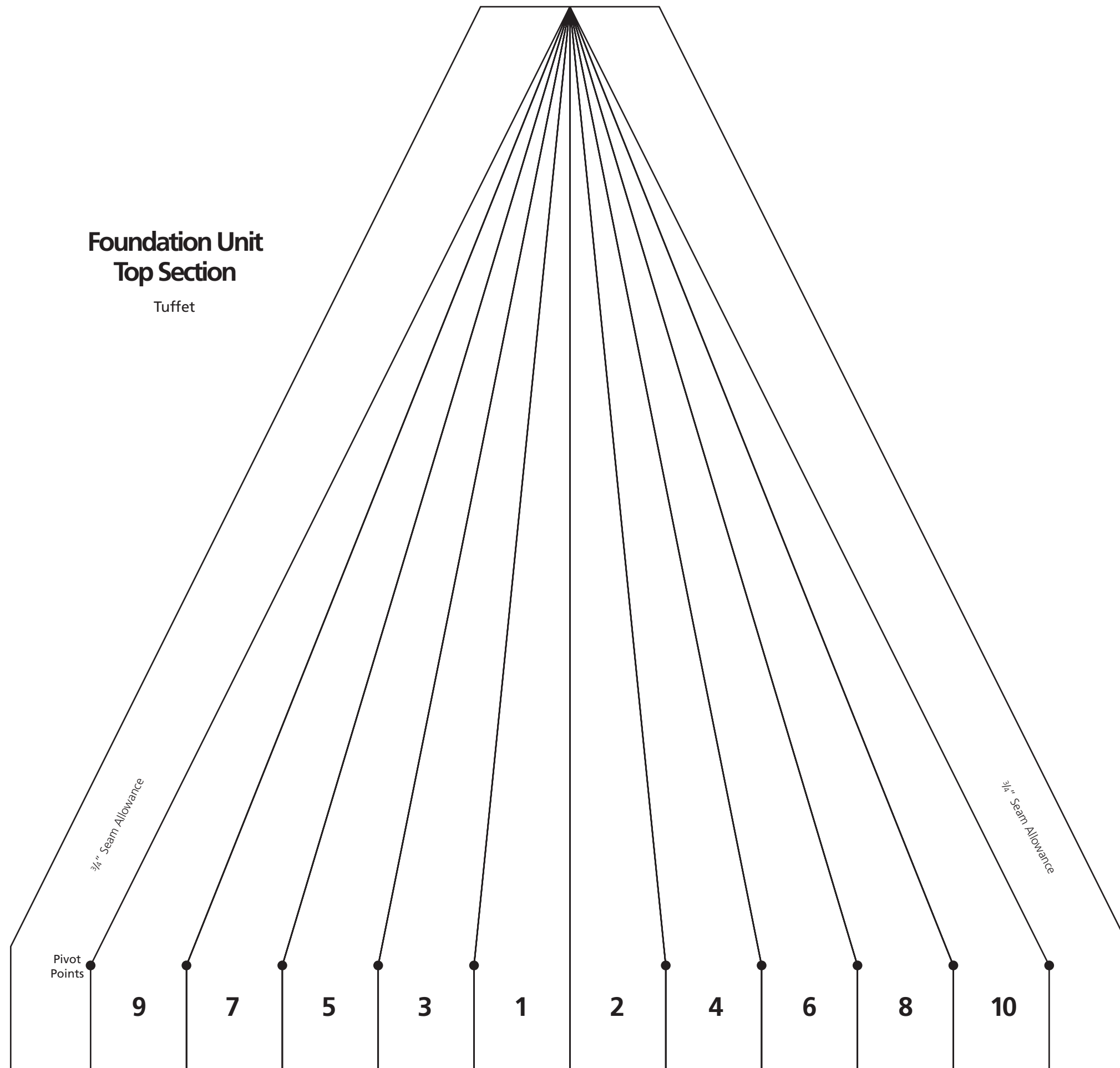
If you wish, embellish the button with beads and attach beaded fringe or other embellishment around the bottom edge of the tuffet.



# Tuffet continued

## Foundation Unit Top Section

Tuffet



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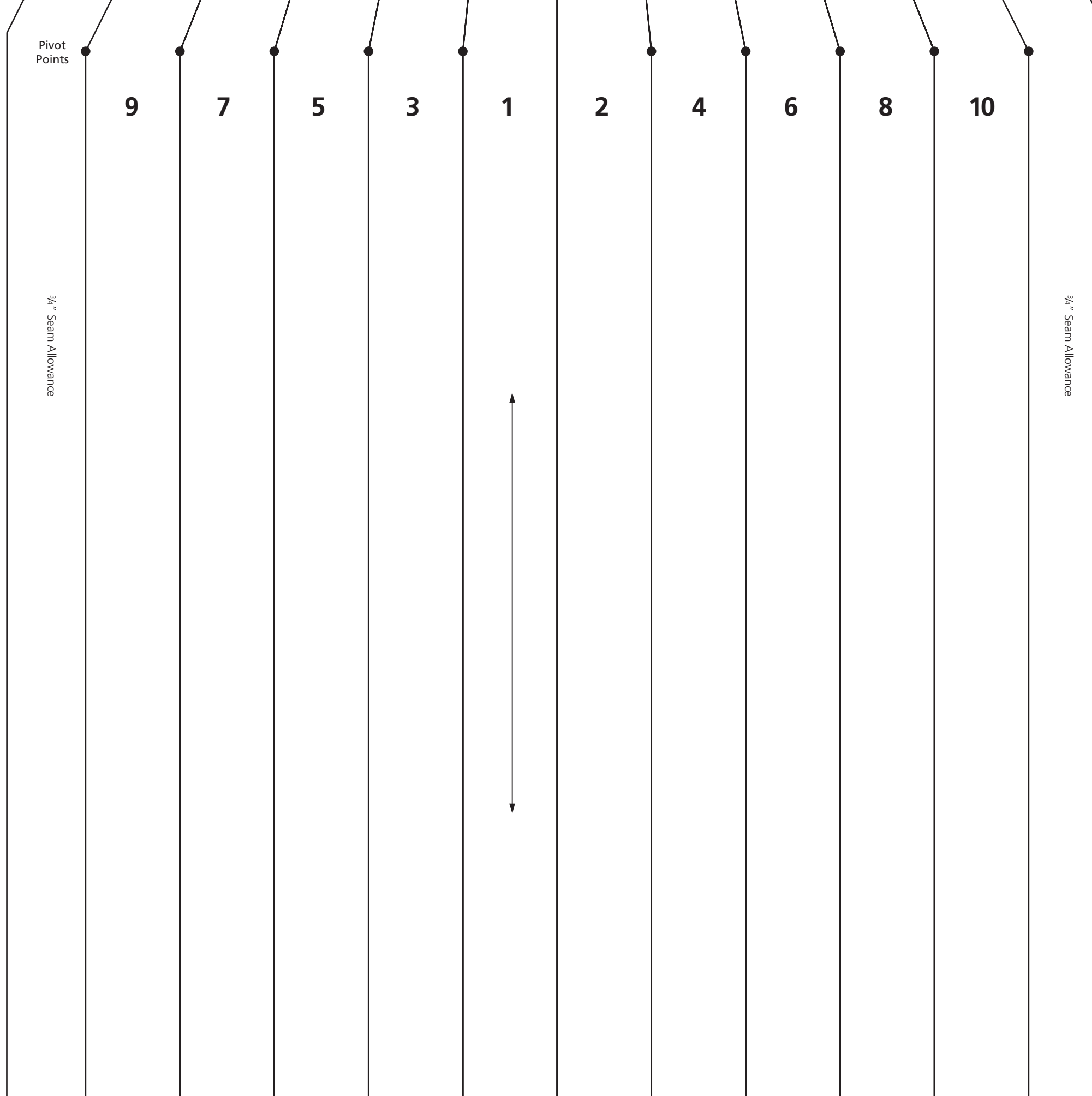


Matching dots, join  
top and bottom  
foundation unit sections.

Tuffet  
continued

### Foundation Unit Bottom Section

Tuffet

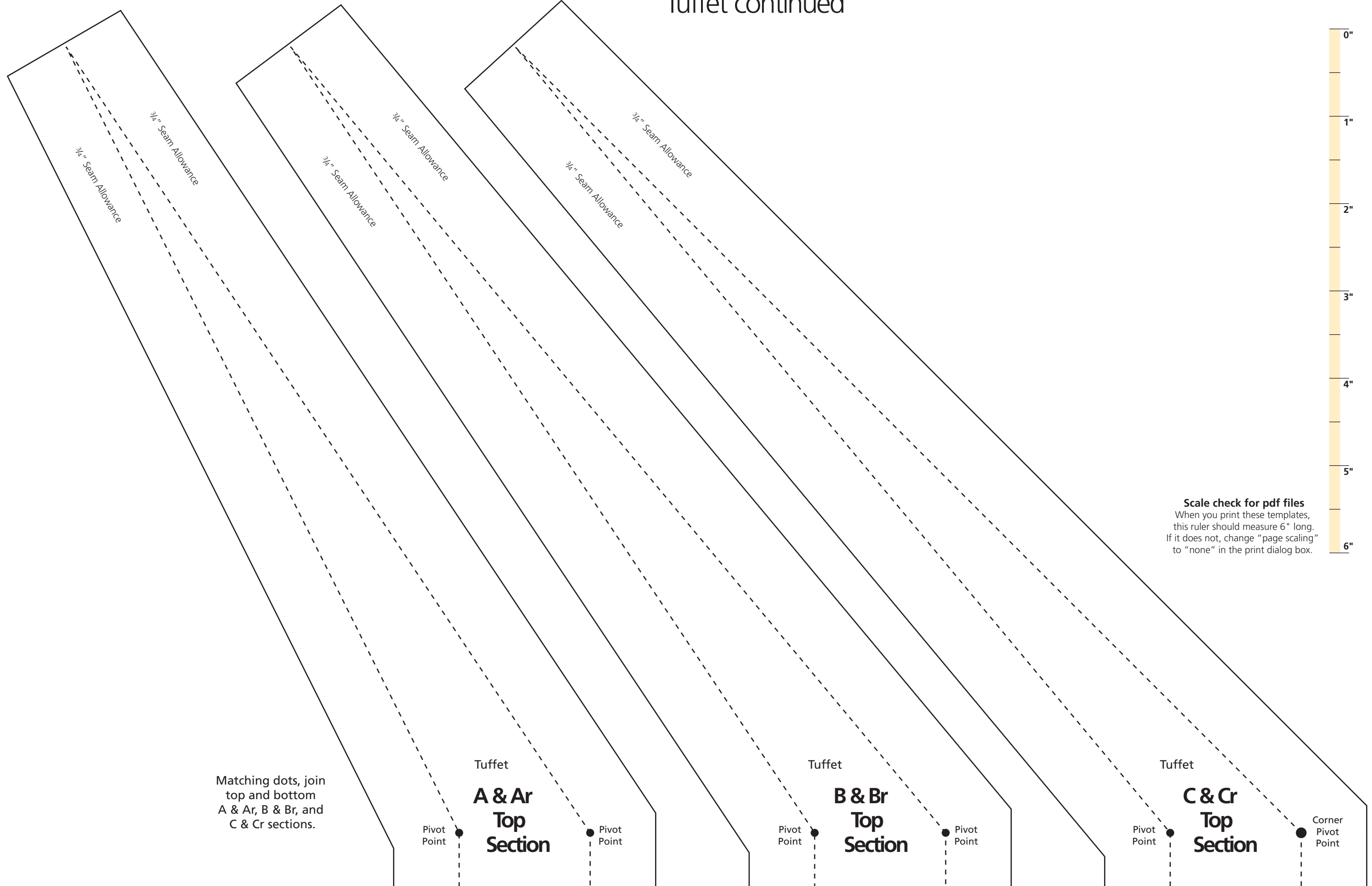


Matching dots, join  
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foundation unit sections.



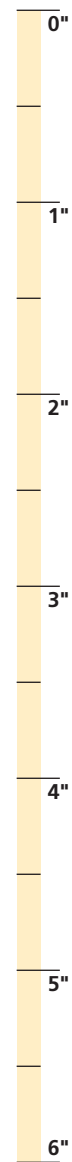
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# Tuffet continued



# Tuffet continued

Matching dots, join top and bottom A & Ar, B & Br, and C & Cr sections.



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## A & Ar Bottom Section

Tuffet

3/4" Seam Allowance

3/4" Seam Allowance

## B & Br Bottom Section

Tuffet

3/4" Seam Allowance

3/4" Seam Allowance

## C & Cr Bottom Section

Tuffet

3/4" Seam Allowance

3/4" Seam Allowance