

African American Slave Artisans

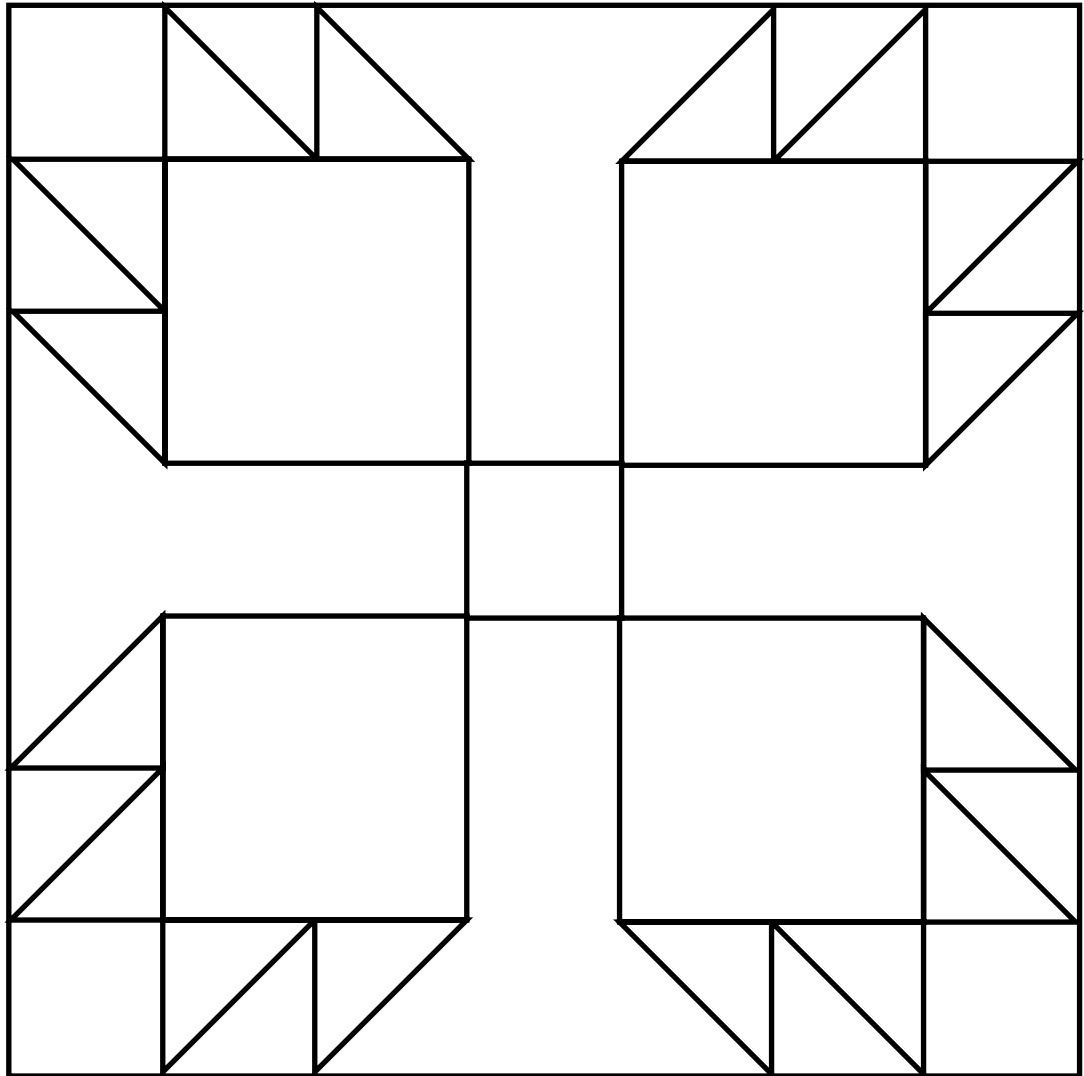
The Underground Railroad



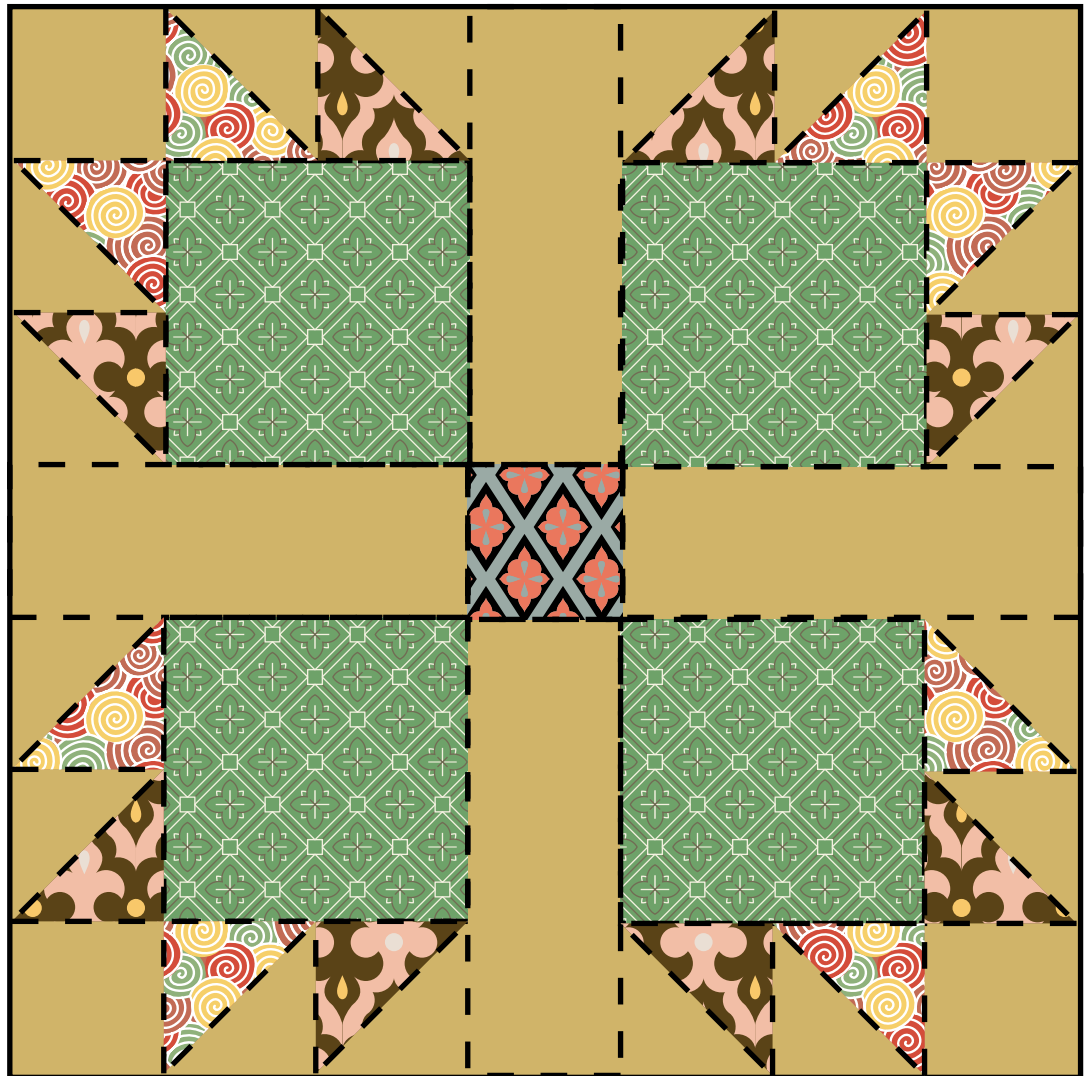
Quilt Patterns and Their Meanings

Bear Paw

It is thought that this pattern instructed the salves to follow the path of the bear for fresh water and fish.

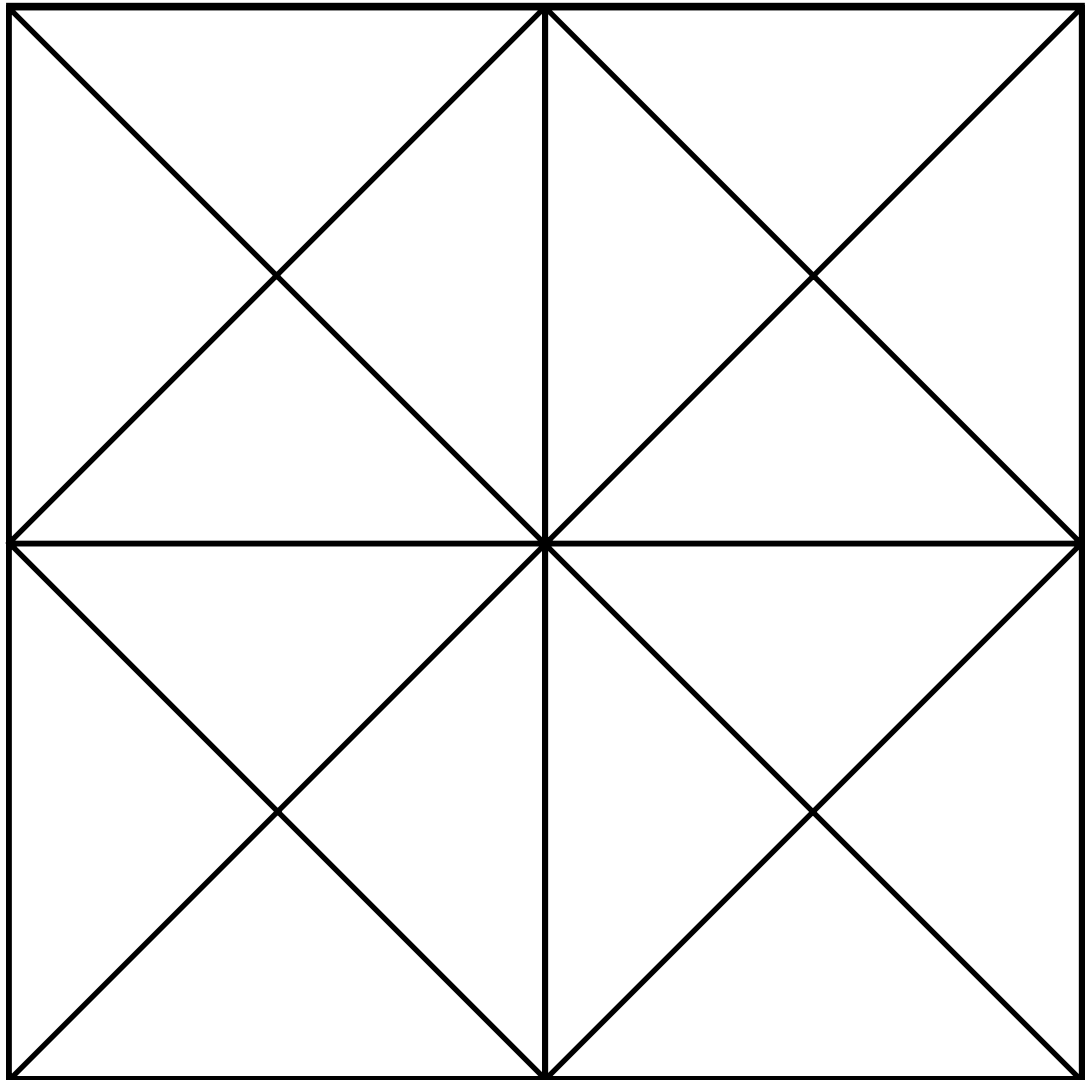


Bear Paw

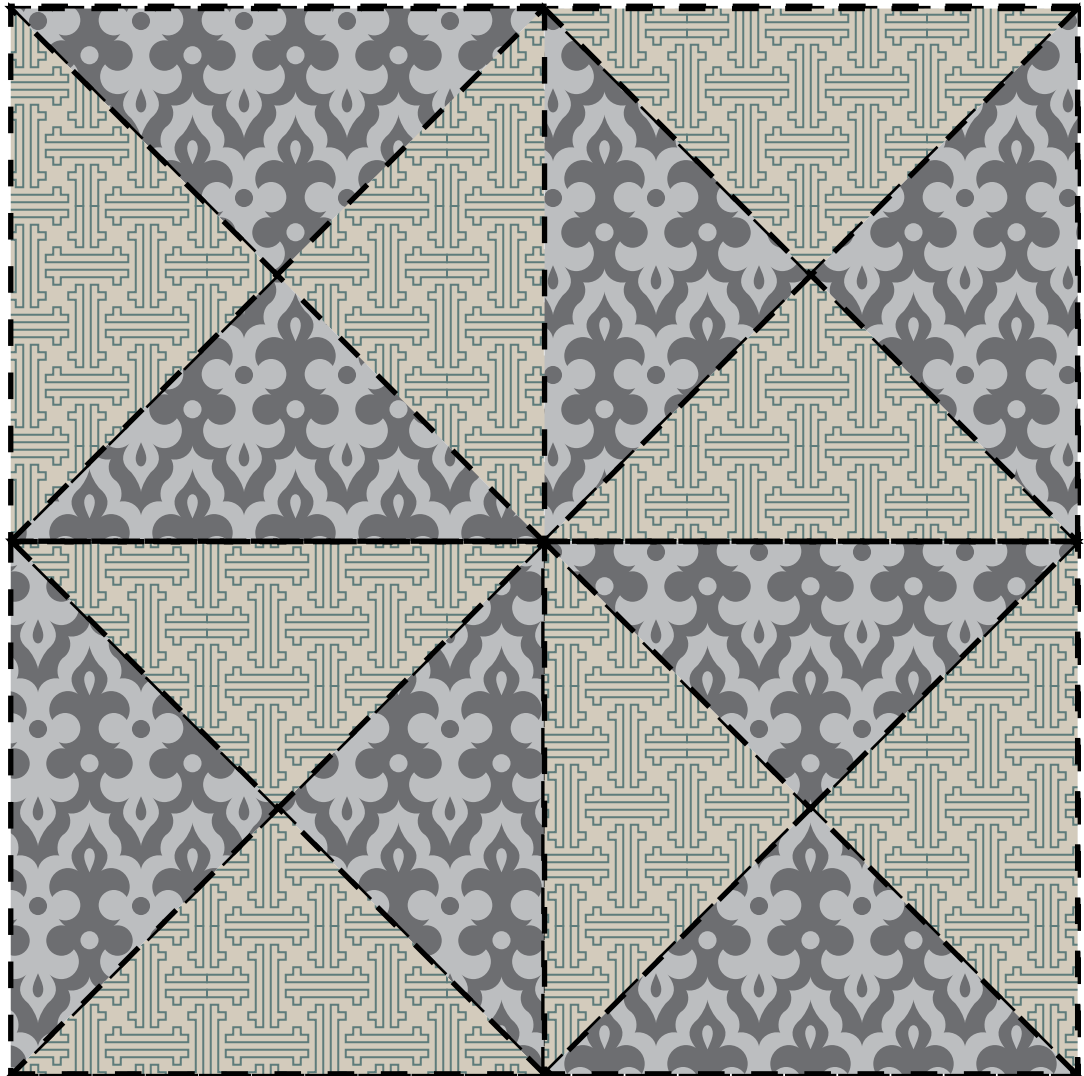


Bow Ties

The bow tie pattern had a few meanings. One was that the slave should dress in disguise or to put on a change of clothes. Another meaning was that someone would bring them a change of clothes to help them blend in.

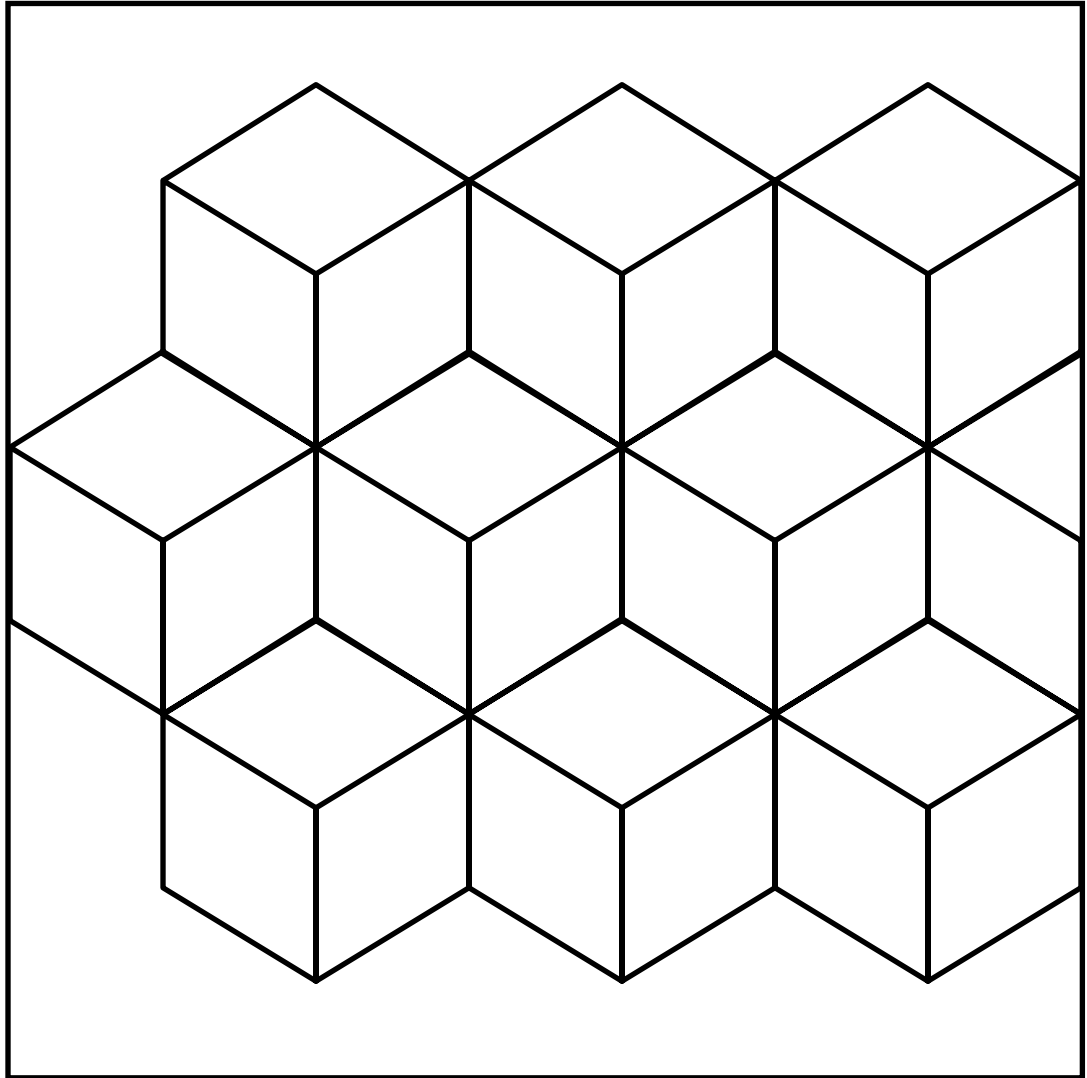


Bow Ties

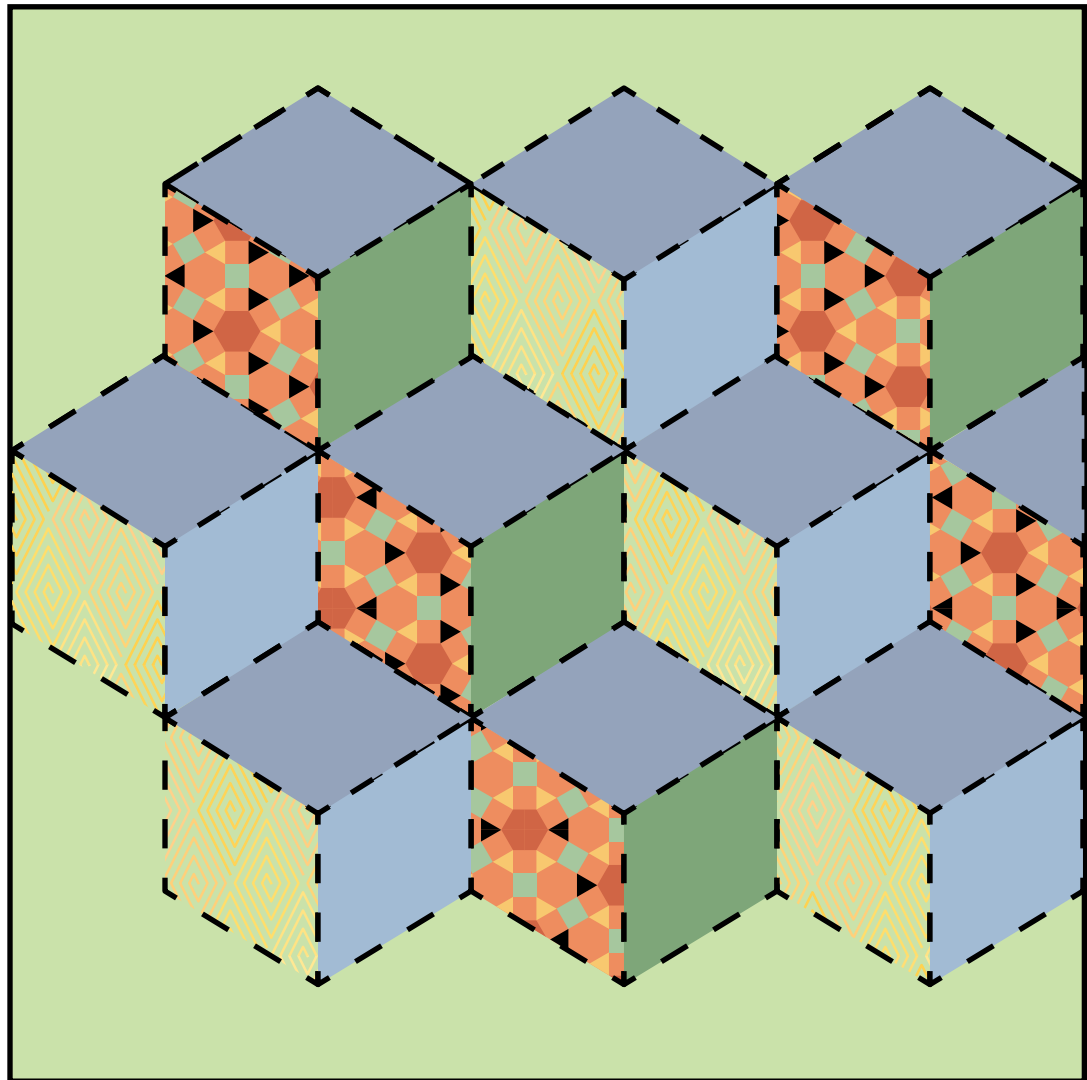


Tumbling Blocks (Boxes)

This pattern symbolized that it was time to pack up and go. That a conductor was in the area.

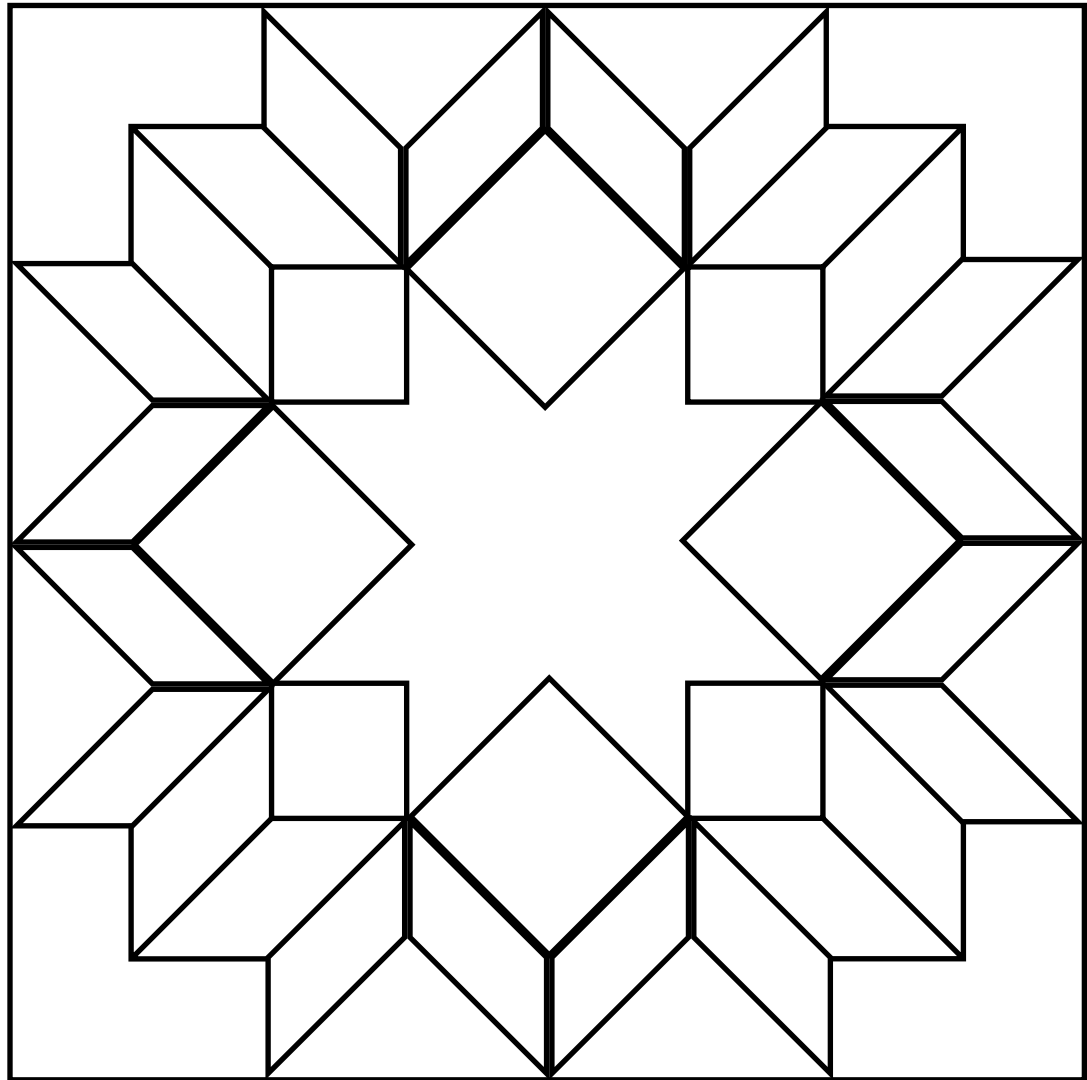


Tumbling Blocks (Boxes)

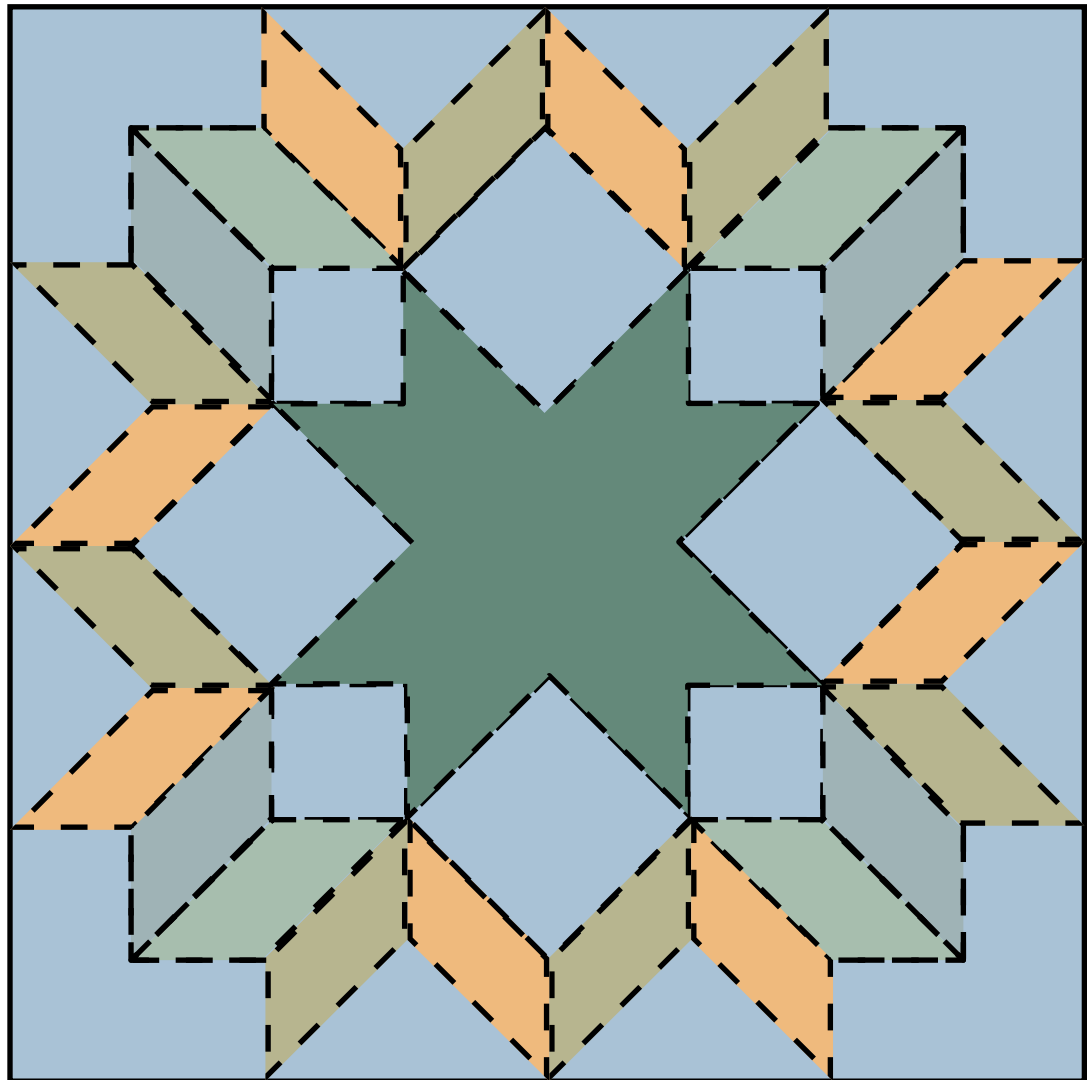


Carpenter's Wheel

Also a variation on the Wagon's Wheel. Several meanings come with the pattern. One is that Jesus (the great carpenter) would guide them. The other referring to the wagon wheel, was for them to pack up, or load up the wagon. It is also said that perhaps it meant a wagon with hidden compartments might be on the way for them to travel in.

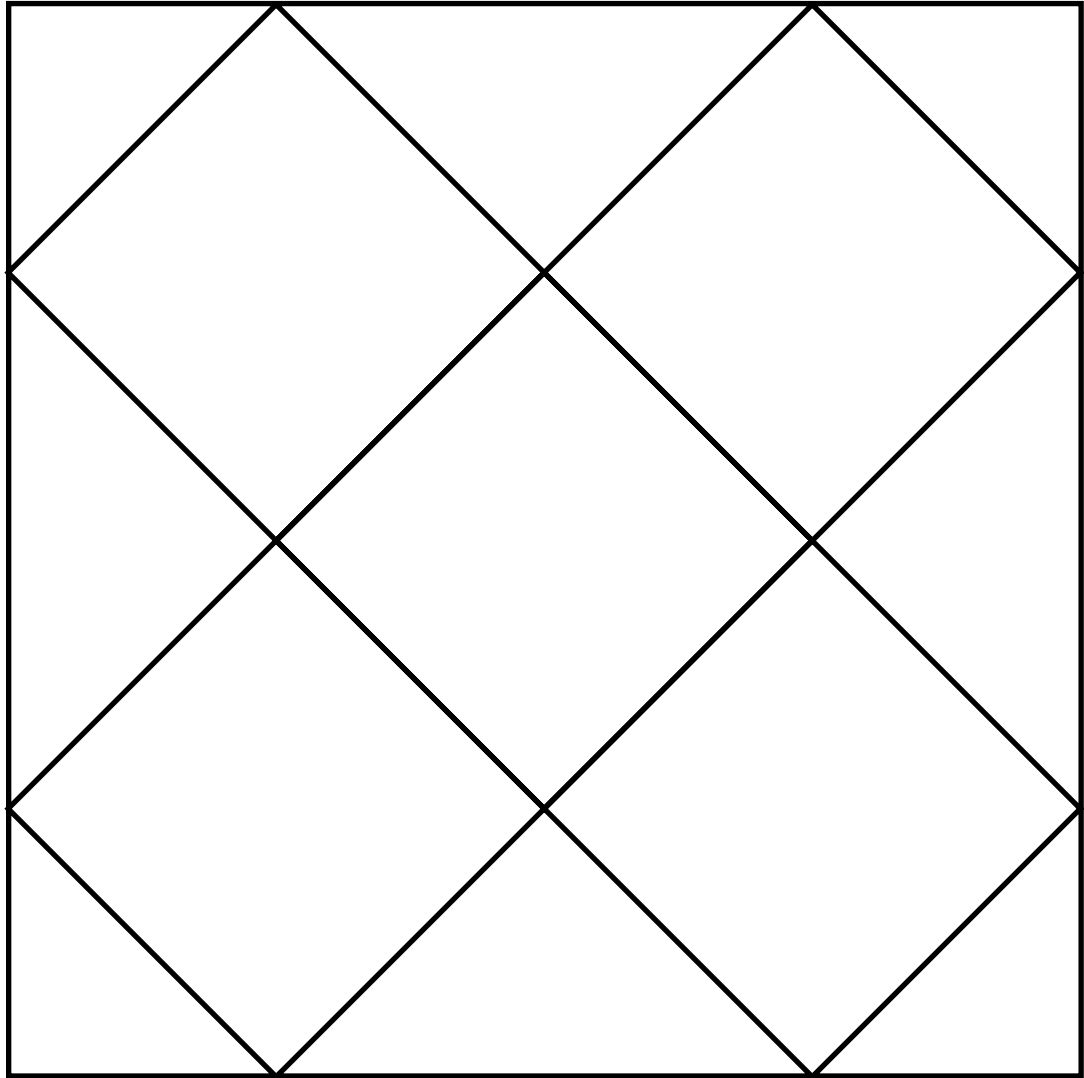


Carpenter's Wheel



Cross Roads

This pattern refers to Cleveland, Ohio, an area offering several routes to freedom. Any quilt hung before this one would have given directions to Ohio.



Cross Roads

