
4.2 designing a repeating block print

As we discussed last week in post 3.2, there are many different types of print designs including; placements, repeats and borders. During the screen printing tutorial we focused on designing a placement print and now in this final week, we complete the set with repeat and border designs printed using blocks.

Both these categories of design involve aligning patterns so that they accurately register next to each other to create an all over pattern but there are also different kinds of repeats. Have a look at the different options below before deciding which one you'd like to try for yourself.

you will need:-

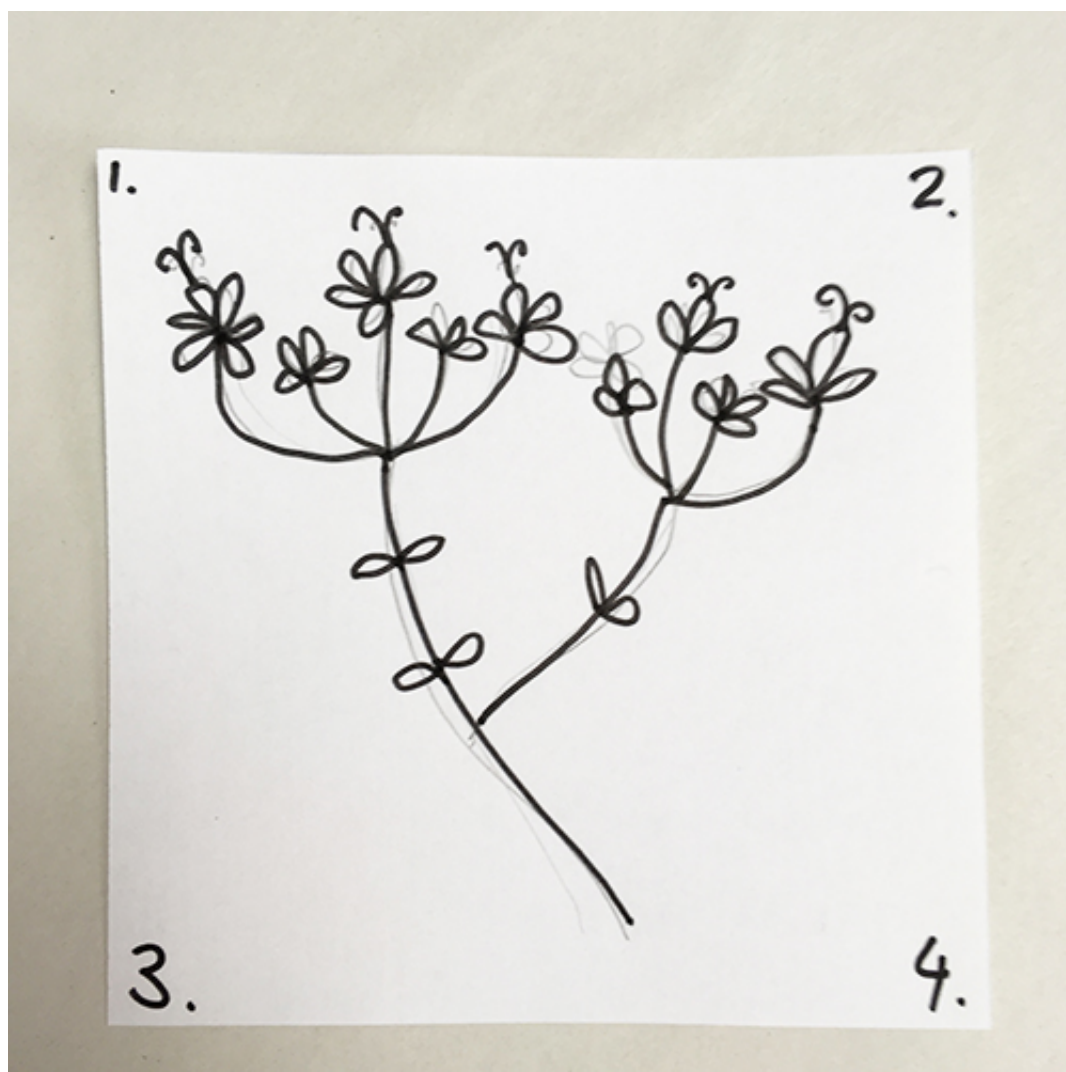
- pencil/pen
- paper
- tracing paper
- ruler
- craft knife/scissors
- carving block (if you want to design straight onto it)

full drop/block repeat

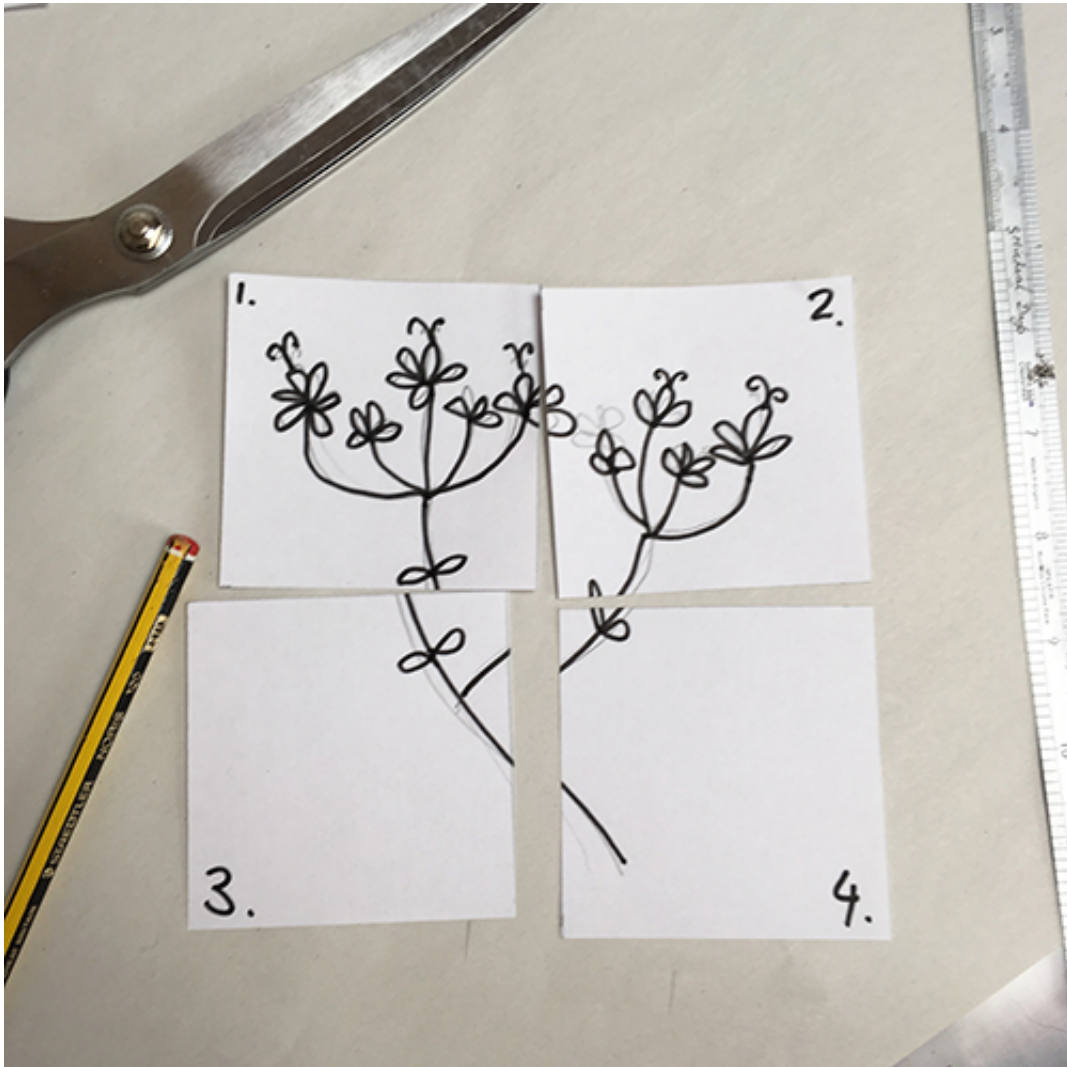
instructions

1. cut a piece of paper the same size as your block then draw your design in the centre without touching the edges. Number each corner as in the pictures below.
2. divide your paper in quarters

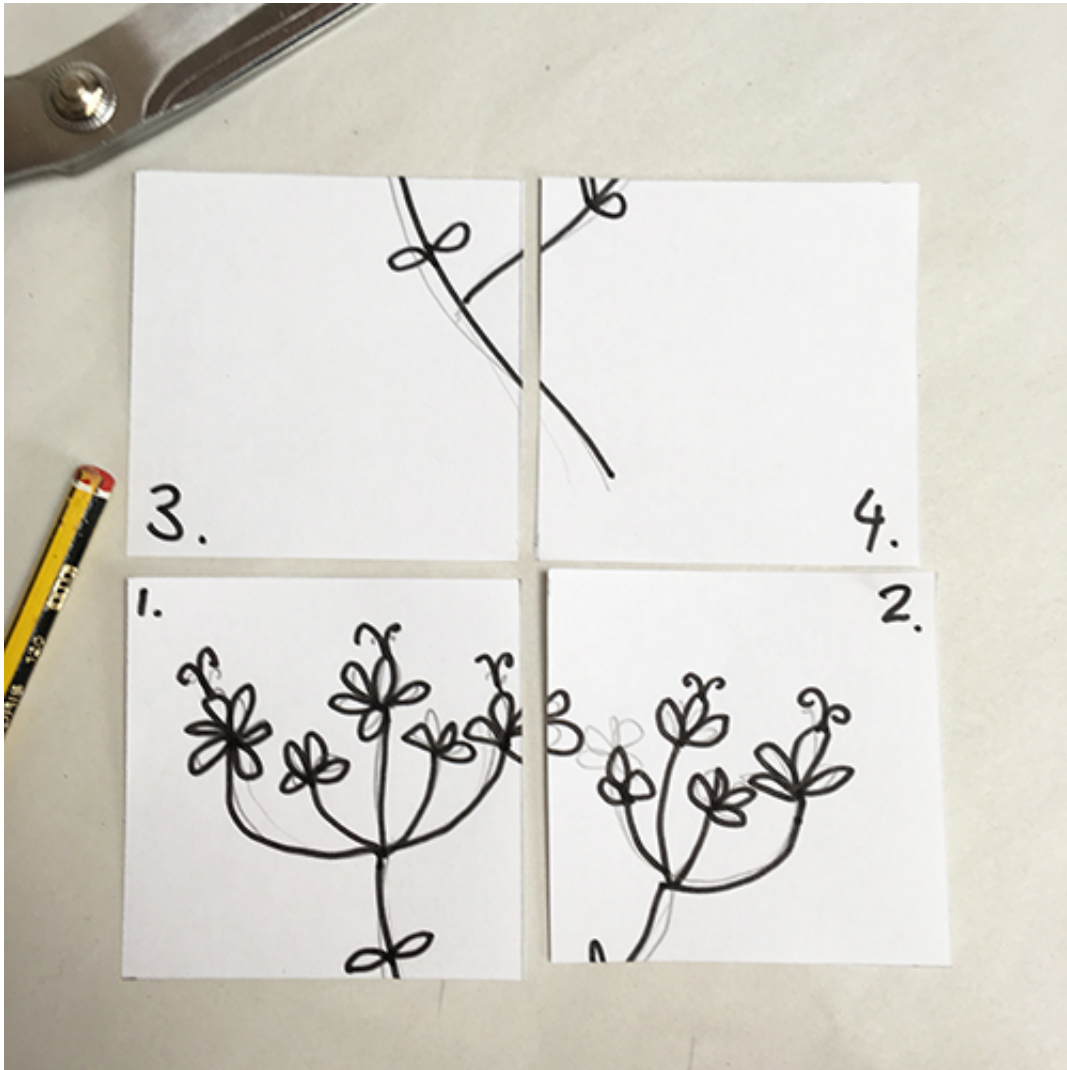
-
3. swap the top row for the bottom row i.e. put squares numbered 1 and 2 on the bottom and squares numbered 3 and 4 on the top
 4. swap the left column for the right column i.e. put squares numbered 1 and 3 on the right and squares numbered 2 and 4 on the left
 5. tape on reverse and fill in any gaps with additional designs
 6. this is now ready to be traced on to your block to create a full drop repeating pattern



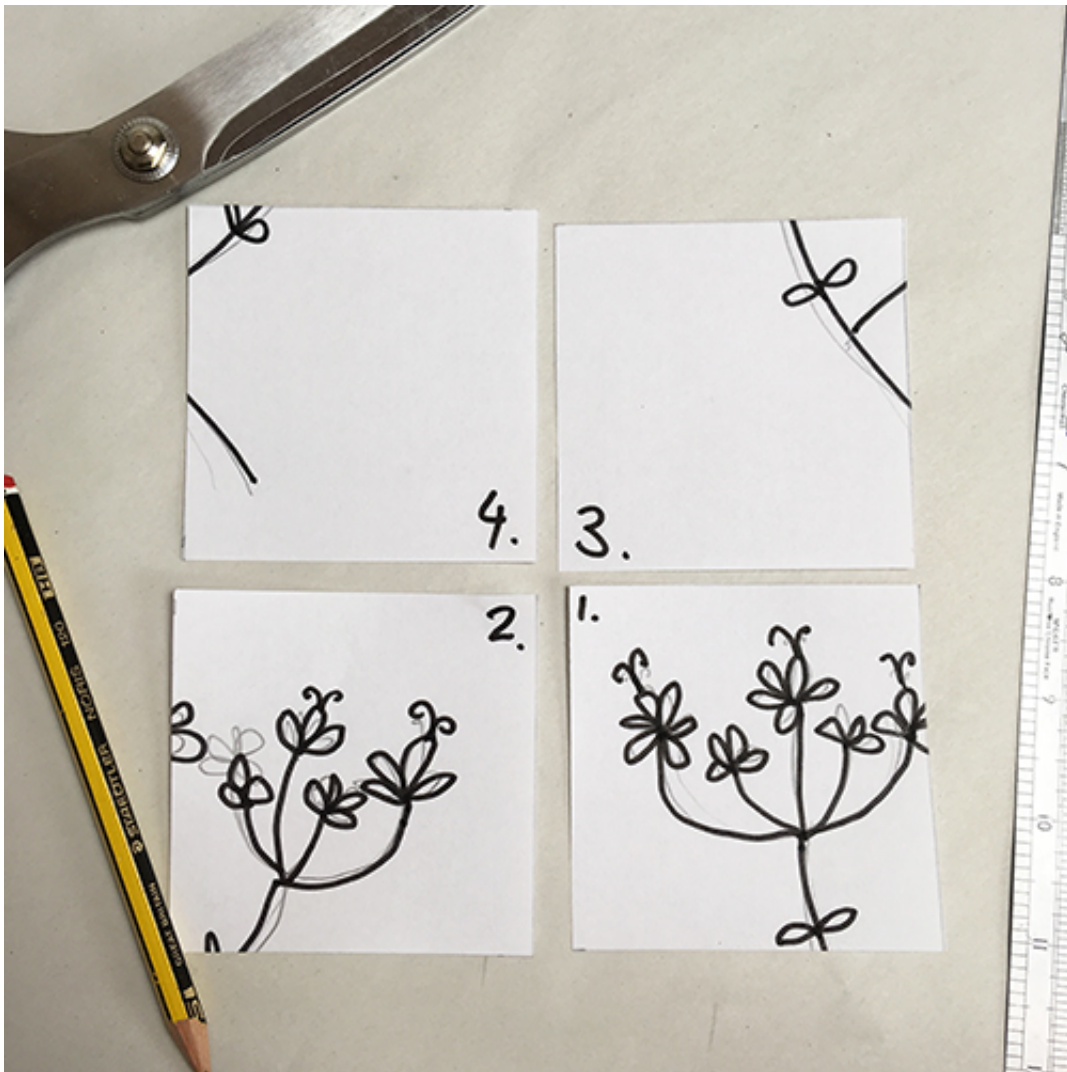
1. draw your design then number each corner as shown above



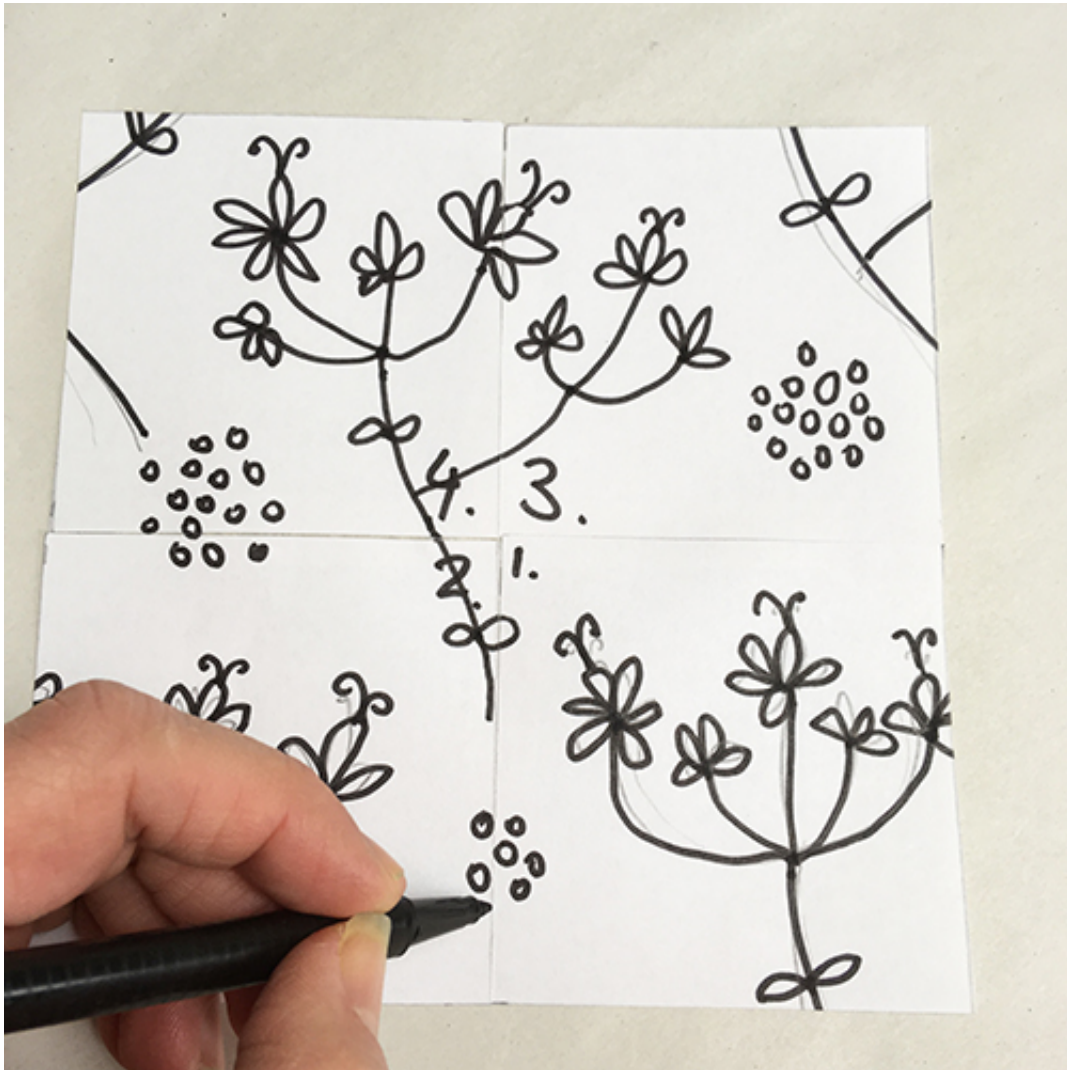
2. divide your design into quarters



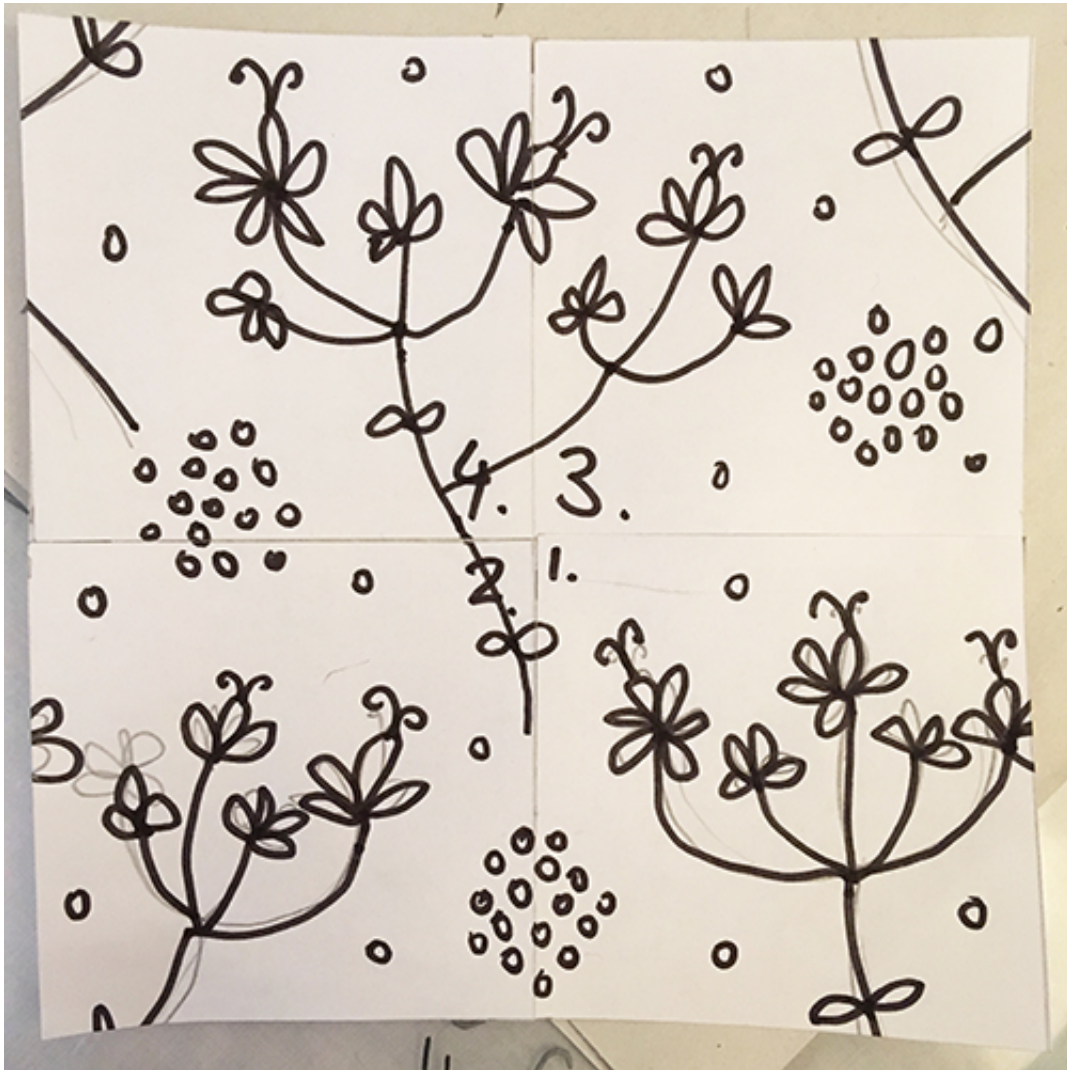
3. swap the top and bottom rows



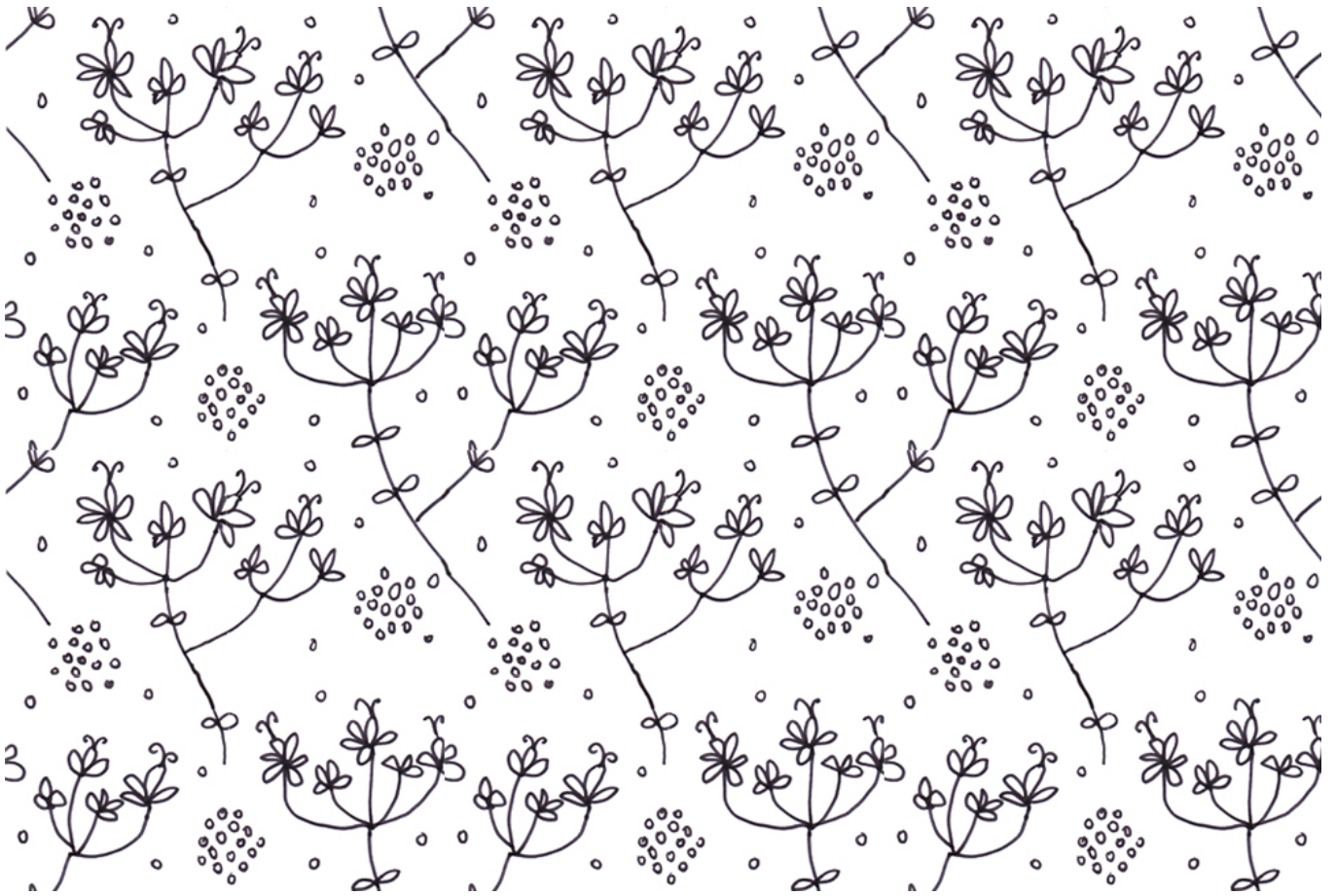
4. swap the left and right columns



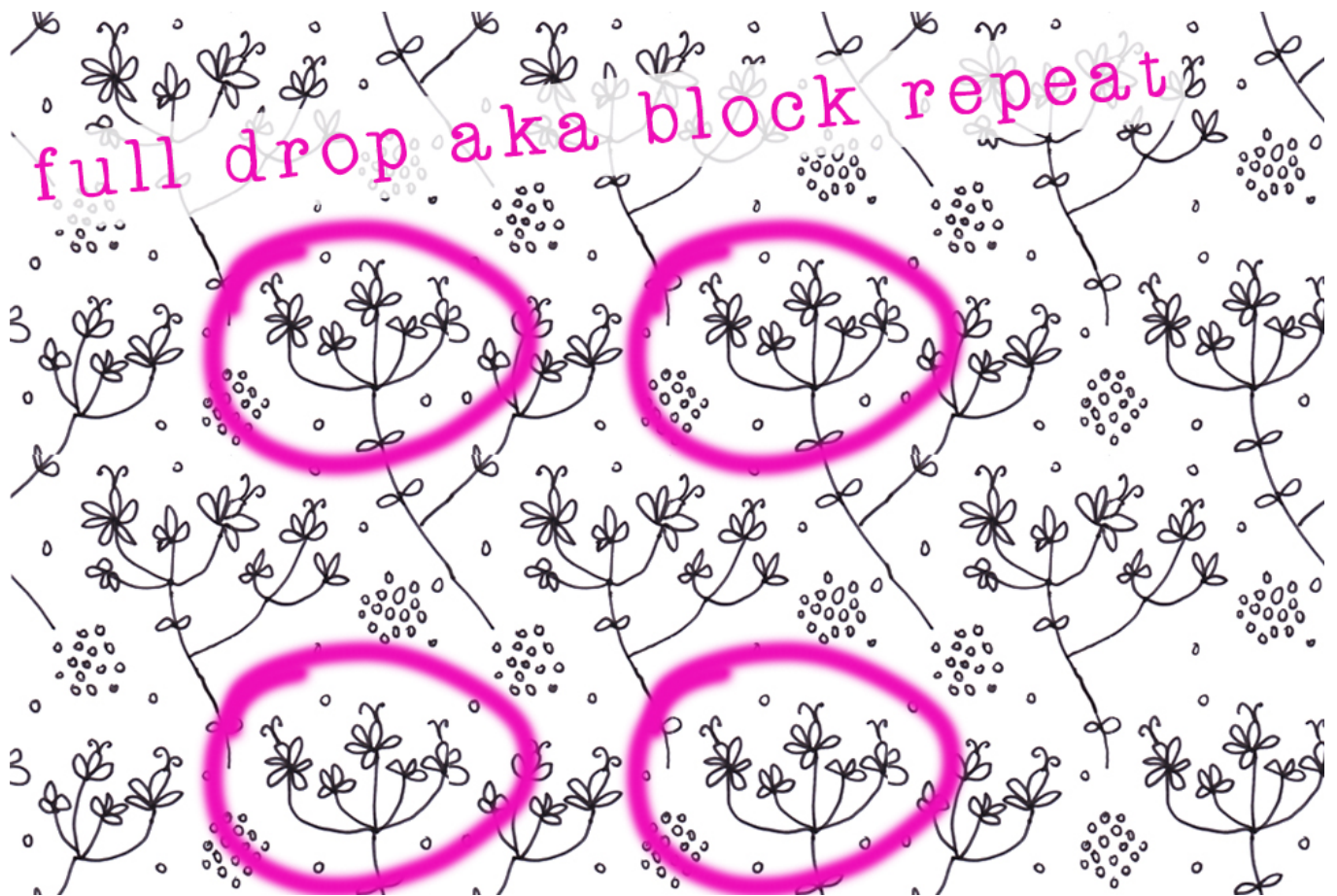
5. tape on the reverse and fill in any gaps with additional designs



6. this is now ready to trace onto a block to create a full drop repeating pattern



Mock up of full drop or block repeat. Image © Justine Aldersey-Williams 2017.



Did you spot the grid shaped repeat? Image © Justine Aldersey-Williams 2017.

half drop repeat

instructions

1. cut a piece of paper the same size as your block then draw your design in the centre without touching the edges.
2. divide your paper in half, then divide the right hand side in half again
3. swap the right hand top and bottom squares
4. tape on reverse and fill in any gaps with additional designs
5. this is now ready to be traced on to your block to create a half drop repeating pattern



1. draw your design on paper the same size as your block, not touching the edges



2. measure and cut in half vertically



3. measure and cut right hand piece in half



4. swap top and bottom right hand pieces



5. tape on reverse and fill in any gaps with additional designs



6. this is the completed half drop repeat ready to trace on to a block



Mock up of half drop repeat. Image © Justine Aldersey-Williams 2017.



Did you spot the half drop repeat? Image © Justine Aldersey-Williams 2017.

rotating block repeat

N.B. the two options above are examples designed to illustrate how to create full drop and half drop repeats. This is so you have a variety of skills when you approach repeats but I would not recommend using fine lines or complex designs initially as you'll need to experiment to see how fine a line you can achieve with your particular consistency of dye paste. Of course, half drop and full drop repeats can be used with bold, simple designs too!

I have chosen to create a large, bold design without fine lines which repeats in rotation. This means I've designed on to a block of 6" x 6" but I only had to draw a quarter of my design!



Image © Justine Aldersey-Williams 2017.

The design above is just a mock up and not yet accurate as it won't register correctly if repeated but below is another mock up to show how it will look. Notice at this point how the lines don't connect. The video below explains exactly how to create your own rotating block repeat. I like this technique because it creates a much larger design.

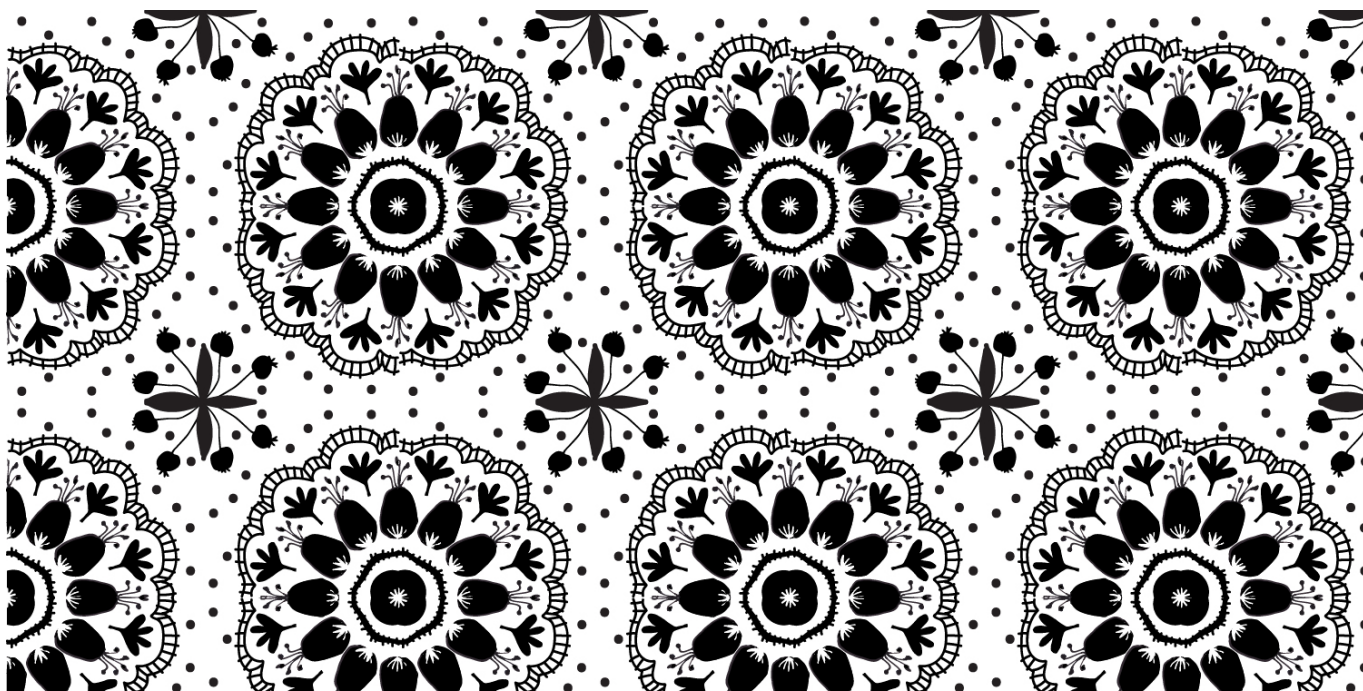


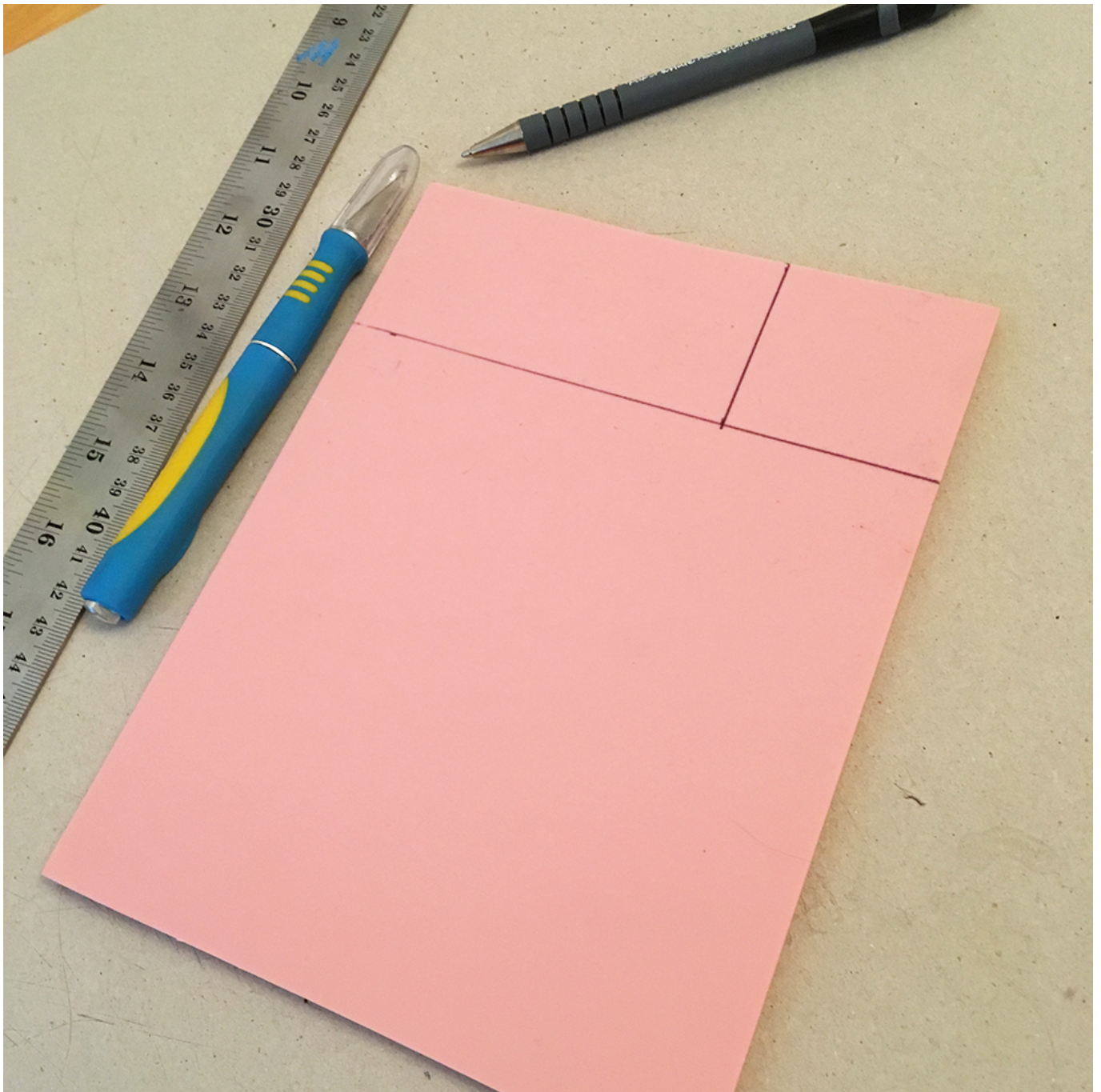
Image © Justine Aldersey-Williams 2017.

To view video please copy and paste the password: ObserveExpressRefineRepeat

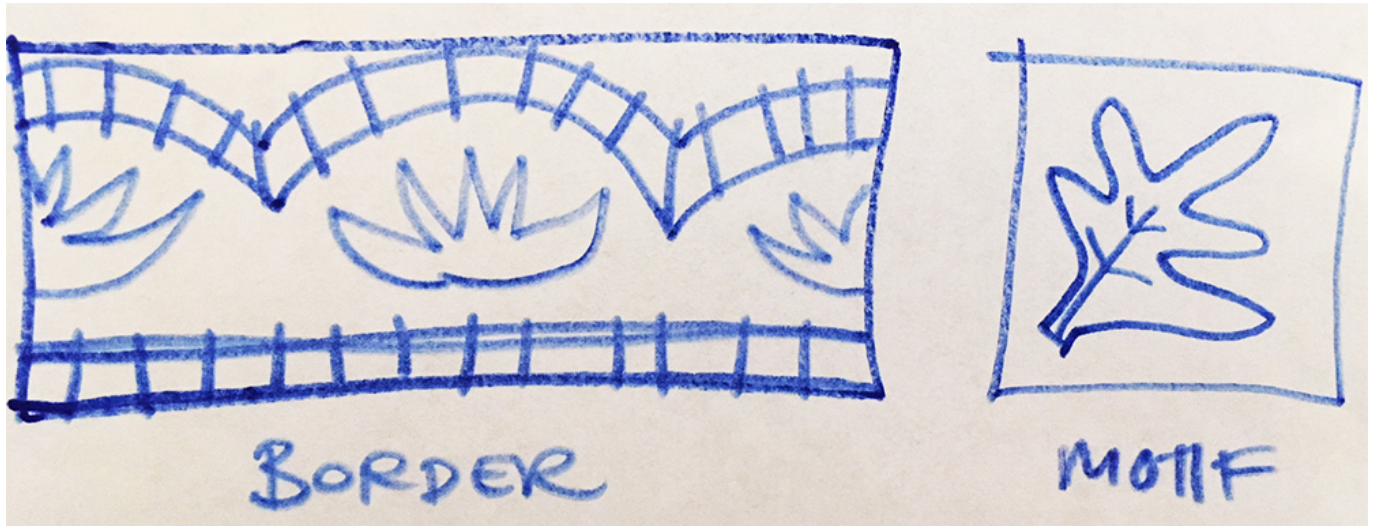
designing straight on to your blocks

You may prefer to work freehand straight on to your blocks as I have which saves tracing. I cut myself:-

- 6" x 6" block (for the main design)
- 4" x 2" block (for the border design)
- 2" x 2" block (for an additional motif that will create a simplified complementary pattern)



I then drew my designs straight onto the blocks (although I had sketched my main design and mocked it up into a repeat beforehand.)



homework

Choose your favourite style of repeat from the options above (or your own.) Design a main repeat, a border and an additional small motif and transfer them on to your blocks. If you look at my main design, you'll notice how I used elements from that in both my border and smaller motif designs. This creates a coherent collection. The small motif can be repeated in various arrangements to create a simplified, complementary pattern. You won't need to carve these until Thursday.



tomorrow... we have our 'wisdom keeper' interview with author Drusilla Cole and then a *BONUS* interview with Kutch Culture...