

“Bird of Paradise” by Kena Tangi Dorsey for GRACE Company Summer Camp 2025 (35”x 35”)

This is a RAW Edge Appliqué Project. It is a bird motif pattern which includes a branch, tree leaves, a few flowers and a beautiful tropical bird. You can choose to do the whole motif or just create the bird separately and use it in another project.

Fabric Requirements: Use an assortment of prints and/or solids in different colors, values, and/or scale. For the appliqué pieces you can use fat quarters or scrap pieces from 5” - 10”.

Note: The color ways in the fabric requirements listed below are only a suggestion to help give some direction. However, feel free to play with color and values from your own fabric selections to create a unique and colorful Bird of Paradise Motif. You may have to create a different numbering system for the various sections on the pattern based on the number of fabrics that you would like to use. So, with that, make it your own. Be creative and have fun!

THE BIRD

Chest & Belly (Section Numbers 2 on the appliqué pattern)

Use 1- 6 different shades or prints of REDS. For these instructions, I will use (4) different RED options. There are 6 appliqué areas in this section. I will repeat fabrics in two areas.

Red print 1	Section 2A	Scrap or strip of fabric at least 4”x 8”
Red print 2	Section 2B	Scrap or strip of fabric at least 5”x 8”
Red print 3	Section 2C	Scrap or strip of fabric at least 4”x 9”
Red print 4	Section 2D	Scrap or strip of fabric at least 4”x 5”

Wing (Section Numbers 5 on the appliqué pattern)

Use 3 different colors for the top, middle and bottom wing. For these instructions, I will use (1) RED, (1) GREEN, and (1) BLUE

Blue print	Section 5A (<i>side wing</i>)	Fat Quarter or strip of fabric at least 15”x 3”
Red print 3	Section 5B (<i>top wing</i>)	6”x 6”
Green print 1	Section 5C (<i>middle wing</i>)	7” x 5”
Blue print	Section 5D (<i>lower wing</i>)	9”x 5”

Tail Feather (Section Numbers 6 on the appliqué pattern)

Blue print	Section 6A (<i>top tail feather</i>)	Strip or scrap 9” x 5”
Blue print	Section 6B (<i>lower tail feather</i>)	Strip or Scrap 12” x 4”
Red print 1	Section 6B (<i>lower inner feathers</i>)	Strip or Scrap 12” x 3”

Face, Feet and Beak (Section Numbers 3, 4 and 11 on the appliqué pattern)

White solid	Section 3 (<i>face</i>)	Scrap or strip of fabric at least 4”x 4”
Black, white, color	Section 3 (<i>eyes</i>)	Scraps or strip of fabric at least 2”x 2”
Print or Solid	Section 4A (<i>top beak</i>)	Scrap or strip of fabric at least 3”x 3”
Print or Solid	Section 4B (<i>bottom beak</i>)	Scrap or strip of fabric at least 3”x 3”
Print or Solid	Section 11 (<i>feet</i>)	Scrap or strip of fabric at least 4”x 3”

THE BRANCH (Sections 1 and 7 on the appliqué pattern)

Note: The branch is long with small curves. To make it more manageable, you can break it up into 3 or more parts when creating the templates with fusible web.

Brown print or solid	Section 1(<i>branch</i>)	1/2 yard
Green print 2	Section 7 (<i>leaves</i>)	Strip of fabric 4" x 22"

THE FLOWERS (Sections 8 and 9 on the appliqué pattern)

You can use an assortment of colors and prints. For these instructions I will use, orange, yellow, purple, teal, pink and green

Birds of Paradise (x2)

Orange print 1	Section 8A	Fat Quarter (1 FQ will be enough for both flowers)
Orange print 2	Section 8C	Scrap or strip of fabric at least 4" x 4"
Yellow print	Section 8D	Scrap or strip of fabric at least 6" x 6"
Green print 3	Section 8B	Scrap or strip of fabric at least 10" x 10"

Daffodil (x2)

Purple print 1	Section 9 (<i>petals</i>)	9" x 18" (This will be enough for both flowers)
Teal print	Section 9B (<i>petal layer</i>)	Scrap or strip of fabric at least 6" x 6"
Yellow print	Section 9C (<i>center</i>)	Scrap or strip of fabric at least 6" x 6"
Green print 3	Section 8B (<i>Stem</i>)	Scrap or strip of fabric at least 10" x 3"
Green print 2	Section 7 (<i>stem leaves</i>)	Scrap or strip of fabric at least 5" x 5"

BACKGROUND FABRIC

Light or dark solid or print	1 yard	1 yard
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BACKING FABRIC

Light or dark solid or print	1 1/2 - 2 yards Cut 45" x 45" (add 5" more if on a longarm)
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BATTING

Cotton, Poly, Blend or Wool	Packaged Crib Size: 45" x 60
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BINDING

Light or dark solid or print	1/2 yard
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SUPPLIES and MATERIALS

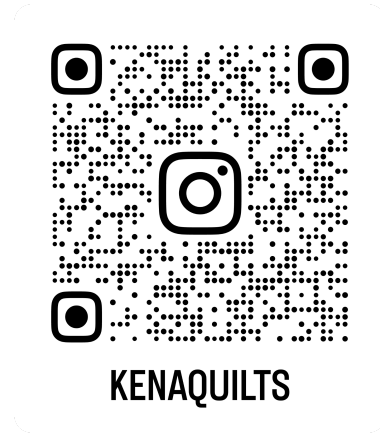
- Appliqué Pattern and Template
- Tracing Paper
- White Teflon Pressing Mat - *Optional but so helpful!*
- Pencils, Eraser and Sharpies
- Light box or Backlight from a window
- Double-Sided Paper-backed Fusible Web (*such as Steam-A-Seam 2 or EZ-Steam II*)
- Tape - Painters/Masking/and-or Scotch
- Rulers, mat, rotary cutter
- Sewing pins, and binding clips
- Sharp appliqué scissors and regular scissors for cutting paper
- Iron
- Threads
- Safety pins or basting spray
- Sewing Machine

PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS

1. Download the pattern instructions and template pages
2. Print out template pages - There are 13 pages total.
3. Lay out the pages in the same order as the sample picture, and then scotch tape the pages together by 4 rows across and 3 rows down. Once taped, this will be the actual size of the appliqué pattern.
4. Place the taped pattern on a light box or window then place a piece of tracing paper over it. Make sure the tracing paper is big enough to cover the whole motif. Tip: You can tape multiple pieces of tracing paper together to make it the same size as the appliqué pattern.
5. Use a black sharpie marker to trace around the shapes that you would like to create appliqués for. **Note:** You can create a numbering system for all of the sections or use the numbers that are already printed on the template pages. These are somewhat of a general guideline, but you can make them more specific according to your fabric selections.
6. Once the trace is complete, we will call this the “master line drawing.” This is what we will use to create the smaller appliqué templates in the following steps.
7. Important: somewhere on your traced master line drawing mark the word, “FRONT” on it. This will be very helpful, because going forward, we are going to be making templates from the ‘wrong’ side of the master line drawing. However, we’ll turn it back to the front to use as a placement guide in later steps.
8. Turn your master line drawing over so that the front is now facing down on your light box or window. We are going to create the templates from THIS side (the back side), of the paper.
9. Take a sheet of double sided paper-backed fusible web. If it has one plain side and one gridded side, we are going to mark our tracings on the gridded side of the release paper.
10. Place a piece of the paper-backed fusible web, gridded side up, over a section of the traced master line drawing. You can start on any part of the bird or motif. I like to start with the larger sections, first, then work inward to the smaller parts. However, this is entirely up to you. **Note:** whatever numbering system you use when creating the pattern, you should also write those on each template. If you’re not sure how to number the sections, think of them in terms of what fabric selections you would like to use on all those areas and number your coordinating fabrics.
11. Begin tracing around all the individual sections of the bird and motif shapes. Trace on the exact lines, and mark a slightly wider dotted cut line for the seam allowance where necessary. These will be your cut lines. TIP: If you will be using multiple color values on the breast and belly of the bird, take care to add a ¼” seam allowance around the top edges of each section that will be layered or tucked under the piece above it. So, pay attention to any areas that should be layered on the bottom and add a ¼” seam allowance on those pieces so that they “nest” better when you layout and arrange them. And **Remember** to mark the same numbers that are on your pattern, mark them on your fusible web and use these same numbers as your fabric labels, so you don’t get confused.
12. Don’t cut exactly on the traced cut lines, yet. We will precision cut once it’s attached to the fabric in the next step. Instead, just rough cut around the traced shapes on the paper backed fusible web. This will make it easier to manage the various pieces while matching to fabric selections.

13. On the blank untraced side of the paper-back fusible web, peel the release paper from the first side. Be careful that the sticky adhesive web in-between doesn't come off with the release paper, yet. The sticky web should stay attached to the "traced" side of the paper.
14. Apply the exposed sticky side of the fusible web to the "WRONG SIDE" of your fabric for that section.
15. Now you can precision cut along the traced marked lines. Careful to cut a larger 1/4" seam allowance on the parts where you've marked your dotted cut lines.
16. Repeat steps 10 - 16 until you have all of the fabric template pieces you need for the bird and motif cut out.
17. Now, turn the master line drawing back over to the right side with the front side facing up. This will be your placement guide. Place it on top of the lighting box trace side up. We will now use it as a placement guide under a teflon sheet.
18. Lay a white teflon sheet on top of the master line drawing tracing paper. You should be able to see the lines from the tracing paper through the teflon sheet.
19. TIP: For the next part, it helps to start at the bottom of the appliqué with the bottom tail feathers and work your way to the top of the bird. For instance, when arranging the pieces, I started with the bottom tail feather, next the top tail feather, then the belly and or/body of the bird. Next, I move to the outer wing then I move to the bottom part of the wing, middle, top shoulder wing, breast, face and beak. Remember, the fusible web is repositionable, so if you need to lift, tweak or reposition pieces, you will be able to.
20. Gather all of the paper-backed fusible web pieces that you attached to fabric and cut out earlier. Peel the release paper off of the remaining (traced) side of the templates. The sticky side of the fusible web will be exposed on the WRONG side of the fabric.
21. Start laying out and arranging the pattern templates on top of the teflon sheet using the traced master lined drawing underneath it as a placement guide.
22. Arrange all of the fabric templates in place, nesting and overlapping when needed. Double check to make sure there aren't any gaps between pieces that are next to each other. Reposition and move as needed.
23. Once you are completely satisfied with the arrangement of the branch, leaves, flowers and bird, you are ready to fuse it into one piece. TIP: you can fuse appliqué in smaller sections before moving to your background fabric.
24. Carry the teflon sheet with the appliqué bird on it over to your ironing board. With a hot dry iron, press down on each section to fuse the appliqué together as one piece.
25. Let the appliqué fully cool off before removing.
26. Once it's cool to touch, start at one end of the appliqué and carefully peel off the appliqué. Careful not to let the back fold over and "stick" to itself!
27. Place all of the motif pieces, first, then place the appliquéd bird onto your background fabric. If your background fabric is light colored you can place your master line drawing under it and use your lightbox to lay out the arrangement. If your background fabric is dark, you can place your masterline drawing on top of the fabric and "eyeball" the placements while arranging them underneath.
28. Position it to your liking. Once satisfied;
29. Return to your ironing board and use a dry or slightly steam hot iron and press the appliqué to permanently fuse it to the background fabric.
30. You can finish the raw edges of the appliqué with any decorative stitch such as a zig-zag, satin stitch or blanket stitch and sew around all of the raw edges. I like to do this step before I "sandwich" the quilt with backing and backing. Optionally - you could top stitch using free-motion quilting AFTER you have sandwiched the quilt during your quilting.

31. Layer your quilt with the backing fabric wrong side up on the bottom, batting in the middle, and quilt-top right side up on the top.
32. Baste using your favorite method.
33. Quilt as desired.
34. Trim to desired size to prepare for binding.
35. Bind using your favorite method.
36. Add a label with the quilt title, your name, city, and date and hand stitch to the back.
37. Voilà your quilt is finished! Share, post and tag me on social media! 😊



Follow me on FaceBook and IG: @kenaquilts

"Bird of Paradise" Quilt Pattern by Kena Tangi Dorsey

Template Pages

Print & Assembly Instructions

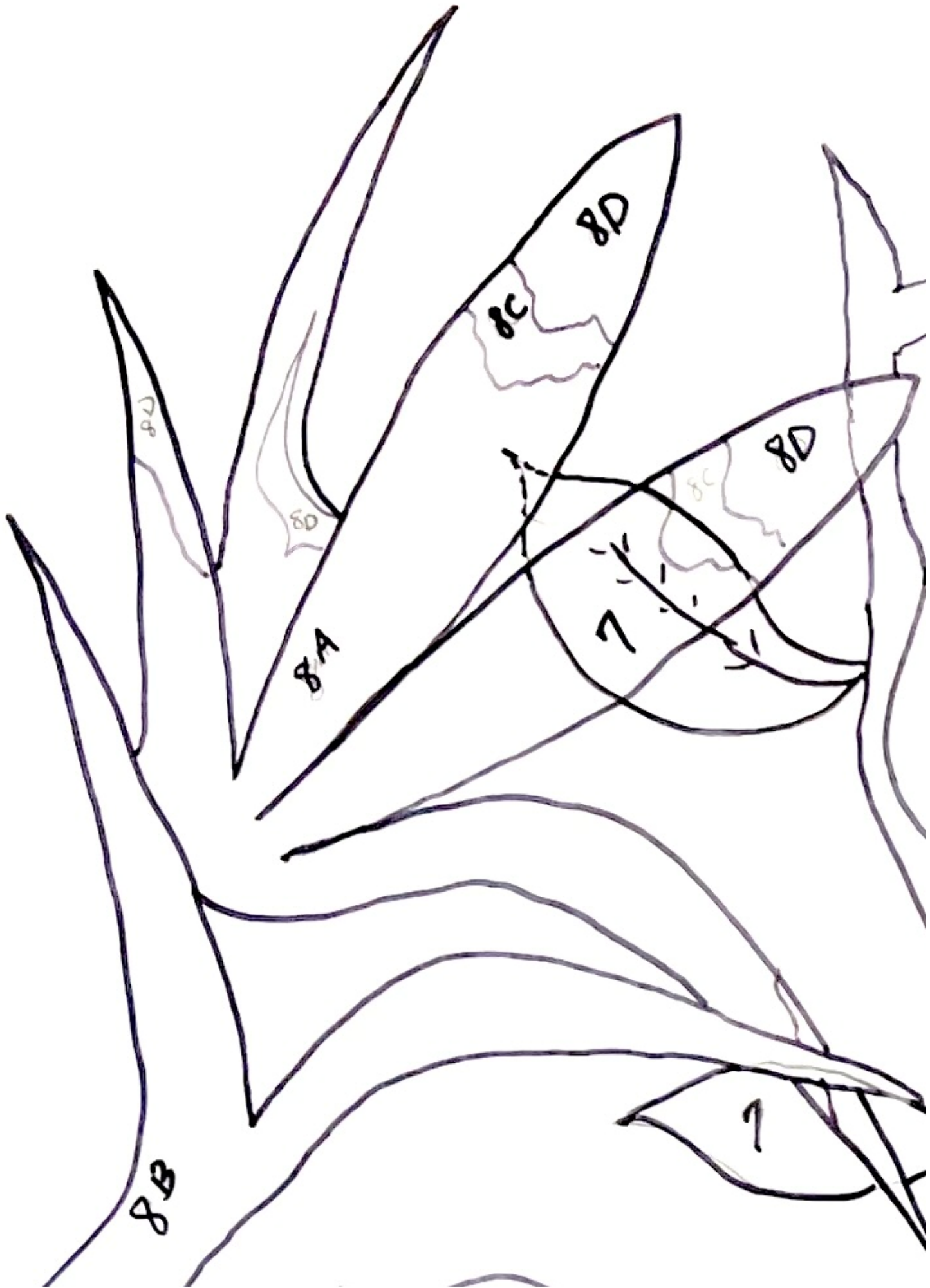
- Print out the tiled pages and assemble. There are 13 pages total
- The pages are 4 columns wide and 3 rows down.
- Layout the pages and arrange in the order as seen in the reference picture below
- Scotch tape the pages together. Once assembled and taped, this will be the actual size of the quilt pattern.
- You are now ready to create smaller templates from all of the numbered sections of the pattern

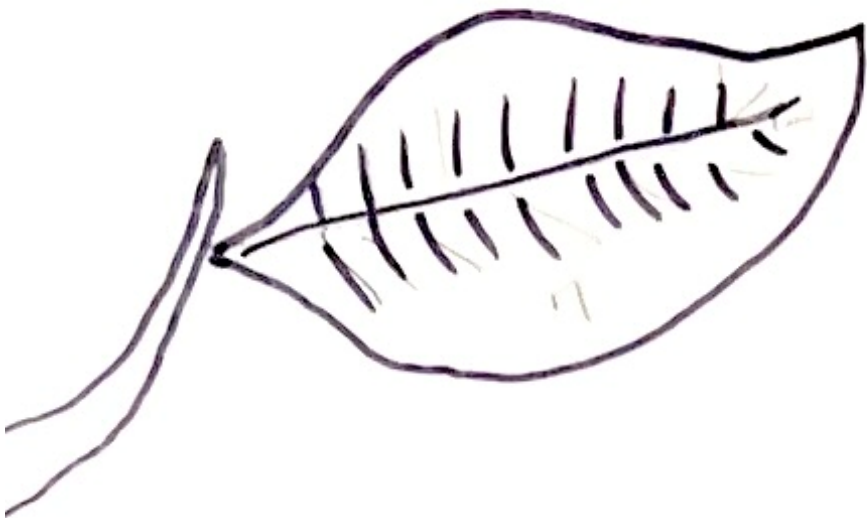
Note: Depending on your printers border settings, the drawing marks may not go all the way to the edge of the page. In order to connect the lines to the pages next to it, there are two ways to fix this,:

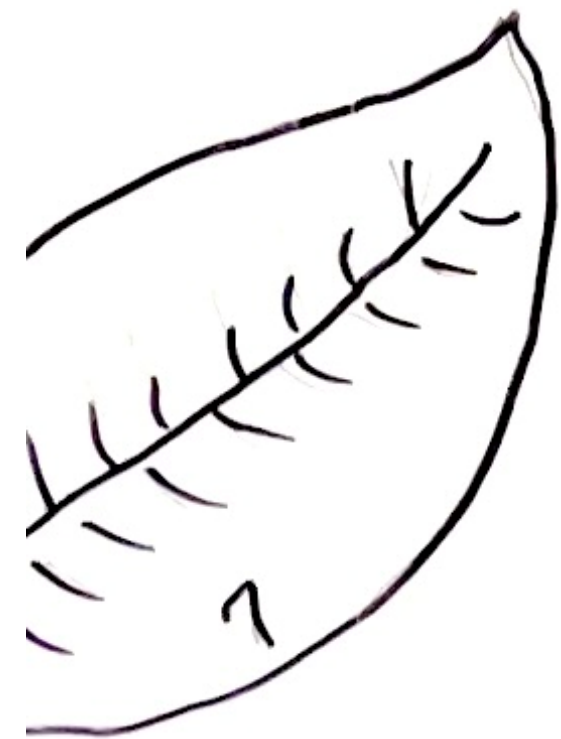
- 1) You can trim the edge of the empty page borders so that the lines directly touch when taped together (and/or),
- 2) You can use a black sharpie marker and connect the lines to the end of each pages border.

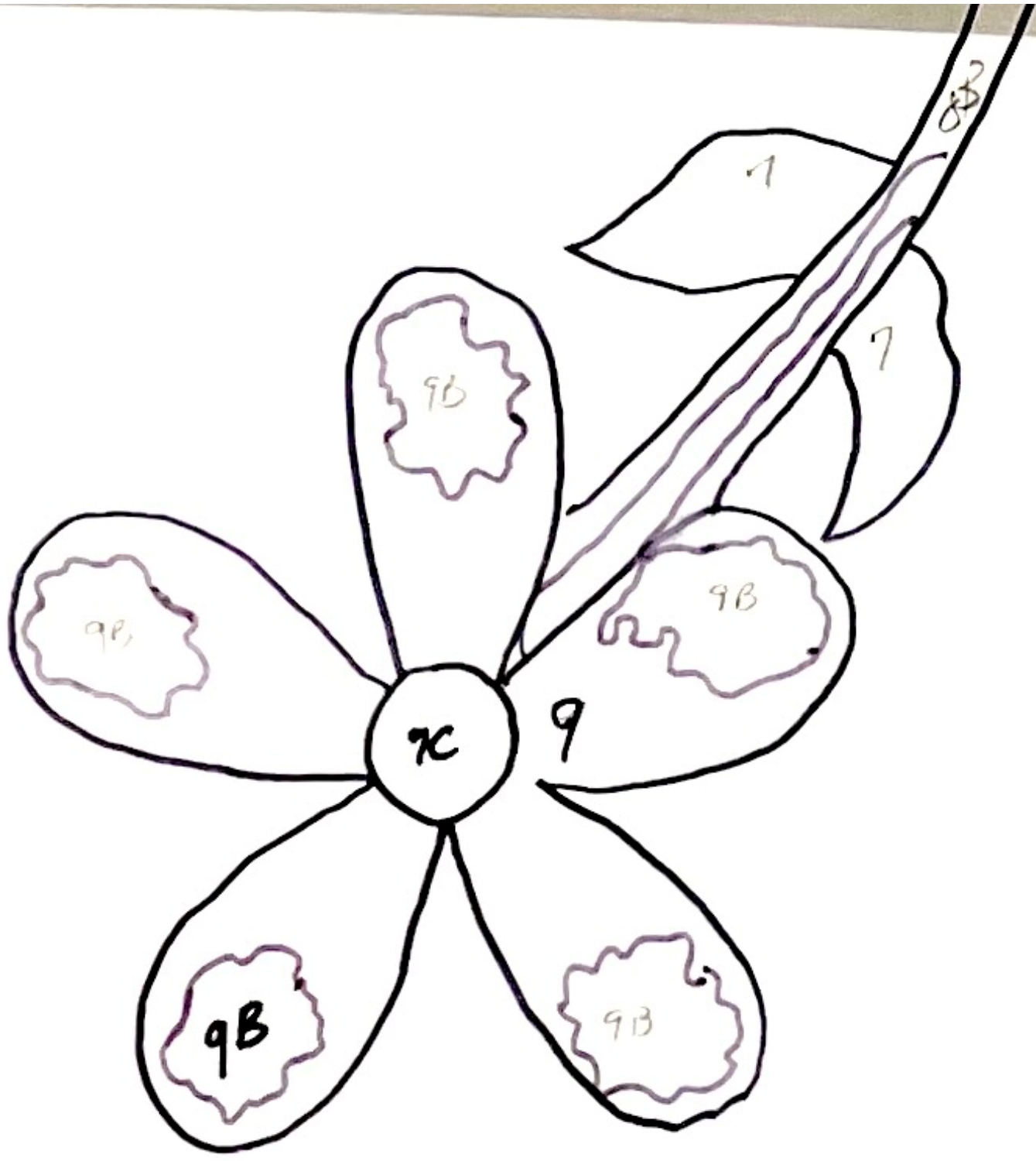
Tip: You can just "eye-ball" it so that it creates a continuous line for tracing the smaller templates later. (See pattern directions for the remainder of the appliqué pattern instructions)















5B

5C

5A

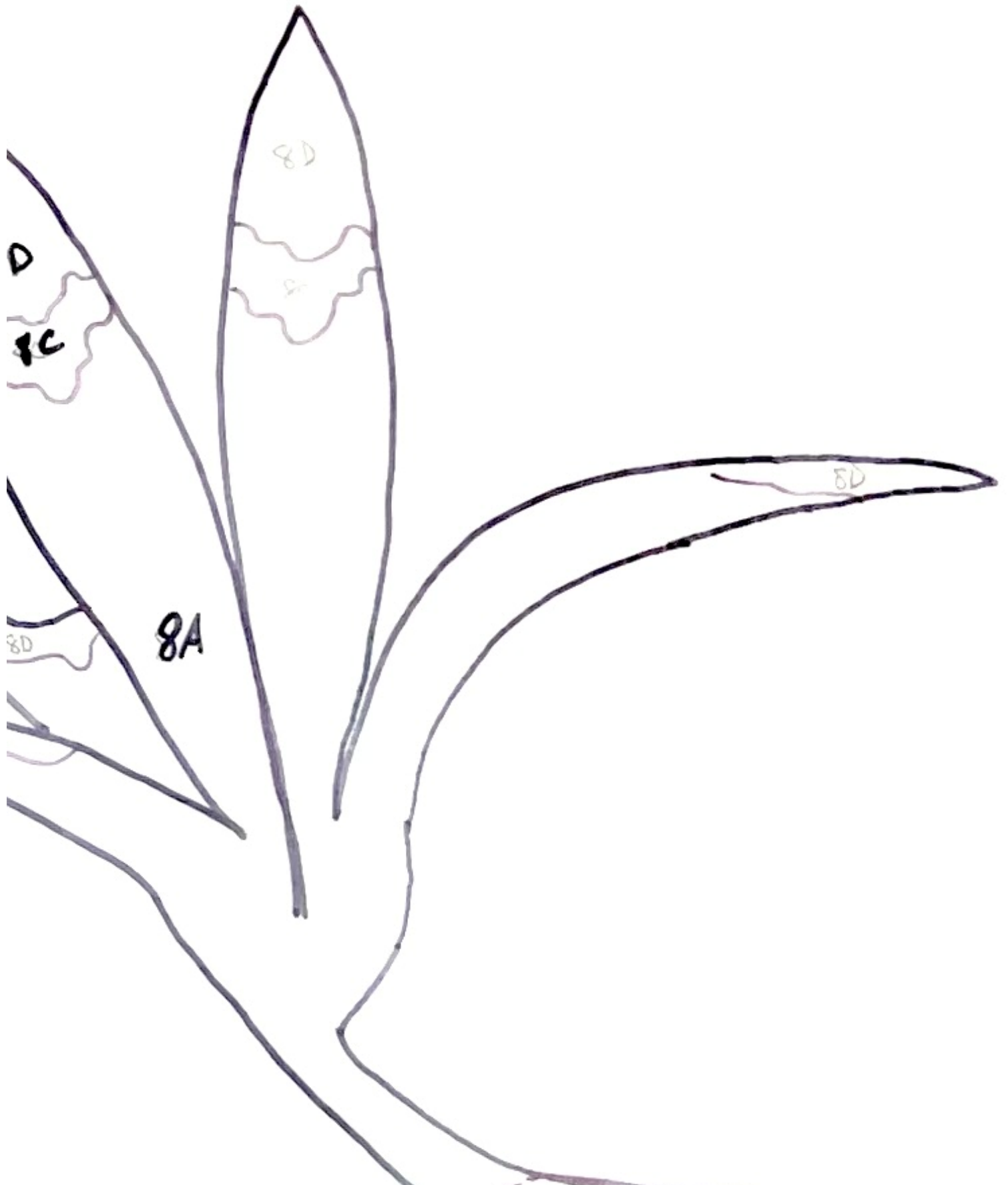
5D

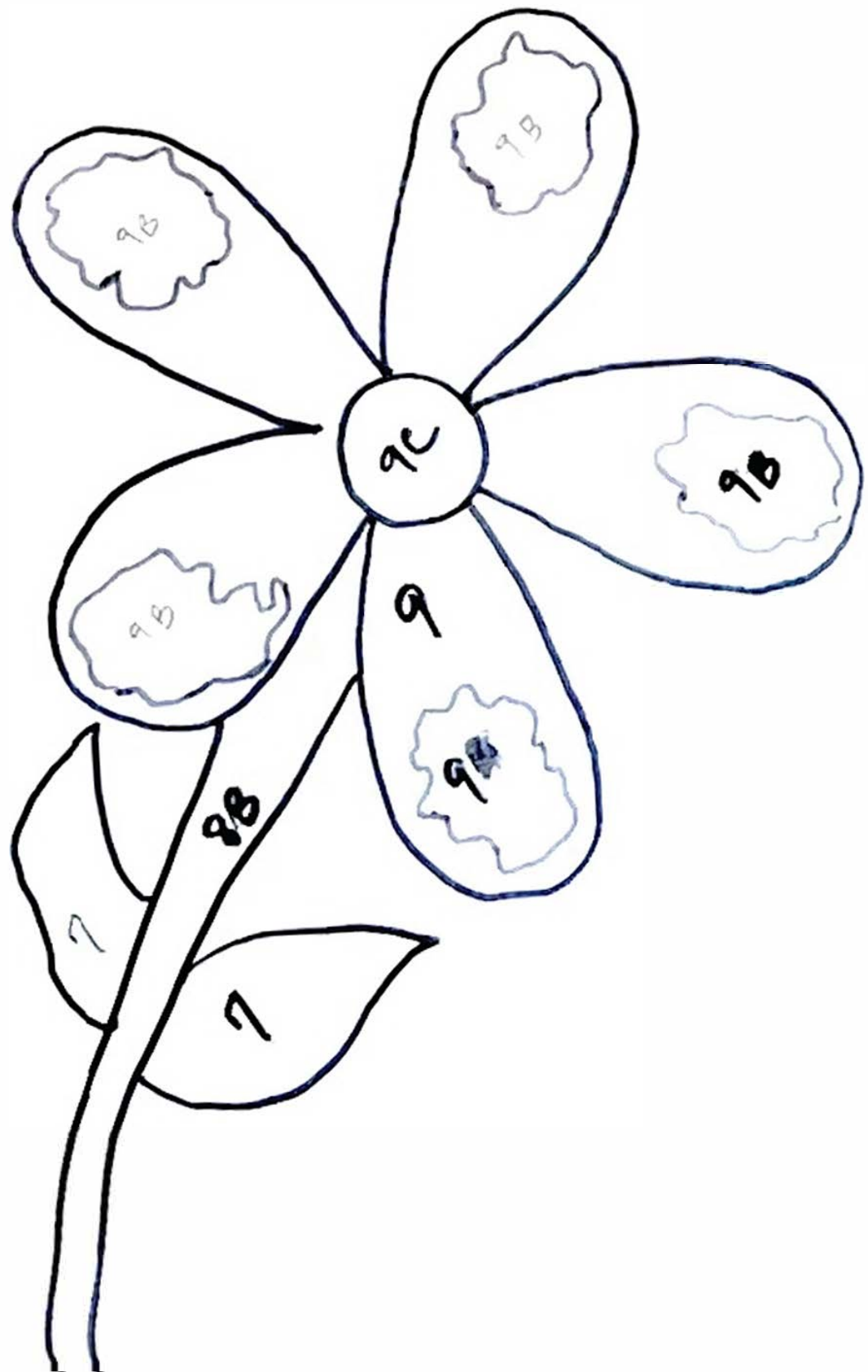
5D

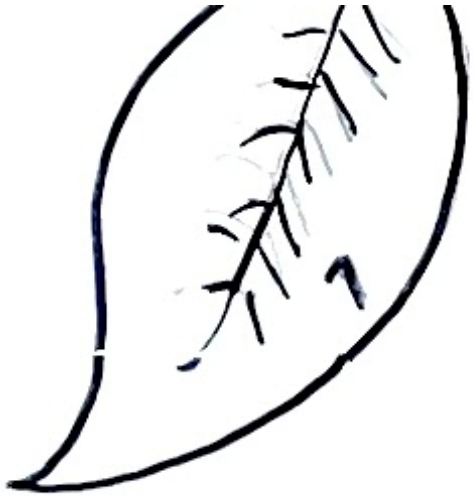
5A

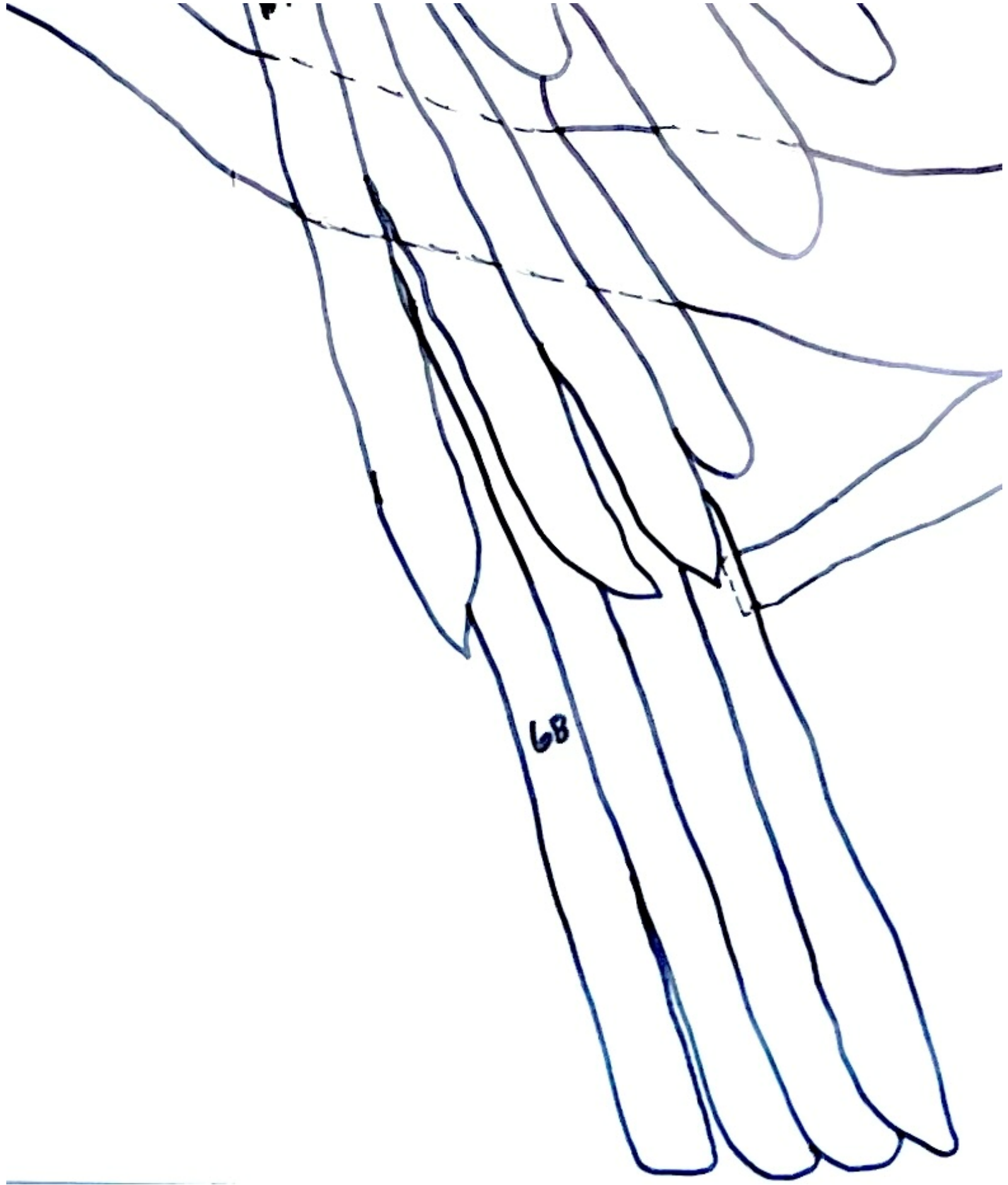
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