



*If it's not marked NOFMA, it's not certified.*

## Herringbone Pattern Flooring

---

### Handling, Storage, Installation and Tips

Herringbone is generally manufactured from 3/4" x 2 1/4" " or 3/4" x 1-1/2" " standard tongue & groove Strip Flooring. Usually, individual slats are cut to length in multiples of the face width of the Strip Flooring.

i.e. 2-1/4' slats would be 6-3/4"; 9"; or 11-1/4" long, etc.

However slats can be cut to length, or from any width flooring. All slats are cut the same length and width.

Herringbone Flooring is a pattern produced by alternating rows of Strip Flooring. It is laid in mastic and is one of the most difficult patterns to lay out and install. This pattern is best left to a skilled craftsman. We recommend both nailing and gluing slats 18" or longer.

#### HANDLING, STORAGE & JOBSITE CONDITIONS

Do not handle flooring in a manner that would expose it to rain, snow or sleet. Flooring should be stored in a completely enclosed covered building that is well ventilated, and preferably has weather proof windows that admit sunshine. Leave adequate room around the stacks of flooring for good air circulation. An unheated warehouse is preferred. If the building is heated, the temperature should not exceed 72 degrees F.

Upon delivery, break the flooring into small lots and store it in the rooms here it will be installed. Allow 2 to 3 days for the flooring to become acclimated before beginning the installation.

#### INSTALLATION

##### I. Prepare the subfloor

**CONCRETE SLAB** Check the slab to see that it is properly constructed and thoroughly dry. Check for unevenness, Grind off high spots, and use filling compound for low places.

**PLYWOOD SUBFLOORS** should be at least 3/4" thick and nailed down well. Touch sanding may be required at joints to even out surface. Where the subfloor is too uneven, apply 3/8' plywood underlayment.

**BOARD SUBFLOORS** (up to 6' square edged) also require good nailing. If uneven, boards may require sanding. Nail 3/8' plywood underlayment on boards.

## II. Lay out the Room

1. Check the room for squareness. Measure the diagonals of the room. If they are equal, the room is square.
2. Herringbone is, at best, a difficult pattern to put down. Two things must be considered when deciding on the orientation of the Herringbone pattern-
  - A. The long dimension of the room.
  - B. The pattern running to the major architectural interest point of the room.  
e.g. main entrance, window wall, or fireplace.
3. Pre-plan your working lines. It is usually best to center your first line along the orientation of the pattern (Drawing #1.) This line is called the “centerline.” Plan the layout, follow the example given in Drawing 4.

## III. Install vapor barrier (Concrete ONLY)

Use either of the following methods:

### POLYETHYLENE

- A. Prime the slab with asphalt primer and allow to dry.
- B. Apply cold type cut-back asphalt mastic with a straight edge trowel over the entire surface. This is a skim-coat, thick enough to hold a 4 or 6-mu polyethylene film. Spread the mastic at a rate of 100 sq. ft. per gallon.
- C. Allow to dry for at least 30 minutes.
- D. Roll out 4 or 6-mu polyethylene film over the entire area, lapping edges 4” to 6”
- E. Walk in the polyethylene film, stepping on every inch of the surface to insure proper adhesion of the polyethylene. Small bubbles are of no concern.

### TWO MEMBRANE ASPHALT FELT OR BUILDING PAPER

- A. Prime the slab with asphalt primer and allow to dry.
- B. Apply cold type cut-back asphalt mastic with a notched trowel over the entire slab surface.
- C. Let the mastic set for two hours.
- D. Roll out 15 lb. asphalt felt or building paper. Lap edges 4”, butt ends.
- E. Apply another coating of mastic with a notched trowel at a rate of 50 sq. ft. per gallon. Allow mastic to set.
- F. Roll out a second layer of 15 lb. asphalt felt or building paper. Lap edges 4”. Butt ends. Lay both layers the same direction, but stagger the overlapping edges for a more even thickness.

## IV. Snap the chalk working lines.

1. Snap the “centerline”.



2. Establish the center focal point of the pattern desired for your layout.

(A Herringbone pattern unit may have 3 center points,)

3. Chalk the “reference line” along the points of the pattern as shown in #5. & #5a. This line is parallel to the “centerline and is the distance from the selected center point of the pattern to the far left point of the pattern. (This is the line to begin laying to.)

4. Snap the baseline perpendicular to the centerline’ about 3’ or 4’ from the near wall. Drawing #2  
Check the angle, using the 6’, 8’ & 10’ triangle.  
(Use 3’, 4’, 5’ triangle for smaller areas.)

Measure 6’ along the baseline from the intersection of the baseline’ and the “centerline.” Then measure 8’ from the same point along the “centerline.’ The distance between these two points will be 10’ IF the “baseline” is perpendicular to the “centerline.”

**IF THE LINES ARE NOT PERPENDICULAR, FIX THEM.**

(See Drawing #2.)

5. Chalk the Starter Diagonal Measure 6’ along the “baseline’ and the ‘reference line.”  
(See Drawing #3.)

Scribe an arc from each point that intersects in the upper right quadrant. Chalk a line that passes through the intersection of the two arcs and the intersection of the “baseline” and “reference line.”

6. Chalk the Reference Diagonal -- as shown in Drawing #4.  
Use the same procedure as for the Starter Diagonal.

#### V. Spread the mastic.

1. Be sure that the interior of the room in which you are working, and the mastic are in the proper temperature range recommended by the mastic manufacturer, Usually 60° to 72°

F. If it is colder or warmer than recommended, there could be difficulty in spreading the mastic or getting it to set up as desired. Always follow the manufacturers’ directions.

2. Observe the manufacturers’ recommendation for “open time” (Setting up or hardening). This allows the mastic time to evaporate solvents and come to the proper consistency for sticking down the flooring.  
**DO NOT COVER THE WORKING LINES WITH MASTIC.**

(Drawing #5. & #5a.)

(Reference Line, Diagonal & Baseline.)



SPREAD MASTIC AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT OBSCURING THE WORKING LINES.

3. Do not cover the area most convenient to the entrance and starting point with mastic so movement of materials can be accomplished without awkward motion or stepping in mastic. This area is covered with mastic toward the end of installation after all materials are in the room.

#### VI. Start installing flooring at intersection of all working lines.

(The selected center point of a Herringbone Unit will be along the centerline.)

1. Place the first piece of flooring as shown in Drawing #5 and #5a. The tongue edge of the piece should face the far wall, with the tongue edge along the Starter Diagonal. The left corner of piece #1 should be aligned with the intersection of the reference line and baseline.

2. Place the second piece as shown in Drawing #5. and #5a. This piece must be perpendicular to piece #1.

Use a small carpenter's square to insure PRECISE ALIGNMENT, These two pieces determine the squareness of the entire installation. After a piece has been placed in the mastic, there can be minor adjustments in alignment by tapping the piece with a rubber mallet or similar non-marring instrument.

3. Continue placing the pieces in the order shown in Drawing #5 & #5a. Continue with the pattern until reaching the far wall. Then work the pattern to the right, one row at a time, alternating the direction of the flooring. (Always orient the tongue in the same direction.)

Start each row carefully. Use the square to align the starting piece on each row and periodically check alignment. Leave pieces that fit along walls as the last step.

4. Upon completing the upper right quadrant, go back to the intersection of the working lines and complete the upper left quadrant one row at a time. Carefully align the first piece of each row and periodically check alignment with the carpenter's square. Alternate the direction of the flooring until upper quadrant is completed.

THIS IS USUALLY THE BEST TIME TO FINISH BRINGING FLOORING INTO THE WORK AREA. STORE IT ON AREAS ALREADY COMPLETED. NOW SPREAD MASTIC OVER THE WALKWAY TO COMPLETE THE JOB.

5. Continue in the two remaining areas. Start at the centerline and continue working the pattern backwards. When installing the pattern backwards it is easiest to maintain alignment by coming back with double rows, as shown in Drawing #6. The first double row back into the lower left and right quadrant will be aligned with the reference line." After completing the first double row, continue installing two rows at a time until reaching the left wall.



Finish lower right quadrant in the same manner, working from center to walls.

6. Cut pieces to within 3/4" of the walls.

THIS 3/4" IS EXPANSION SPACE.

"Fit" flooring into doorways where it is to butt against other flooring, or against a reducer strip.

Leave 3/4" expansion space around masonry structures, such as a fireplace. (This void can be filled with a solid piece of cork and stained.)

7. Use spot cork blocking around the perimeter of the room between the flooring and the walls, (Drawing #6.) to allow the flooring to expand and contract. (Do not use flooring scraps.)

### **GENERAL REMINDERS**

A. Upon opening flooring cartons, remove manufacturers' recommendations, read and follow carefully.

B. Most wood floor mastics will allow pieces to slip, when sideways pressure is applied, for some time after "open time" has elapsed. By working on knee boards or plywood panels laid on top of the installed area you avoid this sideways pressure. For the same reason, no heavy furniture or activity should be allowed on the finished parquet floor for at least 24 hours.

C. For installation over suspended slabs which are thoroughly dry, no vapor barrier is necessary. However, test for moisture to be certain no excessive moisture condition is present. (See NOFMA Installation Manual.)

### **A WORD ABOUT MASTICS**

#### **CUT-BACK ASPHALT:**

(1.) It is spread at room temperature, has a long "open time" (takes a long time to set up before suitable for installing flooring), low coverage, low cost.

(2.) Use with parquet that has interlocking tongues and grooves on all edges of all pieces. It has tendency to squirt up between edges of Square Edge Parquet.

(3.) It is generally best to spread the mastic in the late afternoon and apply the flooring the next day.

#### **CHLORINATED SOLVENT:**

(1.) Most recently developed mastic that has tremendous holding power and will not burn.

(2.) It has a smell of chlorine and should be used in a well ventilated area.



- (3.) Open time is short and coverage is about 80-100 sq. ft. per gallon.
- (4.) Usually more expensive per square foot than asphalt mastics.

PETROLEUM-BASED SOLVENT MASTICS:

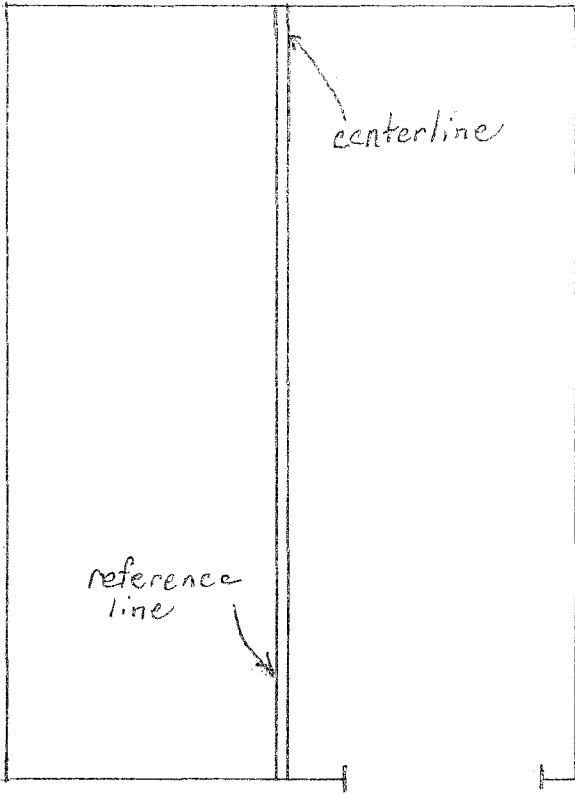
"Open time" is short.

Can be highly flammable, so room must be well-ventilated.

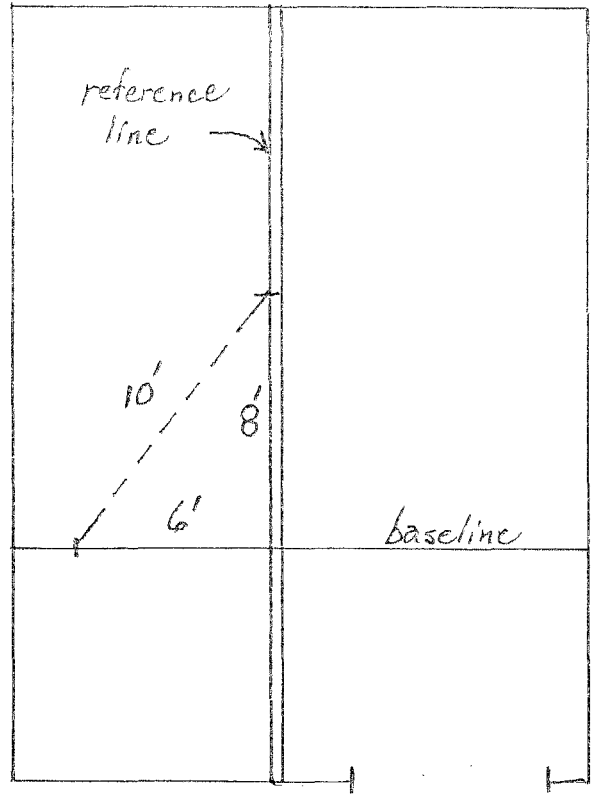
DO NOT ALLOW SMOKING --CHECK FOR PILOT LIGHTS LEFT ON

NOTE: (ALWAYS FOLLOW MANUFACTURERS INSTRUCTION ON COVERAGE, DRYING TIME, AND VENTILATION.)

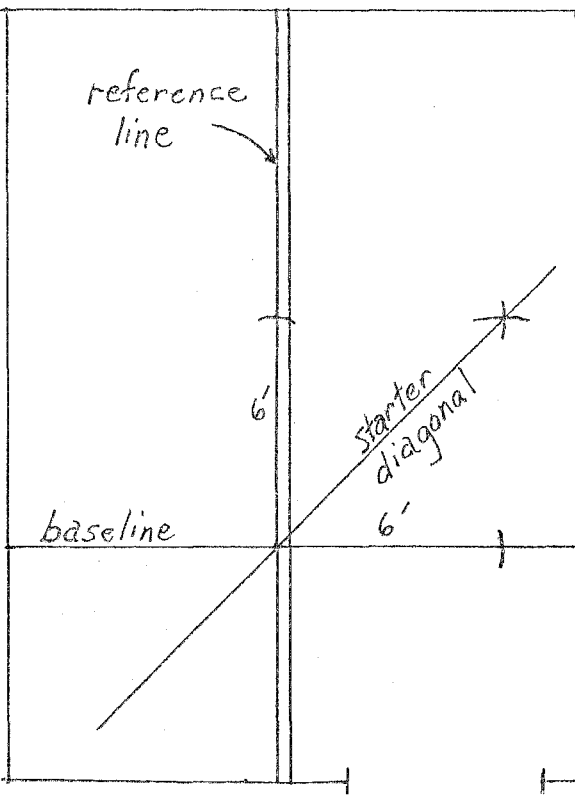




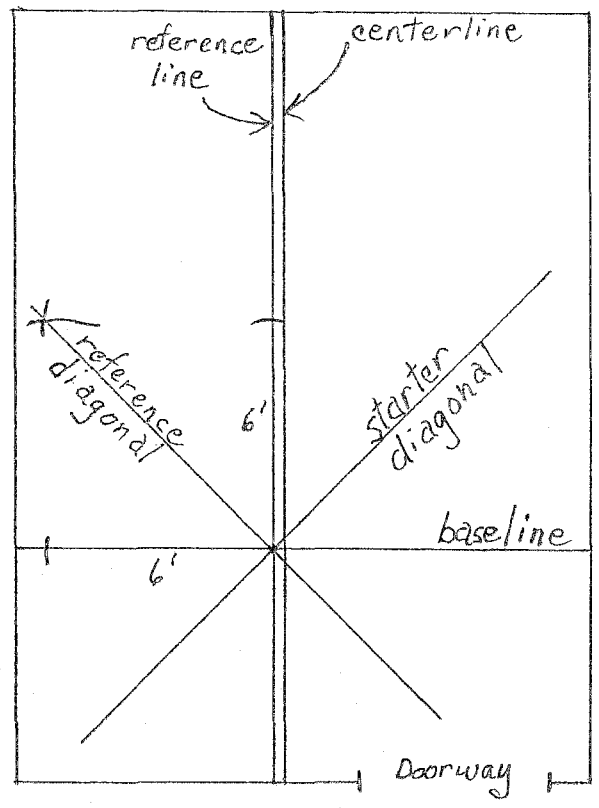
Drawing # 1



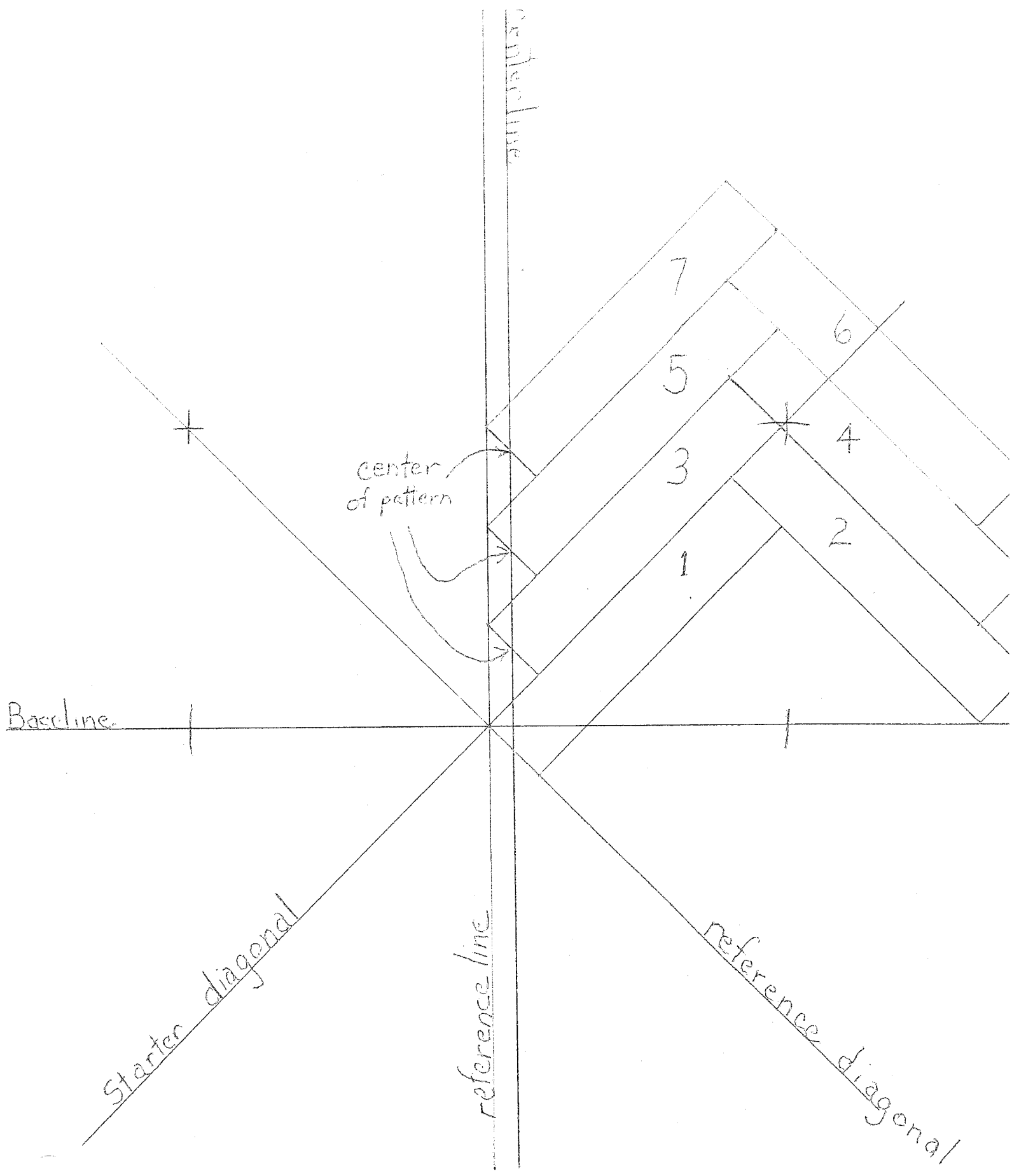
Drawing # 2



Drawing # 3



Drawing # 4



Drawing 5

