

Strawberry Fields

Materials

Dimensions

154cm x 228cm (60³/₄in x 89³/₄in)

Block size

(24cm) 9¹/₂in

There are 20 blocks.

Fabric requirements

All fabric is 100cm (40in) wide, pre-washed and ironed, unless otherwise stated. It is recommended that the fabric choices information be read before purchasing fabric.

- 30cm (12in) each of ten different large-scale floral prints for the blocks
- 1.9m (2¹/₈yd) red fabric with white spots for the blocks, cornerstones and binding
- 35cm (14in) each of four different fabrics for the block frames
- 20cm (8in) white background floral fabric for the cornerstones
- 30cm (12in) white fabric with blue spots for the cornerstones
- 80cm (32in) white linen for the borders
- 65cm (25in) large-scale strawberry print fabric for the top and bottom outside border
- 4.9m (5¹/₃yd) fabric for the backing

Other requirements

- Rotary cutter, cutting mat and quilter's ruler
- Neutral-coloured thread for piecing
- Perle No 8 cotton thread in green, white, blue and red for quilting
- 170cm x 245cm (67in x 96in) batting
- Tape or clips for sandwiching the quilt
- Thread for basting
- General sewing supplies
- Sewing machine

Cutting

All measurements include a scant ¹/₄in seam allowance. All fabric is cut across the width of the fabric unless otherwise stated. It is recommended that a sample block be made before cutting out all the pieces to complete the quilt.

From the large-scale floral prints
Cut 20, 10in squares for the blocks.

From the red fabric with white spots
Cut seven 3in strips and crosscut to yield 80, 3in squares for the blocks.

By Sarah Fielke

Red fabric with white spots accents the clear, pretty colours in this luscious design. Ripe with shades of strawberry, the quilt will have you dreaming of summer.

Cut two 3³/₄in strips and crosscut to yield 12, 3³/₄in squares. Crosscut each square diagonally twice to yield 48 triangles for the cornerstones. Note: This will not be required if the trimmed triangles are used. See block instructions for details.

Cut ten 2¹/₄in strips and crosscut to yield 160, 2¹/₄in squares for the borders.

Cut eight 2¹/₂in strips for the binding.

From each of the four different print fabrics
Cut four 3in strips and crosscut to yield a total of 124, 3in x 5¹/₄in rectangles for the block frames.

From the white background floral fabric
Cut two 3in strips and crosscut to yield 12, 3in squares for the cornerstones.

From the white fabric with blue spots
Cut three 3³/₈in strips and crosscut to yield 24, 3³/₈in squares. Crosscut the squares diagonally once to yield 48 half-square triangles for the cornerstones.

From the white linen fabric
Cut eight 3³/₄in strips and crosscut to yield four 3³/₄in x 8¹/₂in rectangles; 30, 3³/₄in x 7³/₄in rectangles; and four 3³/₄in x 5¹/₄in rectangles for the borders.

From the large-scale strawberry print fabric
Cut three 8in strips for the top and bottom outside border. Cut one of these strips in half.

Method Blocks

Fold the 3in red fabric with white spots squares in half diagonally and press. Place one 3in red fabric with white spots square on the

Fabric choices

The large-scale strawberry print fabric is the colour inspiration for the other fabrics used in this quilt. Choose a variety of large-scale floral prints for the centres of the blocks and white background floral fabric for the centres of the cornerstones. The blocks are framed with rectangles made from four different fabrics – multi-coloured stripe, white with green spots, white with blue spots and a pink and blue floral design. The use of red fabric with white spots throughout the quilt unifies the design.

This quilt was made using some linen fabric, which is more loosely woven than quilter's cotton fabric. If you select linen, cut and piece the fabric with care and do not handle the pieces too much, or they will stretch. Alternatively, this design would look striking if made with 'theme' prints such as African or Japanese fabrics.

corner of one 10in large-scale floral print square, with right sides together and aligning corners, as shown in diagram 1. Stitch along the fold line. Repeat with the other three corners.

Trim off the corners ¹/₄in outside the sewing line. Note: Set the cut triangles aside if you plan to use them for the cornerstones.

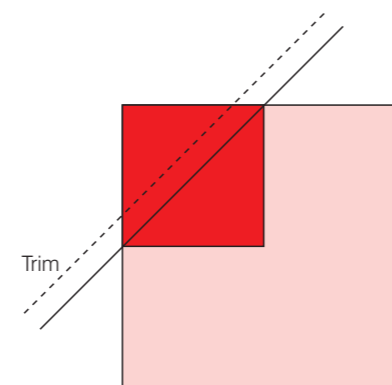


Diagram 1

Flip the red fabric with white spots away from the centre of the square and press the seams. Make 20 blocks in this way.

Block frames

Sort the 3in x 5¹/₄in block frame rectangles into matching pairs. Fold two 2¹/₄in red fabric with white spots squares in half diagonally and press. Place one 2¹/₄in square on the top right-hand corner of one block frame rectangle, with right sides together and aligning corners. Stitch along the fold line. Trim off the corners ¹/₄in outside the sewing line. Flip the red fabric with white spots back and press.

In the same way, but placing the 2¹/₄in square on the top left-hand corner of the block frame rectangle, repeat with the matching rectangle. Make 62 pairs in this way.

Stitch the units into matching pairs, as shown in diagram 2. Press the seams.

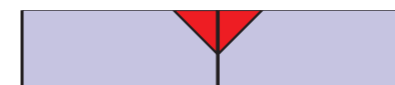


Diagram 2

Cornerstones

Stitch one small red fabric with white spots triangle on the side of one 3in white background floral square, with right sides together and aligning the edges. Note: The previously trimmed off small red fabric with white spots triangles may be used instead for this step, if required.

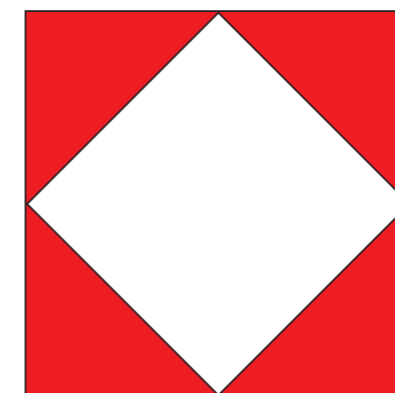


Diagram 3

In the same way, stitch a triangle to the opposite side of the square. Flip back the triangles and press. Trim the 'ears' of the triangles to reduce the bulk. Repeat for the remaining two sides. The square, as shown in diagram 3, should measure 4in.

In the same way, stitch four white fabric with blue spots half-square triangles to the square to make a cornerstone, as shown in diagram 4. Make 12 cornerstones.

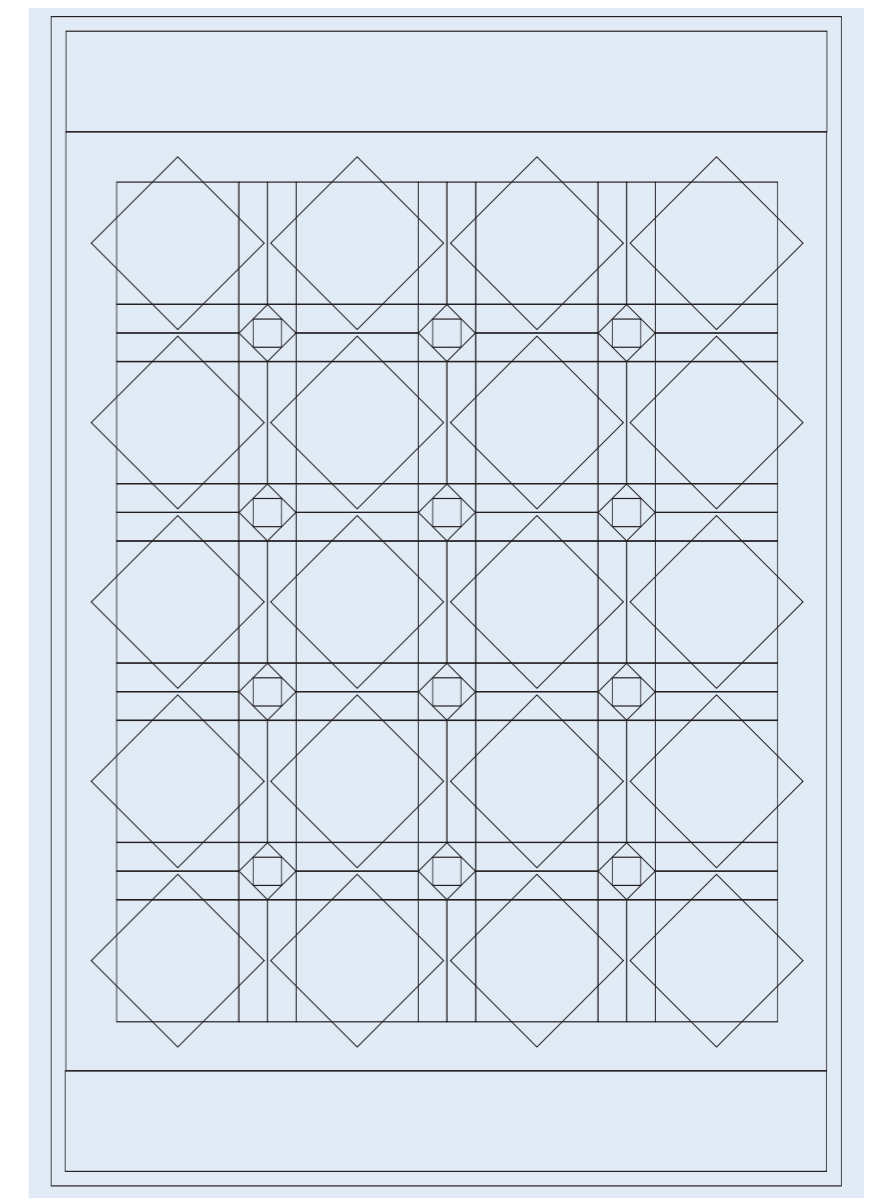
Borders

In the same way previously described, join the 2¹/₄in red fabric

with white spots squares to the 3³/₄in x 7³/₄in white linen rectangles. Stitch two units together into a pair to make a border unit 1, as shown in diagram 5. Make 10 border unit 1 in this way. There will be 10 single units left over.

In the same way, join the 2¹/₄in red fabric with white spots squares to the 3³/₄in x 5¹/₄in white linen rectangles to make a border unit 2. Make four border unit 2 in this way – two left units and two right units.

In the same way, join the 2¹/₄in red fabric with white spots squares to the 3³/₄in x 8¹/₂in white linen



Layout diagram

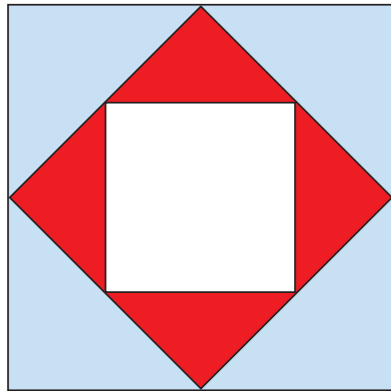


Diagram 4

rectangles to make a border unit 3. Make four border unit 3 in this way – two left units and two right units.

Stitch three border unit 1 together to make a strip. Stitch one single unit to each end of this strip. Stitch one border unit 2 to each end of the strip to make a side border. Press the seams. Make two side borders in this way.

Stitch two border unit 1 together to make a strip. Stitch one single unit to each end of this strip. Stitch one border unit 3 strip to each end of the strip to make a top border. Press the seams. Make the bottom border in the same way.



Diagram 5

Note

When joining border strips, ensure that all the triangles are along the same edge and in pairs.

Assembly

The quilt is constructed in rows. Referring to the layout diagram, arrange all the blocks, block frame units and cornerstones on a design wall or large, flat surface. Rearrange the pieces, if necessary, until there is a pleasing arrangement of colours.

Pin and then stitch the frame units together into pairs. Press the seams. Pin and then stitch the rows together. Take care to align the centre



of the frame units with the centre point of the blocks, and trim the frame units if they are too long. Make sure that seams in adjoining rows are pressed in opposite directions, so that the seams can butt together. Press the seams.

Pin and then stitch the rows together, interlocking the seams at the block intersections for ease of joining and a flatter seam. Press the seams.

Pin-mark the sides of the quilt top and the border strips in quarters. Pin

the side borders to the quilt top, matching pin marks, and stitch into place, ensuring the triangles are against the quilt top. Press the seams towards the borders.

Pin-mark the top and bottom of the quilt top and the bottom strip in quarters. Pin the borders to the quilt top, matching pin marks, and stitch into place. Press the seams towards the borders.

Join one short 8in large-scale strawberry print strip to the end of each long 8in large-scale

strawberry print strip. Press the seams. Measure the width of the quilt through the centre and cut two, 8in strips to this measurement for the top and bottom borders. Pin-mark the top and bottom of the quilt top and the bottom strip in quarters. Pin the borders to the quilt top, matching pin marks, and stitch into place. Press the seams towards the outside borders.

Finishing

Cut the backing into two equal lengths. Trim off the selvages and join the lengths side-by-side. Press the seams open.

Lay the backing fabric, right side down, on a large, flat surface and tape or clip down. Lay the batting on top of the backing and smooth out to remove any wrinkles. Lay the pieced quilt top, right side up, on top of the batting and smooth out from the centre. Baste through all layers using large basting stitches, starting in the centre of the quilt and working towards the edges.

This quilt was quilted with Perle thread – green in the centre of the blocks; white in the block frames; blue in the outer border; and red in the centre of the cornerstones. A suggested quilting pattern for the quilt is on the pattern sheet.

Join the binding strips together using 45-degree seams. Press the seams open to help distribute the bulk. Cut one end to a 45-degree angle and press under a single $\frac{1}{4}$ in fold. Press the binding in half lengthwise with the wrong sides together.

Using a $\frac{1}{4}$ in seam allowance and starting about 4in from the pressed fold, stitch the binding strip to the front of the quilt-top edge, matching raw edges. Stop $\frac{1}{4}$ in from each corner, remove the quilt from the machine and fold the binding strip at 45 degrees towards the top of the quilt. Fold the binding strip down level with the next side of the quilt to make a neat corner. This will make a mitred corner when the binding is folded to the back. Continue stitching, starting $\frac{1}{4}$ in from the folded edge. Repeat this process for all the corners.

Stop stitching 6in from the starting point and, with the quilt remaining under the machine, insert the end of the strip inside the folded end, trimming off any excess. Stitch in place. Turn the folded edge over to the back of the quilt and slipstitch in place, stitching the mitred corners to secure them.

Sew a label to the back of the quilt, with details of the maker's name and the date.

A kit containing the fabrics required for the quilt top and the binding can be purchased for \$220 from Material Obsession, phone 02 9817 2733, or visit the website www.materialobsession.com.au Please note that the fabrics in the kit will vary from those shown here.