

BAUBLES & BEADS

Quick & Easy Machine Piecing Techniques

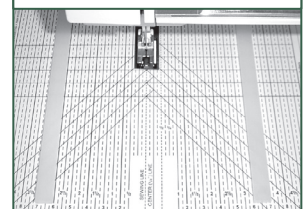


FINISHED SIZE: 73 1/2" x 87"

Designed by Annis Clapp
Machine Quilted by Donna Akins



fast2sew™ Ultimate
Seam Guide



BAUBLES & BEADS

*Read all instructions carefully before starting.
Prewash and iron fabrics.*

All strips are cut on the crosswise grain of the fabric unless directions specify otherwise. Press seams in the direction of the arrows.

PREPARING TO SEW

Using an **Ultimate Seam Guide** will give you a smoother sewing surface and longer, easy to see seam allowance markings for more accurate piecing. It covers the uneven surface between the needle plate and sewing machine cabinet or tray so your fabric will feed smoothly and evenly.

Place the **Seam Guide** on the sewing machine. (Follow instructions to cut opening for needle and feed dogs.) Make sure the needle lines up with the red sewing line on the **Seam Guide** and tape in place.

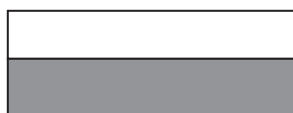
Set sewing machine stitch length to 12-15 stitches per inch (2.0 on some sewing machines).

ALTERNATE PIECING FOR FOUR-PATCH UNITS

If you aren't using a **Seam Guide**, you can still make this quilt the traditional way by cutting 1 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 16" strip and 1 - 3" x 19" strip from each of the 7 medium prints from color families 1 and 2; and cutting 14 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 19" strips and 14 - 3" x 16" strips from the light print. Make strip sets by pairing the $2\frac{1}{2}$ " medium print strips with the 3" light print strips for **Strip Set 1** and the 3" medium print strips with the $2\frac{1}{2}$ " light print strips for **Strip Set 2**.

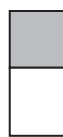


Strip Set 1 (make 14)



Strip Set 2 (make 14)

Cut each **Strip Set 1** into 6 units $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide for **Unit 1**. Cut each **Strip Set 2** into 6 units 3" wide for **Unit 2**.



Unit 1 (make 84)



Unit 2 (make 84)

Matching different fabrics from the same color family, sew a **Unit 1** and a **Unit 2** together as shown to make the **Four-Patch Units**. Make 84. You will have 4 extra.



**Color Family 1
(make 42)**



**Color Family 2
(make 42)**



CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

From each of the 7 medium prints for color family 1, cut:

- 1 strip 6" x 19" for four-patch units

From the med. dark center square print, cut:

- 4 strips $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x 18" for block center

From each of the 7 medium prints for color family 2, cut:

- 1 strip 6" x 19" for four-patch units

From 6 each of the medium prints for color families 1 and 2, cut:

- 1 strip $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 8" for inner pieced border

From 1 each of the medium prints for color families 1 and 2, cut:

- 2 squares $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " for inner pieced border corners

From the dark print for cornerstones, cut:

- 3 strips 2" x 17"
- 6 squares 2" x 2"

From the medium print for baubles, cut:

- 3 strips 2" x 19" for vertical sashing
- 3 strips 2" x 17" for horizontal sashing

From the light print, cut:

- 7 strips 6" x 42". From these strips, cut 14 rectangles 6" x 19" for four-patch units.
- 4 strips 5" x 42". From these strips, cut 8 rectangles 5" x 18" for block strip set.
- 4 strips 5" x 42". From these strips, cut 40 rectangles 5" x 3¹/₂" for block.
- 1 strip 19" x 42". From this strip, cut 6 rectangles 5³/₄" x 19" on the lengthwise grain for vertical sashing.
- 1 strip 17" x 42". From this strip, cut 6 rectangles 5³/₄" x 17" on the lengthwise grain for horizontal sashing.
- 2 strips 8¹/₂" x 42". From these strips, cut 6 rectangles 8" x 8¹/₂" for inner pieced border.
- 22 rectangles 2" x 2¹/₂" from leftover strips for inner pieced border

From the med. light print, cut:

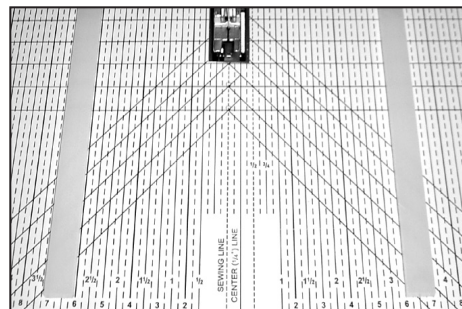
- 8 strips 1¹/₂" x 42" for inner border

From the med. dark print, cut:

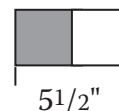
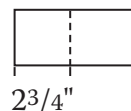
- 4 strips 6¹/₂" x length of fabric for outer border
- 5 strips 2¹/₄" x length of fabric for binding

MAKING A TEST BLOCK

1. Place the **Seam Guide Bars** slightly to the left of the 6" lines on the **Seam Guide** (black numbers on **Guide**). This will allow for the width of the thread and the fold of the seam allowance when it's pressed to one side.



2. Cut a 3" x 6" layered strip from scrap fabric. Place between the **Guide Bars** and sew from end to end. The sewn strip should measure exactly 5¹/₂" when pressed open. Reposition **Guide Bars** if needed, sew on the other side of the strip and recheck the measurement.



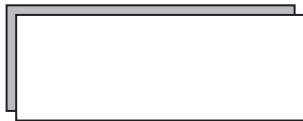
***Tip:** If the adhesive on the guide bars does not stick well to the seam guide, add a strip of 3M Poster Tape and trim excess width with an x-acto knife.*

PIECING

FOUR-PATCH UNITS

1. Layer a 6" x 19" medium print for color family 1 and a 6" x 19" light print, right sides together, with raw edges even. Pin or fanfold to keep layers from shifting. Repeat for the remaining 6" x 19" color family 1 prints. Repeat for the 6" x 19" medium prints for color family 2.

Color Family 1



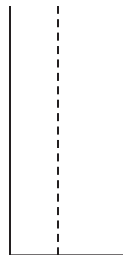
7 layered strips

Color Family 2

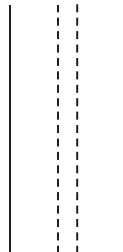


7 layered strips

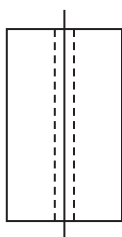
2. Place the 6" layered strips between the **Guide Bars** to sew. The left **Guide Bar** is the one that determines the seam allowance. Make sure the layered fabric stays against the **Guide Bar** as you sew. Chain-sew one stack at a time and keep the stacks separated.



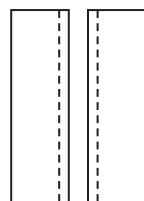
3. Rotate the strips 180° and sew again in the opposite direction.



4. Press seam lines to set seams. Fold each sewn strip in half and cut between sewn lines. Keep the right and left side of the cut strips in separate stacks, and the color families separated.

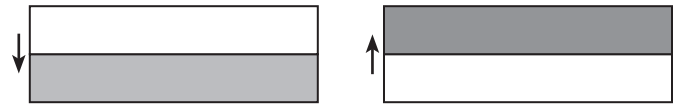


Fold

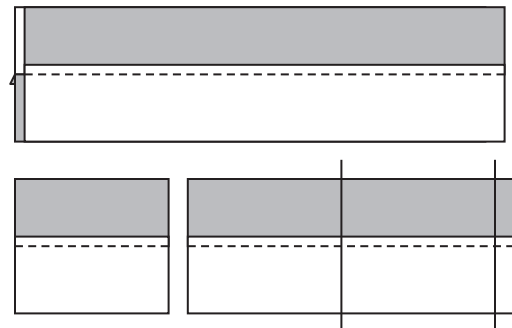


Left Right

5. Press seams toward darker fabric, keeping the fabrics from the separate stacks in order. You will have 14 color family 1 and 14 color family 2 strip sets, 7 in each stack.

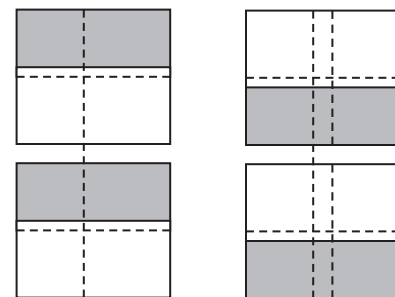


6. Take the top strip set from 1 stack of each of the color families and place on the bottom.
*Layer the top strip set from each stack of the same color family with like colors opposite each other and seams aligned. Cut into 3 units 6" wide. Repeat for all of the strip sets.

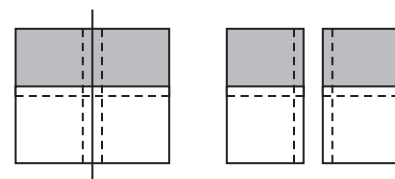


**Note: Stagger the strip sets to see which ones line up for sewing and rearrange if desired. The goal is to use 2 different strip sets of the same color family for each unit.*

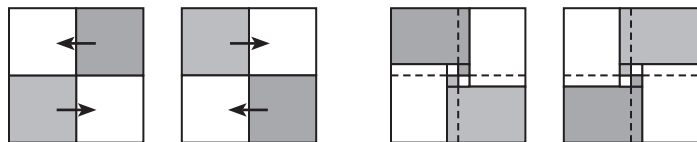
7. Place the 6" wide units between the **Guide Bars** and chain-sew. Rotate 180° and sew again in the opposite direction.



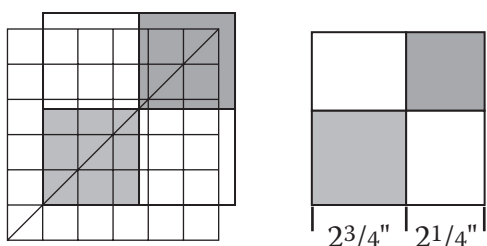
8. Press seam lines and cut between sewn lines.



9. Press seams to light and open at center. Each unit makes 2 blocks, 1 right hand and 1 left hand for a total of 84 blocks. You will have 4 extra. Keep the right and left hand of each color family in separate stacks.



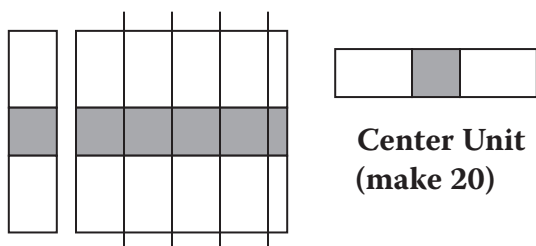
10. Trim the block units to 5" square by trimming $\frac{1}{2}$ " off two sides of one of the medium prints on all of the units. The $2\frac{1}{4}$ " mark on the ruler should fall at the center of the unit and the 5" mark at the sides. Cut the sides off equal numbers of units from the same fabric. For instance, there will be 6 identical blocks with the same fabrics, 3 in each stack if you separated the right from the left. Cut the 3 units from the first stack on one fabric and the 3 units from the 2nd stack on the opposite fabric.



Four Patch Unit (make 80 plus 4 extra)

CENTER UNIT

1. Sew a 5" x 18" light print rectangle to each long side of a $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x 18" med. dark center square print to make a strip set. Press seams. Make 4 strip sets.
2. Cut each strip set into 5 units $3\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. Make 20 **Center Units**.

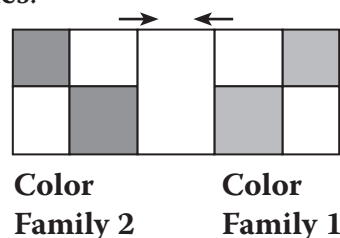


Center Unit (make 20)

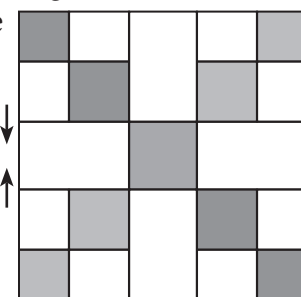
BLOCK ASSEMBLY

***Optional:** Referring to the Quilt Block Diagram and the cover photo, place the Four-Patch Units on a design wall or large surface to arrange in the desired order before sewing together. Take a digital picture or number the units for the different blocks. You will be making 20 - 12" blocks.*

1. Sew a **Four-Patch Unit** to each side of a $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3" light print rectangle as shown, color family 1 on the right and color family 2 on the left with the smaller squares at the upper outside corners. Repeat for remaining **Four Patch Units**. Press seams. Make 40 **Four Patch Unit Assemblies**.



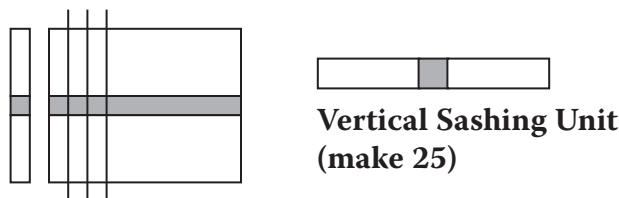
2. Sew a **Four-Patch Unit Assembly** to each side of a **Center Unit**, making sure the smaller squares are at the outside corners. Press seams. Make 20 **Blocks**.



Block (make 20)

SASHING UNIT (Vertical)

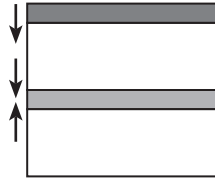
1. Sew a $5\frac{3}{4}$ " x 19" light print strip to each side of a 2" x 19" medium print bauble strip to make a strip set. Press seams. Make 3 strip sets.
2. Cut each strip set into 9 units 2" wide. You will have 2 extra. Make 25 **Vertical Sashing Units**.



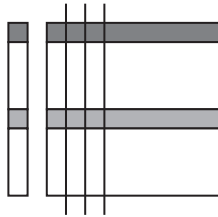
Vertical Sashing Unit (make 25)

SASHING UNIT (Horizontal)

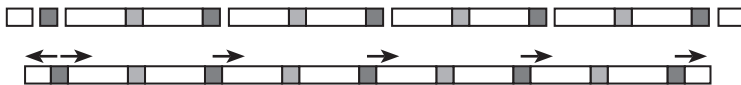
1. Sew a 2" x 17" dark print cornerstone strip, a 5³/₄" x 17" light print strip, a 2" x 17" medium print bauble strip, and a 5³/₄" x 17" light print strip together as shown to make a strip set. Press seams. Make 3 strip sets.



2. Cut each strip set into 8 units 2" wide.



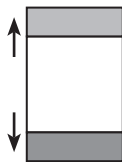
3. Sew 4 units, 1 - 2" x 2" dark print cornerstone square, and 2 - 2" x 2¹/₂" light print inner pieced border rectangles together as shown to make a **Sashing Unit**. Press seams toward sashing (light print). Make 6 **Horizontal Sashing Units**.



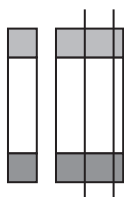
Horizontal Sashing Unit (make 6)

INNER PIECED BORDER UNIT

1. Sew a 2¹/₂" x 8" medium print for color family 1 to one side of an 8¹/₂" x 8" light print and a 2¹/₂" x 8" medium print for color family 2 to the opposite side of an 8¹/₂" x 8" light print to make a strip set. Press seams. Make 6 strip sets.



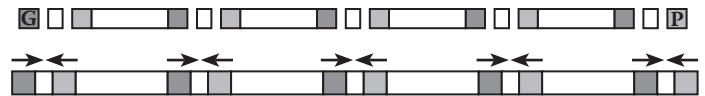
2. Cut each strip set into 3 units 2¹/₂" wide. Make 18 **Border Unit A's**.



**Border Unit A
(make 18)**

Optional: Referring to the *Quilt Diagram* and the cover photo, place the *Blocks* and *Border Unit A's* on a design wall or large surface to arrange in the desired order before sewing together.

3. Sew 4 **Border Unit A's**, 1 - 2¹/₂" x 2¹/₂" medium print corner square from each color family, and 5 - 2" x 2¹/₂" light print inner pieced border rectangles as shown to make **Border Unit B**. Press seams toward light print. Make 2 **Border Unit B's**.

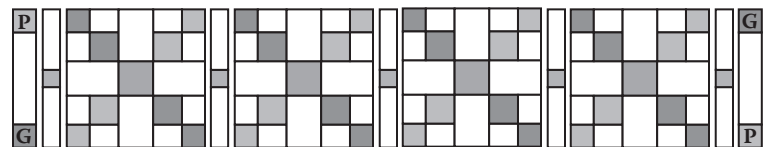


Border Unit B (make 2)

QUILT ASSEMBLY

Refer to the cover photo for proper placement of the different color families.

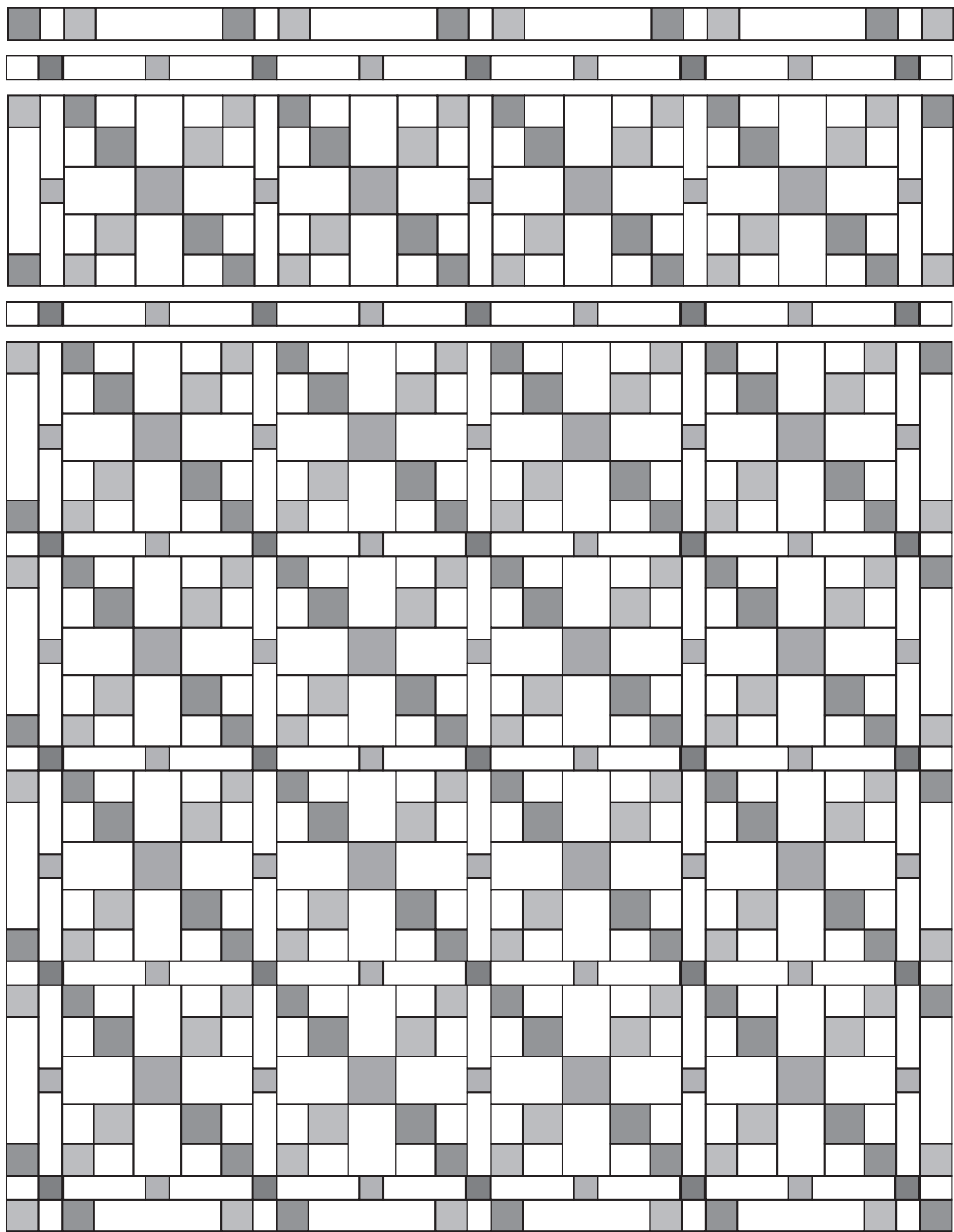
1. Sew 2 **Border Unit A's**, 4 **Blocks**, and 5 **Vertical Sashing Units** together as shown. Press seams toward **Sashing Units**. Make 5.



Block Assembly Unit (make 5)

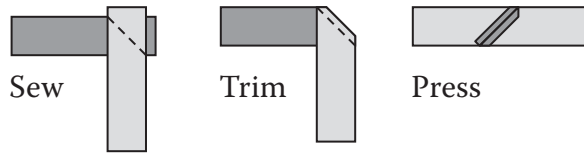
2. Referring to the **Quilt Diagram** on page 6, sew 2 **Border Unit B's**, 6 **Horizontal Sashing Units**, and 5 **Block Assembly Units** together. Press seams toward **Sashing Units**.

QUILT DIAGRAM



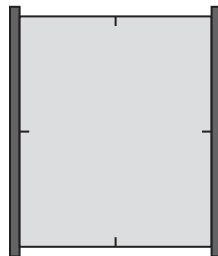
ADDING BORDERS

1. Diagonal piece 2 inner border strips together for each side of the quilt. Press seams open.

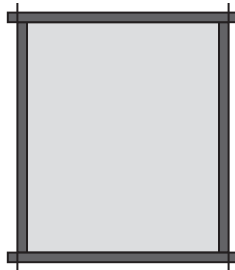


2. With pins, mark the center points along all 4 sides of the quilt. Measure the center of the quilt from top to bottom in several places to get the average length. Divide this measurement by 2 to get the middle measurement. Mark the beginning, middle, and end measurements on both long edges of the side borders, leaving a little excess fabric on each end for insurance.

3. Pin and sew the side borders to the quilt top, matching the middle and ends. Press seams toward borders. Trim excess fabric square with quilt top.



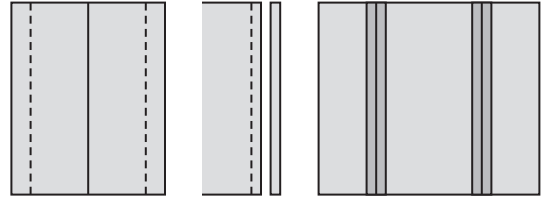
4. Measure the width of the quilt including the borders just added. Mark, pin, and sew borders to the top and bottom of the quilt. Press seams toward borders and trim excess fabric.



5. Follow **Steps 2 thru 4** to add outer borders to quilt.
6. Stay-stitch $\frac{1}{8}$ " from edge around entire quilt.

QUILTING

1. Cut the backing fabric in half crosswise to make 2 - $2\frac{3}{4}$ yard lengths. Cut 1 of these lengths in half lengthwise to make 2 lengths approximately 21" wide. Sew the long edges together, matching opposite selvage edges, with a seam allowance large enough to include the selvage plus $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Trim seams to $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press open. Trim the backing and batting so they are 4" larger than the quilt top (6" if you will be having it quilted on a longarm machine).



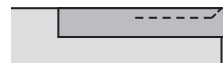
2. Mark the quilt top for quilting. Layer the backing, batting, and quilt top. Hand-baste or safety pin the 3 layers together and quilt.
3. After quilting is complete, remove basting. **Do not** trim the excess batting and backing fabric until after you have added the binding.

BINDING

NOTE: I bind my quilts in almost the same manner that I add borders – by measuring, marking, and pinning. This helps reduce the chance of ripples on the edges of the quilt. You may have your own favorite way of binding. This is what works best for me.

1. Diagonal piece the binding strips together for one long piece. Press seams open. Fold the strip in half lengthwise, wrong sides together, and press.
2. Find the average measurement of the width of the quilt by measuring in several places. Mark this length on a piece of paper. Repeat for the length of the quilt. To mark the binding, place a pin $1\frac{1}{8}$ " from the beginning edge (this is half of the width needed for diagonal piecing the ends of the binding together), place a 2nd pin at half the width of the quilt, a 3rd pin at half the length of the quilt, a 4th pin at half the length, a 5th pin at half the width, a 6th pin at half the width, a 7th pin at half the length, an 8th pin at half the length, a 9th pin at half the width, and a 10th pin $1\frac{1}{8}$ " from the last pin (for diagonal piecing the binding). **Do not** cut the excess binding in case you have mismeasured. If any of the corner pins falls on or near a seam you will need to reposition the pins and cut off some of the beginning width. I usually quick measure before adding pins to avoid this.
3. Starting at the center top of the quilt, pin binding to quilt (or use safety pins), matching pins to center and ends of each side, with raw edges of binding even with raw edges of quilt top. If the binding is too loose or too tight in places, check to make sure you didn't mismeasure. Sometimes the border lengths are longer or shorter than the center of the quilt, depending on the type or amount of quilting. I usually make adjustments for this by dividing the difference. A small difference can be eased in.

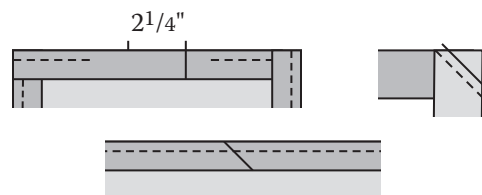
4. Leaving the first 8" unsewn, stitch the binding to the right side of the quilt with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Use a walking foot to keep the binding from stretching as you sew. Stop stitching $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the first corner. With the needle down, pivot the quilt and stitch to the corner at a 45° angle.



5. To miter the corner, fold the binding strip up and away from the corner (you will need to remove a pin or 2 from the next side to do this). Then fold the binding down even with the raw edge of the quilt top. Begin sewing at the upper edge. Continue in the same manner around remaining edges and corners.



6. Stop sewing 8" from the center top of the quilt (16" from starting point). Check to make sure ends overlap $2\frac{1}{4}$ " and trim excess fabric. Remove pins and diagonal piece the ends together, making sure they aren't twisted. Trim and finger press seam open. Refold binding and pin to quilt. Sew remaining binding to quilt.



7. Press binding away from quilt. Trim excess batting and backing fabric, being careful not to cut binding.
8. Turn the folded edge of the binding over the raw edge of the quilt. The binding should cover the stitching line on the back of the quilt. Pin binding to back of quilt, folding in and pinning mitered corners. Hand-sew binding in place. Take 2 or 3 stitches in the front and back side of the mitered corners.

9. Sign and date your quilt.

These instructions are presented in good faith, but no warranty is given, nor results guaranteed. AMC Designs disclaims any liability for unfavorable results.

P109 BAUBLES & BEADS

Finished Size: 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 87"

Block Size: 12" x 12"

SAVE TIME CUTTING, PINNING, AND PRESSING!

At first glance this quilt appears to be made with 2 sizes of nine patch blocks; but it is actually made from strip-pieced four patch blocks, strip sets, and sashing. See if you can solve the mystery. Hint: The four patch blocks are trimmed on 2 sides before assembly.

Choose a variety of fabrics from two color families. Avoid obvious one-way prints.

FABRIC AND SUPPLIES

Yardage is based on 42" usable fabric width.

1 fat quarter each of 7 medium prints for color family 1
(purple)

1 fat quarter med. dark print for block center square (purple)

1 fat quarter each of 7 medium prints for color family 2
(green)

1 fat eighth dark print for cornerstones (green)

1 fat quarter medium print for baubles (purple)

4 yds light print for background and sashing

$\frac{1}{2}$ yd med. light print for inner border

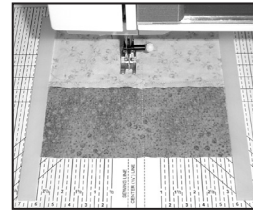
$2\frac{1}{4}$ yds med. dark print for outer border
and binding (cut on lengthwise grain)

$5\frac{1}{2}$ yds backing fabric

80" x 93" batting

fast2sew™ Ultimate Seam Guide

Rotary Cutter, Mat & Rulers



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*Note: Seam guide shown in
photographs is discontinued.
A new seam guide is available
through C & T Publishing.*