

### MONTH ONE GETTING STARTED - May

**The finished quilt will measure 64" x 64".**

This time I have designed a medallion style quilt, with a centre block and six borders. There will be pieced blocks and yes, half square triangles again, plus appliqué. As always you will construct the blocks in your preferred method, I will just detail my preferred method.

Grateful thanks to my pattern testers Sue Knuckey, Chris O'Brien and Kathleen Rossini. My preferred method of appliqué is raw edge, machine blanket stitch. Kathleen has used the Floriani turned edge, machine appliqué method. Sue has raw edge appliqué and stitched it down with the quilting and Chris has done hand needle turn. A number of different techniques for you to think about. I really appreciate Sue, Kathleen and Chris taking this project on, thank you girls.

Special thanks to Kathy Rossini for formatting my notes and making them suitable for publishing in I-Patch and on Facebook, way above my pay grade. Thank you, Kathy



### **Fabric requirements**

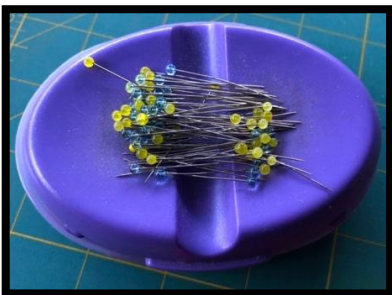
I know I have said this before but.... how long is a piece of string? ...I'm a bit of a "more is always better than less" sort of girl, when it comes to fabric. It works for ice-cream doesn't it? So, I chose fabrics from one of my favourite designers – Me and My Sister plus a background. I used the background in all the pieced blocks and all the appliqué blocks. My quilt is controlled scrappy and my Me and My Sister fabrics were a mix of scraps and larger pieces.

- Background fabric, I purchased 3.0 metres.
- I chose seven colours from Me and My Sister – purple, aqua, blue, yellow, lime green, pink and orange with light and dark of those colours. Small prints are more suitable as some of the pieces are quite small. You can choose light, mediums and darks for your contrast but I just used different colours for my contrast. You will need width of fabric in three (detailed below) for borders. I had about 35 fabrics to choose from in a mix of meterage, fat quarters, fat eighths, 10" squares and scraps. Probably 4 to 5m in total, which is way more than I needed, as you know more is always better.

- 15cm width of fabric for border 1
- 20cm width of fabric for border 3
- 35cm width of fabric for border 5
- Fusible web of your choice. I used 2.5m x 50cm wide.
- Binding – I needed 60cm for the binding.
- Backing and wadding

### Also

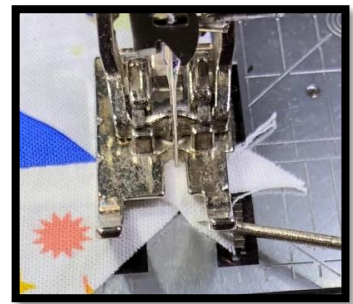
- I made all the blocks, both pieced and appliqué, of the quilt and then put the quilt together at the end. So, month 8, December will have the instructions for completing the quilt.
- You might find a rotating cutting mat useful; I used my 7" x 7" Fiskars rotating mat.
- A light box or similar will be handy for tracing the appliqué, if you have one.
- I always pin my work and find Clover fine pins Code No 2507 (opaque yellow and blue heads) the best, very sharp and very fine, see below left.
- I use an awl to tame the ends of triangles to behave at the end of a seam as you are stitching, below right. You could use a pin or "purple thang".
- There are lots of seams which need to be butted in the pieced blocks and you might find Clover Fork Pins Code No 240 handy, below centre. They allow you to keep your seams butted in place, by pinning one pin either side of the seam. These are the only pins I sew over and I do that by turning the fly wheel on the machine by hand, so I can stop and adjust if the needle is about to come down on the pin.
- You may find that with handling, the ends of the seams come apart, using a smaller stitch length than normal will help – I used 2.00 length throughout
- You might also find a 6½" square ruler useful.
- I have given you the names of the blocks but don't forget blocks sometimes have more than one name so you might know the blocks by a different name.



clover fine pins



fork pins



using the awl

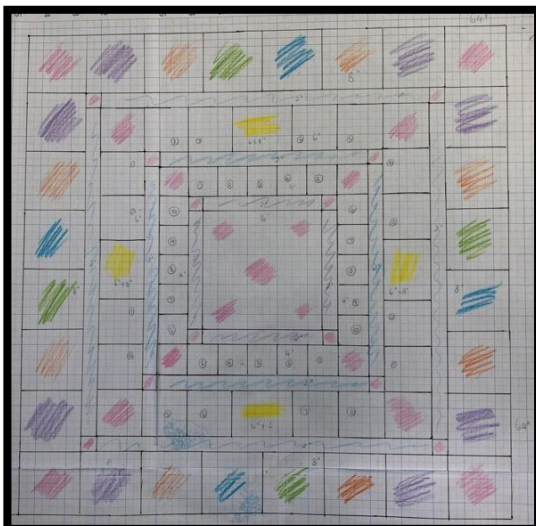
### Constants throughout the construction

- Seam allowance is always ¼" and is included in the cutting instructions
- In the appliqué blocks none of the flower appliqué patterns have seam allowance included as I did raw edge appliqué. If you are doing hand needle turn or floriani method you will need to add the required seam allowance to the pattern pieces.
- I press all my seams open as I go so that my blocks are as flat as possible, some are quite bulky so it just made sense to spread the bulk. On the wrong side press the seam to set the stitches. I would normally then press from the right side if I were just pressing seams to one side. This eliminates any little "folds" near the seam. This project needs to be pressed from the wrong side to open the seams out. I finger press the seams open first. I always finish by pressing on the right side.

- There are lots of half square triangles included in these blocks. There are several ways to make half square triangles so I will detail my method of choice in a separate file called "Getting started - making half square triangles". You will of course do what works for you. Also, for the quarter square triangles and the flying geese, choose your own favourite method if you prefer not to use the instructions included.
- Trim off the "ears" which appear as you construct the blocks
- Colours referred to in the patterns are the colours I chose for my blocks
- "Finished size" means when the blocks are sewn together and the seam allowance has been taken up.

### Other things to think about

- I used quarter inch graph paper (available from your quilt shop) to draw up a grid to work out the placement of my fabrics throughout the quilt,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on the graph paper = 1" of the quilt. Otherwise, join pages of copy paper together with sticky tape so that you can draw up a grid in  $\frac{1}{4}$ " increments and do the same. See photo below, left
- Mark the top and bottom of the page, which will be the top and bottom of the quilt. Draw the grid for the placement of the blocks using the black lines and these measurements.  
The centre block is 16" finished, all appliqué  
Border 1 is 2" finished, solid fabric with appliqué cornerstones  
Border 2 is 4" finished, pieced blocks with appliqué cornerstones  
Border 3 is 2" finished, solid fabric with appliqué cornerstones  
Border 4 is 6" finished, pieced blocks with a 6" x 8" appliqué block in the centre and appliqué cornerstones  
Border 5 is 2" finished, solid fabric with appliqué cornerstones  
Border 6 is 8" finished, all appliqué with appliqué cornerstones
- Month 8, December we will put the quilt together so as you construct the elements mark what they are and put them in snap locks bags ready for month 8.  
I then used the grid to stick samples of the fabrics I chose to use in each block, below, right. This meant I didn't make blocks with the same fabric next to one another and I could spread the colours throughout the quilt. You may not wish to do this but will be happy to let the chips fall where they may, as you make the quilt. Kathy has drawn up a grid which you may prefer to use, it is smaller than mine. Thanks Kathy.



- I have made a separate file with details of how I do my preferred method of appliqué - raw edge, machine blanket stitch.
- If you are doing hand needle turn or floriani you may prefer to change the appliqué patterns provided so the flowers have individual petals. This will eliminate those pesky “U” turns you need to make multiple times in each flower. It’s your quilt, do what works for you.
- If you are doing hand needle turn appliqué then I suggest that you cut the background blocks 1” bigger than stated in the pattern. Hand needle turn can draw the background in and make it smaller than required. When you have finished the hand sewing and pressed you can recut the blocks to the required measurements.
- To prewash fabrics or not? An interesting topic. I always prewash my fabrics for several of reasons. The “dressing” in the fabrics plays havoc with the skin on my hands, dries it out and makes it crack. We are working with cotton fabrics which have the ability to shrink, they may not, but they could. The colour in the fabric may run, may not, but it could. Pre-washing for me is not a wash in the machine. Rubber gloves on, very, very hot water in the sink, hotter than I will ever use to wash the quilt, no detergent, and put the fabric in. You need to make sure it is soaked through and give it a good swish around. It will shrink if it is going to and the colour run will be quickly evident if it is going to, it may just be excess dye. You can then deal with the colour run, or choose not to use that fabric. Rewash in hot water until the water is clear and the excess dye has been removed or set the colour. The old-fashioned way to set colours is to soak in a vinegar and salt solution. You will find details online.

Good luck and on to block 1 the centre appliqué medallion.