

MERCI NANTES QUILT – THANK YOU NANTES

made by Brigitte Giblin 2013-4

Finished size: 90 x 90 inches, 220 x 220 cm



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Made from 9 vintage panels purchased in Nantes, France, at “Pour l’Amour du Fil” salon. Each panel is bordered and individually quilted before being framed with applied diamonds to showcase these special fabrics. You could use a different backing fabric and a different border fabric for each block. Panels used are 23” square, however the quilt can be made using smaller panels – see ** Variations for details

MATERIALS

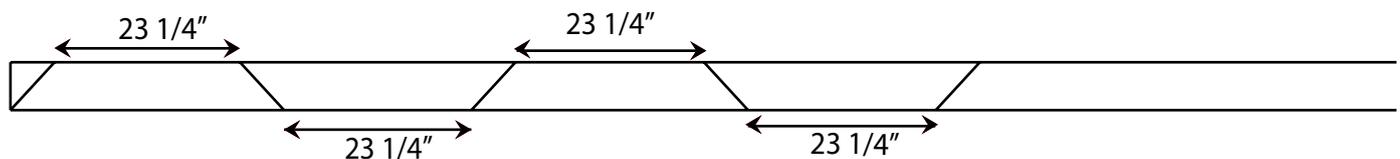
- .6m (2/3rd yd) each of 9 different feature panels (24” square)
- 5.5m (6¼ yd) fabric for backing – or your choice of 9 different backing fabrics, each 30” square
- 3m (3 1/3 yd) suitable small print shirting or plain fabric for panel borders – or your choice of 9 different border fabrics, .4m (1/2 yd) of each fabric
- Queen size, 90”x108” thin cotton quilt batting, without scrim –or 9 x 30” squares of batting
- .3m (1/3rd yd) each of 9 different fabrics for diamond frames around panels. Note: some of these will be fussy-cut, so choose fabrics with sufficient repeats. Also note that the “cool-toned” (blue-green) panels have “warm-toned” (red-pink-yellow) diamond frames and vice-versa.
- 100 (2 packs) pre-cut 3”, 8-point diamond papers-45 degrees, available from www.brigittegiblinquilts.com
- 1m (1 ¼ yd) suitable motif for the central (joining strip) and final border diamonds
- .5m (2/3 yd) each of 2 suitable motifs to fussy-cut for the contrast diamonds on the joining strips and final border diamonds
- Template plastic
- Hand sewing tools and quilting thread

METHOD

Panels: cut each of the 9 panels into 23” squares – including ¼” seam allowance

Borders: remove the selvedge and cut 3 ¼” wide strips along the length for the borders. Reserve 4 long strips for the outer edge of the quilt. Sew the remaining strips together to make one long strip. Press the seams open to avoid bulk.

Make a 45° cut on one end of the strip and then cut the strip into border pieces with 23 ¼” lengths on the short (inside) edge as follows:



Cut 36 border pieces in total. Sew these borders to each panel, mitring corners – see General Instructions attached for tips on mitred borders. Press the panels and mark quilting lines with a 2B pencil – note that only the panels are quilted, not the borders.

Tips for quilting the panels: each panel should be quilted differently, e.g.: cross-hatched squares with double lines; cross-hatched diamonds with double or triple lines; hexagons; bishops fan; waves; clamshells; diagonal triple lines;

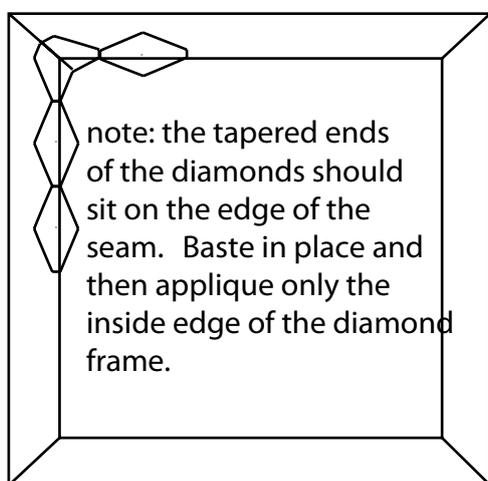
Prepare the blocks for quilting: cut 30” squares from the backing fabric – cut 7 squares one under the other along the length of the fabric and make 2 more backing squares from the remainder of fabric, i.e. with 2 joining seams in each.

Cut 30” squares from the batting and layer the backing, batting and bordered panels. Baste through all thicknesses – from edge to edge through the centre and around the edge.

The panels are now ready for quilting. Do not quilt the borders. Once quilted, remove the basting.

Applique diamond frames: use the patterns provided to cut two sets of templates. Make one set of templates without seam allowance for trimming the ends of the diamond papers and making the corner shapes, and a second set of templates, including ½” seam allowance, for cutting the fabrics. Mark the centre of the fabric cutting templates to help with fussy-cutting motifs.

Cut the fabrics and cover the papers, without basting through the paper. Do this by catching the folds only, so that papers can be removed without removing the basting – this will keep the seam allowance in place for appliqueing - lightly pressing the covered papers will also help. Tip: fold the end of the fabric over the tapered end of the papers first, and then each side – see photo. Use whipstitching to sew 4 diamond shapes together, end to end, for each side of the frame and join the sides together with the two corner pieces. Press the frame and remove papers when cool. Pin and then baste in place through the centre of the diamonds. Tip: the tapered ends of the diamond shapes should sit on the edge of the joining seam-see diagram below. Applique only the inside edge of the diamond frame. Turn the block over and pin the backing fabric away from the edges. Now applique the outside edge of the diamond frame, through the panel fabric and batting – note: your stitches should be visible on the batting – see photos.



Assembly: (Tip: it is important to use a flat surface to pin, baste and trim the blocks!) Prepare the “strip of joining diamonds” by sewing together 4 middle diamonds with 2 end diamonds. The quilt blocks are assembled like a 9-patch i.e. 3 rows of 3 blocks. Work with the middle block in the top row. Pin and then baste the joining diamonds strip to each side of the middle block so that the edges of the diamonds are touching – see photo. Applique the inside edge of the joining diamonds strip, again stitching through to the batting.



Turn your work over to the wrong side, and with a long ruler, mark a cutting line a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the applique stitches so that the batting and border fabric can be cut in line with the centre of the joining diamonds. Use scissors to carefully cut the border fabric and batting along the marked line. Turn your work to the right side and slide the side blocks under the joining diamonds of the middle block so that the edges of the diamonds are touching. Pin and then baste in place. Applique the other side of the joining diamonds to the two side blocks. Turn your work to the wrong side and again, using the applique stitches as a guide, mark a cutting line to remove the excess fabric and batting from the side panels. The cut edges of the batting and border fabrics will meet in the middle of the joining diamonds. It is not necessary to stitch the raw edges together. Next, assemble the 3 blocks for the centre row and the bottom row with the two strips of joining diamonds. Working with the centre row of 3 blocks, applique a strip of joining diamonds to the top and bottom edges of the 3 blocks. Turn the blocks to the wrong side and again mark and trim the edges of the batting and border fabric, using the applique stitches as a guide.



Slide the edge of the top row of 3 blocks under the joining diamonds of the centre row of 3 blocks. Pin and baste in place and then applique the other side of the joining diamonds to the 3 top blocks. Turn the blocks to the wrong side and again mark and trim the edges of the batting and border fabric, using the applique stitches as a guide.

Do the same for the bottom row of 3 blocks.

Do not trim away the batting from the outside edges of the assembled quilt.

Final Border: Prepare 12 strips of “joining diamonds” by sewing together 4 middle diamonds with 2 end diamonds. Applique the inside edge of these diamond strips to the quilt edges. Place a strip of the reserved border fabric under the edge diamonds (and a thin strip of batting if necessary). Baste in place and then applique the outside edge of the diamond strips.

Backing: unpin the backing fabric from the centre 3 blocks. Trim away any excess backing fabric if necessary so that there is a ¼” overlap of fabric. Make a 3/8th” turning on each side of the centre block and pin in place. Slip-stitch the edge using shallow stitches, without going through to the right side.

Do the same for the top and bottom 3 blocks. Lastly, slip stitch the joining seams above and below the centre 3 blocks.

Binding: Fold the excess border fabric to the back over the edges of the backing fabric. Make a turning and slip stitch in place, mitring corners.



Basting the fabric over the papers.

VARIATION** This pattern can be made using smaller panels such as half-metre fat quarters, cut into 18 ½” squares.

- 9 panels (3x3) with outside border, will give a 76” square finished quilt
- 16 panels (4x4) with outside border, will give a 100” square finished quilt

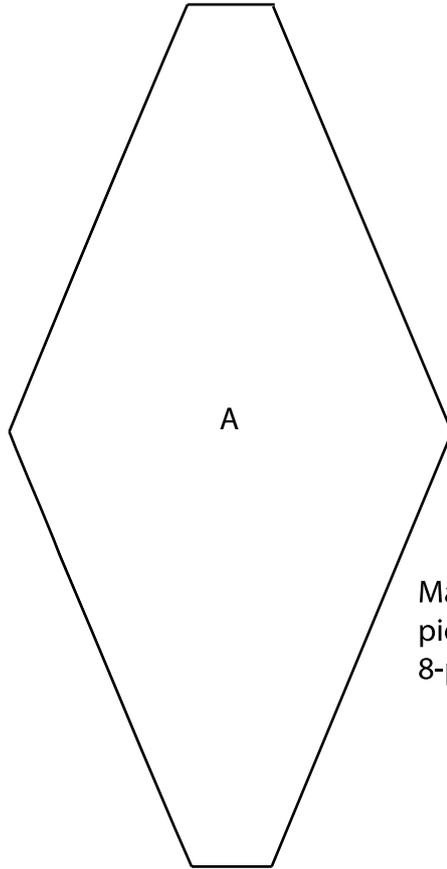
Basic materials for the 3x3 variation:

- Nine, 18 ½” square panels
- 2.5m (3yds) border fabric
- 3.75m (4 ¼ yds) fabric for backing
- Twin size batting - 80” square approx. or nine, 25” squares

Basic materials for the 4x4 variation:

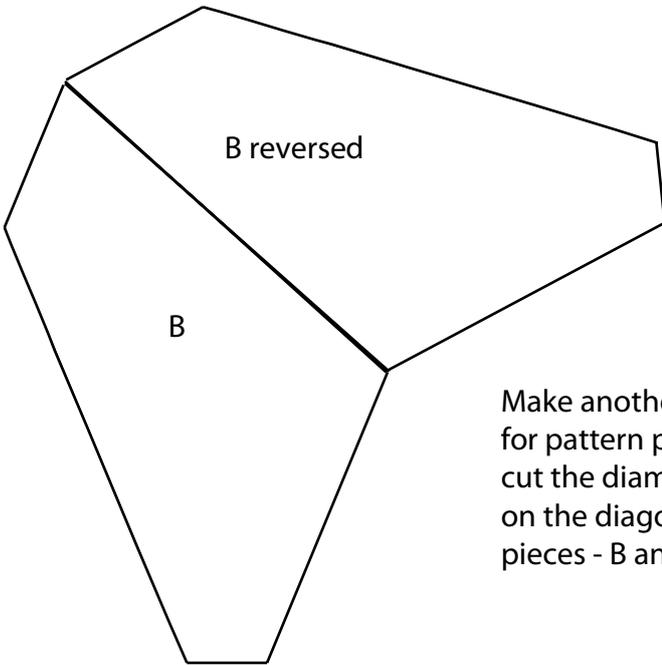
- Sixteen, 18 ½” square panels
- 3m (3 1/3yds) fabric for borders
- 7m (8yds) fabric for backing
- King size batting – 120” square approx. or sixteen, 25” squares

Refer to the main pattern for other materials and method. Note: border width is the same (3 ¼”cut), however the inside length for pre-cutting the border pieces is: 18 ¾”. The smaller blocks will require 3 whole diamond shapes on each side (instead of 4) plus the same corner shapes.

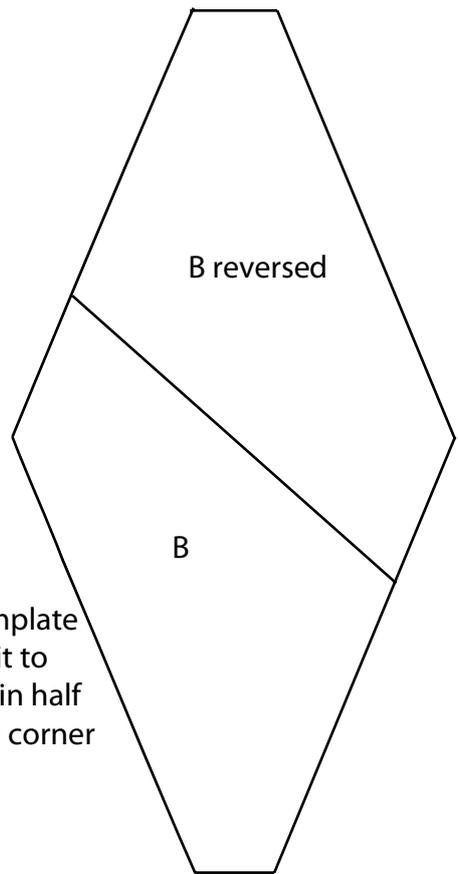


Make a plastic template for pattern piece A - use it to cut tips off the 3" 8-pointed star diamond papers

MERCI NANTES PATTERN PIECES
made by Brigitte Giblin

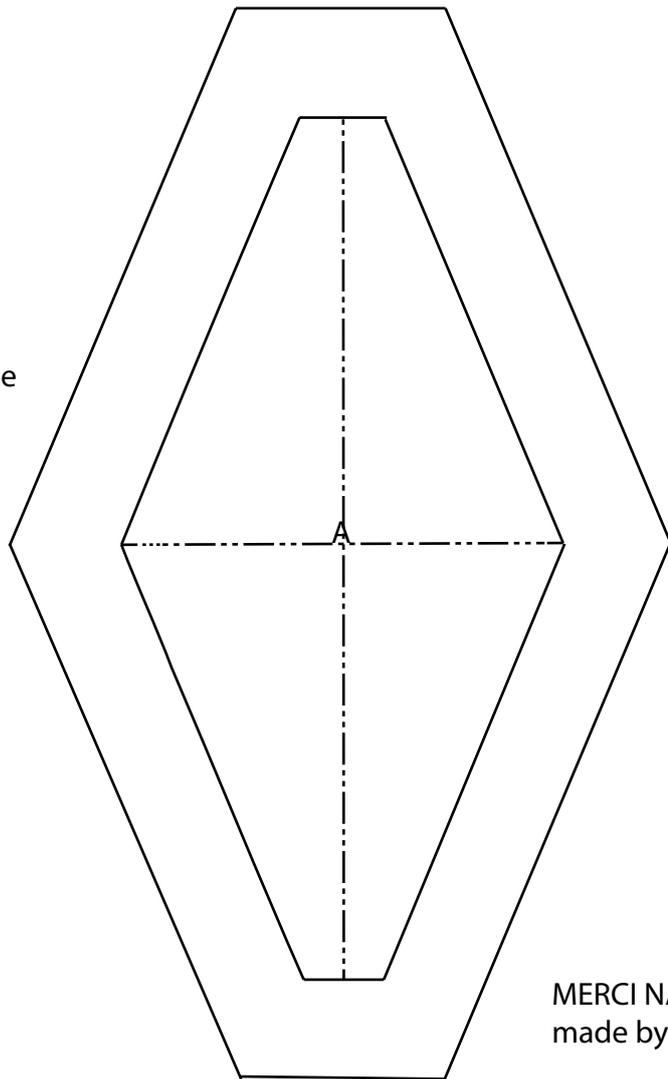


Make another plastic template for pattern piece B - use it to cut the diamond papers in half on the diagonal for the 2 corner pieces - B and B reversed

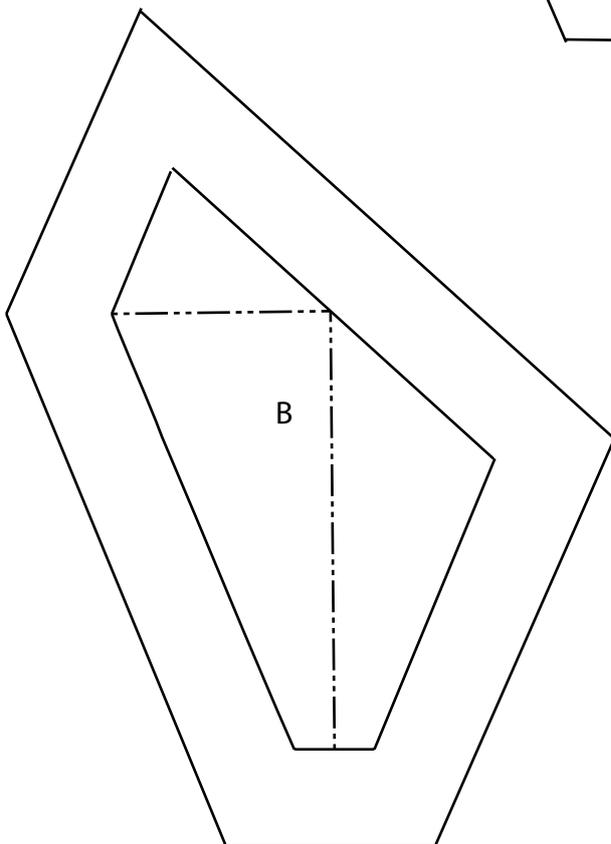


Make a second set of plastic templates including 1/2" seam allowance all around pattern pieces A and B. Mark lines through the centre of the templates to help with fussy-cutting. Use this second set of templates to cut fabrics.

Fabric cutting
template with
seam allowance



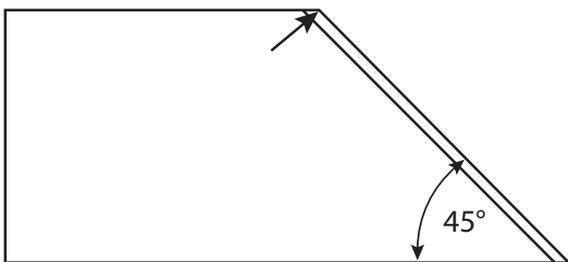
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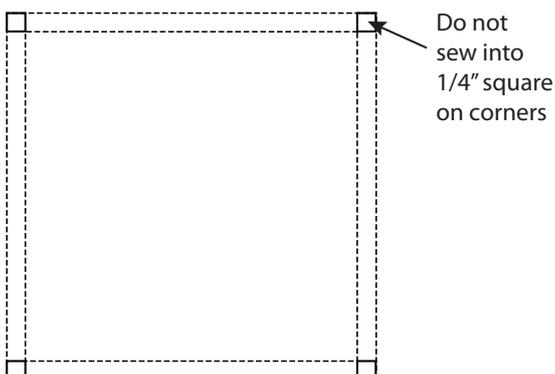
Remember to cut B and B-reversed
for the corner pieces

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS – MITRED BORDERS

Making a mitre template: Mitring a border is easier if you make a plastic template with a 45 degree angle first. This can be done by lining up the 45 degree angle on your ruler with the bottom right edge of a piece of template plastic and marking a line on the plastic. Mark another line $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the first line and cut the template plastic along this line. Draw an arrow on the top right hand corner of the template.



To mitre borders: On the wrong side of the quilt top mark a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch square in each corner. Leave an overlap, equivalent to the width of the border, and place quilt over border, right sides together. Pin in place and then stitch, starting $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the corner, making sure you do not sew into the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch marked square. Sew to the next corner and stop at the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch marked square, backstitch and repeat for each corner. Press the seams towards the outside edge.



Place the mitre template in line with the border seam on the wrong side of the quilt. Position the arrow at the exact spot where you stopped sewing. Draw a line along the 45-degree edge of the template with a 2B pencil. This is your sewing line. Move the template $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to the right so that you cover the sewing line and draw another line. This is your cutting line. Flip the mitre over to mark the corresponding border. Cut off the excess border fabric and line up the raw edges of the border. Pin with the two raw edges together and then stitch on the sewing line towards the outside edge. Press the seams to one side.

