

# Floating Squares

Finished size: 68 1/2" x 77 1/2"

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## Materials

Blocks .....	.21 fat quarters
Inner Border .....	3/4 yard
Outer Border .....	1 1/2 yards
Backing .....	4 3/4 yards
Binding .....	3/4 yard

This is a free pattern from Carried Away Quilting. It is not intended to be sold. Quilt Shops may kit this pattern, but the pattern must be given free of charge to customers.

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A FREE PATTERN FROM CARRIED AWAY QUILTING

**Beginner friendly! Fat Quarter friendly!**



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Finished size: 68 1/2" x 77 1/2"

**Sewing Instructions:** Please read through all instructions before beginning. Sew pieces right sides together with 1/4" seam allowance. Fabric is assumed to have 42" usable width, unwashed. Fat Quarters are assumed to be 18" x 22". WOF means Width of Fabric. Press all seams as shown by the directional arrows or as stated. Before you begin, check my website for any pattern updates.

## Notes:

I've had many requests for beginner friendly patterns that produce a visually interesting quilt. While the Economy Block has been around forever, Floating Squares is my fresh take on it. This is a great pattern for beginners and seasoned quilters alike . . .

1. The squares are "floating." This allows for a little wiggle room for beginning quilters. **No sewing off points and no point matching!**
2. My pattern is **fat quarter friendly**. You can pull 21 favorites from a factory cut bundle or gather them on your own. Many of us love gathering fat quarters, but sometimes they sit on the shelf too long as we ponder what to do with them.
3. My pattern will have you cut the middle and outer squares *twice* on the diagonal, which will allow you to **use directional fabric effectively**. (Many economy block tutorials call for a different method, using a single diagonal cut, which can make it harder to orient directional fabrics.)
4. Photos and sewing tips will help you stay organized and successful.

## Getting Organized:

- Each fat quarter will yield enough pieces for 2 blocks. We're using 21 fat quarters, so we'll end up with 42 blocks total.
- Before cutting, I grouped my 21 fat quarters into 7 sets of 3 (see photo at right).
- Try to get a nice mix of print and color. Take a photograph so that you can refer back to it later, just in case you step away from your project and can't remember your plan.
- As you are cutting and sewing, work set by set. That will help you to stay organized.



Each set of 3 will create 6 blocks.



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# Cutting Instructions

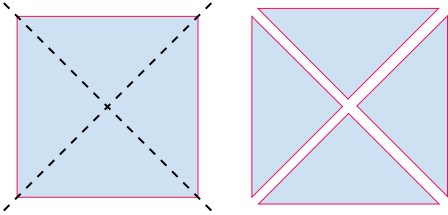
*Cut carefully. We are going to use almost every bit of each fat quarter! See the diagram at right for a visual representation.*

## From each of the (21) Fat Quarters:

- Cut (2) C squares  $8\frac{1}{2}'' \times 8\frac{1}{2}''$
- Cut (2) B square  $6\frac{1}{2}'' \times 6\frac{1}{2}''$
- Cut (2) A squares  $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4\frac{1}{2}''$

## C and B squares:

- Cut all the C & B squares in half on the diagonal *twice* as shown below.

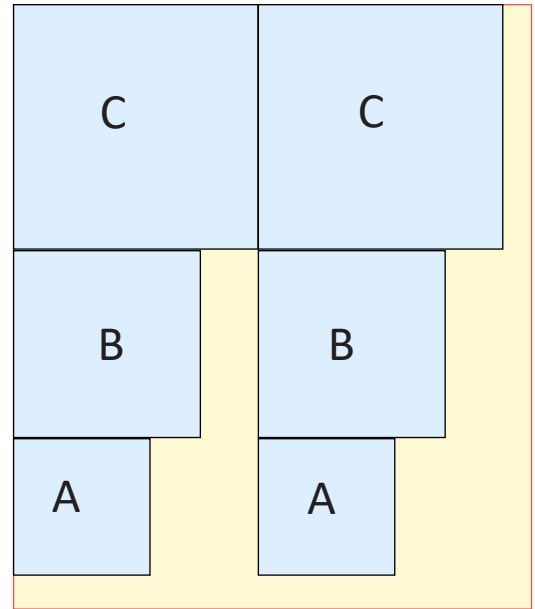


## Inner Border

- Cut (8) strips  $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times$  WOF.

## Outer Border

- Cut (9) strips  $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times$  WOF.



## 1/4" Seam Allowance

**Do you ever struggle maintaining a 1/4" seam allowance?**

Many years ago I purchased a foot for my sewing machine which is referred to as a 1/4" foot. (On my very old Bernina, which still runs like a champ, this is foot #37.) This is one of the best sewing investments I have made.

When you have your needle on center, the edge of this foot is exactly 1/4" from needle down (your stitched line). All I need to do is run my fabric to the edge of this foot, and my stitched seam is always 1/4".

I was recently at a quilt retreat with some long-time quilting friends. I discovered that a few of them didn't know about this handy foot, so I wanted to share it with you as well.

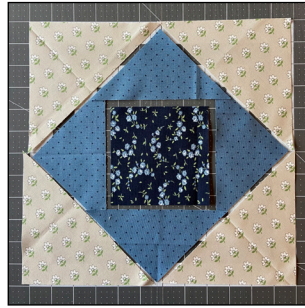
There are other patchwork feet with seam guides, and different sewing machine companies may have other options. This is what works well for me.

# BLOCK INSTRUCTIONS

## Step 1

You will make (42) blocks. Each block should contain:

- (1) center square A
- (4) triangles cut from square B
- (4) triangles cut from square C



Here are the pieces for block 1 (of set 1). It's good to do a visual check before sewing, especially if you have directional fabric.

The tan outer floral is directional. You can see how I oriented them so that all of the flowers are blooming in the same direction.

## Step 2

Sew (2) matching B triangles to the left and right of center square A.

Be sure to center the triangles on the block.

Press to the triangles.

Trim off dog ears.

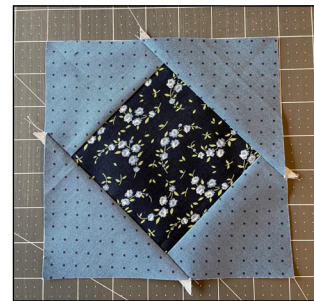
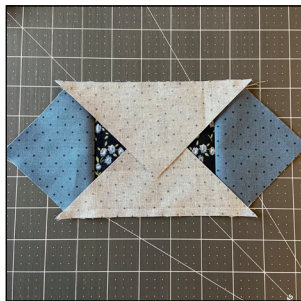


## Step 3

Sew (2) matching B triangles to the top and bottom of the unit from step 2.

Be sure to center the triangles on the block.

Press to the triangles.



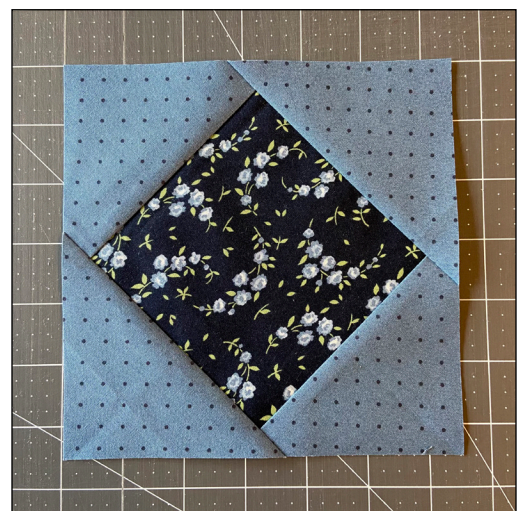
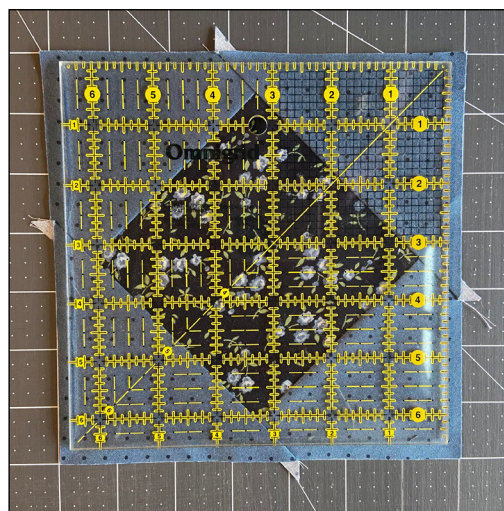
## Step 4

Square up to 6 1/2" x 6 1/2".

I have a 6 1/2" square ruler, which makes this squaring up task easy. I would highly recommend a 6 1/2" square ruler, as that is a very common block size.

If you don't have one, be sure to cut 3 1/4" away from center on each side.

$(3 \frac{1}{4} + 3 \frac{1}{4} = 6 \frac{1}{2})$



Notice how the inner square points are 1/2" away from the edge. The inner square will "float" a bit. No need to worry about sewing off any points in the next step!

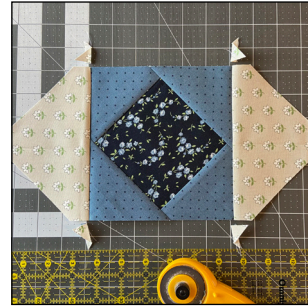
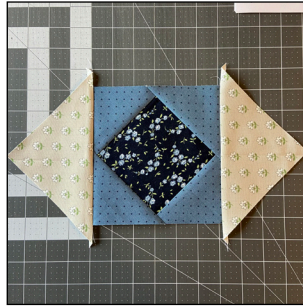
### Step 5

Sew (2) matching C triangles to the left and right of the unit from step 4.

Be sure to center the triangles on the block.

Press to the triangles.

Trim off dog ears.



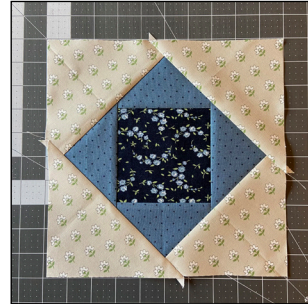
### Step 6

Sew (2) matching C triangles to the top and bottom of the unit from step 5.

Be sure to center the triangles on the block.

Press to the triangles.

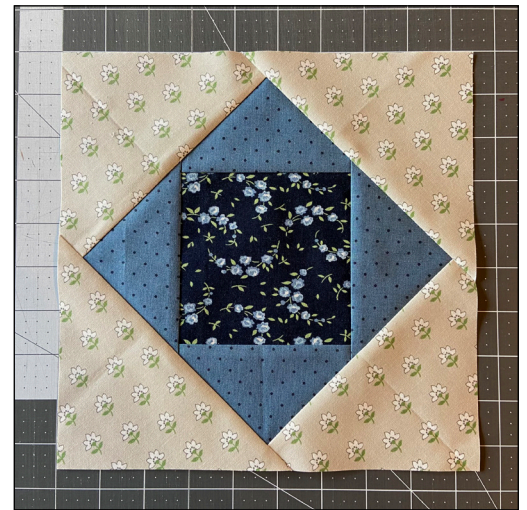
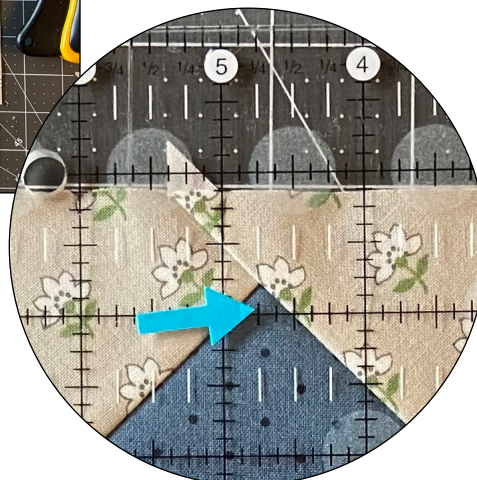
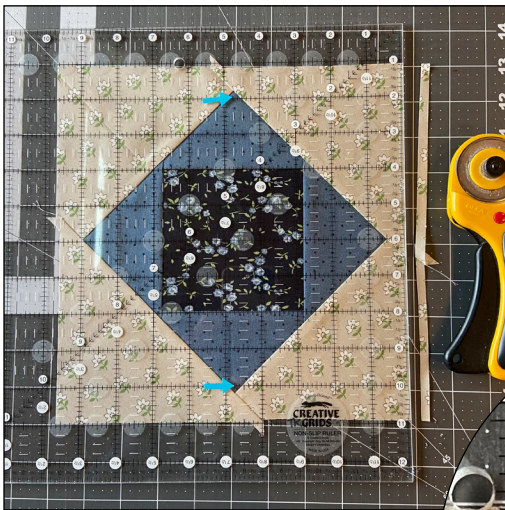
*Again, notice how the flowers are all going in the same direction.*



### Step 7

Square up to 9 1/2" x 9 1/2".

*Note: If you don't have a 9 1/2" ruler, you can use another ruler that you have on hand. I used my 12 1/2" square ruler. Just be sure to cut 4 3/4" from center on each side. ( $4 \frac{3}{4} + 4 \frac{3}{4} = 9 \frac{1}{2}$ )*

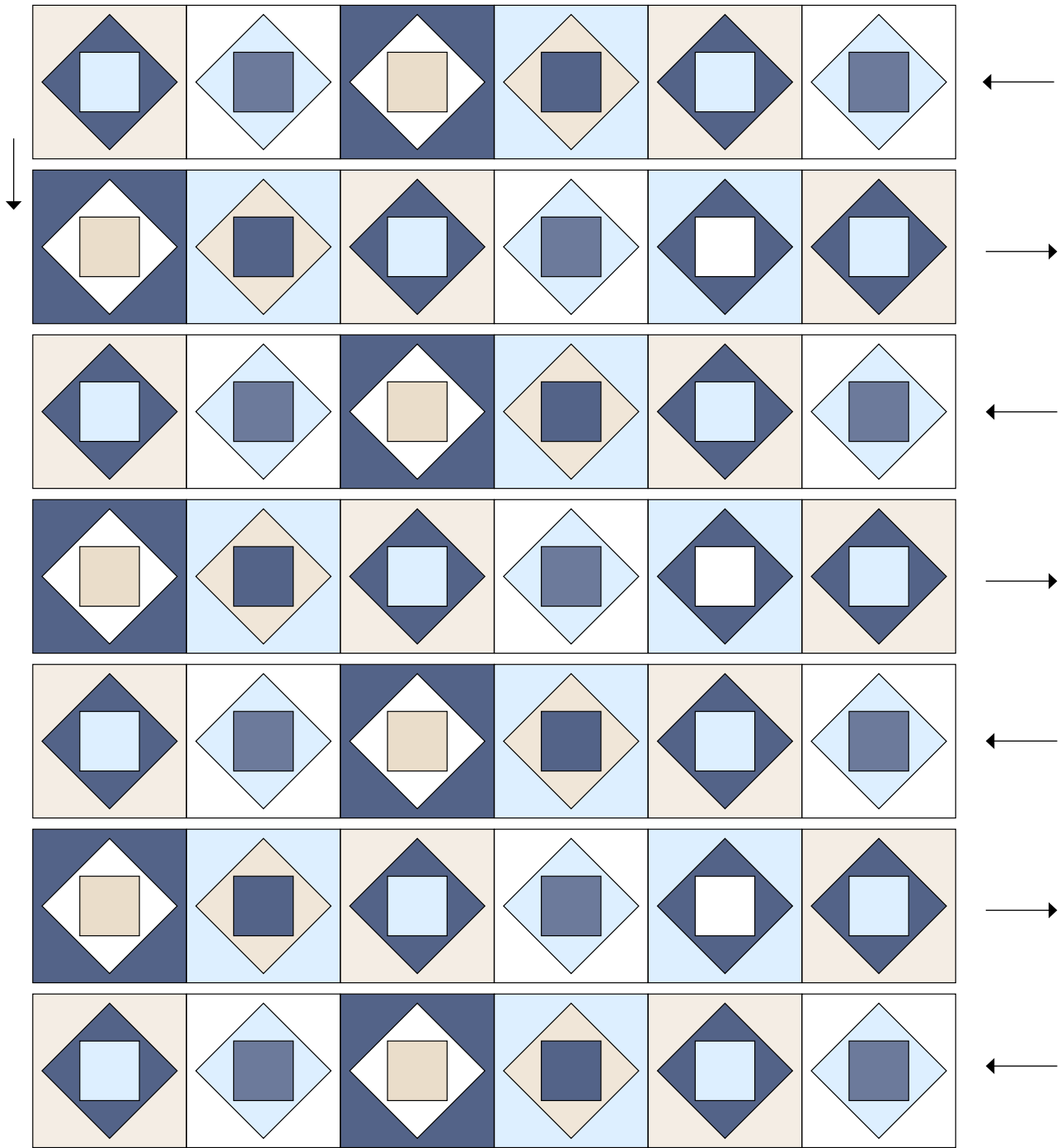


**Repeat to make (42) total blocks.**

*These little arrow stickers are handy for marking measurements. The brand I use is called GEasy. They are reusable and don't leave any residue on your ruler when you peel them off.*

# QUILT CENTER ASSEMBLY

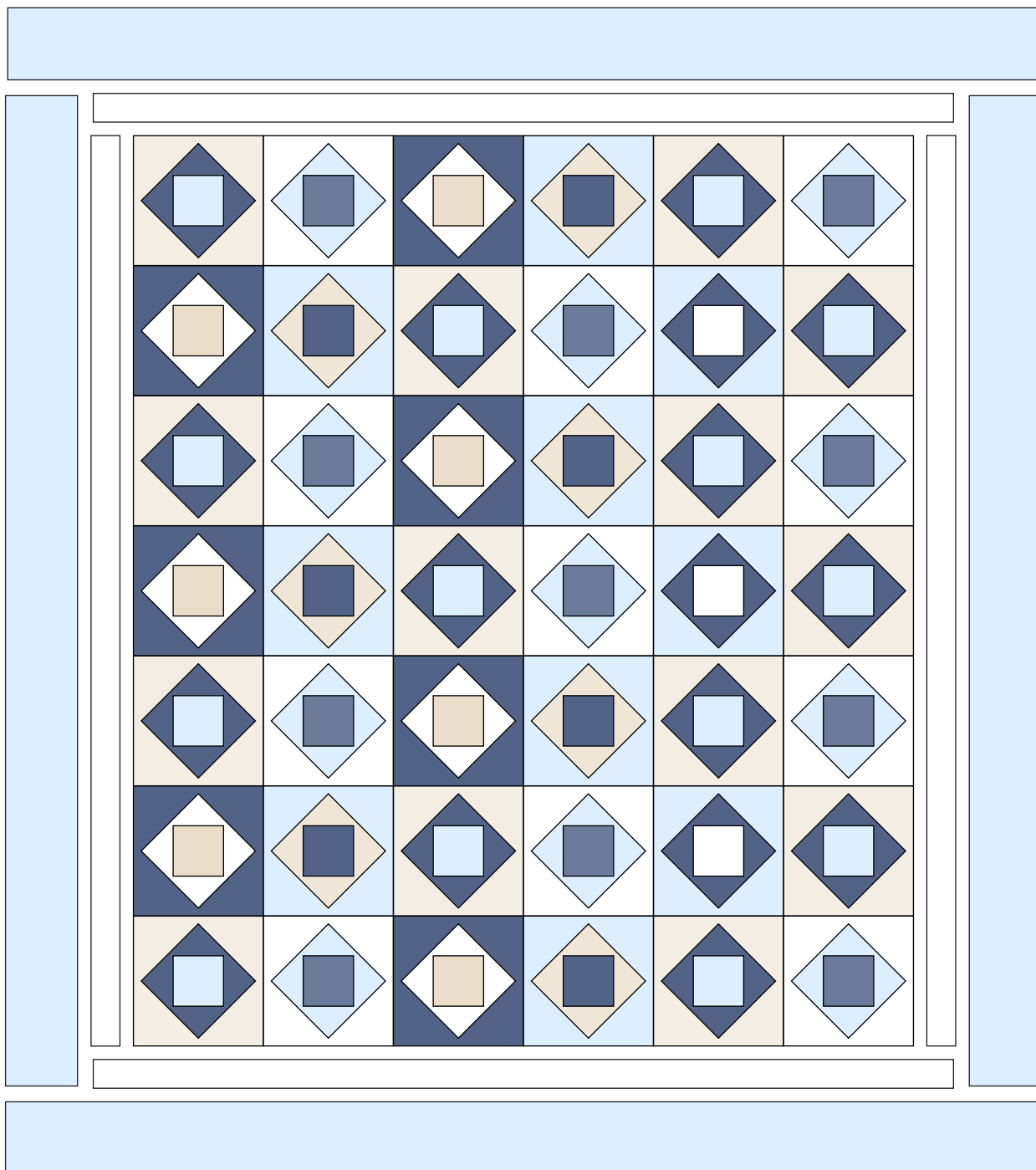
- Lay out your (42) blocks as shown in the diagram below. Try to get a nice mix of print and color in the layout. Take a picture with your phone or iPad. You can refer to the photograph for block placement as you sew your quilt top together.
- Sew the blocks together from left to right, creating (7) rows. Press row 1 to the left. Press row 2 to the right. Continue pressing in that alternating manner. Pressing in an alternating manner will allow you to set seams for the next step.
- Sew the (7) rows together from top to bottom. Press to one direction (i.e. to the bottom).
- Quilt center should measure 54 1/2" by 63 1/2".



## BORDERS

On page 1 you cut (8) inner border strips 2 1/2" by WOF. Piece them together end-to-end to get one long strip. Press seams open. Using this long strip, sew the inner border to the left and right sides. Press to the border and trim. Using the remainder of this strip, sew the inner border to the top and bottom. Press to the border and trim.

On page 1 you cut (9) outer border strips 5 1/2" by WOF. Piece them together end-to-end to get one long strip. Press seams open. Using this long strip, sew the outer border to the left and right sides. Press to the border and trim. Using the remainder of this strip, sew the outer border to the top and bottom. Press to the border and trim.



## Finishing

Quilt and bind as desired.

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