

Collecting and swapping fabrics for this multi-fabric quilt is half the fun of making it. You can make yours as a charm quilt with no two fabrics repeated for the diamonds as Shon McMMain did or use multiples of the same fabrics.

MATERIALS

PROJECT RATING: CHALLENGING

Size: 52" x 49½"

Blocks: 7 diamond cubes

225 (5") charm squares of assorted light, medium, and dark batik fabrics

2½ yards tan batik for background, borders, and binding

3½ yards fabric for backing

Spray-on fusible web or temporary adhesive spray designed for use on fabric
55" x 60" piece of quilt batting



Try This Easy Design Trick

Shon tried out several arrangements of her large, pieced diamonds before she joined them into cubes and assembled the cubes for her quilt top. To help her evaluate her ideas, she took Polaroid™ photos. (Printouts of digital photos would work equally well.) By looking at the photos side-by-side, she could choose the arrangement she liked best.

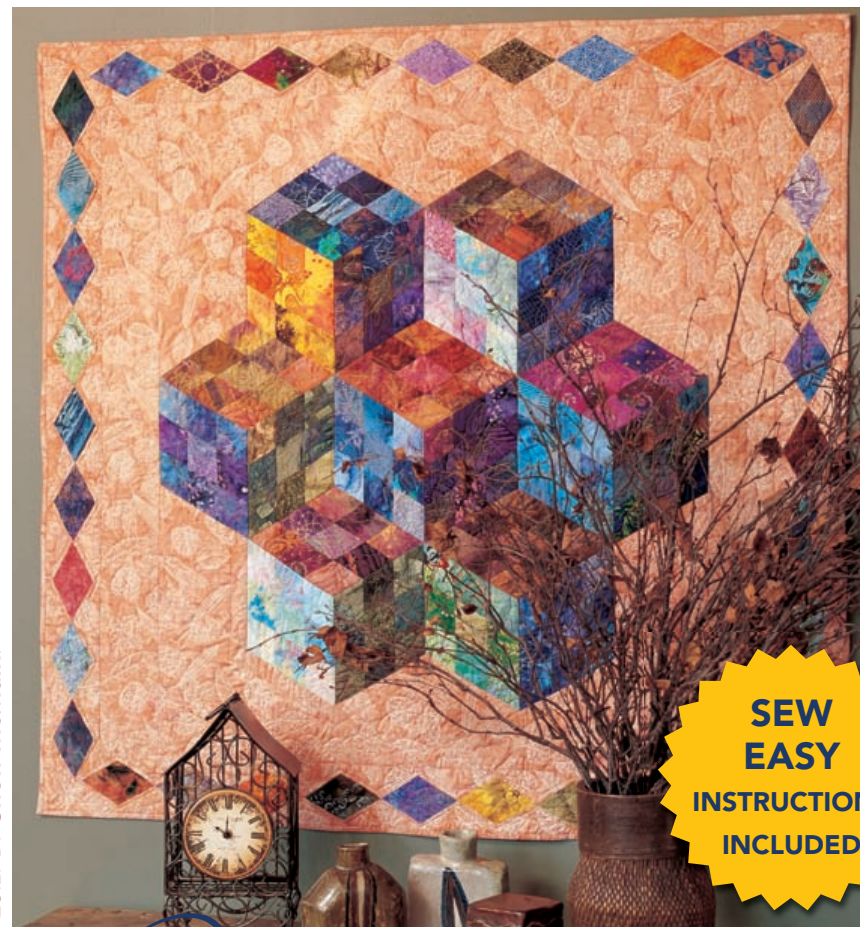


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QUILT BY Shon McMMain.

SEW EASY INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDED

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PO Box 171 • 54 Court • Winterset, Iowa 50273

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Charming
DIAMONDS

Cutting

Measurements include $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances.

NOTE: See *Sew Easy: Working with 60-degree Diamonds* for tips on how to cut and join diamonds.

From each assorted batik fabric square, cut:

- 1 ($2\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide) strip. From strip, cut 1 (60-degree) diamond

From tan print, cut:

- 1 (52"-long) piece. From this, cut:
 - 6 ($4\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide) *lengthwise* border strips.
 - 1 ($6\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide) *lengthwise* strip. Using 60-degree angle guide on your ruler, cut strip into 6 ($6\frac{1}{2}$ ") setting diamonds.
- 1 (12"-wide) strip. Cut this into 2 (12" x 20") rectangles. With right sides facing, cut diagonally from corner to corner, cutting each rectangle into 2 setting triangles for the top and bottom corners. (*These are oversized and will be trimmed after they are attached to quilt.*)
- 6 ($2\frac{1}{4}$ "-wide) strips for binding.

Block Assembly

NOTE: See *Sew Easy: Working with 60-degree Diamonds* for tips on how to cut and join diamonds.

1. Sort diamonds by similar color and value into 21 sets of 9 diamonds. You will have 36 diamonds remaining for the border.

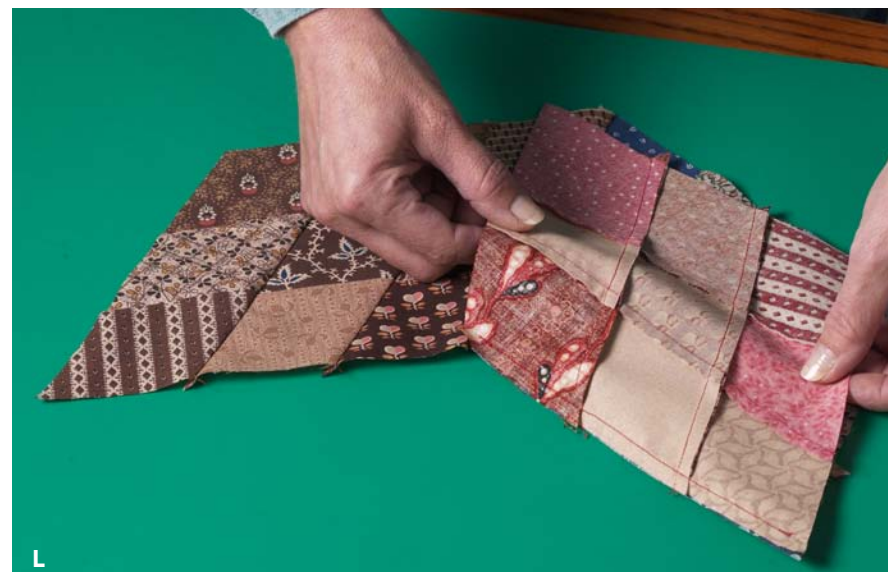
2. Choose 1 set of 9 diamonds. Join 3 diamonds into a row. Make 3 rows. Join rows to make large diamond. Make 21 large diamonds.

3. Lay out 3 large diamonds to form cube, placing medium value diamond at top of cube, light value diamond on left side, and dark value diamond on right side.

4. Join light diamond and dark diamond, starting and stopping stitching $\frac{1}{4}$ " from ends of seam. This leaves the outer seam allowances free to allow for setting in pieces. Set medium diamond into top edge to complete cube. Make 7 cubes.

Quilt Assembly

1. Referring to *Quilt Top Assembly Diagram*, lay out cubes in 3 rows with 2 cubes in top row, 3 cubes in middle row, and 2 cubes in bottom row. Join cubes into rows; join rows.
2. Make a larger cube by setting 1 tan diamond into opening between cubes in the top and bottom rows and 2 diamonds into openings along each side of quilt.
3. Join tan setting triangles to top left and top right quilt corners and to bottom left and bottom right corners. Use a long ruler and rotary cutter and "square-up" the quilt as needed, leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances beyond corners of patchwork pieces.



- of the seam should be free to allow for setting in pieces.
4. Set top large diamond into opening between left and right large diamonds. Pin top diamond to 1 side diamond and stitch seam (*Photo L*). Start and stop stitching $\frac{1}{4}$ " from ends of seams as before to allow for setting in pieces.
 5. Pin top large diamond to the other side diamond, matching small diamond seams (*Photo M*). Join diamonds to complete cube (*Photo N*), leaving ends of seams free.

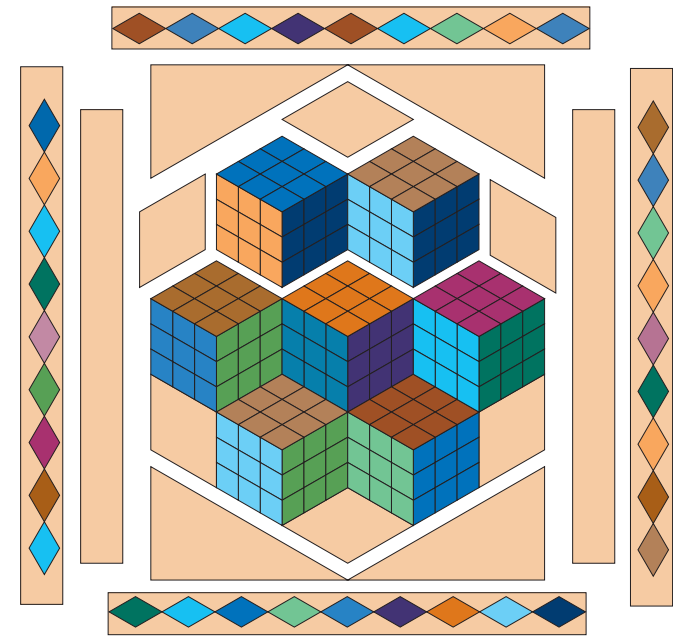




slightly deeper seam with your fingers. If the alignment becomes worse (*Photo H*), your seam was too wide. You will need to pick out the part of the seam where diamonds meet and restitch with a slightly narrower seam. If the alignment improves with pinching, restitch with a slightly wider seam at diamond intersections.

Making a Cube

1. To prepare to make a cube as shown in *Photo I*, choose fabrics for 2 more large diamonds. Cut strips, join into strip sets, and cut 3-diamond rows as directed in steps #1–#3 on previous page. Join 3-diamond rows into large diamonds. Make 2 large diamonds.
2. Pin left and right diamonds together, aligning small diamond seams. To secure seam without stitching in reverse, position large diamonds “backwards” in sewing machine (*Photo J*). Sew forward to the beginning point of seam ($\frac{1}{4}$ " from raw edge) and pivot with needle down.
3. Sew forward, taking $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam (*Photo K*). Stop stitching $\frac{1}{4}$ " from end of diamonds, pivot so work is again “backwards” in the sewing machine, and sew forward a few stitches to secure end of seam. The seam allowances at the beginning and end



Quilt Top Assembly Diagram

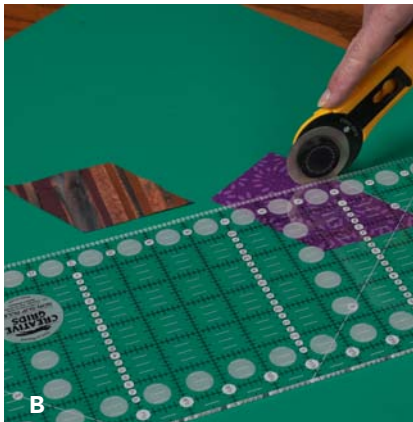
4. Measure quilt length. Trim 2 ($4\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide) border strips to this measurement. Sew borders to quilt sides. Measure quilt width; trim 2 ($4\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide) border strips to this measurement. Sew borders to top and bottom edges.
5. Measure quilt length; trim 2 ($4\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide) border strips to this measurement. Sew borders to quilt sides.
6. Arrange 9 diamonds along each outer border. Spray the back of 1 diamond at a time with spray fusible web or temporary adhesive and position on quilt. Follow manufacturer's instructions for using spray products.
7. Machine appliqué diamonds to quilt borders. Shon used monofilament nylon thread and a zigzag stitch for her quilt.

Quilting and Finishing

1. Divide backing fabric into 2 ($1\frac{3}{4}$ -yard) lengths. Cut 1 piece in half lengthwise. Sew 1 narrow panel to 1 side of wide panel. Remaining narrow panel is extra and may be used to make a hanging sleeve.
2. Layer backing, batting, and quilt top; baste. Quilt as desired. Quilt shown was machine quilted in-the-ditch along seams forming cubes. Border diamonds were quilted $\frac{1}{4}$ " from edges. Background was quilted in a meandering flower and leaf design.
3. Join $2\frac{1}{4}$ "-wide tan print strips into 1 continuous piece for straight-grain French-fold binding. Add binding to quilt.

Working with 60-degree Diamonds

Single diamonds and groups of diamonds joined into a strip are easy to cut with a rotary cutter and ruler with 60-degree angle markings. Once you've cut the diamonds, follow our easy instructions to join rows of diamonds into larger, pieced diamonds, and then diamond cubes.



Cutting Single Diamonds

1. Begin by cutting a strip of desired width. For the diamonds in *Charming Diamonds*, cut a 2½"-wide strip. Align the 60-degree angle mark on your ruler with 1 long edge of strip. Cut along edge of ruler, trimming end of strip at a 60-degree angle (*Photo A*).
2. Turn the trimmed strip and align the 60-degree guide on ruler with 1 long edge of strip and the 2½" strip width guide on ruler with angled cut edge. Cut along ruler to cut 1 diamond (*Photo B*).

Making Large, Pieced Diamonds

1. Small diamonds are arranged in 3 rows of 3 diamonds in the large, pieced diamonds. Begin by cutting 1



- (2½"-wide) strip each of 9 different fabrics for the small diamonds. Join strips into 3 strip sets with 3 strips in each strip set, off-setting strips at 1 end by approximately 1½" (*Photo C*). Press seam allowances to 1 side.
2. Align 60-degree angle cutting guide on ruler with 1 long edge of 1 strip set. Cut along edge of ruler (*Photo D*).



3. Align 60-degree guide on ruler with one long edge of 1 strip set and 2½" strip width guide on ruler with angled cut edge. Cut along ruler to cut 1 (3-diamond) row (*Photo E*). Cut desired number of 3-diamond rows from strip set. Repeat to cut 3-diamond rows from other 2 strip sets.
4. Lay out 3-diamond rows as shown in *Photo F*. Join rows to make large diamond, matching diamond seams ¼" from raw edge as shown in *Photo G*.
5. If diamonds do not match, give them the "pinch test" by pinching a

