

Spring Diaries Quilt

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

This lovely quilt is perfect for any time of year – in the spring and summer to echo the sunny seasons, or in autumn and winter to bring a welcome splash of warm colour. It has fifty-four circle blocks, all made the same way using templates. The quilt uses fabrics mostly from the Spring Diaries range.

Materials

- Fabric 1: 4yd (3.7m) – Solid Off White (481012)
- Fabric 2: $\frac{3}{8}$ yd (40cm) – Sunflower Dove White (481080)
- Fabric 3: $\frac{1}{2}$ yd (50cm) – Garden Flowers Ocean Green (481081)
- Fabric 4: $\frac{3}{8}$ yd (40cm) – Wildgarden Honey Yellow (481082)
- Fabric 5: $\frac{1}{2}$ yd (50cm) – Emily Pink (481083)
- Fabric 6: $\frac{1}{2}$ yd (50cm) – Gerbera Pink (481084)
- Fabric 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ yd (50cm) – Garden Flowers Dove White (481085)
- Fabric 8: $\frac{1}{2}$ yd (50cm) – Ahlia Pink (481086)
- Fabric 9: $\frac{3}{8}$ yd (40cm) – Audrey Ocean Green (481087)
- Fabric 10: $\frac{1}{2}$ yd (50cm) – Sunflower Honey Yellow (481088)
- Fabric 11: $\frac{1}{2}$ yd (50cm) – Pollen Pink (481089)
- Fabric 12: $\frac{1}{2}$ yd (50cm) – Emily Teal (481090)
- Fabric 13: $\frac{1}{2}$ yd (50cm) – Audrey Honey Yellow (481091)
- Backing fabric 5yd (4.6m)
- Binding fabric $\frac{1}{2}$ yd (50cm) – Ahlia Pink (481086)
- Wadding (batting) 62in x 89in (157.5cm x 226cm)
- Piecing and quilting threads
- Quilting ruler, rotary cutter and mat
- Sharp fabric scissors
- Template plastic or thin card to make templates

Finished Size

54in x 81in (137cm x 206cm) approximately (after binding)

Notes

- Fabric quantities based on a usable width of 42in (107cm)
- Measurements are in imperial inches with metric conversions in brackets – use only *one* system throughout (do not mix them)
- Wash all fabrics before use and press before cutting
- Use $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seams unless otherwise instructed
- Read all the instructions through before you start

Quilt Layout

1 There are fifty-four blocks in the quilt. Each block is made up of two semicircles, sewn together with two concave-shaped pieces. The fabrics used for the quilt are shown in Figure A and the quilt layout in Figure B.

Figure A Fabric swatches



Fabric 1
Solid Off White
481012



Fabric 2
Sunflower Dove White
481080



Fabric 3
Garden Flowers Ocean Green
481081



Fabric 4
Wildgarden Honey Yellow
481082



Fabric 5
Emily Pink
481083



Fabric 6
Gerbera Pink
481084



Fabric 7
Garden Flowers Dove White
481085



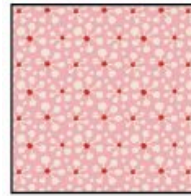
Fabric 8
Ahlia Pink
481086



Fabric 9
Audrey Ocean Green
481087



Fabric 10
Sunflower Honey Yellow
481088



Fabric 11
Pollen Pink
481089

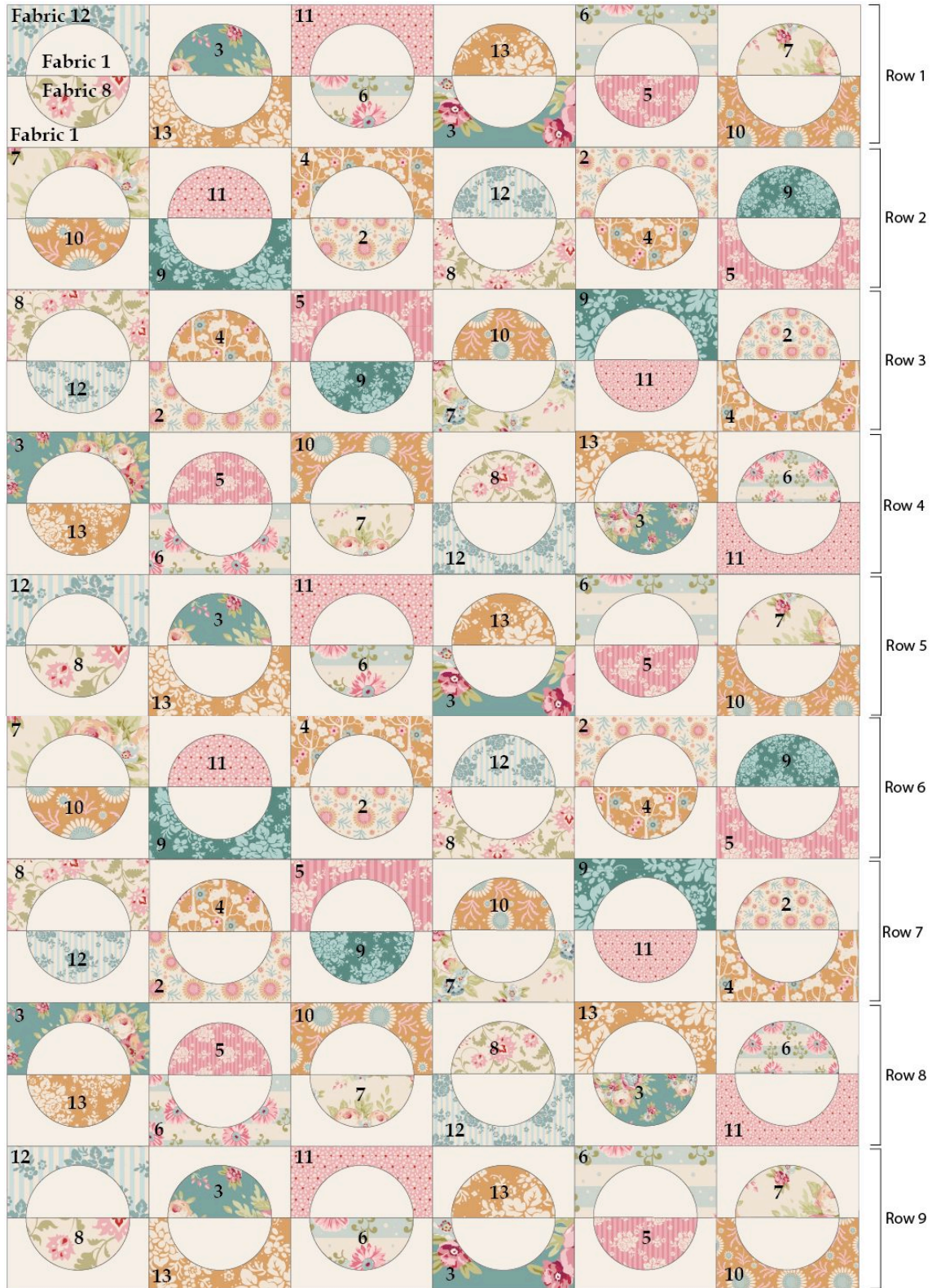


Fabric 12
Emily Teal
481090



Fabric 13
Audrey Honey Yellow
481091

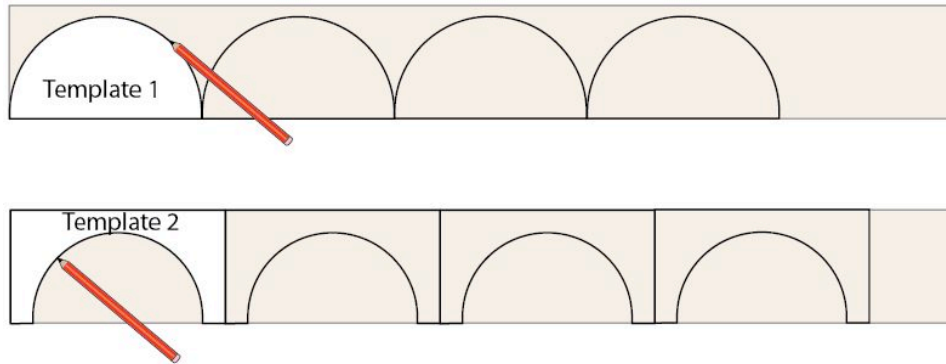
Figure B The quilt layout
 Numbers indicate fabrics (see Figure A for swatches)



Cutting Out

1 Each block is made up of two units. Each unit is made up of a semicircle sewn together with a concave-shaped piece. Both of these shapes are marked using Template 1 (semicircle) and Template 2 (concave shape) – see Figure C. Copy Template 1 and Template 2 to make master templates from template plastic or thin card, making sure you copy the templates accurately.

Figure C Marking out the shapes on width of fabric strips



2 The shapes are best cut out with sharp scissors, although the straight edges could be cut with a rotary cutter. There are four fabrics used in the quilt that have a clear pattern direction, so check when marking the template shapes that the pattern is going in the right direction. In this quilt this applies to Wildgarden Honey Yellow (Fabric 4), Emily Pink (Fabric 5), Gerbera Pink (Fabric 6) and Emily Teal (Fabric 12).

3 From Solid Off White (Fabric 1) cut twenty-eight 5in (12.7cm) x width of fabric strips. From these strips mark and cut out fifty-four shapes using Template 1 (semicircle) and fifty-four shapes using Template 2 (concave shape).

4 From Sunflower Dove White (Fabric 2) cut two 5in (12.7cm) x width of fabric strips. From these strips mark and cut out four of Template 1 and four of Template 2.

5 From Garden Flowers Ocean Green (Fabric 3) cut three 5in (12.7cm) x width of fabric strips. From these strips mark and cut out five of Template 1 and five of Template 2.

6 From Wildgarden Honey Yellow (Fabric 4) cut two 5in (12.7cm) x width of fabric strips. From these strips mark and cut out four of Template 1 and four of Template 2. Note that the fabric pattern has a vertical direction.

7 From Emily Pink (Fabric 5) cut three 5in (12.7cm) x width of fabric strips. From these strips mark and cut out five of Template 1 and four of Template 2. Note that the fabric pattern has a vertical direction.

8 From Gerbera Pink (Fabric 6) cut three 5in (12.7cm) x width of fabric strips. From these strips mark and cut out five of Template 1 and five of Template 2. Note that the fabric pattern has a horizontal direction.

9 From Garden Flowers Dove White (Fabric 7) cut three 5in (12.7cm) x width of fabric strips. From these strips mark and cut out five of Template 1 and four of Template 2.

10 From Ahlia Pink (Fabric 8) cut three 5in (12.7cm) x width of fabric strips. From these strips mark and cut out five of Template 1 and four of Template 2.

11 From Audrey Ocean Green (Fabric 9) cut two 5in (12.7cm) x width of fabric strips. From these strips mark and cut out four of Template 1 and four of Template 2.

12 From Sunflower Honey Yellow (Fabric 10) cut three 5in (12.7cm) x width of fabric strips. From these strips mark and cut out four of Template 1 and five of Template 2.

13 From Pollen Pink (Fabric 11) cut three 5in (12.7cm) x width of fabric strips. From these strips mark and cut out four of Template 1 and five of Template 2.

14 From Emily Teal (Fabric 12) cut three 5in (12.7cm) x width of fabric strips. From these strips mark and cut out four of Template 1 and five of Template 2. Note that the fabric pattern has a vertical direction.

15 From Audrey Honey Yellow (Fabric 13) cut three 5in (12.7cm) x width of fabric strips. From these strips mark and cut out five of Template 1 and five of Template 2.

16 Cut the backing fabric across the width into two equal pieces. Remove the selvages. Sew the pieces together along the long side and press the seam open. Trim to a piece 62in x 89in (157.5cm x 226cm) – this is about 4in (10.2cm) larger all round than the quilt top, to allow for quilting and finishing.

17 Cut the binding fabric into seven 2½in (6.4cm) x width of fabric strips. Sew the strips together end to end and press seams open. Press the binding in half along the length, wrong sides together.

Making a Circle Block

1 There are fifty-four blocks in the quilt, all made the same way. The block is 9½in (24.1cm) square unfinished (that is, before being sewn together with other blocks). A block is made up of two semicircles, one in off white fabric and one in print fabric. The block background is made up of two concave pieces, one in off white fabric and one in print fabric. The curved seam is sewn by machine but you could hand sew it if you prefer, although the result won't be as strong and durable.

Tip

If you haven't sewn curved seams before it is a good idea to make a test block before you begin making the quilt, as the technique can be a little tricky. You will have enough spare fabric to cut two of Template 1 and two of Template 2 to practise the technique.

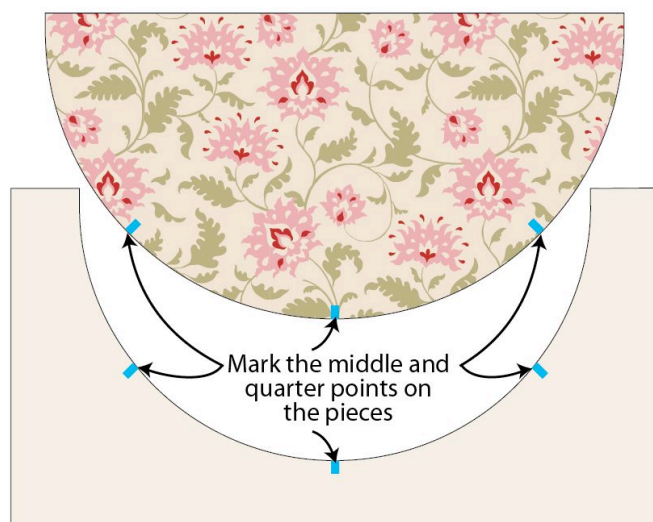
2 Take a semicircle of Ahlia Pink (Fabric 8) and an off white concave piece and mark the centre point and quarter points on each piece (see Figure D i) – this is most easily done by folding the pieces in halves and quarters and finger pressing creases (or use a pencil to mark short lines or dots).

3 Place the pieces right sides together, matching up the centre marks and roughly matching the curved edges. Pin at the centre mark and the two side edges first (see Figure D ii). Now pin at the quarter marks and then the spaces in between, easing the fabric pieces so they fit together well, with the curved edges matching completely (see Figure D iii). Use plenty of pins!

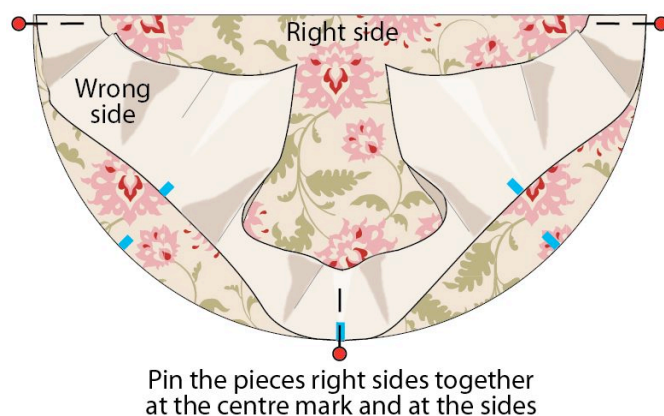
4 Using a $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam, sew the pieces together, stitching slowly and carefully to keep the curved edges together, and making sure you don't form tucks in the fabric. When the seam is sewn, snip little cuts in the seam, about $\frac{1}{8}$ in (3mm) long (see Figure D iv). Press the seam as sewn and then press from the back of the work, pressing the seam outwards, away from the semicircle (Figure D v). Check the unit is 5in x $9\frac{1}{2}$ in (12.7cm x 24.1cm), trimming if necessary.

Figure D Sewing a curved seam

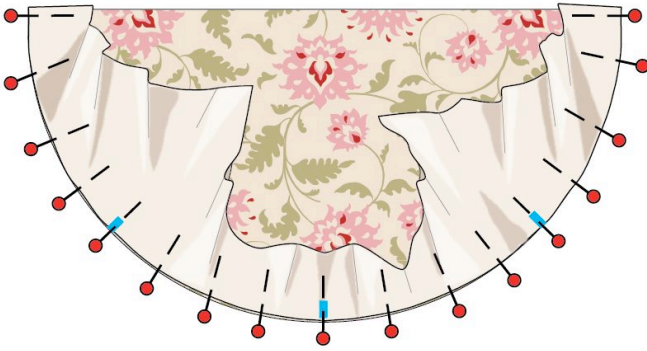
i



ii



iii



Pin at the quarter marks and then the rest of the edges

iv



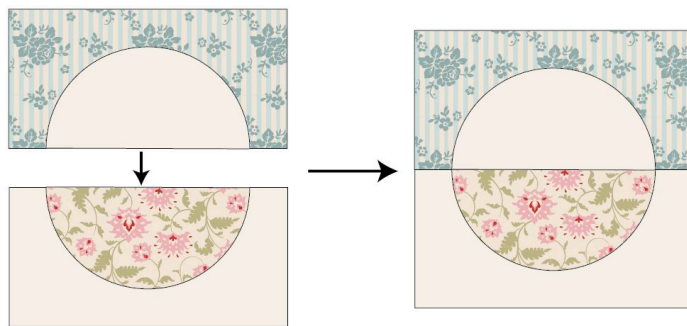
v



5 Repeat this process to make a second unit, this time using a semicircle of off white and a concave piece of Emily Teal (Fabric 12).

6 Sew the two units together, matching the circle seams neatly. Press the seam open or to one side (Figure E). This is Block 1 – check the block is $9\frac{1}{2}$ in (24.1cm) square.

Figure E Sewing the two units together



7 Make the rest of the blocks using the same technique. There are twelve different fabric combinations in the quilt and these are shown in Figure F.

- Block 1 – make five.
- Block 2 – make five.
- Block 3 – make five.
- Block 4 – make five.
- Block 5 – make five.
- Block 6 – make five.
- Block 7 – make four.
- Block 8 – make four.
- Block 9 – make four.
- Block 10 – make four.
- Block 11 – make four.
- Block 12 – make four.

Figure F Blocks needed for the quilt



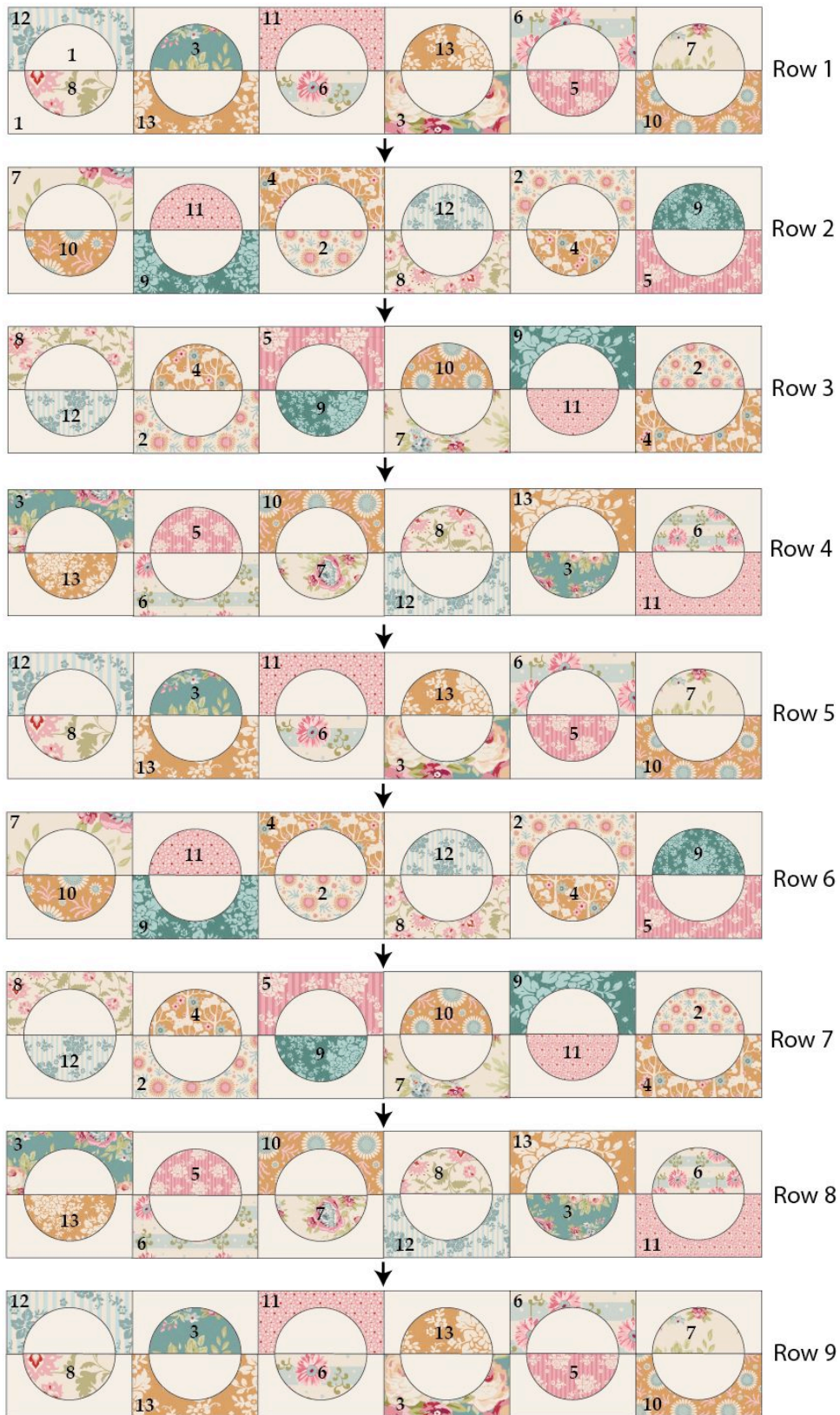
Joining the Blocks

1 When all fifty-four blocks have been made and pressed, lay out the blocks in nine rows, each with six blocks. Follow Figure G carefully, noting that some blocks need to be rotated 180 degrees. Take time to check the layout before you begin to sew the blocks together

2 Sew the blocks together in rows, pressing seams open or to one side. If pressing seams to one side, then press rows 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 in the opposite direction to rows 2, 4, 6 and 8.

3 Now sew the rows together, matching the seams neatly and pressing seams open or to one side.

Figure G Sewing the rows together



Quilting and Finishing

1 If you are quilting the quilt yourself you now need to make a quilt sandwich – you can do this in various ways, as follows.

- Use large stitches to tack a grid through the layers of the quilt in both directions, with lines about 4in (10cm) apart.
- Use pins or safety pins to fix the layers.
- Use fabric glue, sprayed onto the wadding to fix the layers together.

If you are sending the quilt off to be commercially long-arm quilted you won't need to make a sandwich, as this is done when the quilt is mounted on the machine.

2 When the layers of the quilt are secured, quilt as desired. You could machine or hand stitch 'in the ditch' (that is, along the seams) of each patchwork piece, or echo quilt about ¼in (6mm) away from all of the seams, or quilt diagonally across the quilt, making cross shapes through the circles. When quilting is finished, trim excess wadding and backing and square up the quilt.

3 Use the prepared double-fold binding strip to bind your quilt. Sew the binding to the quilt by pinning the raw edge of the folded binding against the raw edge of the quilt. Don't start at a corner. Using a ¼in (6mm) seam, sew the binding in place, starting at least 6in (15.2cm) away from the end of the binding. Sew to within a ¼in (6mm) of a corner and stop. Take the quilt off the machine and fold the binding upwards, creating a mitred corner. Hold this in place, fold the binding back down and pin it in place. Begin sewing the ¼in (6mm) seam again from the top of the folded binding to within ¼in (6mm) of the next corner and then repeat the folding process. Do this on all corners. Leave a 6in (15.2cm) 'tail' of unsewn binding at the end.

4 To join the two ends of the binding, open up the beginning and end of the binding tails, lay them flat and fold the ends back so the two ends touch. Mark these folds by creasing or with pins – this is where your seam needs to be. Open out the binding and sew the pieces together at these creases. Trim off excess fabric and press the seam. Re-fold the binding and finish stitching it in place on the front of the quilt.

5 With the quilt right side up, use a medium-hot iron to press the binding outwards all round. Now begin to turn the binding over to the back of the quilt, pinning it in place. Use matching sewing thread and tiny stitches to slipstitch the binding in place all round, creating neat mitres at each corner. Press the binding and your lovely quilt is finished.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~