





## Striped Fish Quilt

### (Blush colourway)

There are fish galore in this delightful quilt, where a striped fish block is repeated in rows to create a whole shoal of fish swimming together in the ocean. The quilt is made up of many pieces and takes concentration to make but is stunning when finished. The fabrics are from the Cotton Beach, Chambray and Classic Basics collections. This version of the quilt uses a blush background, but it can be made in a teal colourway. There are also pillows in three different colourways – see [tildasworld.com](http://tildasworld.com)

### Materials

- Fabric 1: 3½yds (3.25m) – Chambray blush (160002)
- Fabric 2: ⅛yd (15cm) – Chambray coral (160014)
- Fabric 3: ⅜yd (35cm) – Pen Stripe grey (130033)
- Fabric 4: ⅜yd (35cm) – Tiny Star grey (130039)
- Fabric 5: ⅜yd (35cm) – Tiny Dots light grey (130048)
- Fabric 6: ⅜yd (35cm) – Dottie Dots grey (130045)
- Fabric 7: ⅜yd (35cm) – Paint Dots grey (130036)
- Fabric 8: ⅜yd (35cm) – Limpet Shell lilac (100323)
- Fabric 9: ⅛yd (15cm) – Ocean Flower blue (100335)
- Fabric 10: ¼yd (25cm) – Coral Reef coral (100324)
- Fabric 11: ⅜yd (35cm) – Sea Anemone lilac (100322)
- Fabric 12: ⅛yd (15cm) – Limpet Shell grey (100328)
- Fabric 13: ¼yd (25cm) – Beach Shells coral (110024)
- Fabric 14: ⅜yd (35cm) – Ocean Flower coral (100325)
- Fabric 15: ⅛yd (15cm) – Scallop Shell blue (100331)
- Fabric 16: ¼yd (25cm) – Sea Anemone blue (100332)
- Fabric 17: ⅜yd (35cm) – Ocean Flower grey (100330)
- Fabric 18: ⅛yd (15cm) – Scallop Shell grey (100326)
- Fabric 19: ¼yd (25cm) – Coral Reef ginger (100329)
- Fabric 20: ⅜yd (35cm) – Scallop Shell coral (100321)
- Fabric 21: ⅛yd (15cm) – Coral Reef blue (100334)
- Fabric 22: ¼yd (25cm) – Sea Anemone grey (100327)
- Fabric 23: ⅛yd (15cm) – Limpet Shell blue (100333) – will need to be fussy cut
- Wadding (batting): 65½in x 83½in (166cm x 212cm)
- Backing fabric: 3¾yds (3.5m) – Beach Shells grey (110025)
- Binding fabric: ½yd (50cm) – Crisscross grey (130042)
- Piecing and quilting threads
- Small piece of stiff card and tracing paper for eye appliqué
- Quilter's ruler, rotary cutter and mat

### Fabric Notes

Where a long eighth or long quarter of a yard is given in the Materials list you could use a fat eighth and a fat quarter instead. A fat eighth is assumed to be approximately 10½in x 18in (26.7cm x 45.7cm) and a fat quarter approximately 21in x 18in (53.3cm x 45.7cm).

## Finished Size

57½in x 75½in (146cm x 192cm)

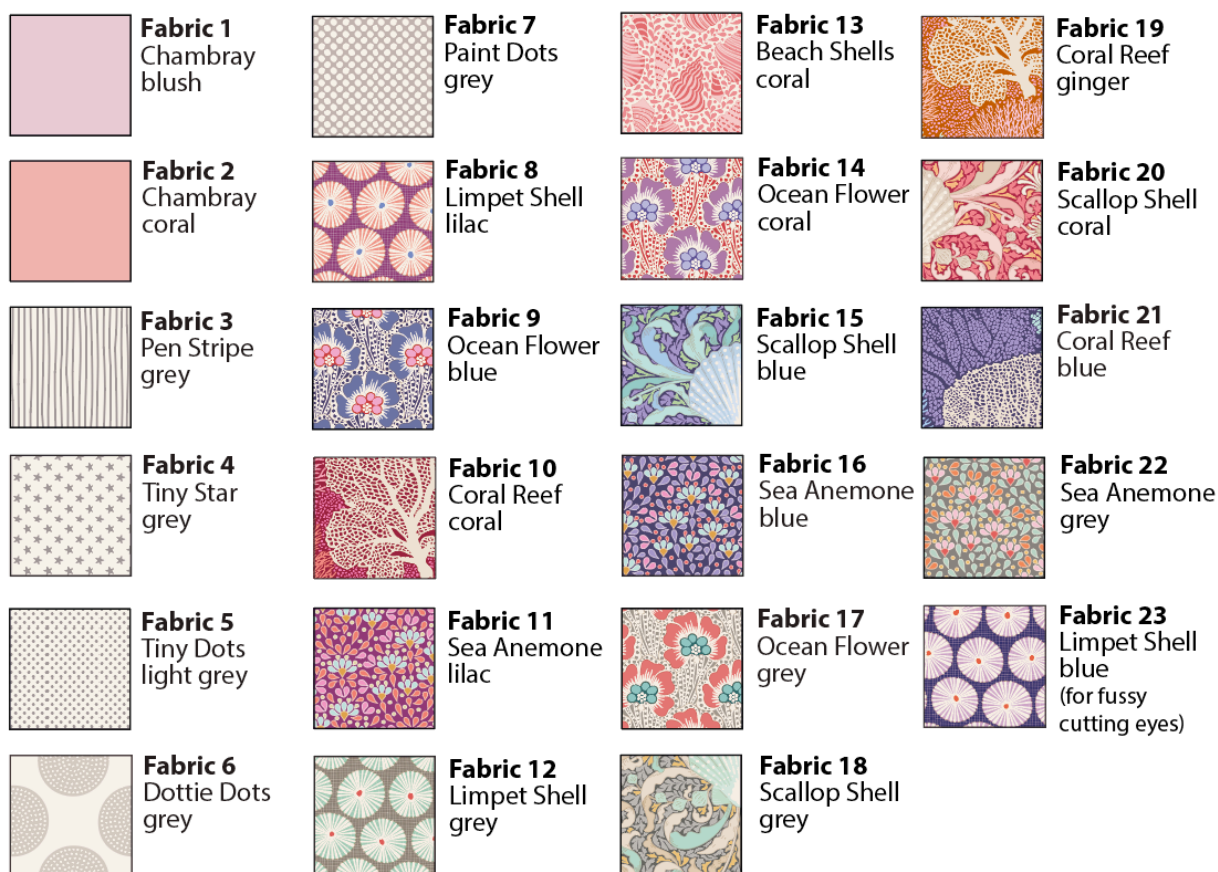
## General Notes

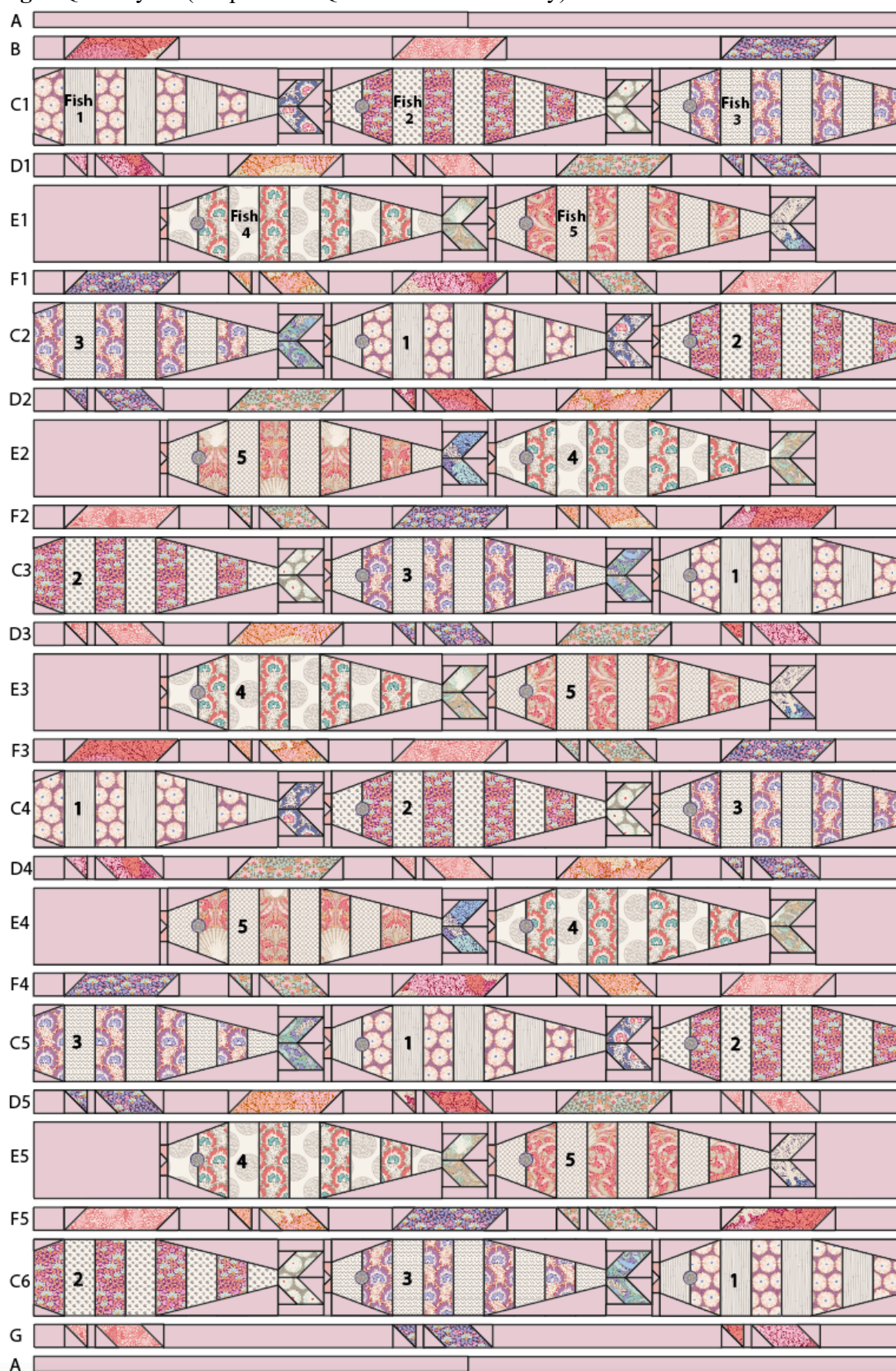
- Fabric quantities are based on a usable width of 42in (107cm), unless otherwise stated.
- Measurements are in imperial inches with metric conversions in brackets – use only *one* system throughout (preferably inches).
- Width measurements are generally given first.
- Press all fabrics before cutting.
- Use ¼in (6mm) seams unless otherwise instructed.
- Read all the instructions through before you start.
- Always make one complete block as a test before going on to make the remaining blocks.

## Quilt Layout

**1** The quilt uses a single fish block in five different colourways. The blocks are arranged in eleven rows, alternating a three-fish row with a two-fish row. The three-fish rows have partial blocks – these are made in the same way as the whole fish, but with their heads or tails omitted to fit the quilt rows. Between each fish row are narrower rows with the upper and lower fish fins. These rows have spacer pieces to continue the Chambray background. See **Fig A** for the fabrics used. There are many parts to this quilt. They have been labelled for easy identification, but you will need to take care and concentrate while you are making the quilt. **Fig B** shows the quilt layout and identifies the different rows. It is wise to make one whole fish block first, as a test block, to check your measuring and cutting accuracy.

**Fig A** Fabric swatches (Striped Fish Quilt – blush colourway)



**Fig B** Quilt layout (Striped Fish Quilt – blush colourway)

## Cutting Out

**2** The measurements of the cut pieces needed for a single fish and its upper and lower fin are given in **Fig C**, so follow the measurements carefully as you cut the fabric pieces. Sizes include seam allowances. There are many pieces in a block, so you may find it less confusing to cut the fabrics for one block at a time, rather than for the whole quilt. The fish eyes are fussy cut from Fabric 23 and instructions are given for this later.

**3** Sizes are also given in **Fig C** for the spacer pieces that will be needed at the beginning and end of the two-fish rows. You will need to cut five rectangles for each size.

**4** Cut the strips of Fabric 1 for the top and bottom of the quilt (the A rows), cutting four strips, each 29in x 1½in (73.7 x 3.8cm). Sew the strips together into two pairs, to make strips 57½in (146cm) long.

**5** The fin rows (shown on **Fig B** as rows B, D, F and G) have spacer rectangles, required to ensure that the actual fins occur in the correct places. The cut measurements for these pieces are shown in **Fig D**, so follow this diagram carefully to cut the background pieces from Fabric 1.

**6** When cutting the fabrics, refer to **Fig E** for the fish fabrics to use and **Fig F** for the fin fabrics. Note that the fin rows are differently coloured, so, for example, there are five D rows (D1, D2, D3, D4 and D5). Follow the diagram carefully and keep the pieces for the individual rows in labelled bags, so you can find them easily later.

**7** Cut the backing fabric into two pieces each 42in (107cm) wide x 65½in (166.4cm) long. Sew them together along the long side and press the seam open to make a piece about 65½in x 83½in (166cm x 212cm).

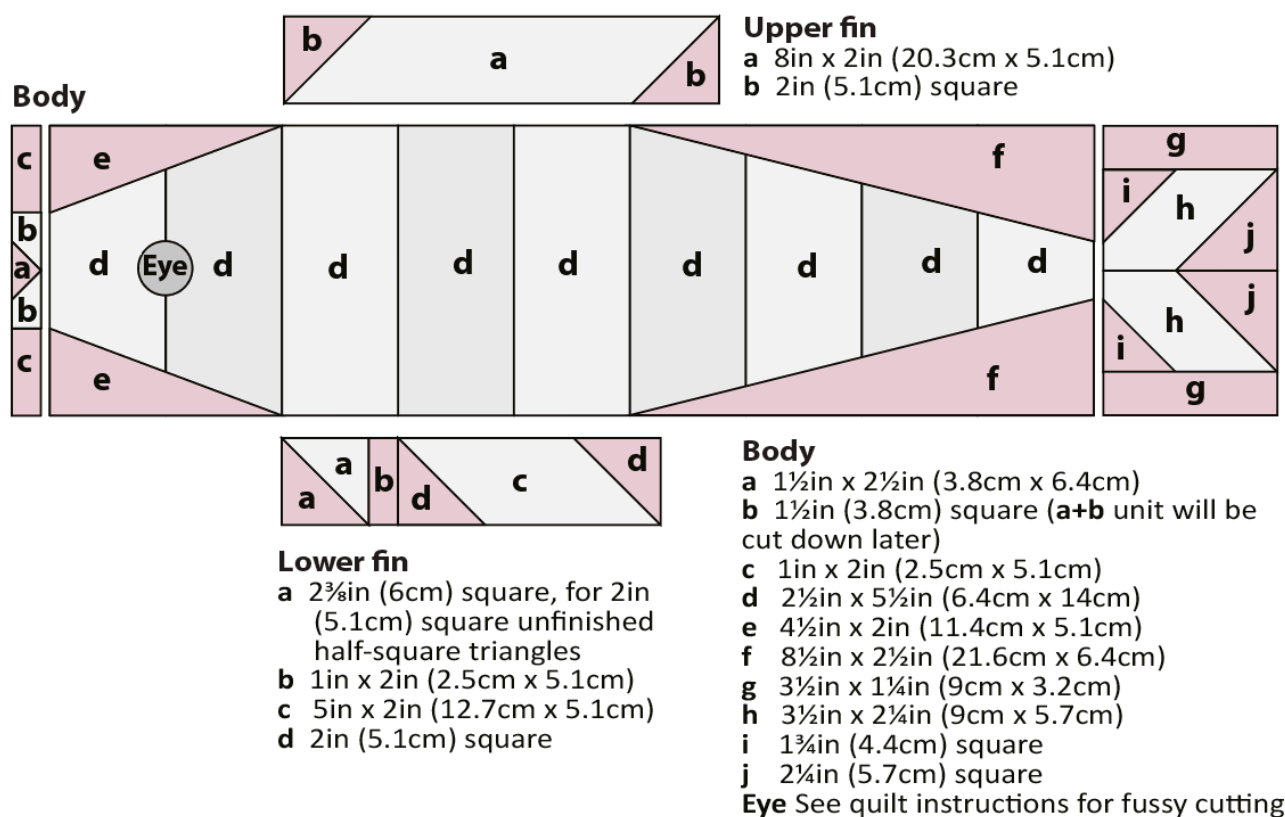
**8** Cut the binding fabric into seven strips 2½in (6.4cm) x width of fabric. Sew them together end to end and press seams open. Press in half along the length, wrong sides together.



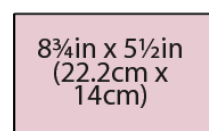
**Fig C Layout and cutting for a whole fish**

Sizes include seam allowances

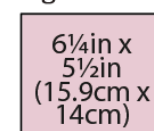
All pieces to be cut initially as squares or rectangles

**Spacer pieces for rows with two fish**

Left-hand side



Right-hand side

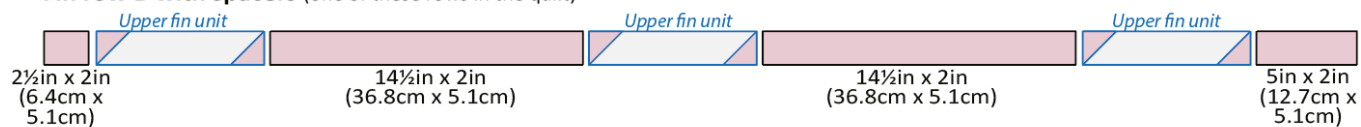
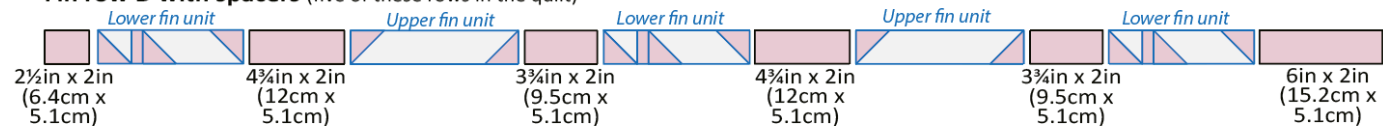
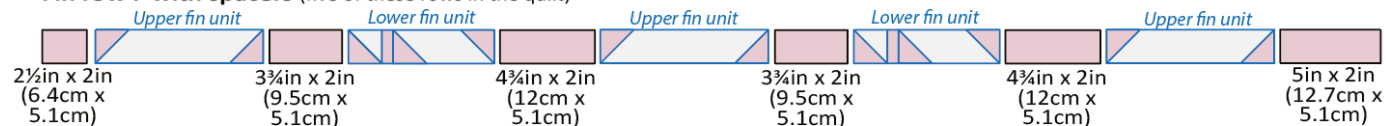
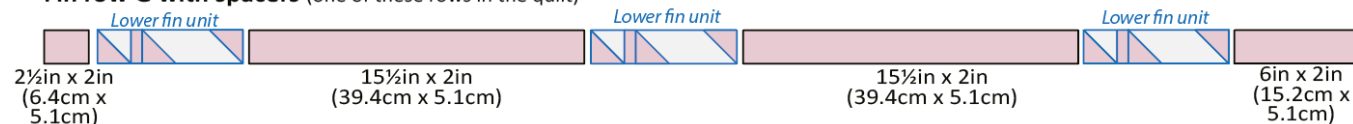


**Fig D** Layout and cutting for the fin rows

Sizes include seam allowances

All pieces to be cut initially as squares or rectangles

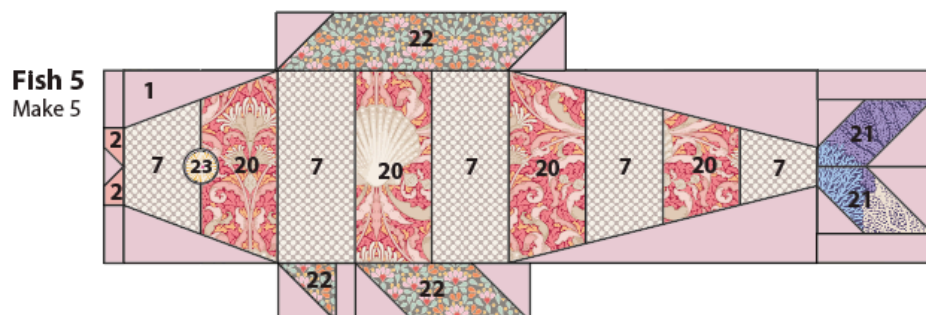
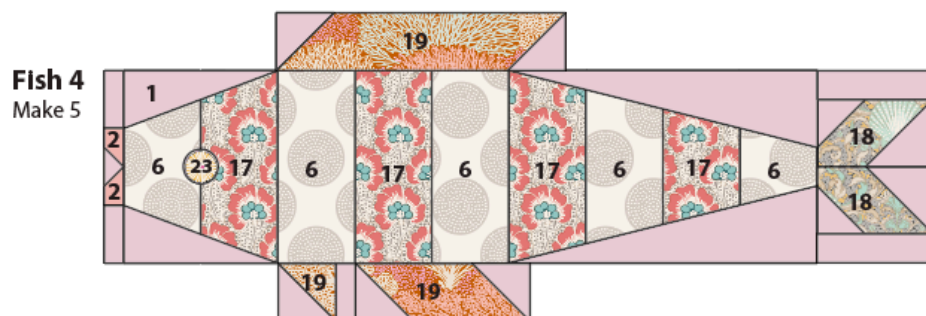
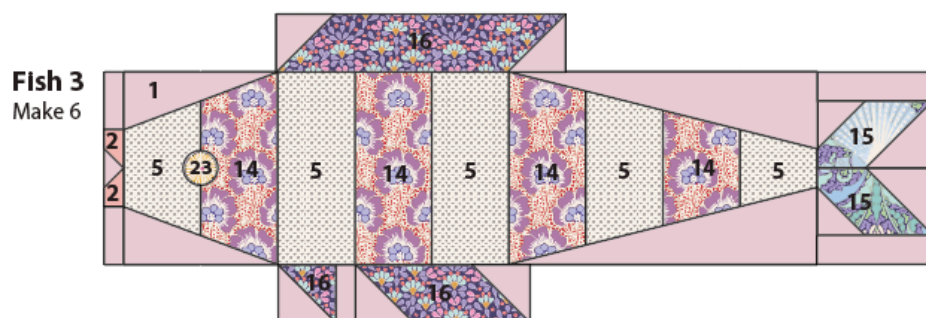
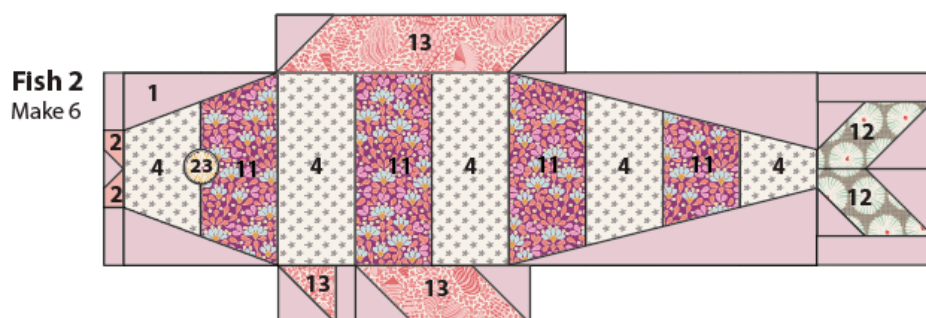
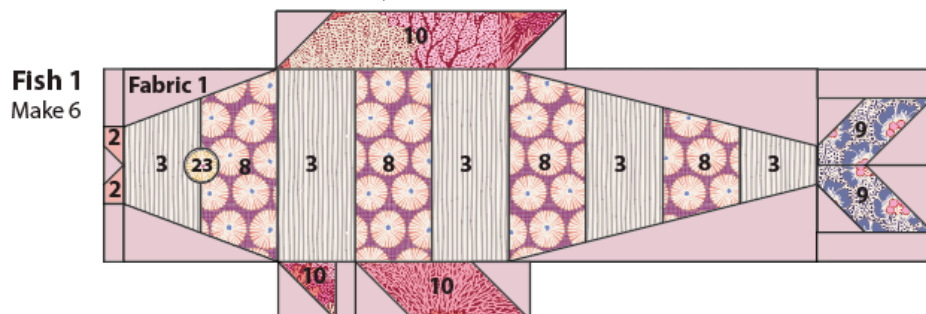
See Fig C for the upper and lower fin measurements

**Fin row B with spacers** (one of these rows in the quilt)**Fin row D with spacers** (five of these rows in the quilt)**Fin row F with spacers** (five of these rows in the quilt)**Fin row G with spacers** (one of these rows in the quilt)

### Fig E Fish colourways

Numbers identify the fabrics used (see Fig A)

Make the number of fish indicated (note that some will be trimmed down later to make partial fish)





## Fig F Fin row colourways

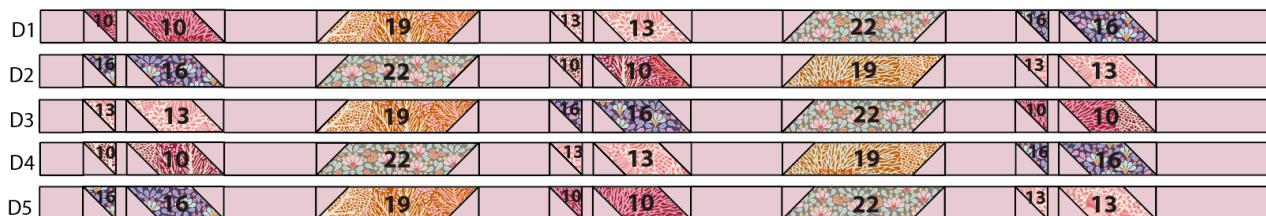
Numbers identify the fabrics used (see Fig A)

Make the rows shown here

### B Fin row



### D Fin rows



### F Fin rows



### G Fin row



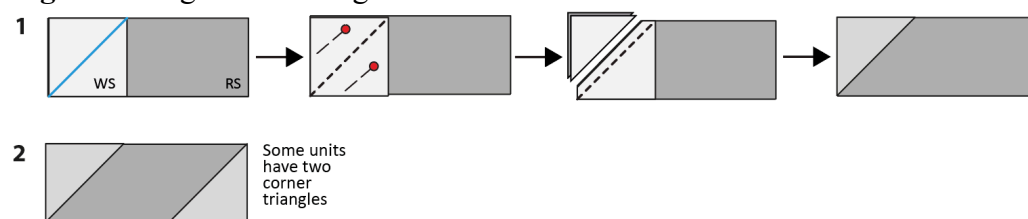
## Making a Fish Block

**9** There are twenty-eight fish blocks in total, in five different colourways (Fish 1, Fish 2, Fish 3, Fish 4 and Fish 5). Fish blocks 1, 2 and 3 are each made six times, with Fish blocks 4 and 5 each made five times. Fish block 2 will be used to illustrate the making process. The quilt uses corner triangle units and half-square triangle units in various places to create sharp corners. These two techniques will be described first, so refer back to them as necessary.

**10 Making corner triangle units:** The basic process for this technique is shown in **Fig G**. Following **Fig G 1**, take a rectangle piece of print fabric and place it right side up. Take a square of Fabric 1 and pencil mark a diagonal line on the wrong side. Place the square right sides together with the rectangle, aligning the edges and with the marked line in the direction shown in the diagram. Sew along the marked line. Trim off excess fabric  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) past the sewn line and then press the triangle outwards. Check the unit is the size it is supposed to be.

For units where more than one corner triangle is needed (example shown in **Fig G 2**), use the same process but take care to use the correct fabrics and sizes, and angle the sewn line in the direction needed.

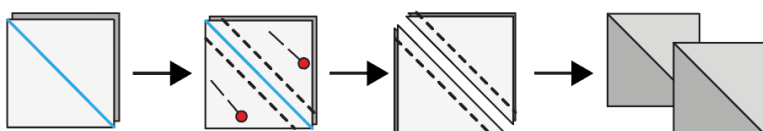
## Fig G Making corner triangle units



**11 Making half-square triangle units:** These units are used in the lower fins and are made using a two-at-once method, with the basic process shown in **Fig H**. A pair of squares will make two identical half-square triangle (HST) units.

Take two different squares and on the wrong side of the lighter square, pencil mark the diagonal line. Place the two squares right sides (RS) together and sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) away from the marked line on both sides, as shown. Cut the units apart along the marked line and press the units – the seam is normally pressed towards the darker fabric. Check each unit is the size it is meant to be – for this quilt the HSTs should be 2in (5.1cm) (unfinished).

**Fig H** Making half-square triangle units

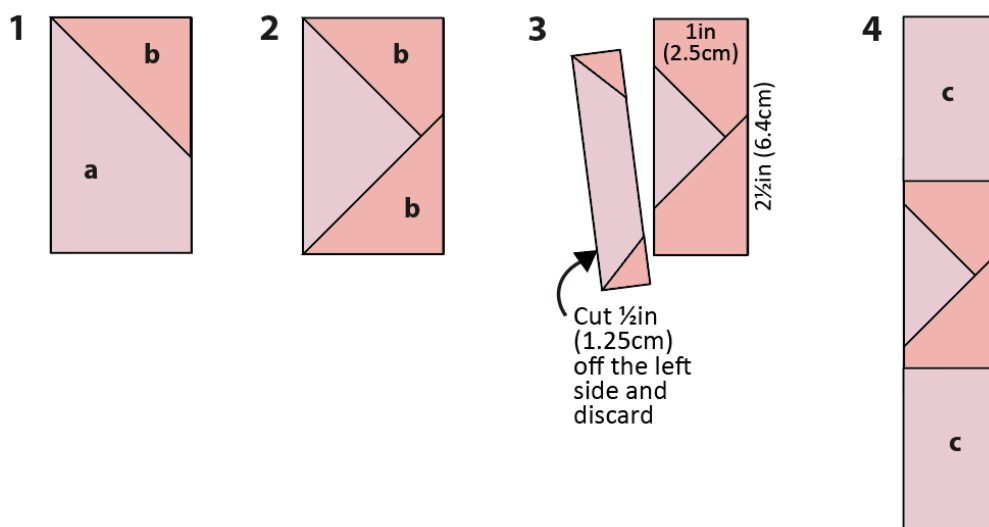


**12** You could make all of the HST and corner triangle units needed for a block, or make them as each part of the block is sewn.

### Making a Fish Mouth

**13** To make a fish mouth, follow **Fig I**, using one piece **a** of Fabric 1 and two **b** squares of Fabric 2. Make corner triangles as described before and shown in **Fig I 1** and **Fig I 2** and then press. Lay out the unit as in **Fig I 3** and trim  $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.25cm) off the left side. Now take two piece **c** of Fabric 1 and sew them to the top and bottom of the unit as in **Fig I 4** and press.

**Fig I** Making a fish mouth

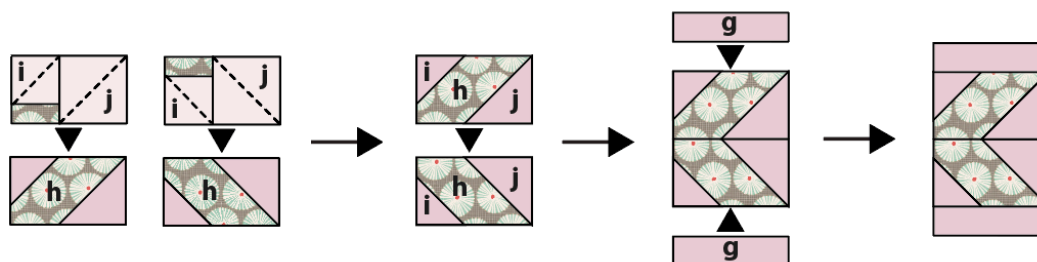


### Making a Fish Tail



**14** To make a fish tail, make the necessary corner triangle units and then follow the stages shown in **Fig J**, pressing seams at each stage.

**Fig J** Making a fish tail

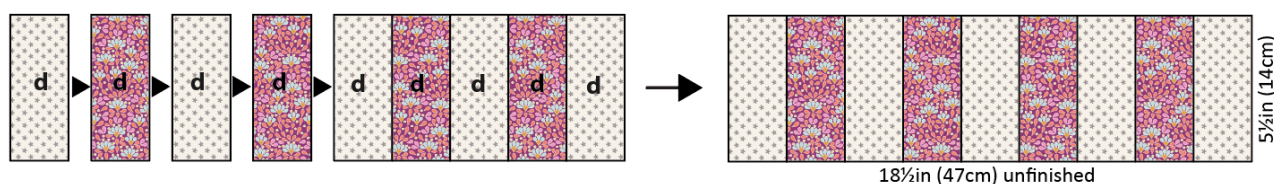


### Making a Fish Body

**15** The fish bodies are all made the same way, but for the partial fish (those used on the sides of the quilt without a head or tail), the bodies are trimmed down before the block is finally assembled – instructions will be given for this later.

Start by taking the **d** pieces for a fish body and sew them together as in **Fig K**. Press seams in one direction. Check that the unit measures 18½in (47cm) wide x 5½in (14cm) high.

**Fig K** Sewing the fish body stripes



**16** Adding the long triangles to the striped body unit is tricky, so detailed instructions and diagrams are given. Begin by following **Fig L 1**, taking the **e** and **f** Fabric 1 pieces and on the wrong side (WS) marking the ¼in (6mm) seam allowances all round – you can just mark dots at the corners if you like (shown in yellow on the diagrams). Now mark the diagonal lines in the directions shown (shown in red on the diagrams).

**17** Take the striped unit and place it right side (RS) up, as in **Fig L 2**. Carefully measure the piece, following exactly the measurements shown, and using an erasable marker, mark dots on the marked seam allowance line (shown by red dots). You should have eight dots.

**18** Now take piece **e** for the top left side, place it right sides together with the striped unit, and angle it as shown, so its yellow seam allowance dots meet the red dots beneath, and pin (**Fig L 3**). Do the same with piece **f** for the top right side, angling as shown and pin. Now sew along the diagonal lines, remove pins and press the triangles upwards – the triangle edges should align with the edges of the striped unit. When you are happy that they fit correctly, trim excess fabric at the back of the work.

**19** Repeat this process to add the other **e** and **f** pieces, to create the triangles on the lower edge of the striped unit (**Fig L 4**). Trim excess and press, as before. The body unit should look as shown in **Fig L 5**.

**Fig L** Making a fish body

- 1**
- 
- On the wrong side (WS) of the **e** and **f** pieces, mark the  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam allowances (shown as green lines) or just dots at the corners (yellow). Mark a diagonal line through the seam allowance points in the directions shown
- 2**
- 
- 3**
- 
- Angle rectangle so its seam allowance dots meet the dots beneath, pin and then sew
- 4**
- 
- 5**
-

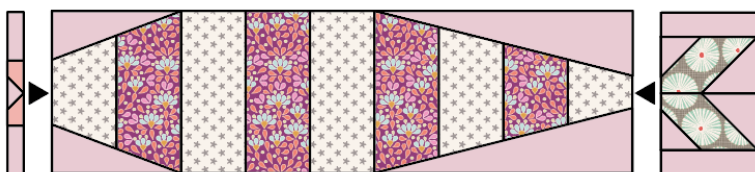


### Assembling a Whole Fish

**20** Take a mouth unit, a body unit and a tail unit and sew them together in a row as in **Fig M** and press. Fish 2 is shown in the diagram. Check the fish block is 22in (55.9cm) long x 5½in (14cm) high.

**21** Repeat this process to make all of the other whole fish – sixteen in total: two of Fish 1, two of Fish 2, two of Fish 3, five of Fish 4 and five of Fish 5. Change fabrics as shown in **Fig E**. We will now make the fin units and then describe how to prepare and assemble the partial fish blocks.

**Fig M** Assembling a whole fish



### Making the Fins

**22** The upper fin and the lower fin are quite simple. For the top fin, use print piece **a** with two **b** squares of background fabric and create corner triangles, as shown in **Fig N**.

For the bottom fin, make a half-square triangle unit as described previously. Make a **d/c/d** unit with corner triangles and then combine the units with piece **b**, as shown.

Make all of the fins needed for the quilt, following **Fig F** for the specific fabrics to use.

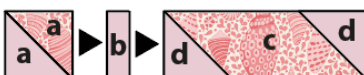
**Fig N** Making the fins

Top fin



The top fin is just a rectangle with a corner triangle at each end (see Fig C for the cut sizes)

Bottom fin



### Assembling the Fin Rows

**23** Once the fin units are made, you can assemble the rows by adding the rectangular background fabric pieces between the fins. Follow **Fig D** and **Fig F** carefully to see exactly where to place the pieces. Label each row as it is sewn, for easy identification later. You should have twelve rows in total and each row should measure the same – 57½in x 2in (146cm x 5.1cm).

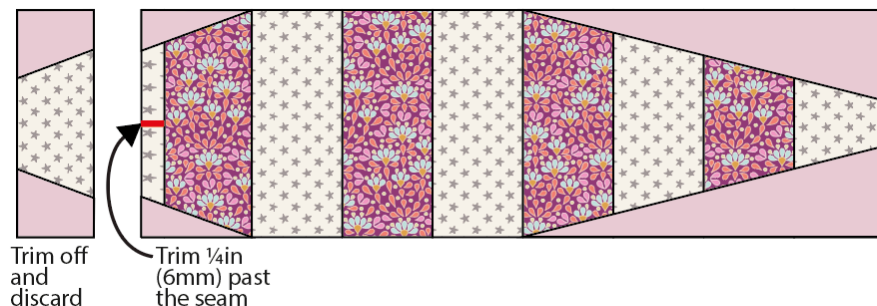
### Making the Partial Fish Blocks

**24** There are two types of partial fish – one without a head and one without a tail. For both types, make the body as you did before. Fish 1, 2 and 3 are made as partial fish – follow **Fig B** for exactly which ones to make.

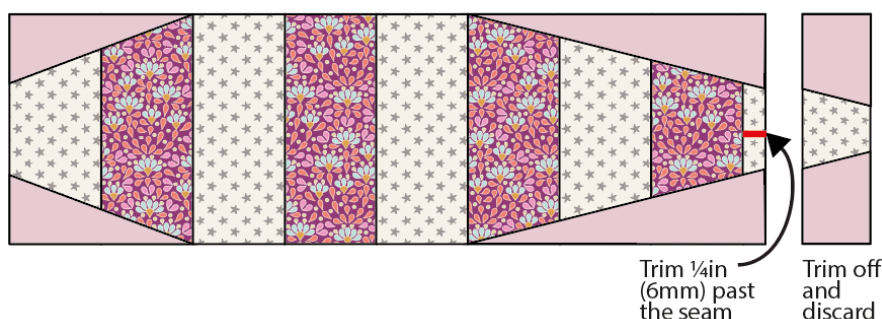
For the fish with no head, trim off excess fabric on the left-hand side to within a ¼in (6mm) of the seam, as shown in **Fig O**. This ¼in (6mm) will become a seam allowance at the edge of the quilt. Remove excess fabric and check the unit is 16½in (42cm) long.

For the fish with no tail, trim off excess fabric on the right-hand side to within a  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) of the seam, as shown in **Fig P**. This  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) will become a seam allowance at the edge of the quilt. Remove excess fabric and check the unit is  $16\frac{1}{2}$ in (42cm) long.

**Fig O** Trimming a partial fish body (no head)



**Fig P** Trimming a partial fish body (no tail)

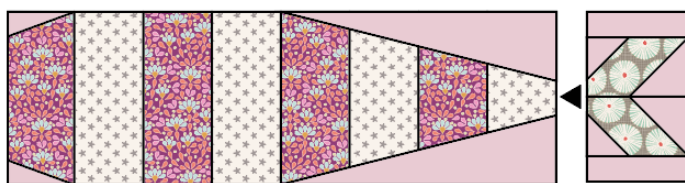


**25** Finish assembling the fish with no head by adding a tail unit on the right-hand side, as in **Fig Q**. Check the partial fish block (no head) is  $19\frac{1}{2}$ in (49.5cm) long x  $5\frac{1}{2}$ in (14cm) high.

**26** Finish assembling the fish with no tail by adding a mouth unit on the left-hand side, as in **Fig R**. Check the partial fish block (no tail) is 17in (43.2cm) long x  $5\frac{1}{2}$ in (14cm) high (note that it is shorter than the other partial fish).

Make the rest of the partial fish required using the same process.

**Fig Q** Assembling a partial fish (no head)



**Fig R** Assembling a partial fish (no tail)





## Assembling the Quilt

**27** You can now assemble the fish rows (the C and E rows). For a three-fish row, simply sew the fish together, with a whole fish in the centre, as shown in **Fig S**.

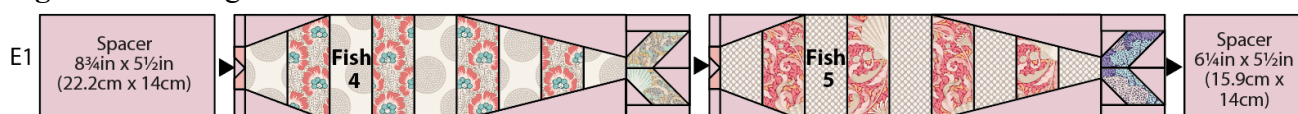
For a two-fish row, sew two whole fish together and then add Fabric 1 spacer rectangles at each end, as in **Fig T**.

Repeat this for the other fish rows, following **Fig B** carefully for the order of the fish.

**Fig S** Assembling a three-fish row



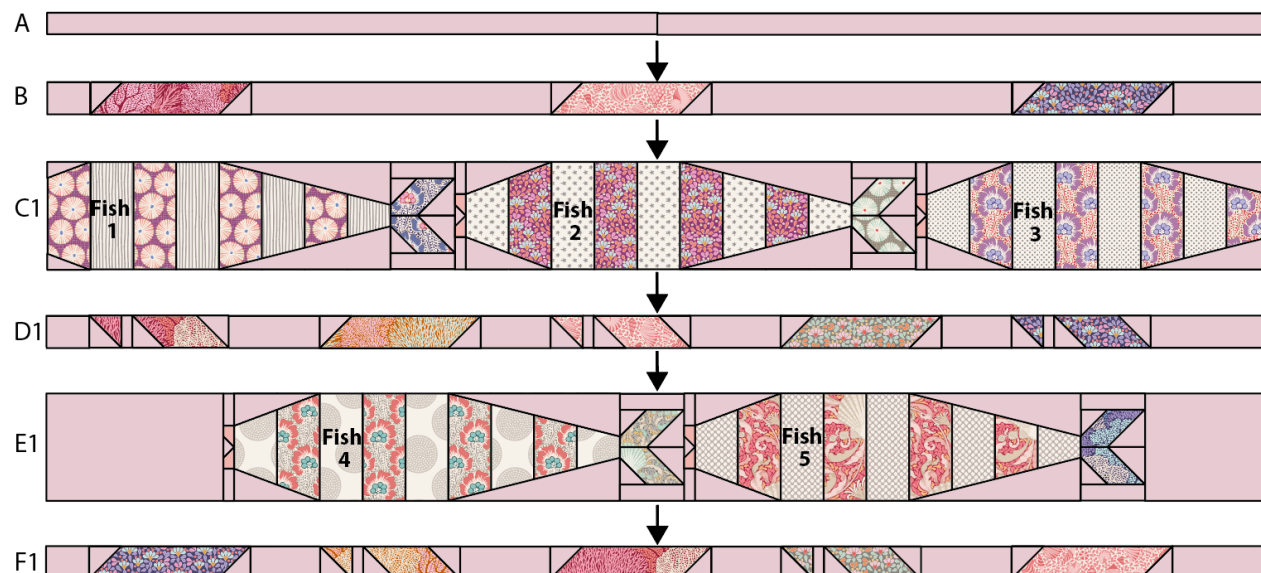
**Fig T** Assembling a two-fish row



**28** You can now begin to sew all of the rows together. Begin with the long strip of Fabric 1 at the top of the quilt (row A), pinning it right sides together with fin row B. Sew together with a 1/4 in (6mm) seam and then press the seam open or to one side. Continue adding rows like this. **Fig U** shows the first six rows; after that follow **Fig B** carefully for the order. Finish with the other long strip of Fabric 1 at the bottom of the quilt (row A).

**Fig U** Sewing the quilt rows together

The first six rows are shown – refer to Fig B for the order of the remaining rows



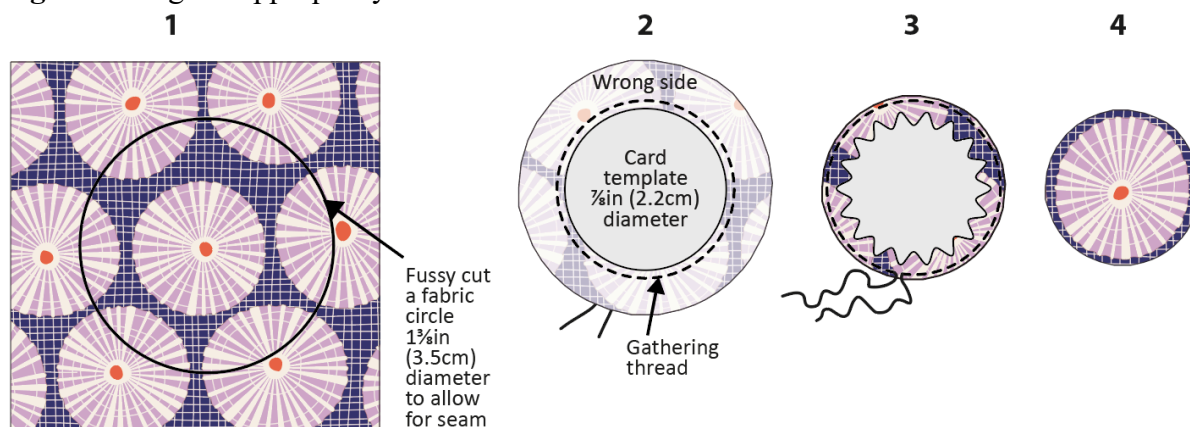
## Adding the Eyes

**29** The appliqué eyes are made using a card and gathering thread method. Cut a 7/8 in (2.2cm) diameter circle from a piece of stiff card. Cut a 1 3/8 in (3.5cm) diameter circle from a piece of tracing paper. Press the piece of Fabric 23 and place the tracing paper circle on the right side of the fabric, so that you can see it contains a whole circle of the pattern (see **Fig V 1**). Mark the circle and cut out the fabric circle. Place the smaller card circle on the wrong side of the cut-out fabric, in the centre, and then mark the circle. Remove the card for the moment. Using

a strong thread, hand sew a gathering stitch all around this marked inner circle, slightly *outside* of the marked line. Leave tails of thread on the right side, as in **Fig V 2**. Put the card circle back in place and pull on the gathering thread to gather it up over the edge of the card (**Fig V 3**). Press well, remove the card and press again (**Fig V 4**). Make twenty-two eyes like this in total.

**30** Using a matching hand sewing thread and small slip stitches, sew the eyes in place on the fish and press the eyes and the quilt (see **Fig B**). Your quilt top is now complete.

**Fig V** Making the appliqué eyes



## Quilting and Finishing

**31** 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 (baste) 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 together.
- Use fabric glue sprayed onto the wadding (batting) 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. When the layers of the quilt are secured you can quilt as desired.

**32** When all quilting is finished, square up the quilt ready for binding.

**33** 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  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam, sew the binding in place, starting at least 6in (15.2cm) away from the end of the binding. Sew to within a  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (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  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam again from the top of the folded binding to within  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (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.

**34** 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.

**35** 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 fabulous fish quilt is finished.