



MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

Dear Santa Calendar
Putty White



Dear Santa Calendar

This small quilt is wonderful to use as an Advent calendar in the countdown to Christmas as it has twenty-four buttons on it, perfect for hanging little gifts. The addition of a hanging sleeve or hanging loops would allow the quilt to be display on a wall and instructions for these optional features are given at the end of the quilt instructions. The quilt is also a great size for a lap quilt if you prefer to use it that way. The quilt uses some of the same design features as the bed-size Merry Little Christmas Quilts and fabrics from the Merry Little Christmas fabric collection and its blenders. See tildasworld.com for the instructions for the two quilts and also two Heart Garland Pillows.

Difficulty rating **

Materials

- Fabric 1: 2yds (2m) – Chambray putty white (160043) (background)
- Fabric 2: about 9in (23cm) square – Chambray brown (160035)
- Fabric 3: about 9in (23cm) square – Solid dove white (120001)
- Fabric 4: about 5in (13cm) square – Solid warm sand (120002)
- Fabric 5: about 5in (13cm) square – Woven Tea Towel Basics – Apple Cake Stripe red (160112) *
- Fabric 6: about 5in (13cm) square – Polka Dot red (160085)
- Fabric 7: about 9in (23cm) square – Gingham red (160087)
- Fabric 8: about 9in (23cm) square – Holly red (100621)
- Fabric 9: a fat eighth (*not* a long 1/8yd) – Carol burgundy (100622)
- Fabric 10: about 5in (13cm) square – Mistletoe red (100623)
- Fabric 11: about 9in (23cm) square – Joy red (100624)
- Fabric 12: about 5in (13cm) square – Holly duck egg (100626)
- Fabric 13: about 9in (23cm) square – Carol duck egg (100627)
- Fabric 14: about 9in (23cm) square – Joy blue (100628)
- Fabric 15: about 9in (23cm) square – Holly moss (100631)
- Fabric 16: about 9in (23cm) square – Carol moss (100632)
- Fabric 17: a fat eighth (*not* a long 1/8yd) – Mistletoe pistachio (100633)
- Fabric 18: a long 1/8yd (15cm) (*not* a fat eighth) – Joy pine (100634)
- Fabric 19: about 9in (23cm) square – Paper Scenes artichoke (100635)
- Fabric 20: about 9in (23cm) square – Mistletoe cream (100639)
- Fabric 21: about 5in (13cm) square – Winter Friends clay (100640)
- Fabric 22: about 9in (23cm) square – Noel red (110139)
- Fabric 23: about 9in (23cm) square – Eve burgundy (110140)
- Fabric 24: about 5in (13cm) square – Eve petrol (110142)
- Fabric 25: about 9in (23cm) square – Eve pine (110144)
- Fabric 26: about 9in (23cm) square – Noel moss (110145)
- Fabric 27: about 9in (23cm) square – Eve sage (110146)
- Fabric 28: about 9in (23cm) square – Noel taupe (110149)
- Wadding (batting): 46in x 49in (117cm x 125cm)
- Backing fabric: 2 3/4yds (2.5m) – Woven Tea Towel Basics – Apple Cake Stripe red (160112)
- Binding fabric: 3/8yd (40cm) – Eve red (110138)
- Piecing and quilting threads
- Black stranded cotton (floss) for French knot eyes

- Quilter's ruler, rotary cutter and mat
- Scrap of freezer paper and fabric glue for nose appliqué
- Small buttons – Merry Little Christmas Buttons 12mm (400073) – 16 buttons (2 packs)
- Large buttons – Merry Little Christmas Buttons 16mm (400072) – 8 buttons (1 pack)

Fabric Notes

For some fabrics a fat eighth is required, rather than a long $\frac{1}{8}$ yd (as a long $\frac{1}{8}$ yd won't be deep enough). The Materials list gives details.

* If you are using Apple Cake Stripe red fabric as your quilt backing there will be spare to use in the quilt patchwork.

Finished Size

37½in x 40½in (95.3cm x 103cm)

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 fabric before cutting and trim as needed to square up the fabric pattern/weave, using a quilting ruler to cut the top raw edge at 90 degrees to the selvages.
- 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.
- Abbreviations: RS = right side; WS = wrong side; HST = half-square triangle.
- Check that any patterns being used are printed at full size (100%).

Quilt Layout

1 The quilt layout consists of seven rows. Three of these rows are made up of blocks – a Heart block in three colourways, a Garland block in two colourways, a Christmas Tree block, a Doll's House block and a Santa block. The block rows are separate by rows of sashing strips. Santa's nose is created with turned-edge appliqué (the oval pattern is available). Twenty-four buttons in total are used on the quilt. Refer to **Fig A** for the fabrics used and **Fig B** for the quilt layout.

Fig A Fabric swatches (Dear Santa Calendar)

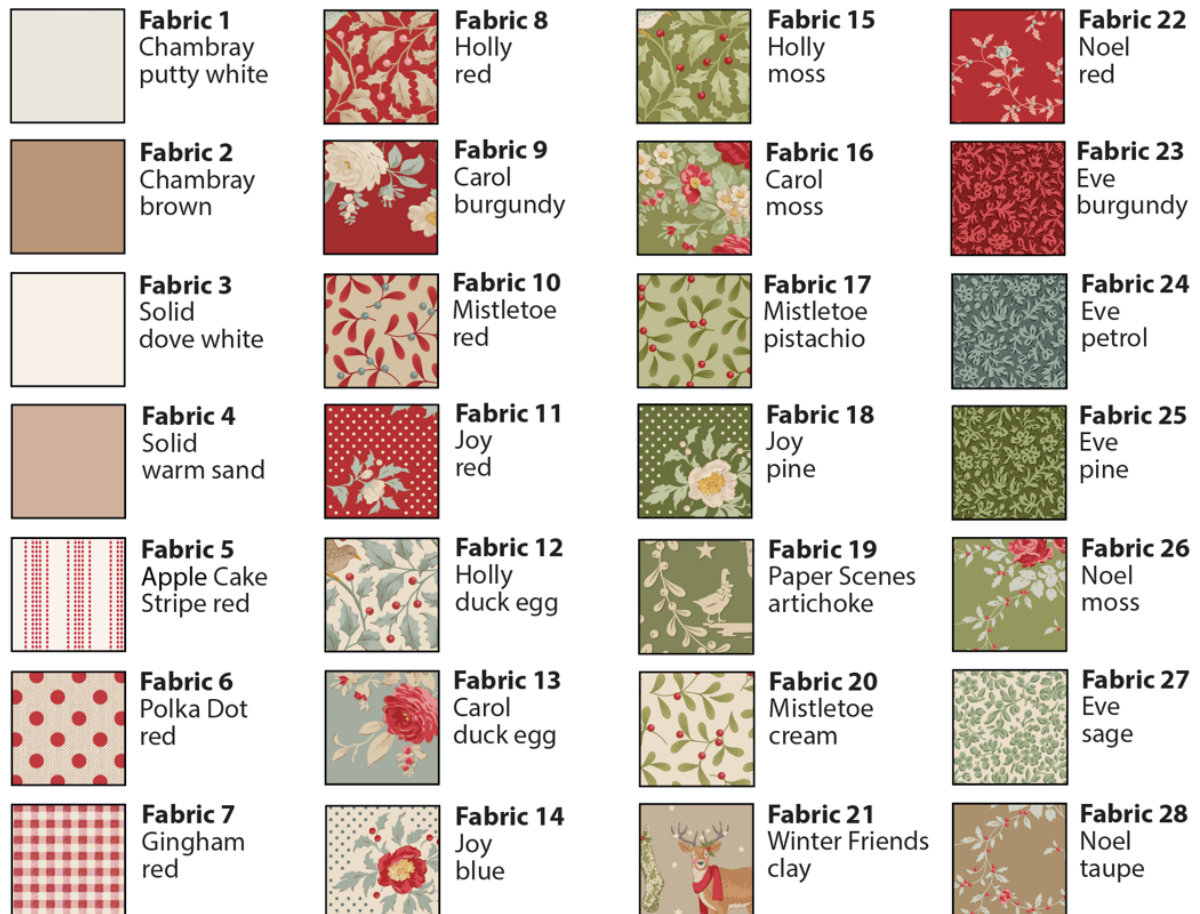
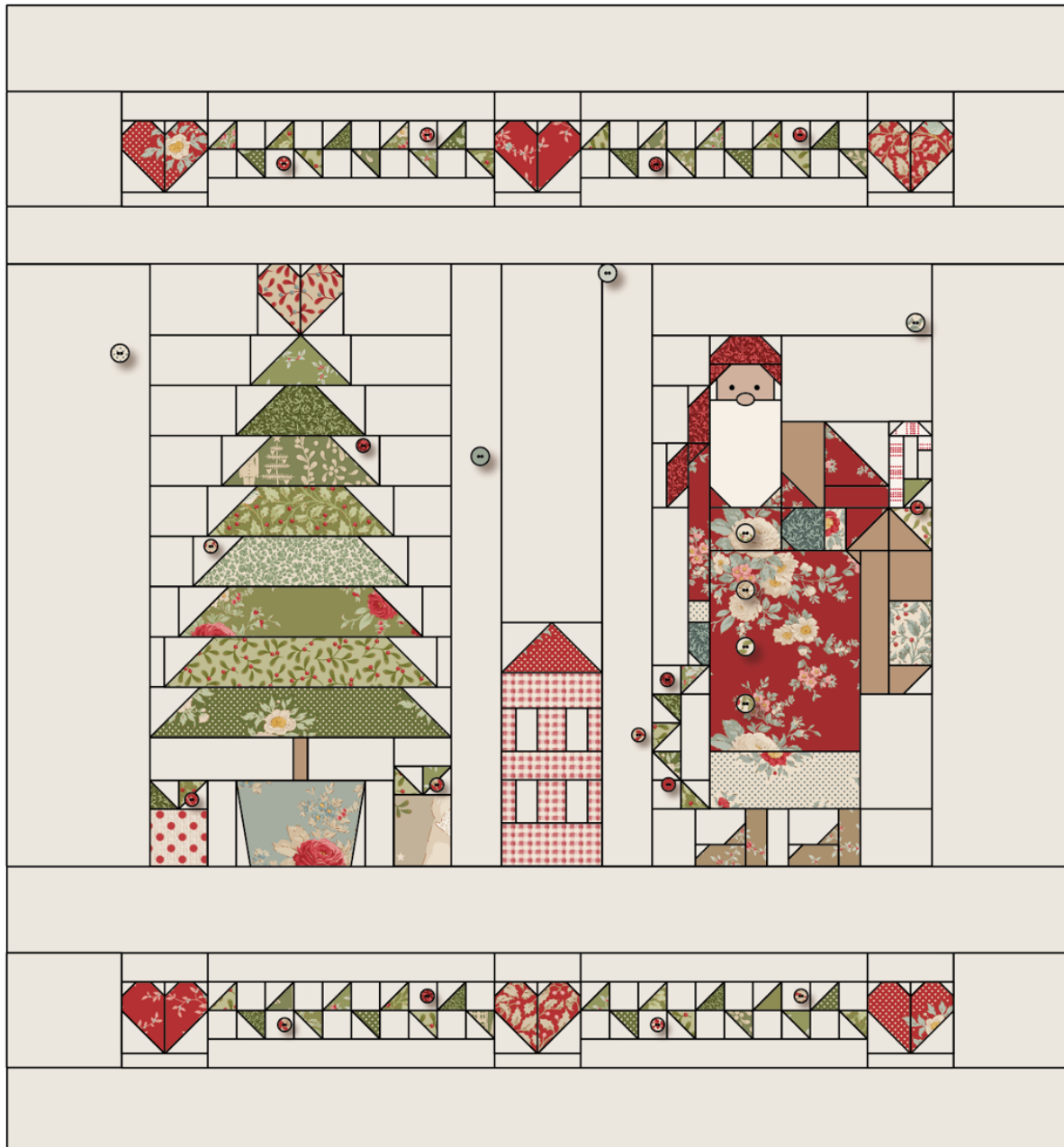


Fig B Quilt layout



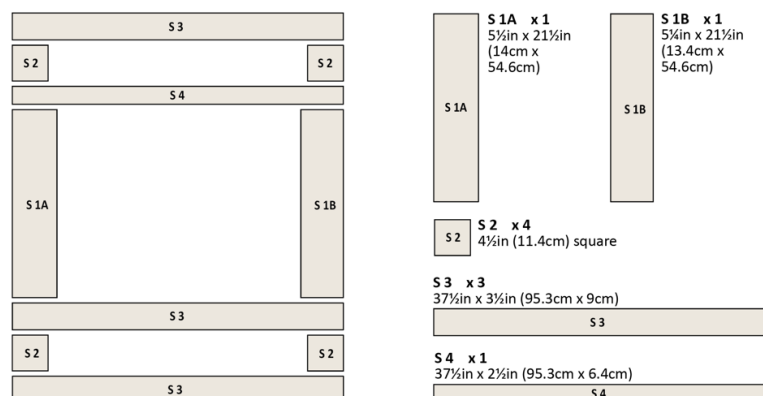
Cutting Out

2 Start by cutting the sashing pieces. **Fig C** shows how the sashing pieces create a framework for the quilt. The individual sizes and the number to cut are also shown in this diagram.

- From Fabric 1 cut one strip $5\frac{1}{4}\text{in}$ x $21\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$ (14cm x 54.6cm) for Sashing 1A (S 1A).
- From Fabric 1 cut one strip $5\frac{1}{4}\text{in}$ x $21\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$ (13.4cm x 54.6cm) for Sashing 1B (S 1B).
- From Fabric 1 cut four $4\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$ (11.4cm) squares for Sashing 2 (S 2).
- From Fabric 1 cut three strips $37\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$ (95.3cm x 9cm) for Sashing 3 (S 3).
- From Fabric 1 cut one strip $37\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$ (95.3cm x 6.4cm) for Sashing 4 (S 4).

Fig C Cut measurements for sashing

Sizes include 1/4in (6mm) seam allowances. S = Sashing

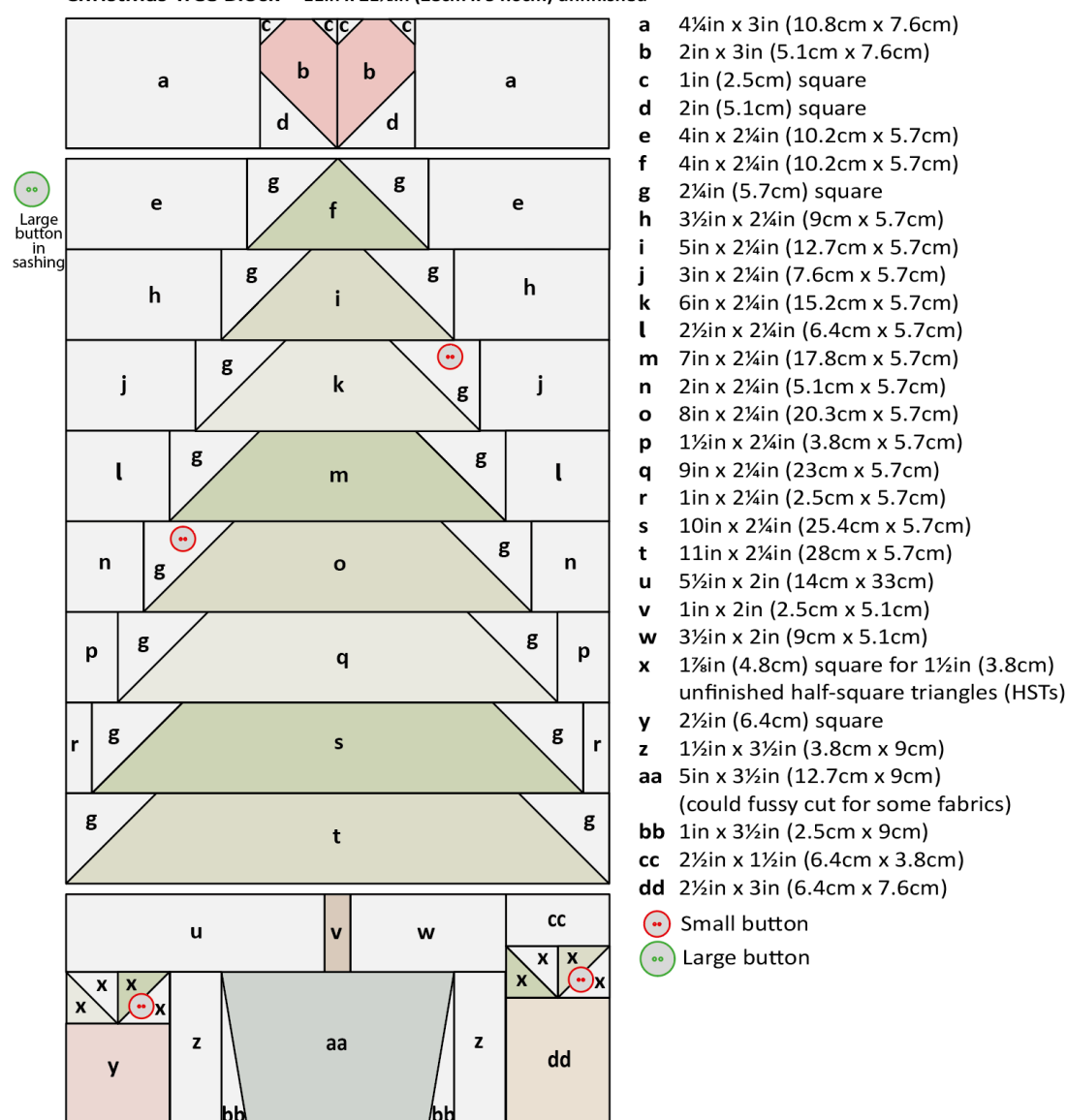


3 For the Christmas Tree block, use the cut sizes given in **Fig D** and follow the fabric colours and positions shown in **Fig G**. The positions of the buttons are shown in the diagrams but these need to be added much later.

Fig D Cut measurements for the Christmas Tree block

Sizes include 1/4in (6mm) seam allowances. All pieces to be cut initially as squares or rectangles

Christmas Tree Block – 11in x 21 1/2in (28cm x 54.6cm) unfinished

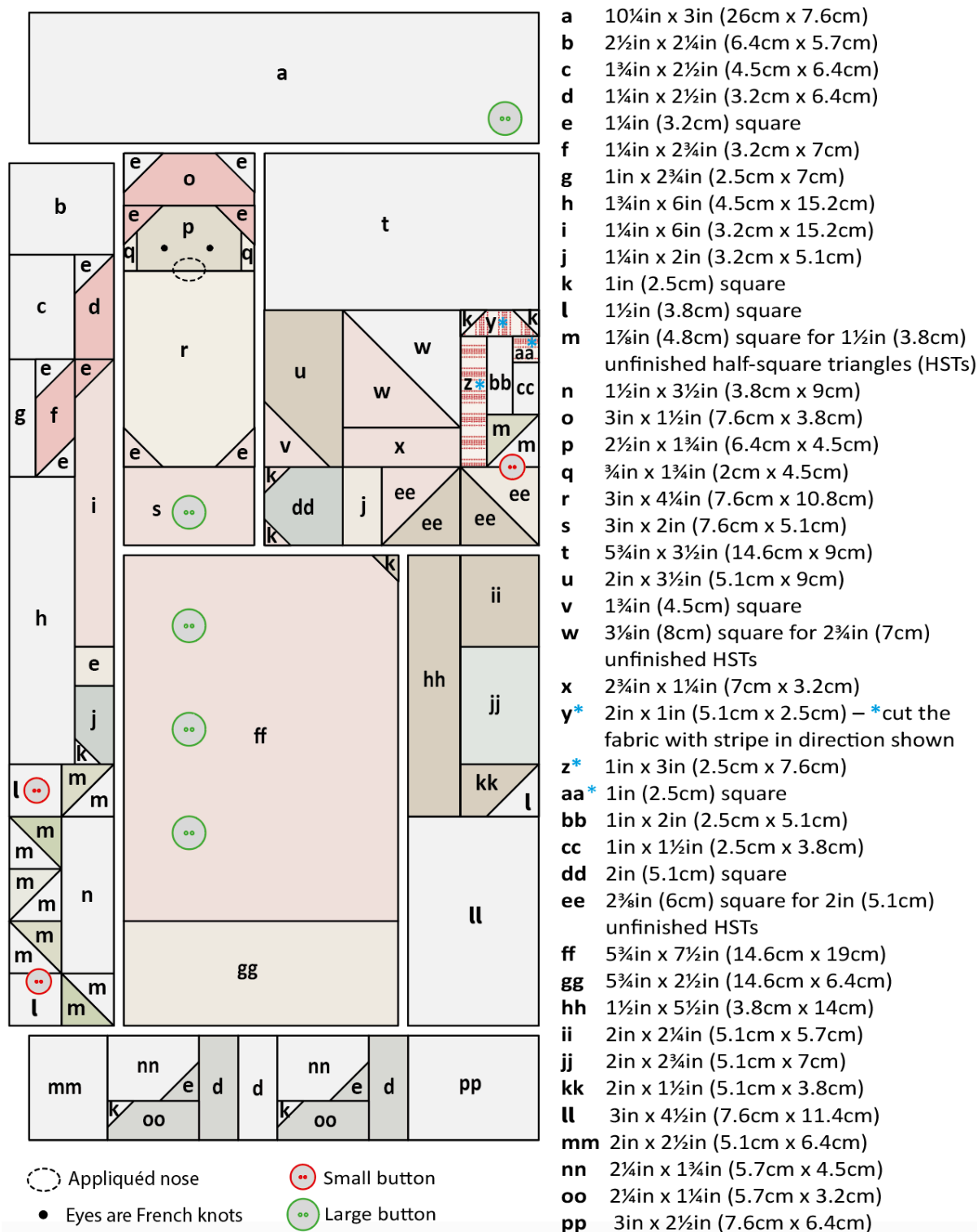


4 For the Santa block, use the cut sizes given in **Fig E** and follow the fabric colours and positions shown in **Fig G**. Note that the striped fabric (Fabric 5), shown with an asterisk in the diagram, needs to be cut with the stripes in the directions shown. There are many pieces needed for a Santa block, so it's a good idea to keep them in separate piles or plastic bags for the different parts of the block.

Fig E Cut measurements for the Santa block

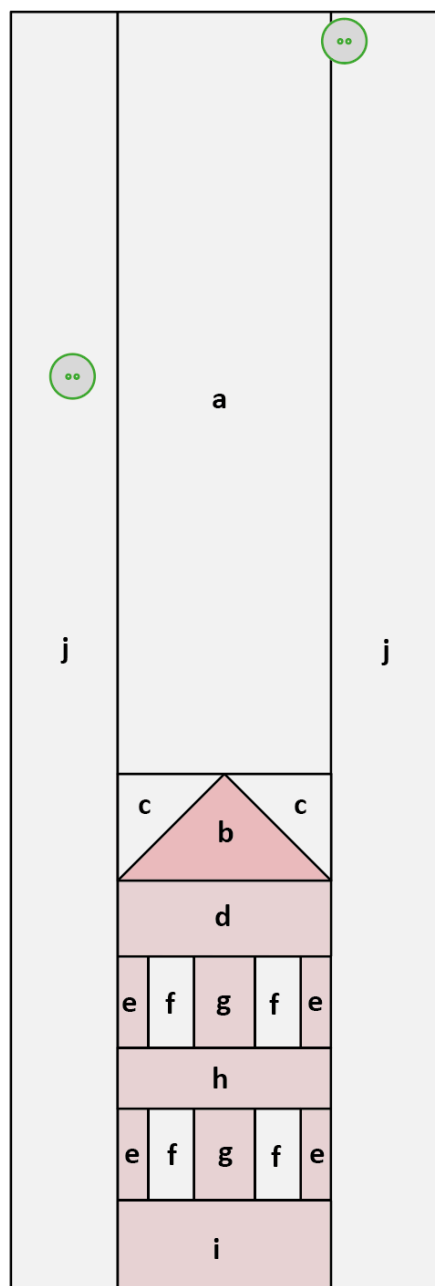
Sizes include $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam allowances. All pieces to be cut initially as squares or rectangles

Santa Block – 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ in x 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ in (26cm x 54.6cm) unfinished



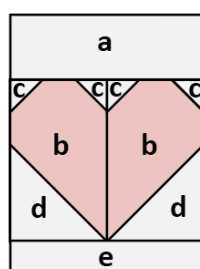
7 Cut the binding fabric into five 2½in (6.4cm) x width of fabric strips. Sew together end to end and press seams open. Press the binding in half along the length, wrong sides together.

Sizes include ¼in (6mm) seam allowances. All pieces to be cut initially as squares or rectangles



- a** 4in x 13in (10.2cm x 33cm)
- b** 4in x 2¼in (10.2cm x 5.7cm)
- c** 2¼in (5.7cm) square
- d** 4in x 1¾in (10.2cm x 4.5cm)
- e** 1in x 2in (2.5cm x 5.1cm)
- f** 1¼in x 2in (3.2cm x 5.1cm)
- g** 1½in x 2in (3.8cm x 5.1cm)
- h** 4in x 1½in (10.2cm x 3.8cm)
- i** 4in x 2in (10.2cm x 5.1cm)
- j** 2¼in x 21½in (5.7cm x 54.6cm)

 Large button



3½in x 4½in (9cm x 11.4cm) unfinished

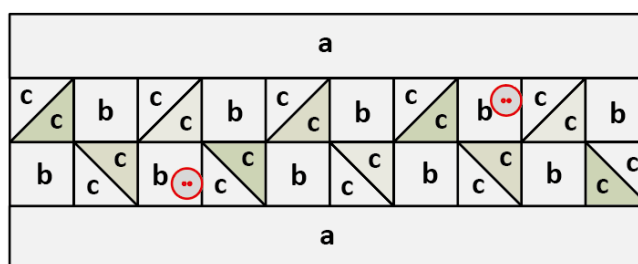
a 3½in x 1½in (9cm x 3.8cm)

b 2in x 3in (5.1cm x 7.6cm)

c 1in (2.5cm) square

d 2in (5.1cm) square

e 3½in x 1in (9cm x 2.5cm)



- a** 10½in x 1½in (26.7cm x 3.8cm)
- b** 1½in (3.8cm) square
- c** 17½in (4.8cm) square for 1½in (3.8cm) square unfinished half-square triangles (HSTs)


 Small button

Fig G Fabric positions for the Christmas Tree and Santa blocks

Bold numbers indicate the fabrics used (see Fig A)

The background is Fabric 1. Make one of each block

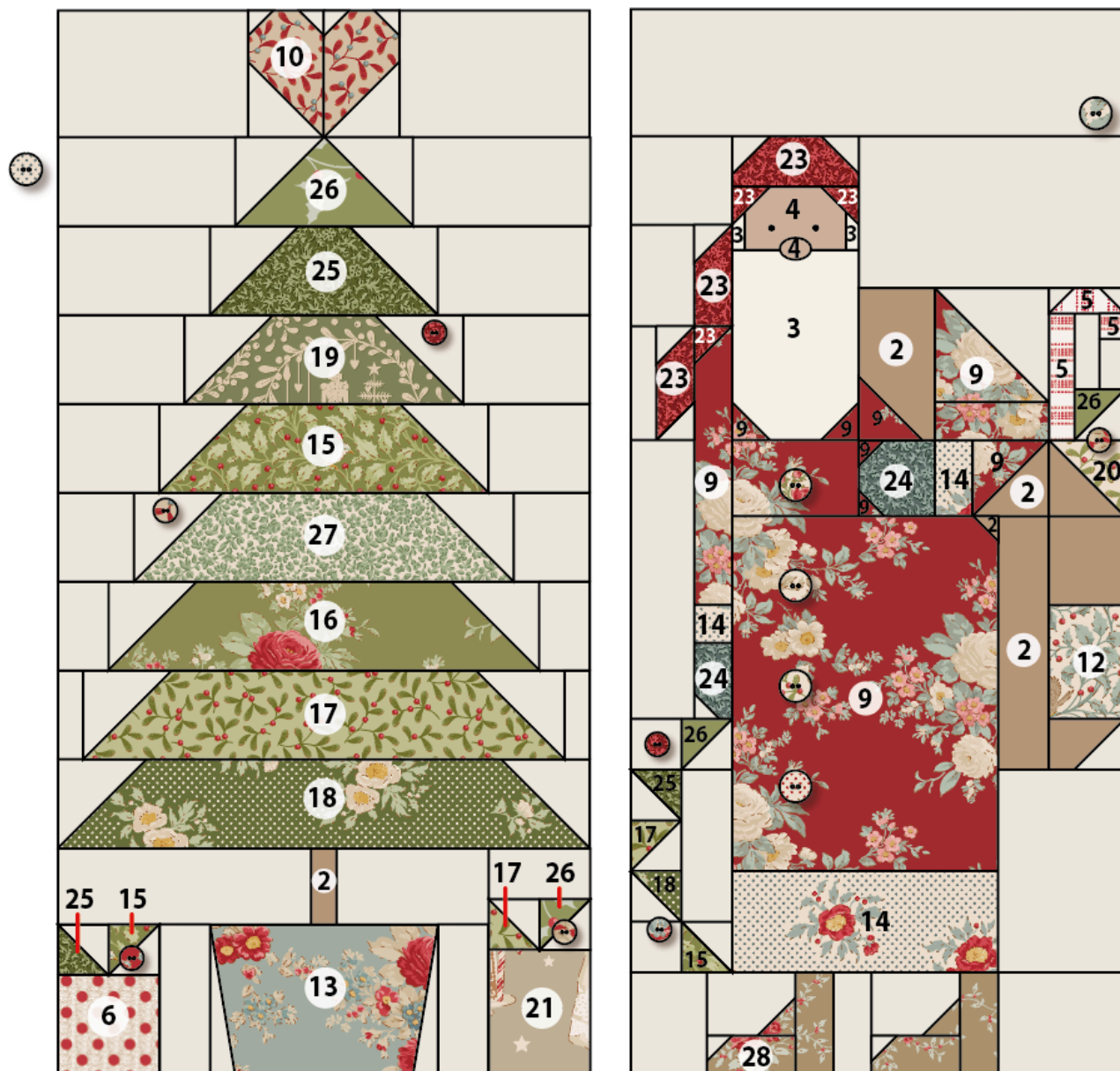
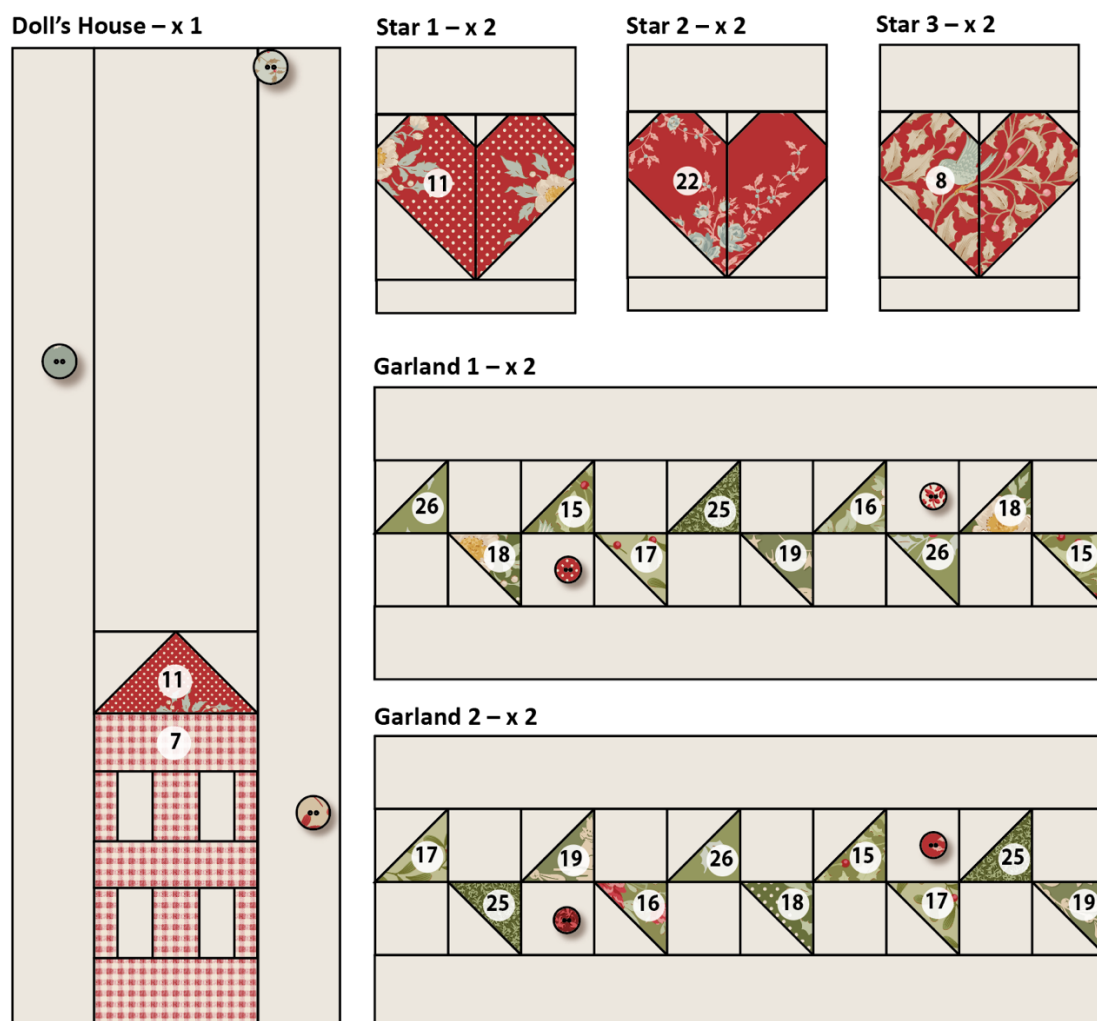


Fig H Fabric positions for the Doll's House, Heart and Garland blocks

Bold numbers indicate fabrics used (see Fig A). The background is Fabric 1. Make the number of blocks indicated



General Techniques Used

8 There are two general techniques that occur in the quilt blocks – corner triangle units and half-square triangle units – in various sizes. The basic methods are described here, so refer back to this section, if needed, as you make the blocks.

9 Making a corner triangle unit: Follow the basic process shown in **Fig I 1**. Select the correct base/background fabric piece and the smaller square. Place the base piece right side (RS) up. Take the smaller square and pencil mark a diagonal line on the wrong side (WS). Position the smaller square right sides together with the base piece, in the correct position for that particular unit and with the marked line in the direction shown in the diagram. Pin in place and then sew along the marked line. Trim off excess fabric $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) outside the sewn line and press the triangle outwards. Check the size of the unit, which should be the same size as the original base piece.

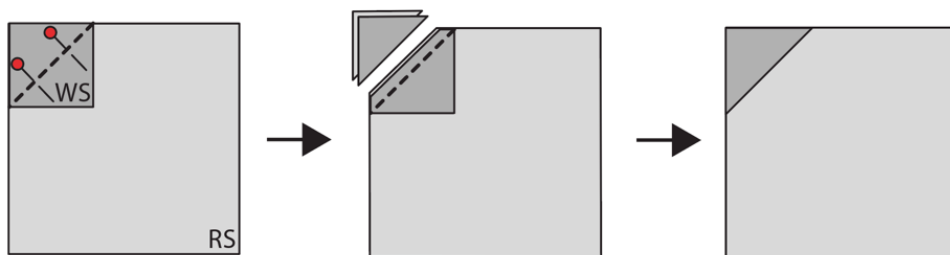
10 Making half-square triangle units: Follow the basic process shown in **Fig I 2**, which makes two units at the same time. Take two different squares and on the wrong side of the lighter square, pencil mark the diagonal line. Place the two squares right sides (RS) together and sew $\frac{1}{4}$ in (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 unfinished size it is meant to be.

Fig I General techniques

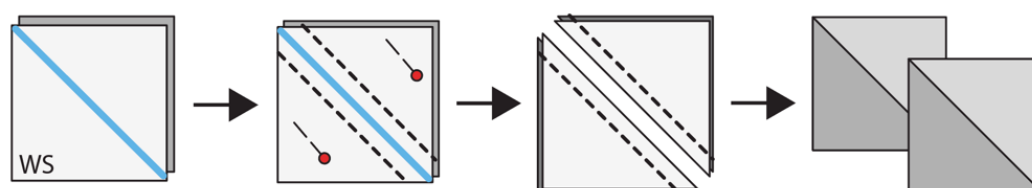
1 Making a corner triangle unit

2 Making half-square triangle units

1



2



Making the Christmas Tree Block

11 The Christmas Tree block is quite straightforward and uses mostly corner square triangles and half-square triangles. The only slightly tricky thing to sew is the tree bucket, so we will describe the technique for this first, with the process shown in **Fig J**.

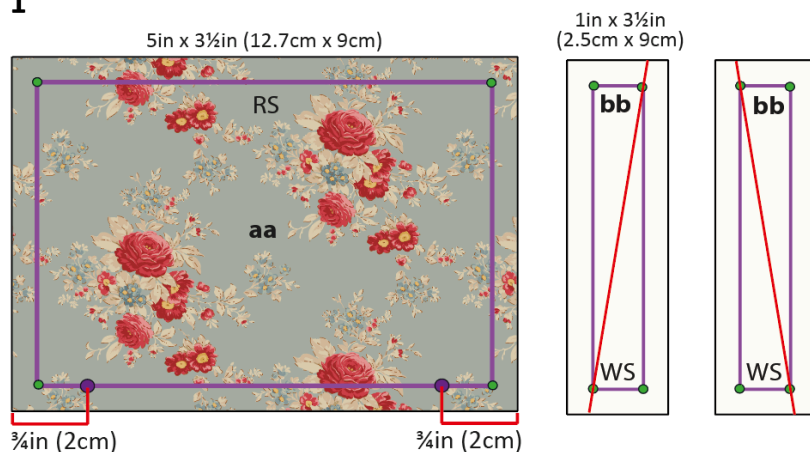
Begin by taking the print fabric piece **aa** (the bucket piece) and on the right side (RS), use a removeable marker to mark the $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam allowance or just dots at the corners (see **Fig J 1**). On the bottom edge mark two dots on the seam allowance (shown in purple), one $\frac{3}{4}$ in (2cm) in from the bottom right-hand edge and one $\frac{3}{4}$ in (2cm) in from the bottom left-hand edge, as shown.

Take the two background pieces **bb** and on the wrong side (WS) mark the $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam allowances – these can be pencil lines or just dots at the corners (see **Fig J 1**). On each of these pieces, mark a diagonal line in the directions shown, making sure the lines go through the seam allowance dots (and *not* the outer corners of the fabric piece).

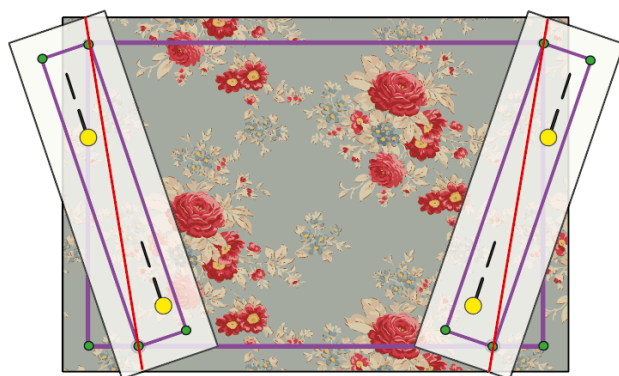
12 Take the background pieces and, with right sides together with the bucket piece, angle them following **Fig J 2**, so the seam allowance dots meet the purple dots beneath on the bucket piece. Pin in place and then sew along the marked diagonal lines. Using a quilting ruler, trim off excess fabric $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) away from the sewn lines, as shown in **Fig J 3**. Press the triangles outwards and check their edges are aligned with the larger fabric piece. Check the unit's size – it should be the same size as the original bucket piece (**Fig J 4**).

Fig J Making a tree bucket

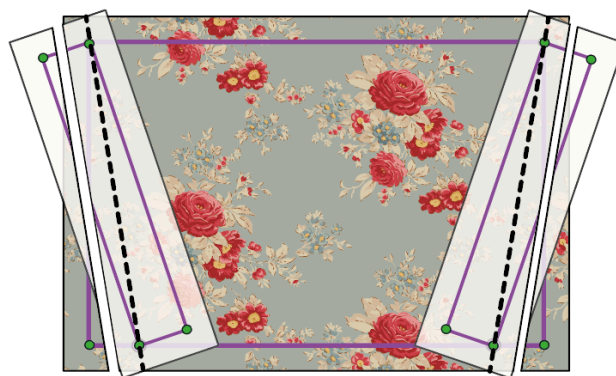
1



2



3



4



13 Set the bucket unit aside for the moment and make the rest of the pieced units for the Christmas Tree block. **Fig K** shows the piecing stages for the top and bottom sections of the block, so start with these. Follow **Fig K 1** for the top section and **Fig K 2** for the bottom section. The heart at the top of the tree has four corner triangles and a reminder of the process is shown in **Fig K 1**. The bottom section of the block is made up of three sub-sections and the stages of making these are shown in the diagram within the blue dashed line boxes.

Fig K Assembling the top and bottom sections of the Christmas Tree block

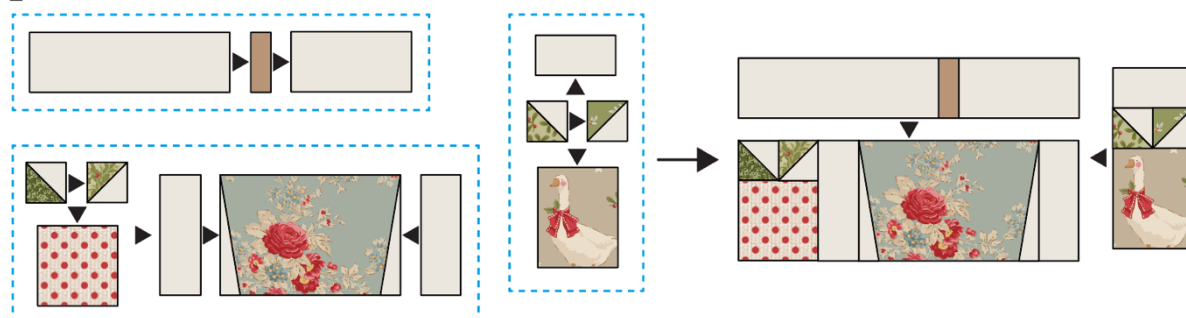
1 Top section

2 Bottom section

1

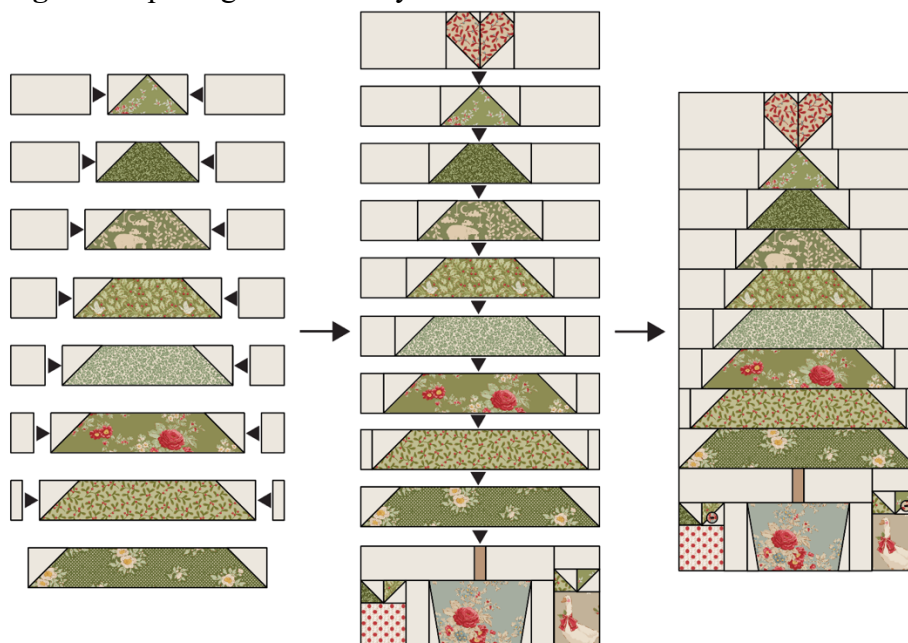


2



14 The tree block units are now assembled in rows. Follow **Fig L**, making all of the corner triangle units needed first and then sewing the correct pieces to the sides of each unit, as shown. Press seams open or to one side. Each sewn row should measure the same width – 11 in (28cm). Sew all of the rows together to complete the block and press. The buttons are shown but do not add them yet. Check the block is 11 in x 21½ in (28cm x 54.6cm).

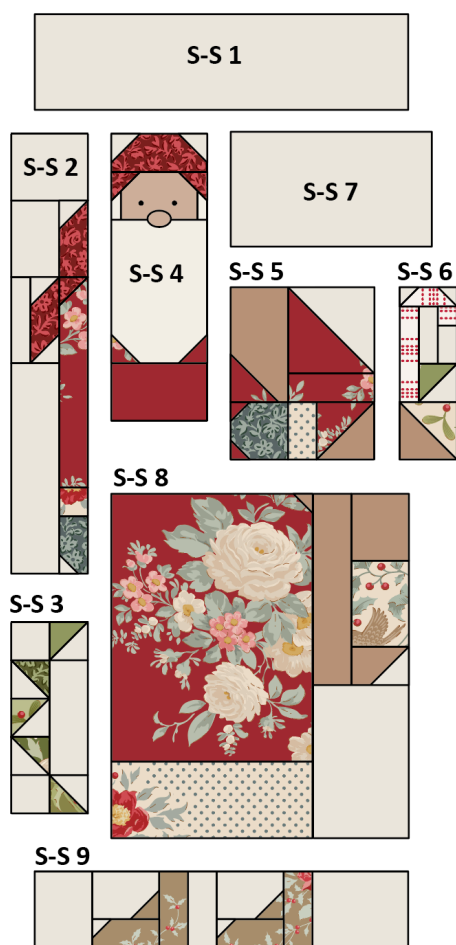
Fig L Completing the assembly of the Christmas Tree block



Making the Santa Block

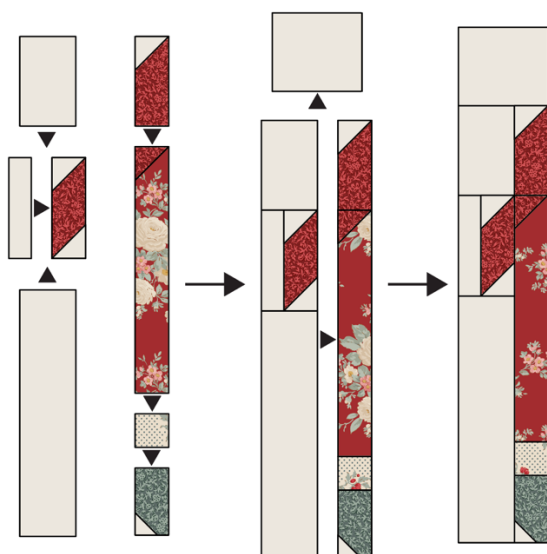
15 The Santa block uses mostly units composed of corner square triangles and half-square triangles but the block is quite complicated so some concentration is needed. To make the piecing easier, the block is shown in **Fig M** divided up into nine sub-sections (S-S). These sections will be shown and described in detail. Sub-sections 1 and 7 are unpieced, so we will start with sub-section 2.

Fig M Sub-sections of the Santa block
S-S = sub-section



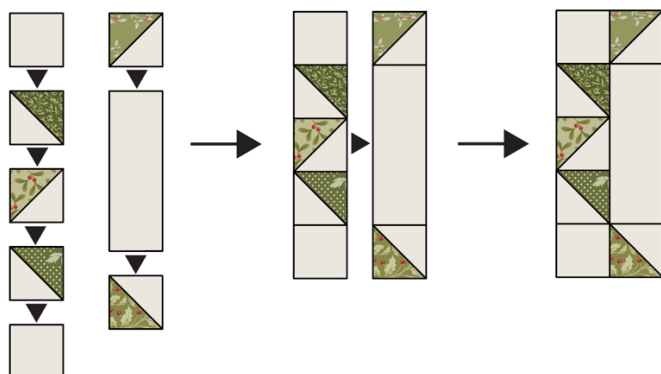
16 Making sub-section 2: Select the correct cut pieces of fabric for this section and make any corner triangle units needed first. Follow **Fig N** for the assembly, pressing seams open or to the side.

Fig N Making sub-section 2



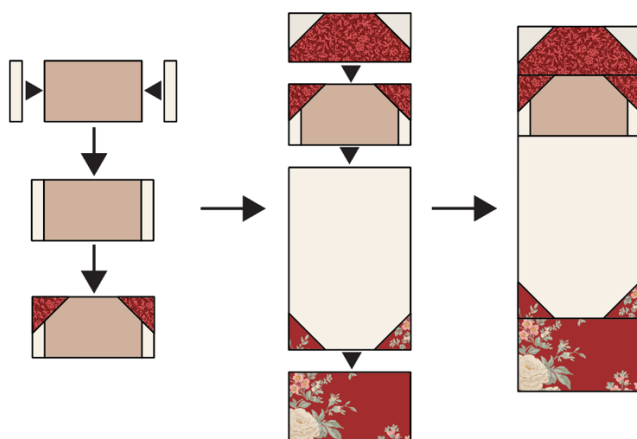
17 Making sub-section 3: Select the correct cut pieces of fabric for this section and make the half-square triangle units first. Follow **Fig O** for the assembly, making sure you have the HSTs pointing in the right directions. Press seams open or to the side.

Fig O Making sub-section 3



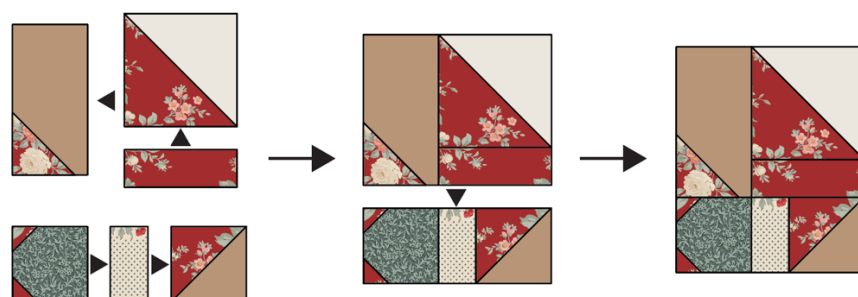
18 Making sub-section 4: Select the correct cut pieces of fabric for this section and make the corner triangle units first. Follow **Fig P** for the assembly. Press seams open or to the side.

Fig P Making sub-section 4



19 Making sub-section 5: Select the correct cut pieces of fabric for this section and make the corner triangle units first. Make the half-square triangle units – note that there are two sizes of these. Follow **Fig Q** for the assembly. Press seams open or to the side.

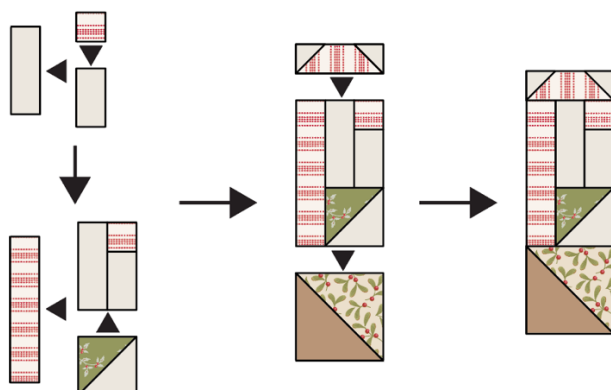
Fig Q Making sub-section 5



20 Making sub-section 6: Select the correct cut pieces of fabric for this section. Follow **Fig R** for the assembly. Make the half-square triangle units – note that there are two sizes of these. Make the unit that has two corner triangles, making sure that the stripes on the print

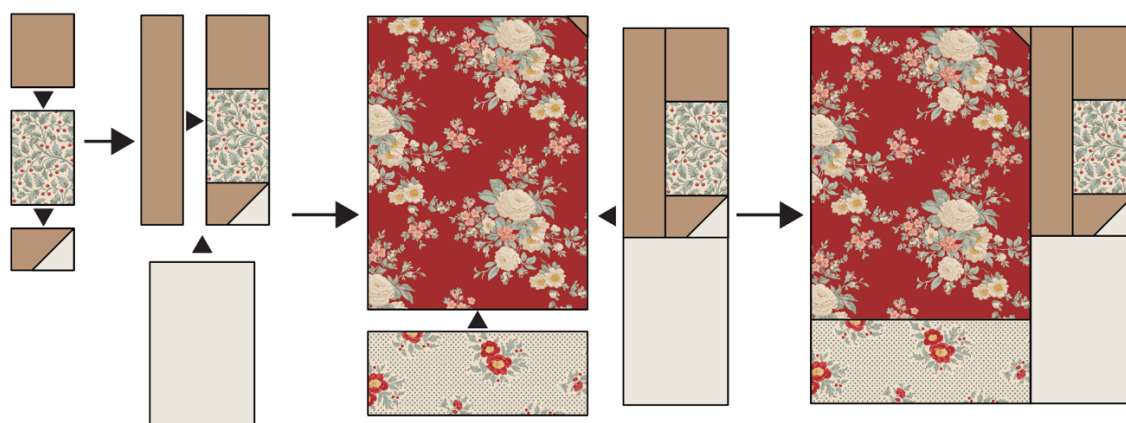
fabric (Fabric 5) in this small unit are vertical, as shown in **Fig R**. Assemble the rest of the unit, again paying attention to the directions of the stripes. Press seams open or to the side.

Fig R Making sub-section 6



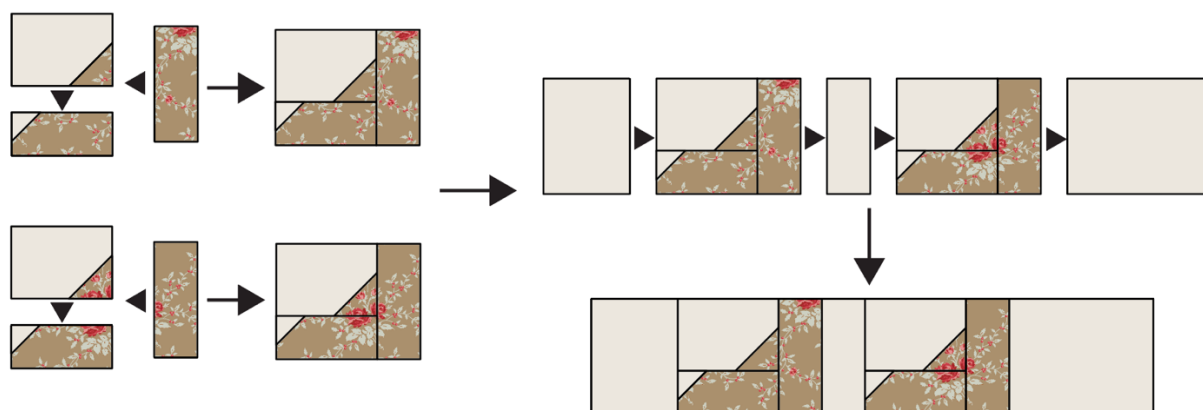
21 Making sub-section 8: Select the correct cut pieces of fabric for this section. Follow **Fig S** for the assembly, making the corner triangle units first. Don't miss the small corner triangle on the top right corner of the large piece of print fabric. Press seams open or to the side.

Fig S Making sub-section 8



22 Making sub-section 9: Select the correct cut pieces of fabric for this section. Follow **Fig T** for the assembly, making the corner triangle units first. Press seams open or to the side.

Fig T Making sub-section 9



23 When all of the sub-sections have been made, the Santa block assembly can be completed following the stages in **Fig U**. Continue to use ¼in (6mm) seams throughout assembly. Start by sewing S-S2 to S-S3 (**Fig U 1**).

Sew S-S5 to S-S6, matching seams where needed, and then add S-S7 on top (**Fig U 2**).

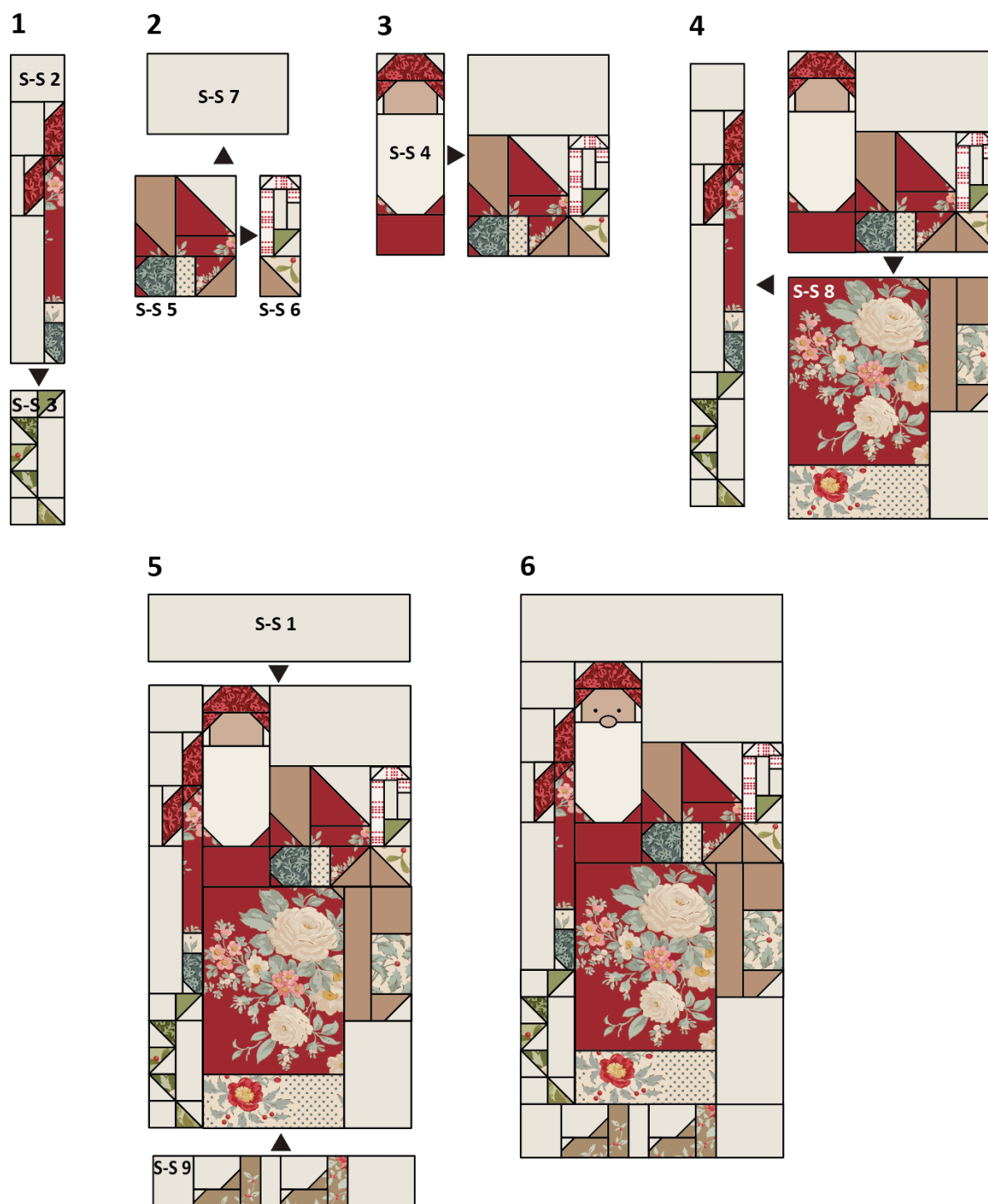
Sew S-S4 to the left-hand side of S-S5/6/7 (**Fig U 3**). Sew S-S8 to the bottom of this section and then add S-S1/2 to the left-hand side (**Fig U 4**).

To complete the piecing, add S-S1 to the top of the block and S-S9 to the bottom (**Fig U 5**).

Check the block is 10¼in x 21½in (26cm x 54.6cm).

The appliqué nose and the French knot eyes can be added now (**Fig U 6**) These features are described in the next steps.

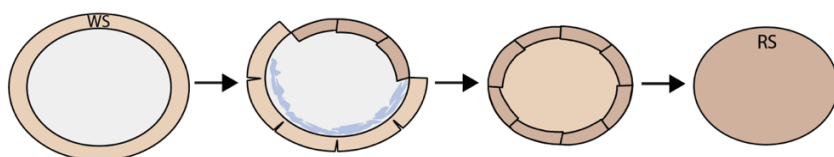
Fig U Sewing the sub-sections together



24 To make the nose appliqué, using the full-size pattern provided, trace the oval shape onto the dull size of a piece of freezer paper and cut out the shape. Cut about a 1 in (2.5cm) square of Fabric 4 and use an iron to fuse the freezer paper oval onto the wrong side of the fabric. Cut out the shape with an approximate $\frac{1}{8}$ in– $\frac{1}{4}$ in (3mm–6mm) seam allowance all round (see **Fig V**). Apply a little fabric glue to the edges of the freezer paper shape, as shown, and use the point of an iron to turn the seam allowance over all round, following the curved edge neatly. Remove the paper and press the shape again from the right side. Using a matching hand sewing thread and small slip stitches, sew the nose in place on the face and press.

25 Work the eyes with French knots, using six strands of black stranded cotton (floss) wrapped twice around the needle.

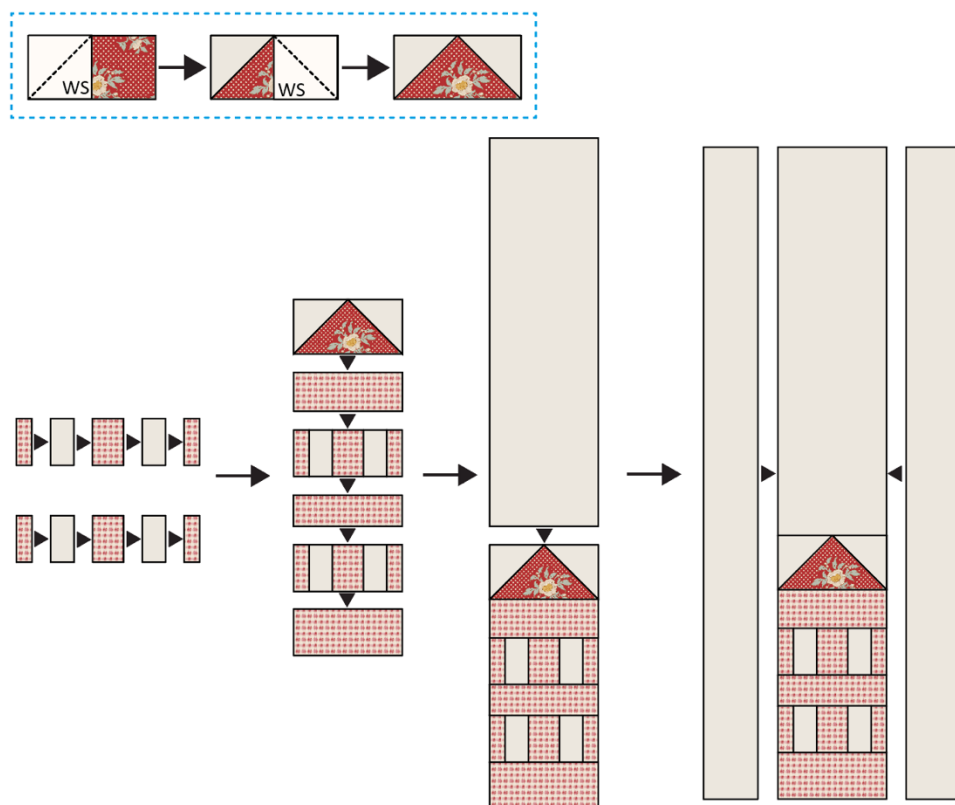
Fig V Sewing the nose appliqué using a freezer paper pattern



Making the Doll's House Block

26 The Doll's House block is straightforward to sew. Follow **Fig W**, making the roof of the house first as shown in the dotted blue line box – this is simply two corner triangles, added one at a time. A unit like this is often called a flying geese unit. Now take the rest of the pieces for the block and sew them together as shown in the stages of the diagram. Press seams open or to one side. Check the block is $7\frac{1}{2}$ in x $21\frac{1}{2}$ in (19cm x 54.6cm).

Fig W Making the Doll's House block

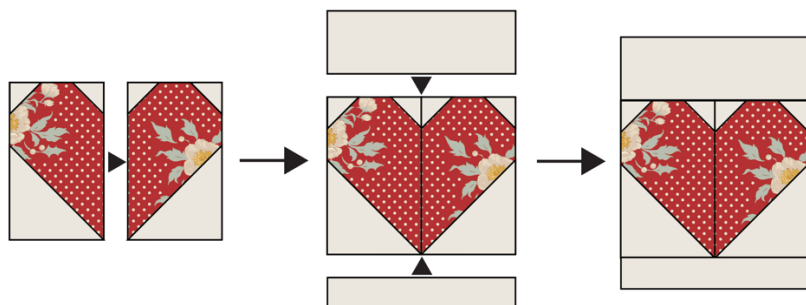


Making a Heart Block

27 A Heart block is easy to make. Follow **Fig X**, making the corner triangle units first. Sew the two halves of the heart together, pressing the seam open or to the side. Add the other pieces needed to the top and bottom of the heart and press. Check the block is 3½in x 4½in (9cm x 11.4cm). Make the rest of the Heart blocks, six in total, following the colours given in **Fig H**.

Fig X Making a Heart block

Heart 1 shown

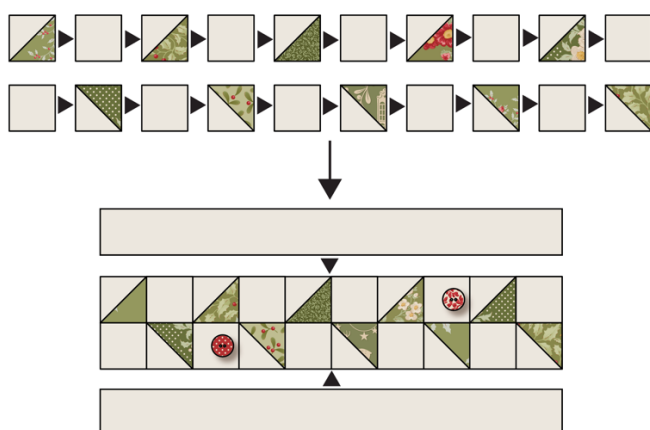


Making a Garland Block

28 There are two different colourways for the Garland blocks, but each block is made in the same way. Follow **Fig Y**, making the HSTs needed first. The HST method described previously makes two HSTs at once, so you can use both for one garland. Arrange the HSTs as shown in **Fig Y**, paying attention to the direction in which the HSTs are pointing. Sew the rows together, pressing seams open or to the side. If pressing to the side, press the seams of the first row in one direction and the second row in the opposite direction. Sew the two rows together and press and then add the unpieced strips along the top and bottom of the block. Press these seams outwards. Check the block is 10½in x 4½in (26.7cm x 11.4cm). Make two of Garland 1 and two of Garland 2, following the colours given in **Fig H**. The buttons are shown in the diagram but do not add them yet.

Fig Y Making a Garland block

Garland 1 shown



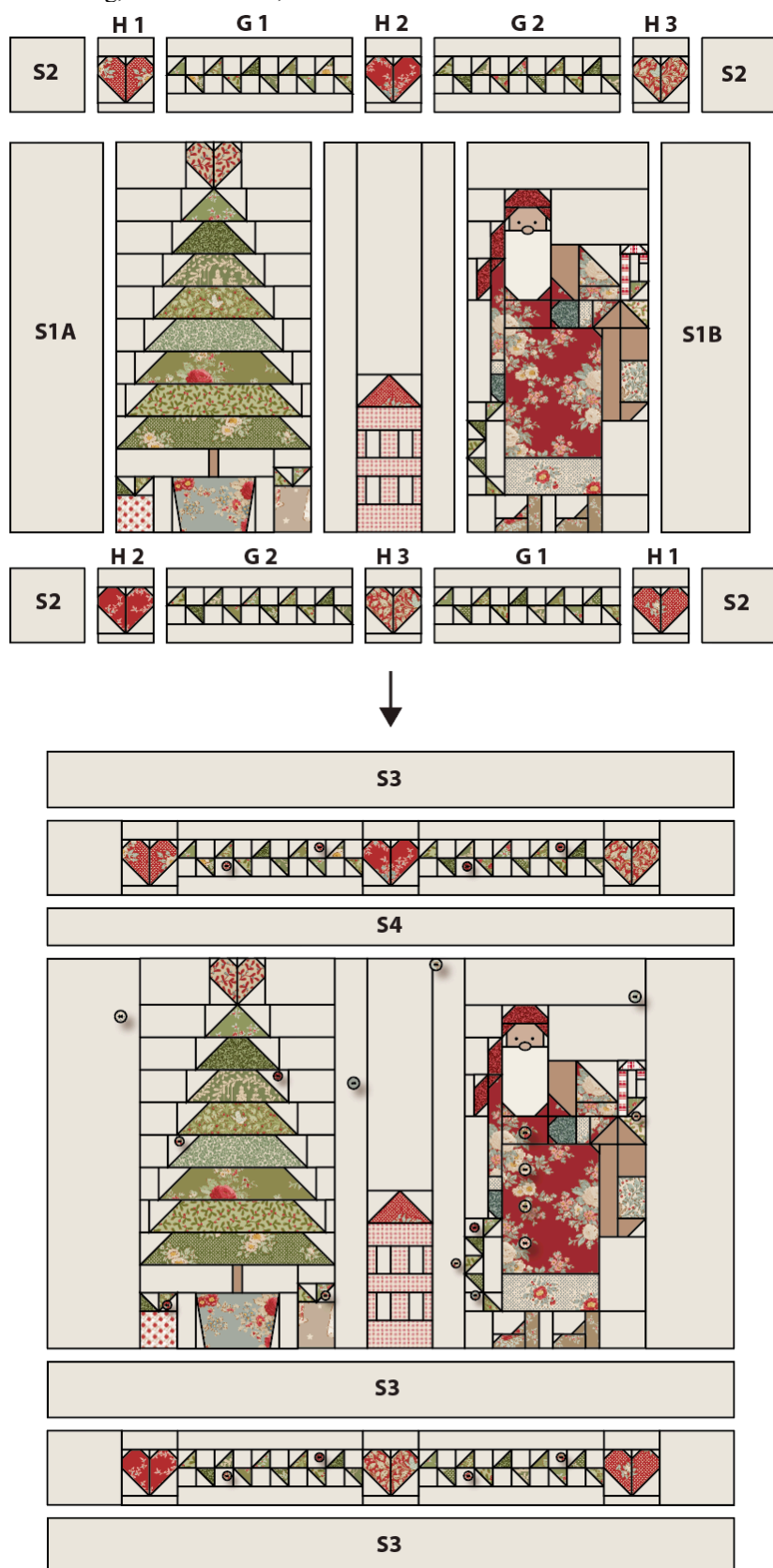
Assembling the Quilt

29 The quilt is assembled in rows, beginning with the block rows. Follow the top part of **Fig Z** carefully, laying out the block rows as shown, plus the vertical sashings pieces (S 1A, S 1B and S 2). Using ¼in (6mm) seams, sew each row in turn and press seams open or to one side. Each sewn row should measure 37½in (95.5cm) wide.

30 Now position the horizontal sashing strips between the block rows, as shown in the lower part of **Fig Z** and sew these to the block rows, pressing seams open or towards the sashing.

Fig Z Assembling the quilt

S = sashing, H = Star block, G = Garland block



Adding the Buttons

31 The buttons are best added *after* the quilt has been assembled and quilted; otherwise, they will get in the way of quilting, especially if you are having the quilt long-arm quilted. When you are ready to add the buttons, follow **Figs D, E and F** for the positions, sewing them in place by hand with matching sewing thread. Don't forget the buttons in the sashing.

Quilting and Finishing

32 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 together.
- 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. When the layers of the quilt are secured you can quilt as desired.

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 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.

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 festive calendar quilt is finished.

Hanging Your Quilt on a Wall

36 There are various ways you could hang your quilt on a wall and two simple methods are described here – with a hanging sleeve or with hanging loops.

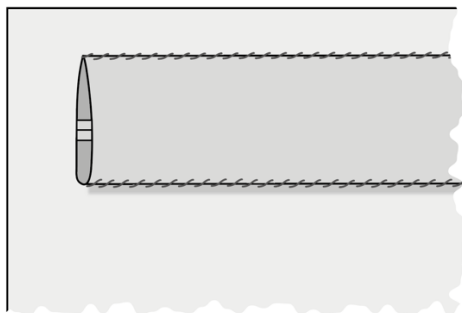
37 *Making a hanging sleeve:* A hanging sleeve is a tube of fabric sewn to the back of the quilt, either during construction or at the end. Making a hanging sleeve between 4in–5in (10.2cm–12.7cm) deep will ensure that a piece of wooden batten or a pole can be fed through the sleeve.

38 Cut a piece of fabric as wide as the quilt and twice the finished depth of the sleeve plus 1in (2.5cm) for seams. For example, for a 4in (10.2cm) deep sleeve cut the fabric 9in (23cm) deep. Turn under a 1in (2.5cm) hem on each short end. Fold the fabric in half along its length,

right sides together, and sew together with a ½in (1.3cm) seam. Turn through to the right side and press the long seam open, centring it along one side.

39 Pin the sleeve to the back of the quilt, with the long seam facing inwards, placing it below the top of the quilt (see **Fig AA**). Slipstitch the sleeve in place, along the top and bottom, through the backing and wadding but *not* through to the front of the quilt. Allow some space for a pole or flat batten to be inserted.

Fig AA Making a hanging sleeve



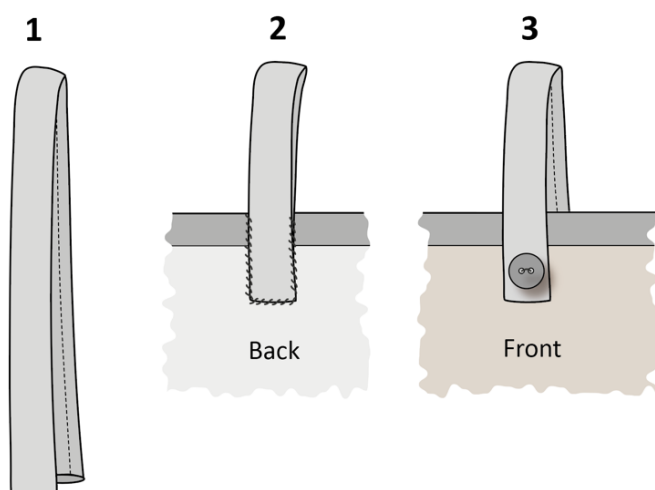
40 Making hanging loops: Hanging loops or tabs can also be used to display a quilt by allowing a pole to be fed through the loops.

41 Choose the width and length of loop and the number of loops needed for the quilt to achieve a balanced look. (It is quicker to make one single long tube and cut it into separate lengths.) The fabric needs to be twice as wide as the finished loop, plus ½in (1.3cm) for seam allowances. Create the tube by folding the fabric in half along its length, right sides together, and sew together with a ½in (1.3cm) seam. Turn through to the right side and press the long seam so it is centred along one side (**Fig BB 1**). Cut the tube into the lengths required.

42 Turn in the ends of each loop and sew together to create a neat end. Fold each loop in half and position them across the back of the quilt, spacing them evenly. Sew into place with small stitches and matching thread (**Fig BB 2**).

Alternatively, loops can also be attached so they show from the front of the work. Prepare loops as before. Stitch one end of the loop in position on the back of the quilt and fold the other half over to the front of the quilt and stitch in place with tiny stitches or use a button to sew through from front to back several times (**Fig BB 3**).

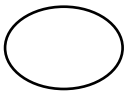
Fig BB Making hanging loops



Dear Santa

Nose appliqué
Actual size

Add a small seam allowance
for turned-edge appliqué



Please check this ruler to ensure that you are printing in 100%. Pages are made in A4.

