

Tilda®

MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

Dear Santa Quilt
Putty White



Dear Santa Quilt

(Putty white colourway)

This gorgeous quilt is sure to become a much-treasured favourite to decorate your Christmas home for many years to come. The design features Santa bearing gifts, surrounded by Christmas trees, stars and holly berry garlands. The colour scheme is evocatively festive thanks to the Merry Little Christmas fabric collection and its blenders. For this version of the quilt, a putty white Chambray background is the perfect foil for the seasonal reds, greens and blues. A second quilt in this design uses a Plaid print in stone as the background. On the same Christmas theme there are two Heart Garland pillows and a Dear Santa Calendar project – see tildasworld.com for the instructions. For this quilt, we had fun using lots of small buttons for berries, plus some larger buttons on Santa's coat, but the quilt will work just as well with appliquéd circles instead. The berries could also be embroidered if you prefer.

Difficulty rating ***

Materials

- Fabric 1: 5¾yds (5.25m) – Chambray putty white (160043) (background)
- Fabric 2: ¼yd (25cm) – Chambray brown (160035)
- Fabric 3: about 9in (23cm) square – Solid dove white (120001)
- Fabric 4: about 9in (23cm) square – Solid warm sand (120002)
- Fabric 5: about 9in (23cm) square – Apple Cake Stripe red (160112)
- Fabric 6: about 9in (23cm) square – Polka Dot red (160085)
- Fabric 7: ¼yd (25cm) – Holly red (100621)
- Fabric 8: ¼yd (25cm) – Carol burgundy (100622)
- Fabric 9: ⅛yd (15cm) – Mistletoe red (100623)
- Fabric 10: ¼yd (25cm) – Joy red (100624)
- Fabric 11: ¼yd (25cm) – Paper Scenes burgundy (100625)
- Fabric 12: about 5in (13cm) square – Holly duck egg (100626)
- Fabric 13: about 9in (23cm) square – Carol duck egg (100627)
- Fabric 14: about 5in (13cm) square – Joy blue (100628)
- Fabric 15: about 9in (23cm) square – Paper Scenes duck egg (100629)
- Fabric 16: about 9in (23cm) square – Winter Friends duck egg (100630)
- Fabric 17: ¼yd (25cm) – Holly moss (100631)
- Fabric 18: ¼yd (25cm) – Carol moss (100632)
- Fabric 19: ¼yd (25cm) – Mistletoe pistachio (100633)
- Fabric 20: ¼yd (25cm) – Joy pine (100634)
- Fabric 21: ¼yd (25cm) – Paper Scenes artichoke (100635)
- Fabric 22: about 9in (23cm) square – Holly clay (100636)
- Fabric 23: about 9in (23cm) square – Carol cream (100637)
- Fabric 24: about 9in (23cm) square – Joy cream (100638)
- Fabric 25: about 9in (23cm) square – Mistletoe cream (100639)
- Fabric 26: about 9in (23cm) square – Winter Friends clay (100640)
- Fabric 27: about 9in (23cm) square – Eve red (110138)
- Fabric 28: ⅛yd (15cm) – Noel red (110139)
- Fabric 29: ¼yd (25cm) – Eve burgundy (110140)
- Fabric 30: about 9in (23cm) square – Noel duck egg (110141)
- Fabric 31: about 9in (23cm) square – Eve petrol (110142)
- Fabric 32: about 5in (13cm) square – Noel mist (110143)

- Fabric 33: ¼yd (25cm) – Eve pine (110144)
- Fabric 34: ¼yd (25cm) – Noel moss (110145)
- Fabric 35: ⅜yd (40cm) – Eve sage (110146)
- Fabric 36: about 9in (23cm) square – Noel cream (110147)
- Fabric 37: about 9in (23cm) square – Eve clay (110148)
- Fabric 38: about 9in (23cm) square – Noel taupe (110149)
- Fabric 39: ⅓yd (15cm) – Tiny Dot red (160081)
- Fabric 40: ⅓yd (15cm) – Gingham red (160087)
- Wadding (batting): 73in x 86in (185.5cm x 218.5cm)
- Backing fabric: 4¾yds (4.4m) – Mistletoe cream (100639)
- Binding fabric: ⅝yd (60cm) – Gingham red (160087)
- Piecing and quilting threads
- Black stranded cotton (floss) for French knot eyes on Santa
- Quilter's ruler, rotary cutter and mat
- Scrap of freezer paper and fabric glue for appliqué
- Buttons for holly berries (optional) Merry Little Christmas Buttons 12mm (400073) – 48 buttons (6 packs)
- Buttons for coat buttons (optional) Merry Little Christmas Buttons 16mm (400072) – 16 buttons (2 packs)

Fabric Notes

Where a long eighth or long quarter of a yard is given in the Materials list you could use fat eighths and fat quarters instead (unless otherwise stated). 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

65¼in x 78½in (165.7cm x 199.5cm)

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 thirteen rows in total. Five of these rows are made up of blocks, as follows: a Star block in eight different colourways; a Garland block in two different colourways; a Christmas Tree block in four different colourways and a Santa block in four different colourways. The block rows are separate by rows of sashing strips in various sizes. A pieced border (piano key border) is used at the top and bottom of the quilt. Santa's nose is created with turned-edge appliqué and a pattern is available for this shape. Lots of buttons adorn the quilt but these could be replaced with appliqué if you prefer (instructions are given later). Refer to **Fig A** for the fabrics used and **Fig B** for the quilt layout.

Fig A Fabric swatches (Dear Santa Quilt – putty white)



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 four pieces 4in x 21½in (10.2cm x 54.6cm) for Sashing 1A (S 1A).
- From Fabric 1 cut two pieces 3¾in x 21½in (9.5cm x 54.6cm) for Sashing 1B (S 1B).
- From Fabric 1 cut six pieces 3in x 4½in (7.6cm x 11.4cm) for Sashing 2 (S 2).

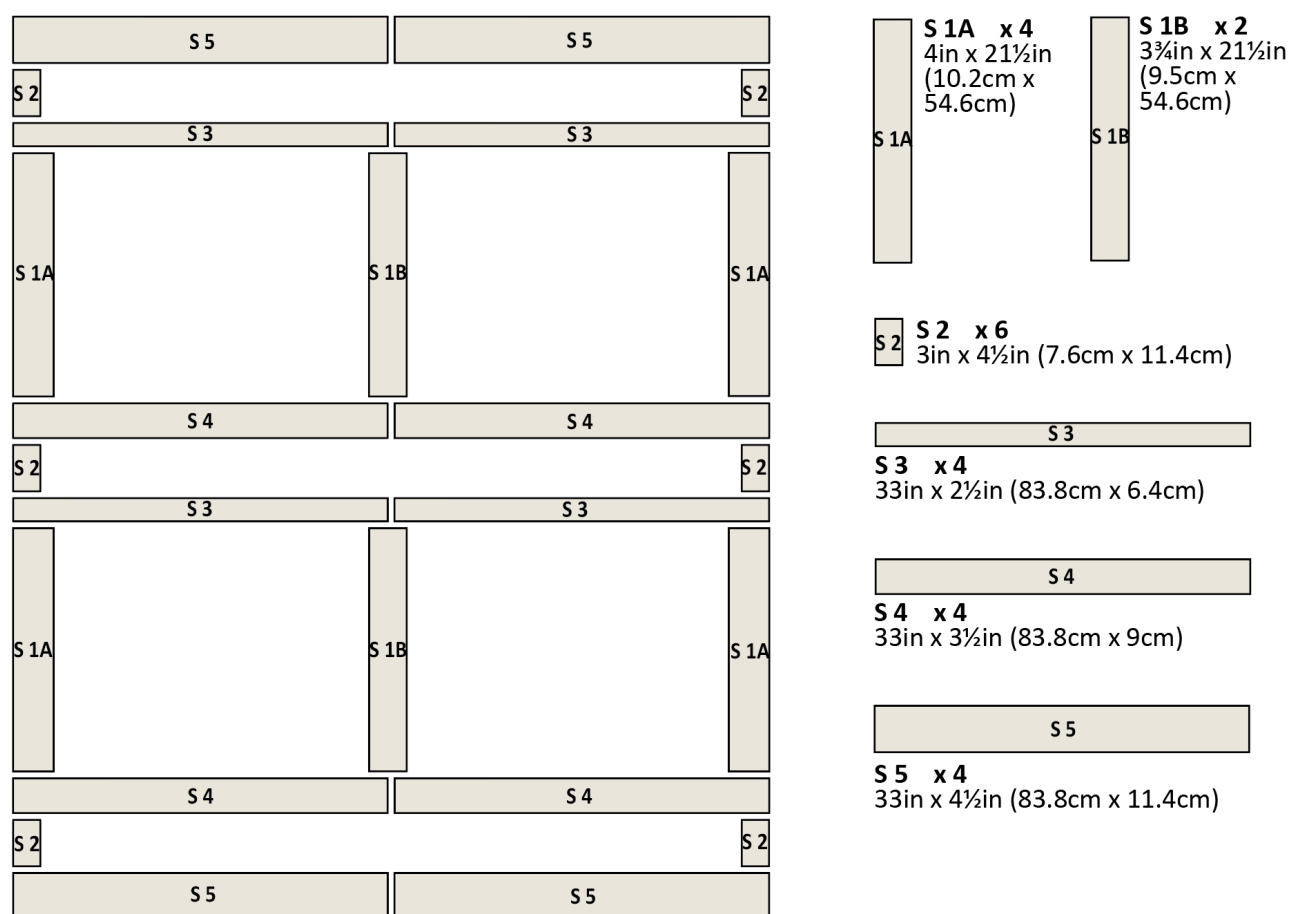
The width needed is actually 2⅞in (7.3cm) but it's easier to cut it at 3in and trim down later (if needed) when the quilt rows are sewn together.

- From Fabric 1 cut four pieces 33in x 2½in (83.8cm x 6.4cm) for Sashing 3 (S 3). Using ¼in (6mm) seams, join the strips into two pairs, each 65½in (166.4cm) long. The length needed for S 3, S 4 and S 5 is actually 65¼in (165.7cm) but they can be trimmed down later (if needed) when the quilt is assembled.
- From Fabric 1 cut four pieces 33in x 3½in (83.8cm x 9cm) for Sashing 4 (S 4). Using ¼in (6mm) seams, join the strips into two pairs, each 65½in (166.4cm) long.
- From Fabric 1 cut four pieces 33in x 4½in (83.8cm x 11.4cm) for Sashing 5 (S 5). Using ¼in (6mm) seams, join the strips into two pairs, each 65½in (166.4cm) long.

Fig C Cut measurements for sashing

Sizes include ¼in (6mm) seam allowances

S = Sashing



3 For the top and bottom piano key borders cut the following pieces.

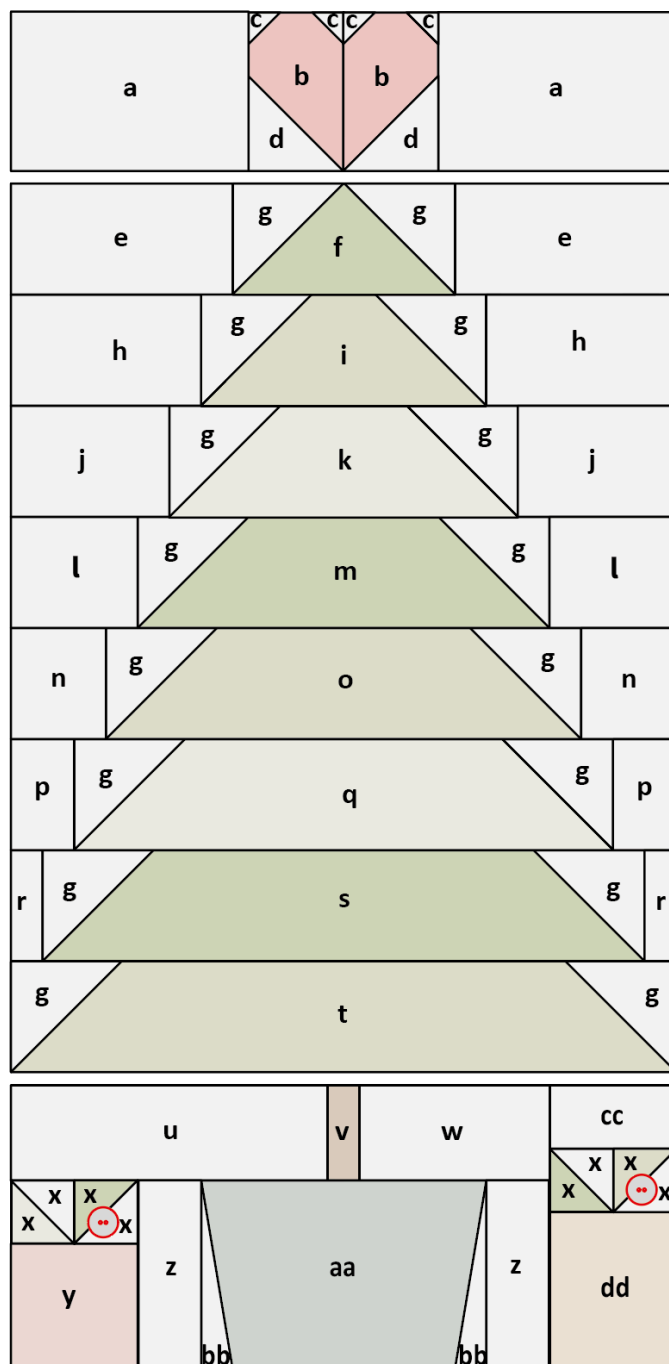
- From Fabric 1 cut a total of thirty-six pieces 2¼in x 3½in (5.7cm x 9cm).
- From Fabric 35 cut a total of thirty-eight pieces 2¼in x 3½in (5.7cm x 9cm).

4 For the Christmas Tree blocks, use the cut sizes given in **Fig D** and follow the fabric colours and positions shown in **Fig G** for the four different colourways. If desired, the fabric for the tree bucket could be fussy cut to feature a specific motif, particularly for Fabric 16. Some of the tree presents could also be fussy cut. A little extra fabric has been allowed for this in the Materials list. 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 ¼in (6mm) seam allowances. All pieces to be cut initially as squares or rectangles

Christmas Tree Block – 11in x 21½in (28cm x 54.6cm) unfinished



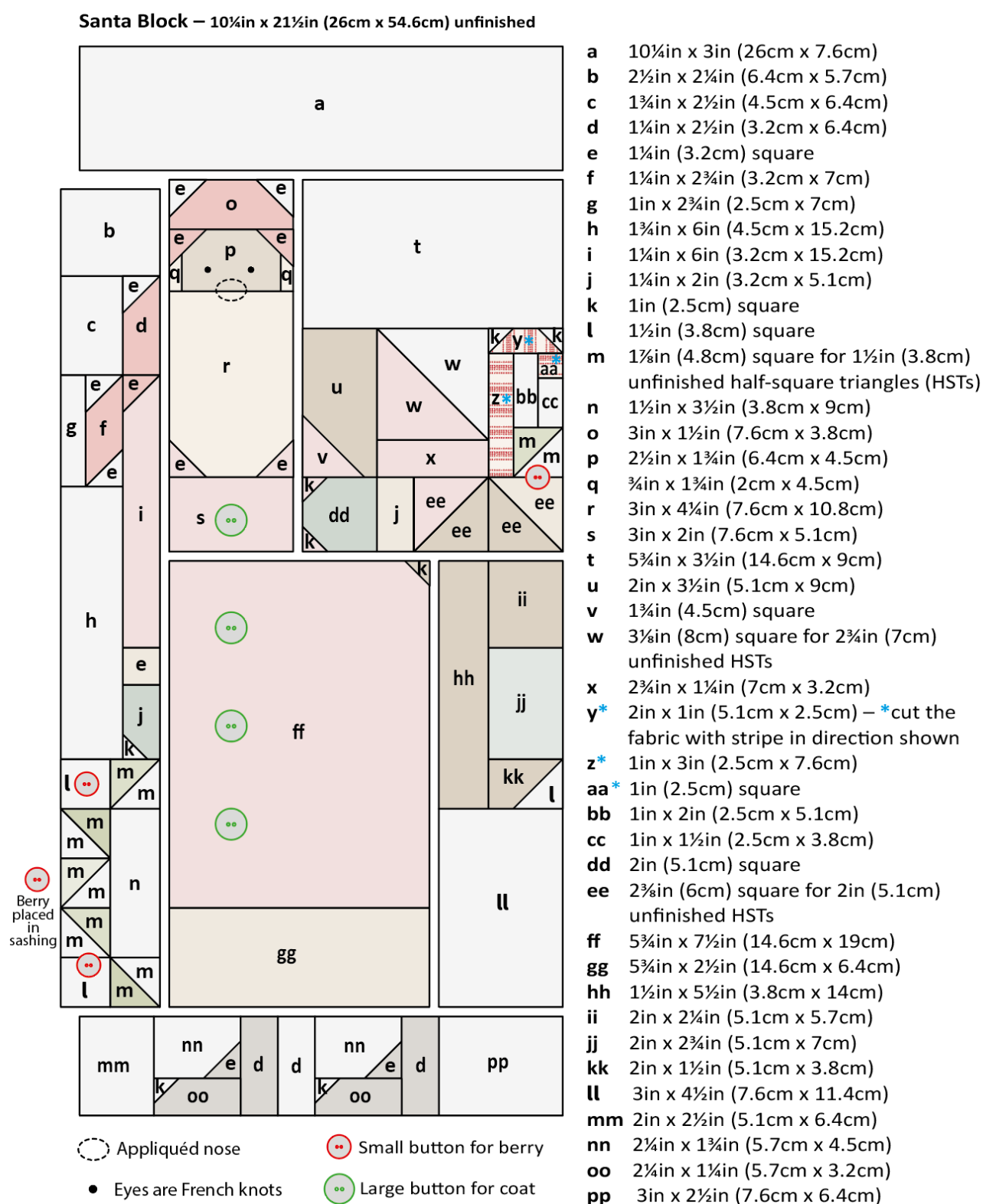
- a** 4¼in x 3in (10.8cm x 7.6cm)
- b** 2in x 3in (5.1cm x 7.6cm)
- c** 1in (2.5cm) square
- d** 2in (5.1cm) square
- e** 4in x 2½in (10.2cm x 5.7cm)
- f** 4in x 2½in (10.2cm x 5.7cm)
- g** 2½in (5.7cm) square
- h** 3½in x 2½in (9cm x 5.7cm)
- i** 5in x 2½in (12.7cm x 5.7cm)
- j** 3in x 2½in (7.6cm x 5.7cm)
- k** 6in x 2½in (15.2cm x 5.7cm)
- l** 2½in x 2½in (6.4cm x 5.7cm)
- m** 7in x 2½in (17.8cm x 5.7cm)
- n** 2in x 2½in (5.1cm x 5.7cm)
- o** 8in x 2½in (20.3cm x 5.7cm)
- p** 1½in x 2½in (3.8cm x 5.7cm)
- q** 9in x 2½in (23cm x 5.7cm)
- r** 1in x 2½in (2.5cm x 5.7cm)
- s** 10in x 2½in (25.4cm x 5.7cm)
- t** 11in x 2½in (28cm x 5.7cm)
- u** 5½in x 2in (14cm x 33cm)
- v** 1in x 2in (2.5cm x 5.1cm)
- w** 3½in x 2in (9cm x 5.1cm)
- x** 1½in (4.8cm) square for 1½in (3.8cm) unfinished half-square triangles (HSTs)
- y** 2½in (6.4cm) square
- z** 1½in x 3½in (3.8cm x 9cm)
- aa** 5in x 3½in (12.7cm x 9cm) (could fussy cut for some fabrics)
- bb** 1in x 3½in (2.5cm x 9cm)
- cc** 2½in x 1½in (6.4cm x 3.8cm)
- dd** 2½in x 3in (6.4cm x 7.6cm)

⊙ Small button for berry

5 For the Santa blocks, use the cut sizes given in **Fig E** and follow the fabric colours and positions shown in **Fig H** for the four different colourways. 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 shown in **Fig E**. If you are cutting all of the pieces for all four Santa blocks, you could keep the pieces for each of the blocks separate too, to make them easier to identify later.

Fig E Cut measurements for the Santa block

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



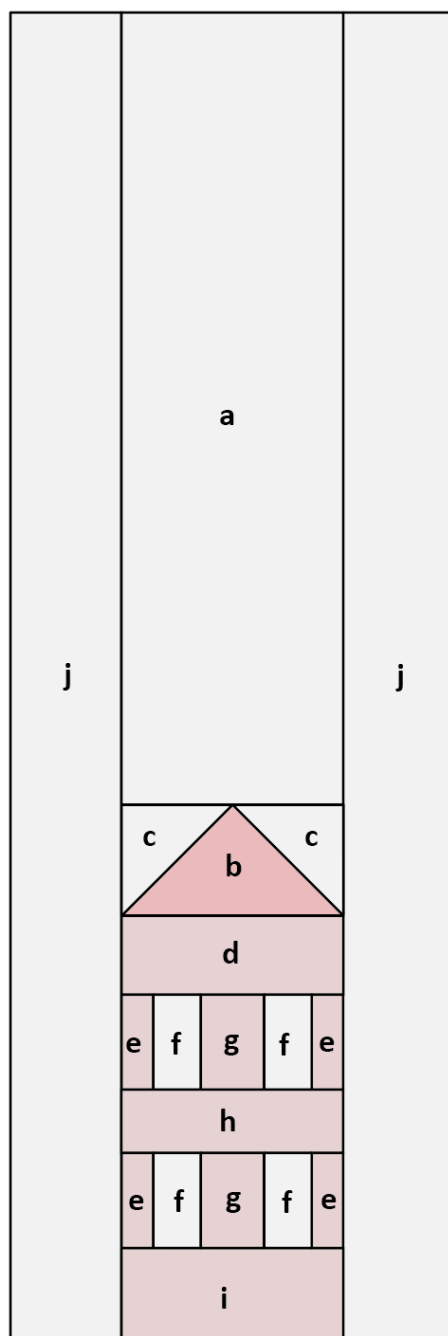
6 For the Doll's House, Star and Garland blocks, use the cut sizes given in **Fig F** and follow the fabric colours and positions shown in **Fig I** for the different colourways.

7 Cut the backing fabric across the width into two pieces. Sew together along the long side and press the seam open. Trim to a piece about 73in x 86in (185.5cm x 218.5cm). This is about 4in (10.2cm) larger all round than the quilt top, to allow for quilting and finishing.

8 Cut the binding fabric into eight 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.

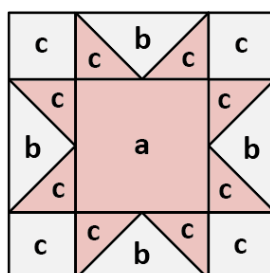
Fig F Cut measurements for the Doll's House, Star and Garland blocks

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



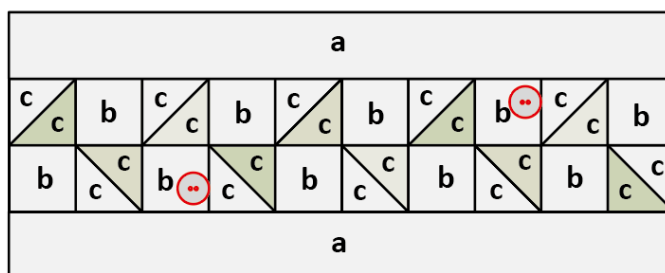
Doll's House Block – 7½in x 21½in (19cm x 54.6cm) unfinished

- 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)



Star Block – 4½in (11.4cm) unfinished

- a 2½in (6.4cm) square
- b 2½in x 1½in (6.4cm x 3.8cm)
- c 1½in (3.8cm) square



Garland Block – 10½in x 4½in (26.7cm x 11.4cm) unfinished

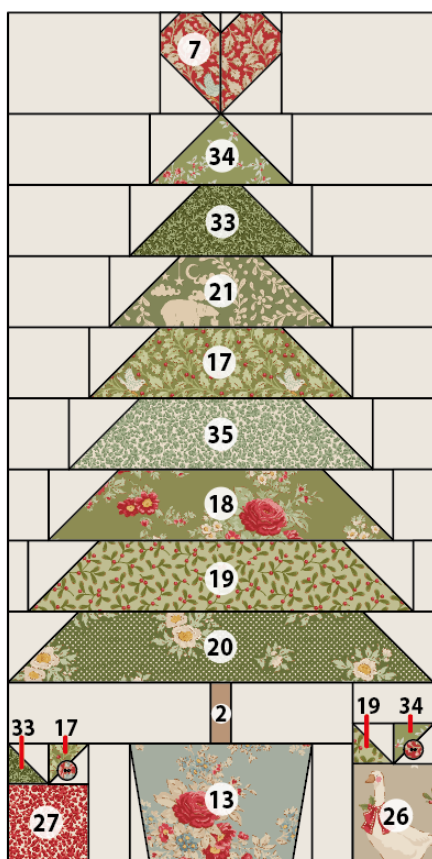
- a 10½in x 1½in (26.7cm x 3.8cm)
- b 1½in (3.8cm) square
- c 1⅞in (4.8cm) square for 1½in (3.8cm) square unfinished half-square triangles (HSTs)

⊙ Small button for berry

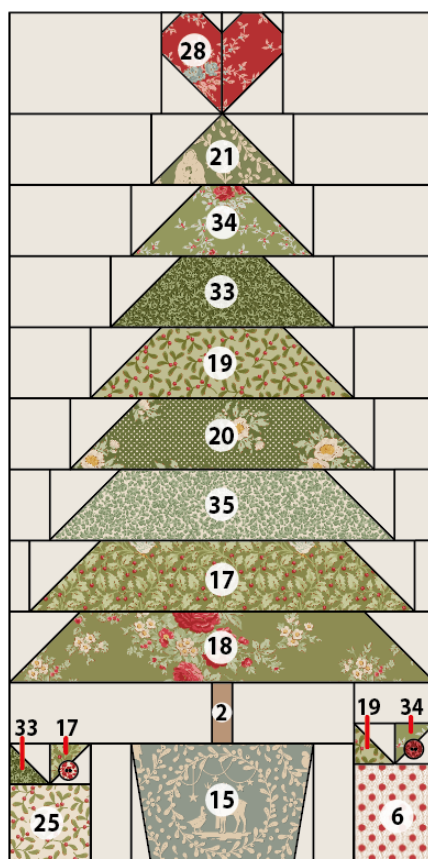
Fig G Colourways for the Christmas Tree blocks

Bold numbers indicate the fabrics used (see Fig A). The background is Fabric 1. Make one of each block

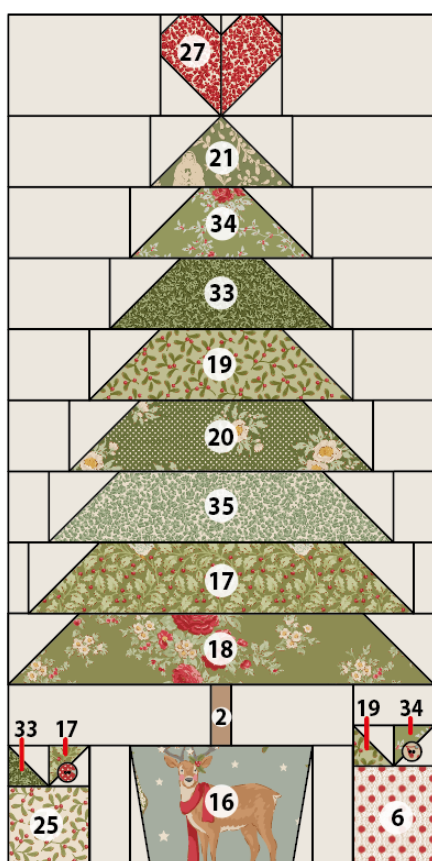
Tree 1



Tree 2



Tree 3



Tree 4

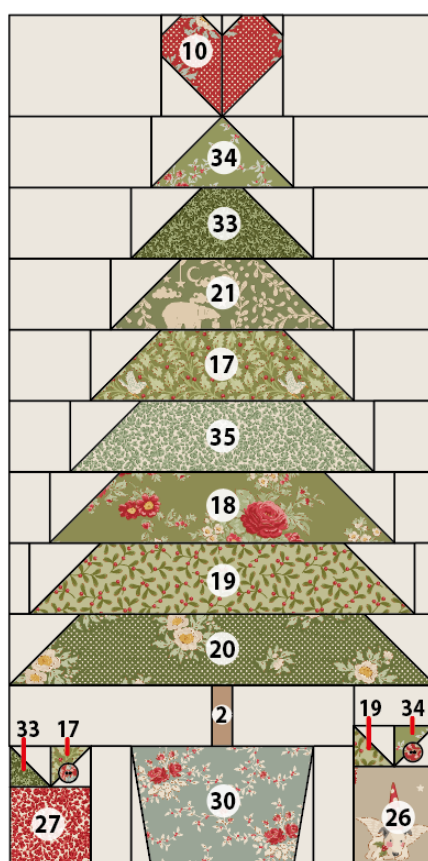


Fig H Colourways for the Santa blocks

Bold numbers indicate the fabrics used (see Fig A). The background is Fabric 1. Make one of each block

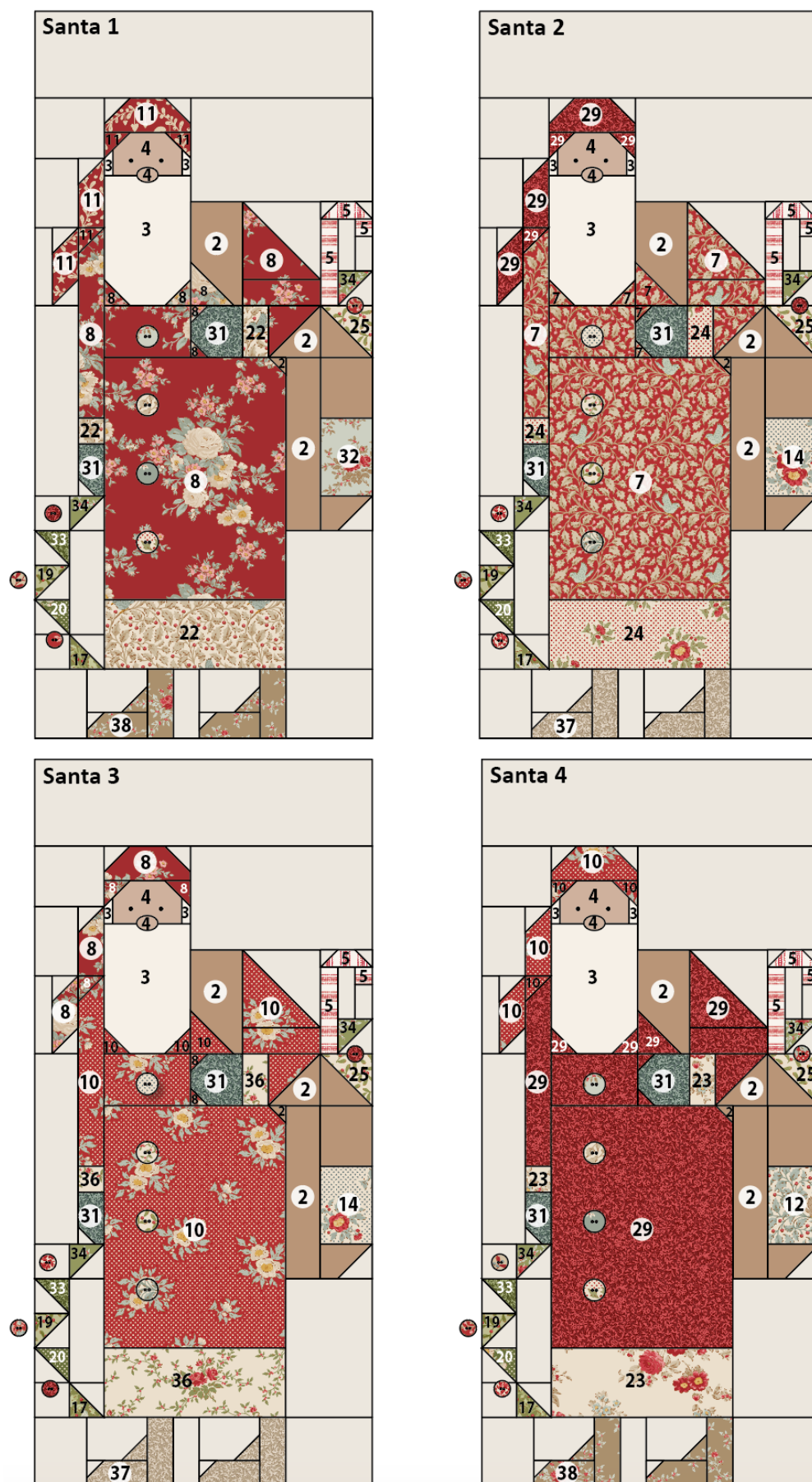
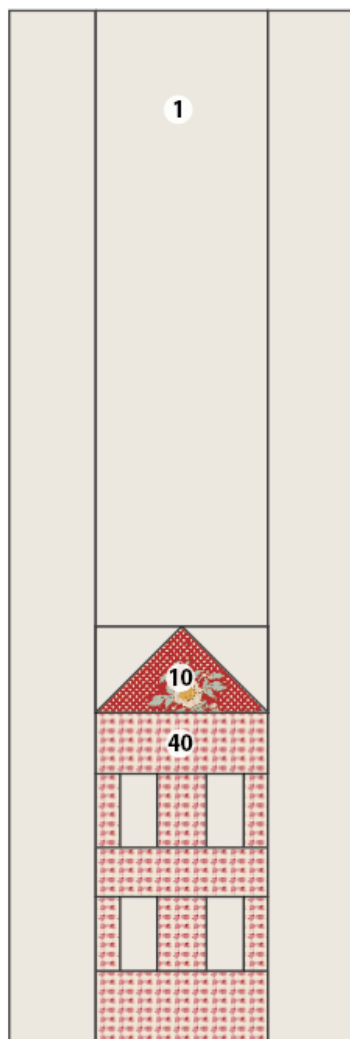
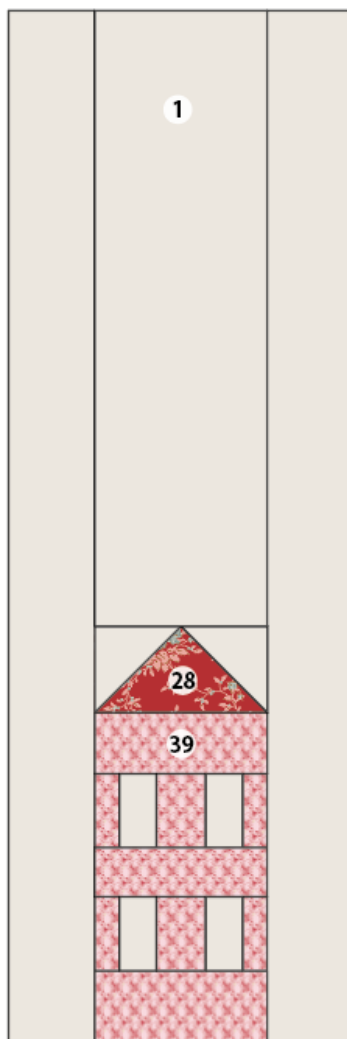


Fig I Colourways for the Doll's House, Star and Garland blocks
 Bold numbers indicate the fabrics used (see Fig A). The background is Fabric 1
 Make the number of blocks indicated

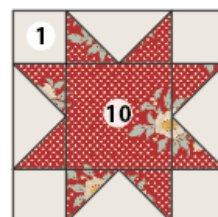
Doll's House 1 – x 2



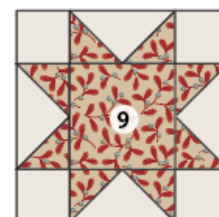
Doll's House 2 – x 2



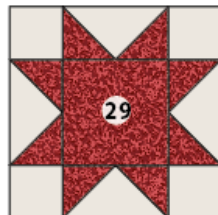
Star 1 – x 2



Star 2 – x 3



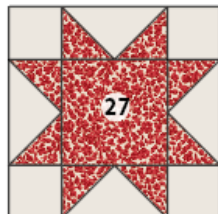
Star 3 – x 2



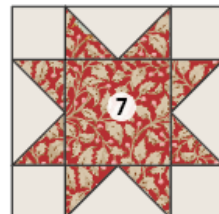
Star 4 – x 2



Star 5 – x 1



Star 6 – x 2



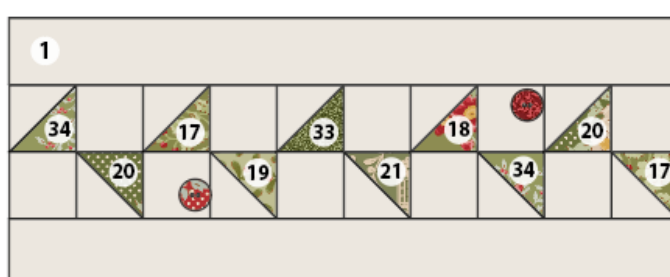
Star 7 – x 2



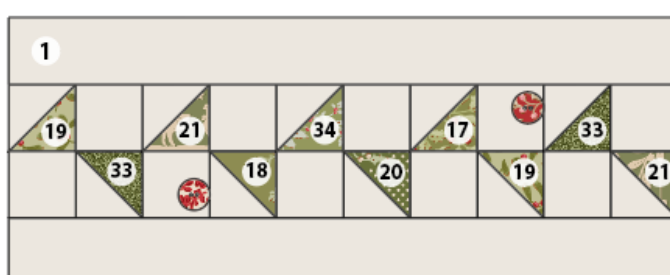
Star 8 – x 1



Garland 1 – x 6



Garland 2 – x 6



General Techniques Used

9 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.

10 Making a corner triangle unit: Follow the basic process shown in **Fig J 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.

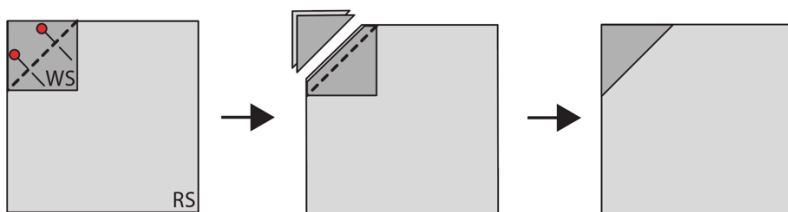
11 Making half-square triangle units: Follow the basic process shown in **Fig J 2**, which makes two units at the same time. Take two different squares and on the wrong side of the lighter square, pencil mark the diagonal line. Place the two squares right sides (RS) together and sew $\frac{1}{4}$ in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

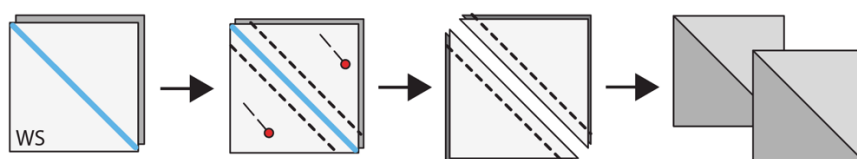
1 Making a corner triangle unit

2 Making half-square triangle units

1



2



Making a Christmas Tree Block

12 A 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 K**.

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 K 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.

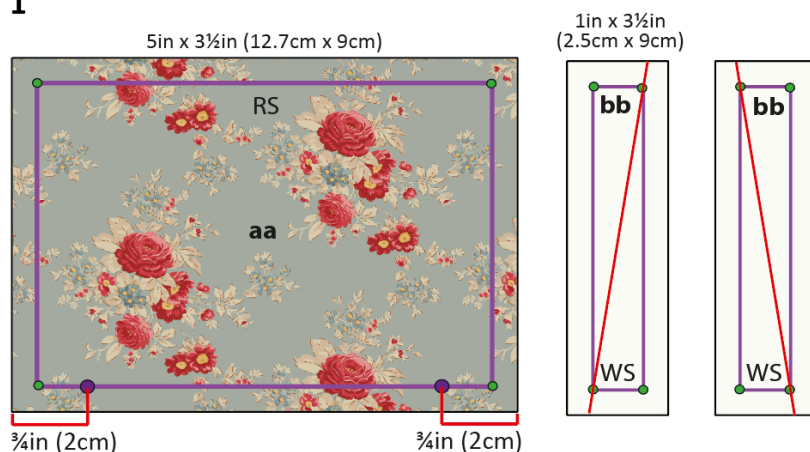
Take the two background pieces **bb** and on the wrong side (WS) mark the $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam allowances – these can be pencil lines or just dots at the corners (see **Fig K 1**). On each of these pieces, mark a diagonal line in the directions shown, making sure the lines go through the seam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

13 Take the background pieces and, with right sides together with the bucket piece, angle them following **Fig K 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 K 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 K 4**).

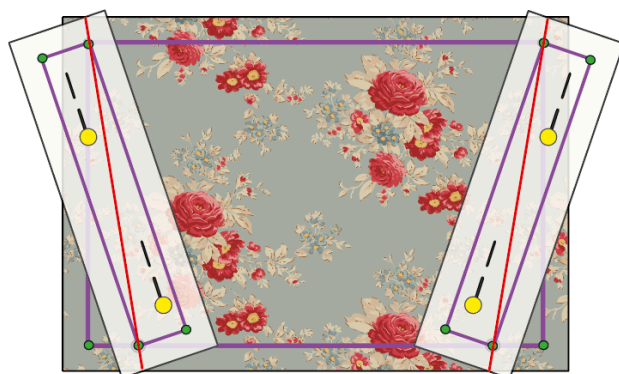
Fig K Making a tree bucket

Tree 1 shown

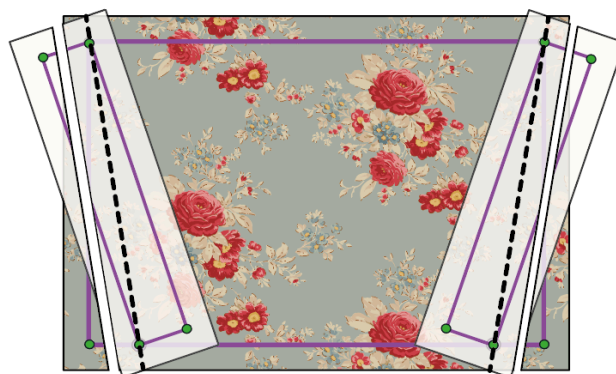
1



2



3



4



14 Set the bucket unit aside for the moment and make the rest of the pieced units for a Christmas Tree block. **Fig L** shows the piecing stages for the top and bottom sections of the block, so start with these. Follow **Fig L 1** for the top section and **Fig L 2** for the bottom section. The heart at the top of the tree has four corner triangles and a reminder of the process

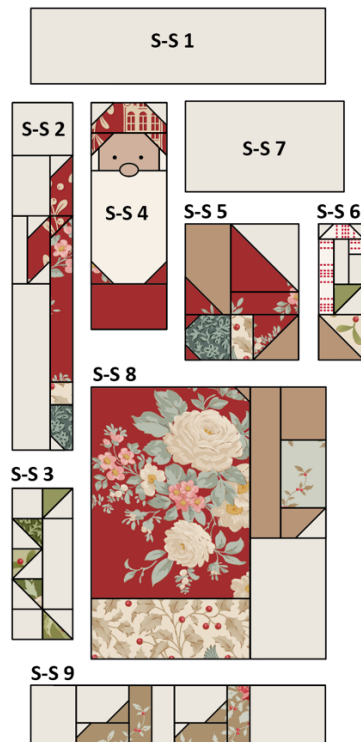
14

Making a Santa Block

17 A 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 N** 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.

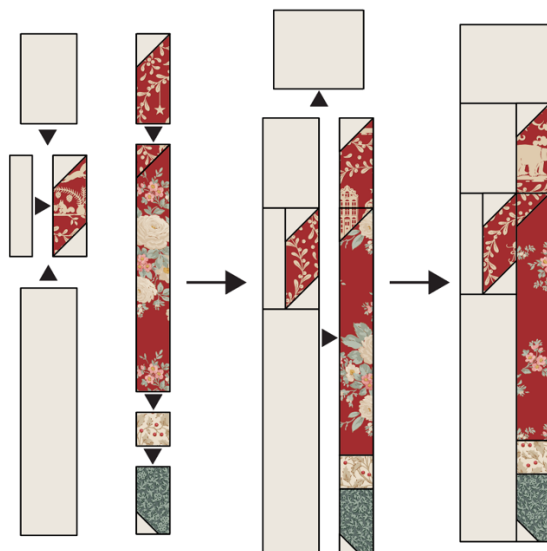
Fig N Sub-sections of a Santa block

S-S = sub-section. Santa 1 shown



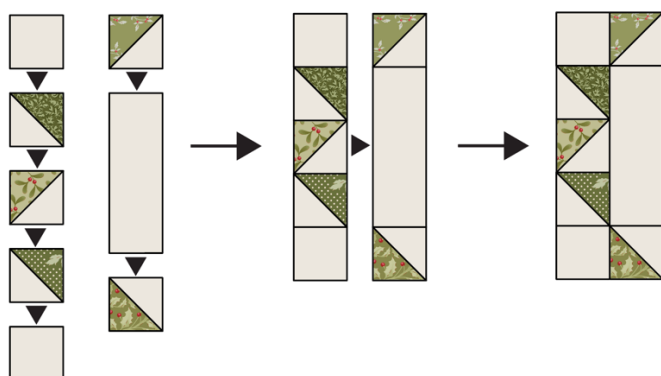
18 Making sub-section 2: Select the correct cut pieces of fabric for this section and make any corner triangle units needed first. Follow **Fig O** for the assembly, pressing seams open or to the side.

Fig O Making sub-section 2



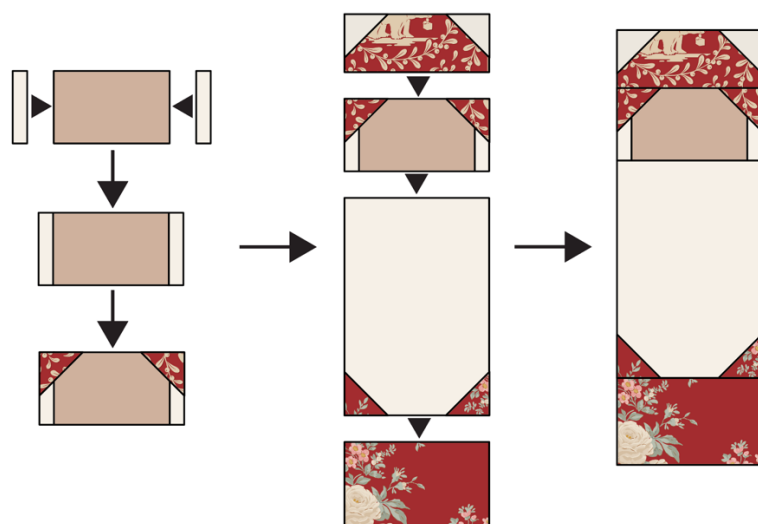
19 Making sub-section 3: Select the correct cut pieces of fabric for this section and make the half-square triangle units first. Follow **Fig P** for the assembly, making sure you have the HSTs pointing in the right directions. Press seams open or to the side.

Fig P Making sub-section 3



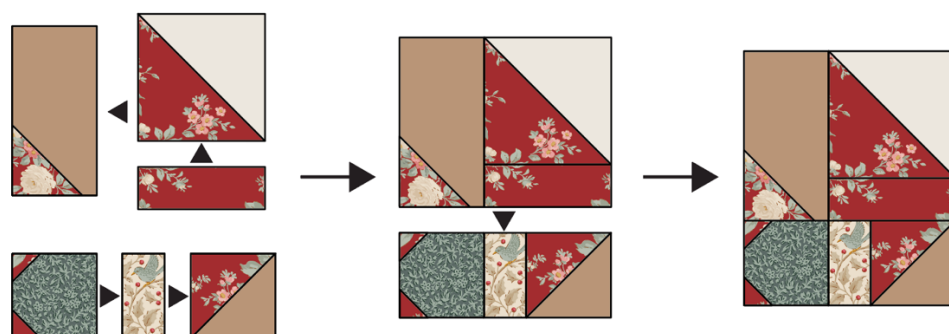
20 Making sub-section 4: Select the correct cut pieces of fabric for this section and make the corner triangle units first. Follow **Fig Q** for the assembly. Press seams open or to the side.

Fig Q Making sub-section 4



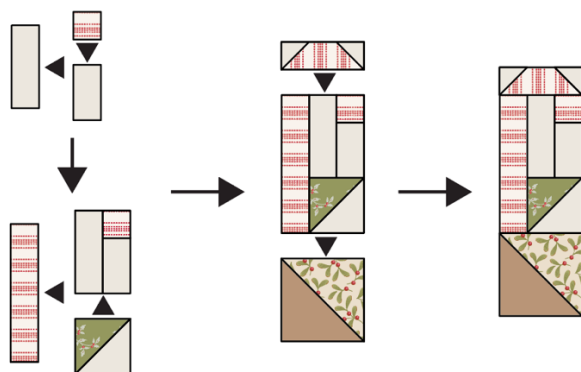
21 Making sub-section 5: Select the correct cut pieces of fabric for this section and make the corner triangle units first. Make the half-square triangle units – note that there are two sizes of these. Follow **Fig R** for the assembly. Press seams open or to the side.

Fig R Making sub-section 5



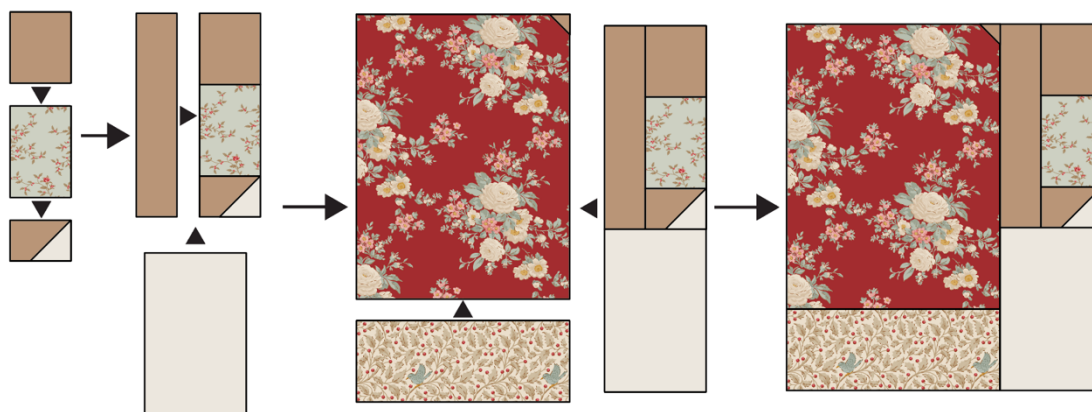
22 Making sub-section 6: Select the correct cut pieces of fabric for this section. Follow **Fig S** for the assembly. Make the half-square triangle units – note that there are two sizes of these. Make the unit that has two corner triangles, making sure that the stripes on the print fabric (Fabric 5) in this small unit are vertical, as shown in **Fig S**. Assemble the rest of the unit, again paying attention to the directions of the stripes. Press seams open or to the side.

Fig S Making sub-section 6



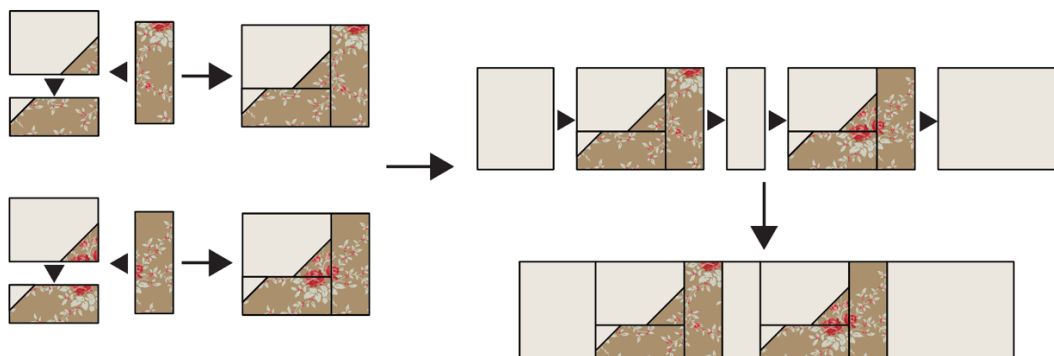
23 Making sub-section 8: Select the correct cut pieces of fabric for this section. Follow **Fig T** for the assembly, making the corner triangle units first. Don't miss the small corner triangle on the top right corner of the large piece of print fabric. Press seams open or to the side.

Fig T Making sub-section 8



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

Fig U Making sub-section 9



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

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

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

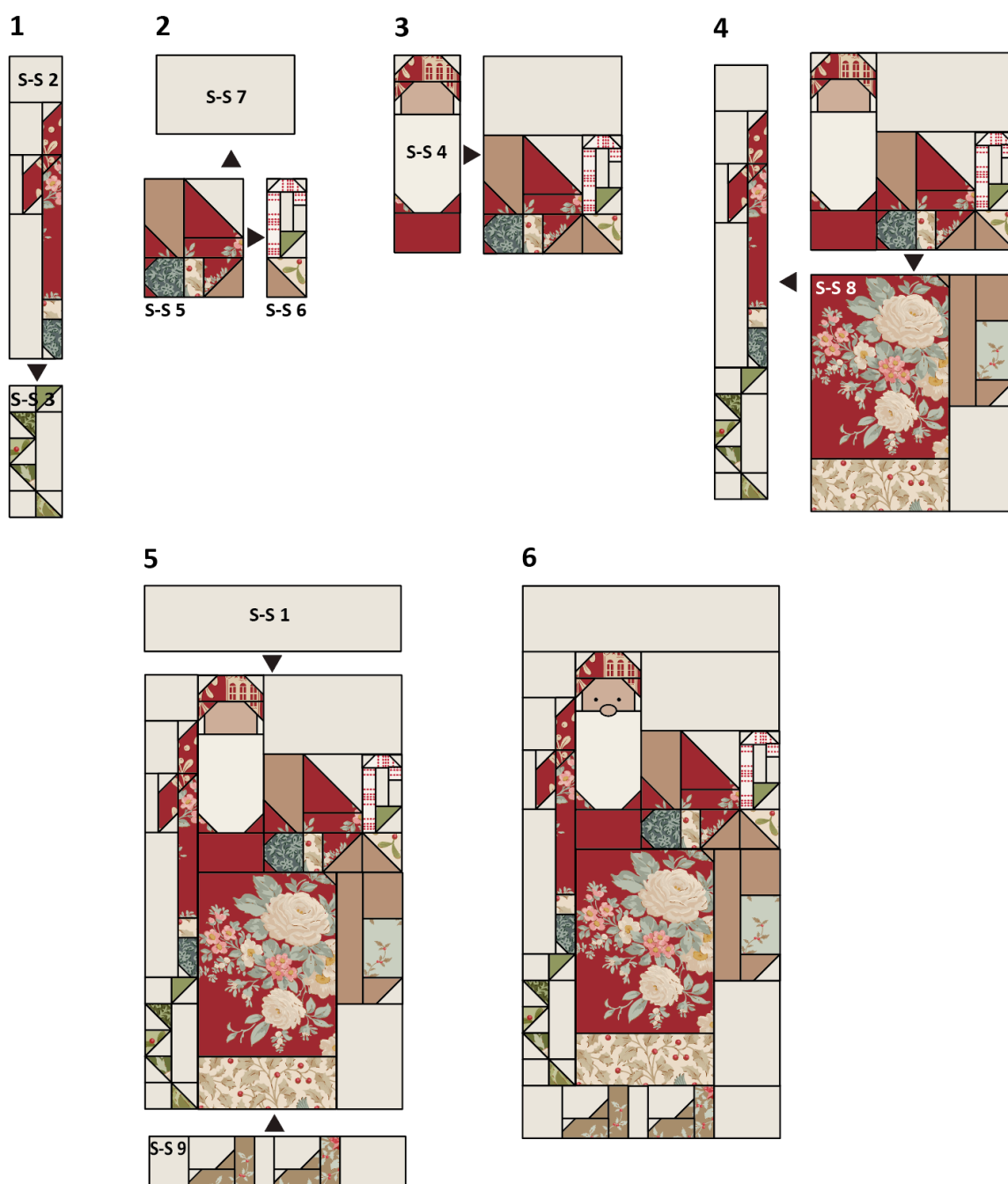
To complete the piecing, add S-S1 to the top of the block and S-S9 to the bottom (**Fig V 5**).

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

The appliqué nose and the French knot eyes can be added now (**Fig V 6**) These features are described in the next steps. Alternatively, you can do this when all blocks are complete.

26 Make the other three Santa blocks in the same way, following the fabric colours and layout shown in **Fig H**.

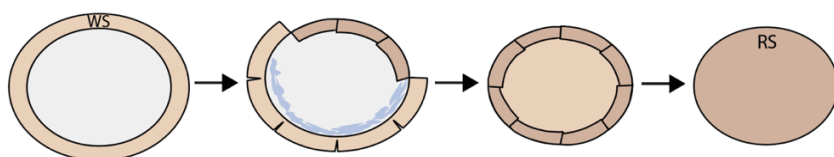
Fig V Sewing the sub-sections together



27 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 circle 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 W**). 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.

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

Fig W Sewing the nose appliqué using a freezer paper pattern

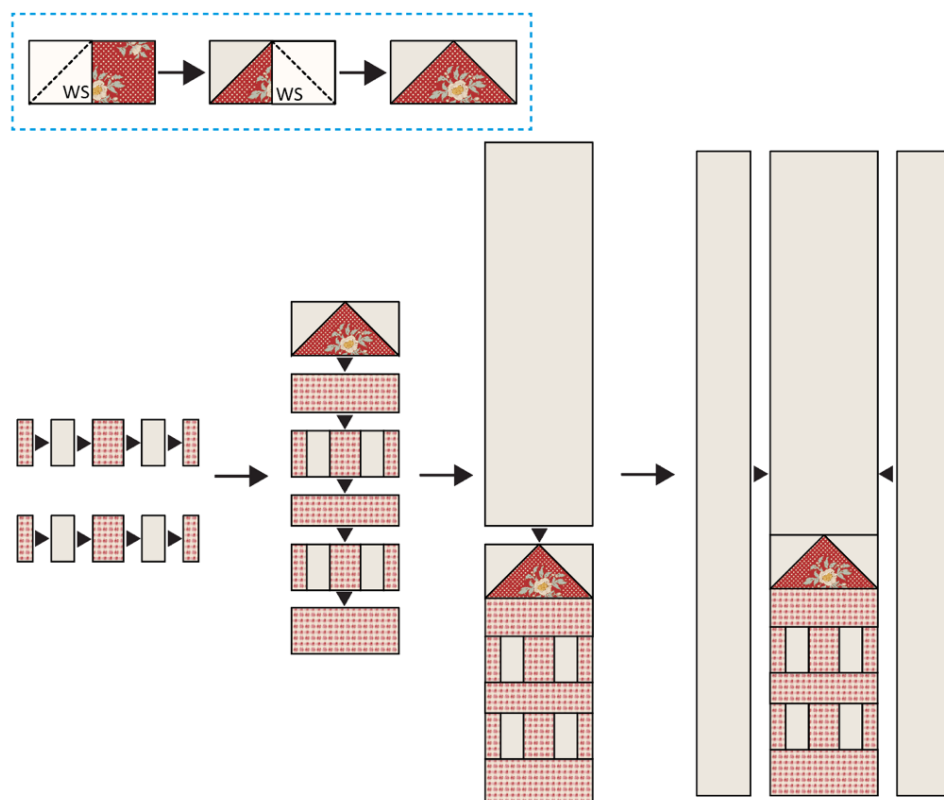


Making a Doll's House Block

29 A Doll's House block is very straightforward. Follow **Fig X**, 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). In total, make two Doll's House 1 block and two Doll's House 2 blocks.

Fig X Making a Doll's House block

Doll's House 1 shown

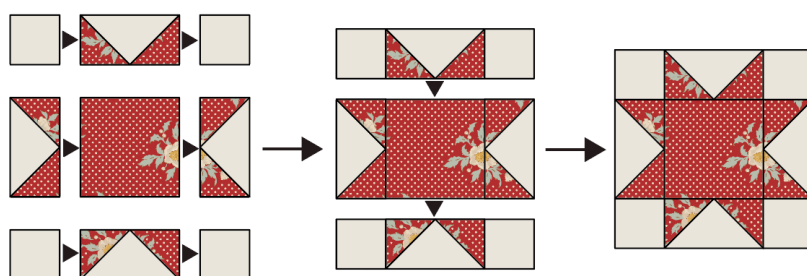


Making a Star Block

30 A Star block is easy to make. Follow **Fig Y**, making four flying geese units using the same technique as used for the doll's house roof. Arrange these units with the other pieces for the block and sew them together into three rows. Press the seams open or to the side. If pressing to the side, press the central row in the opposite direction to the other two rows. Now sew the three rows together and press. Check the block is 4½in (11.4cm) square. Make the rest of the Star blocks, fifteen in total, following the colours given in **Fig I**.

Fig Y Making a Star block

Star 1 shown

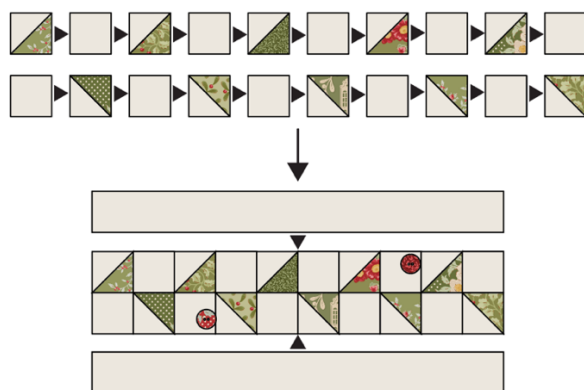


Making a Garland Block

31 There are two different colourways for the Garland blocks, but each block is made in the same way. Follow **Fig Z**, making the HSTs needed first. The HST method described in Step 11 makes two HSTs at once, so you can use both for one garland. Arrange the HSTs as shown in **Fig Z**, 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 six of Garland 1 blocks and six of Garland 2 blocks, following the colours given in **Fig I**. The buttons are shown in the diagram but do not add them yet.

Fig Z Making a Garland block

Garland 1 shown

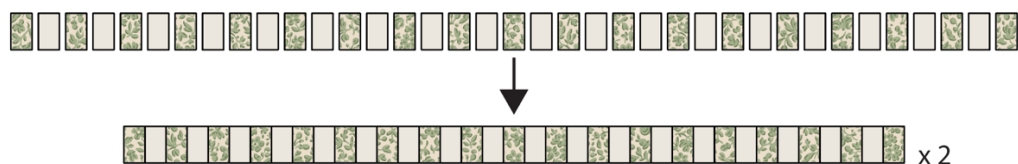


Making the Piano Key Borders

32 These borders are made for the top and bottom of the quilt and are very easy. Following **Fig AA**, sew together eighteen 2¼in x 3½in (5.7cm x 9cm) rectangles of Fabric 1 with

nineteen rectangles of Fabric 35, alternately. Press seams open or to the side. Repeat to make a second border like this.

Fig AA Making the top and bottom borders



Assembling the Quilt

33 The quilt is assembled in rows, beginning with the block rows. Follow **Fig BB** carefully, laying out the block rows as shown, plus the vertical sashings pieces needed (S 1A, S 1B and S 2). Using $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seams, sew each row in turn and press seams open or to one side. Each sewn row should measure $65\frac{1}{4}$ in (165.7cm) long. If you remember, sashing S 2 was cut $\frac{1}{8}$ in (3mm) wider, so check that your sewn star and garland rows *are* $65\frac{1}{4}$ in (165.7cm) long, trimming very slightly, but only if needed.

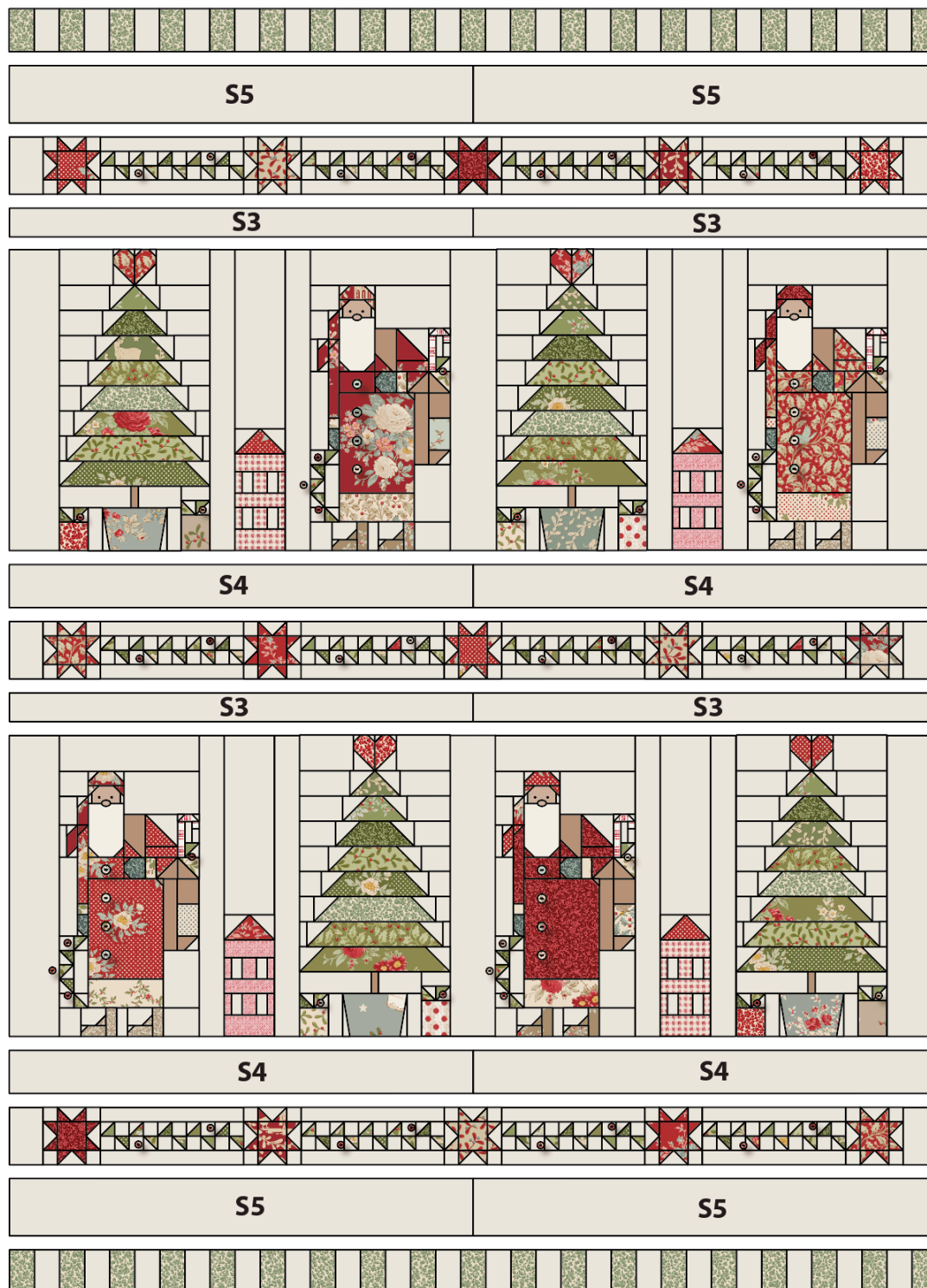
Fig BB Sewing the block rows together

S = sashing, TB = Tree block, SB = Santa block, DH = Doll House block, St = Star block, G = Garland block



34 Now position the horizontal sashing strips between the block rows, as shown in **Fig CC**. and sew these to the block rows pressing seams open or towards the sashing. If you remember, the strips for sashing S 3, S 4 and S 5 were cut $\frac{1}{8}$ in (3mm) longer, so check that these sashing rows do not need trimming. Now place the piano key borders at the top and bottom of the quilt and sew in place, pressing the seams towards the sashing.

Fig CC Finishing the quilt assembly



Adding the Buttons

35 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, use the small buttons for berries and the larger buttons for Santa's coat, sewing them in place by hand with matching sewing thread. Don't forget the four small buttons that occur a little to the left of the Santa blocks.

If you want to use appliqué instead of buttons, you can use the freezer paper technique described in Step 27 (although the circle sizes are very small, so the appliqué might be a bit fiddley). For the small circles, draw a circle ½in (1.3cm) in diameter on the freezer paper and cut a fabric circle about ¾in (2cm) in diameter from red fabrics. For the larger circles, draw a circle ¾in (2cm) in diameter on the freezer paper and cut a fabric circle about 1in (2.5cm) in diameter from blue fabrics.

If you prefer, you could use fusible web appliqué, which means that no seam allowance is needed. For durability though it is wise to edge fusible web appliqués with a stitch such as blanket stitch. You could also omit using fabric at all and sew the buttons with an embroidery stitch, such as satin stitch.

Quilting and Finishing

36 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.

37 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.

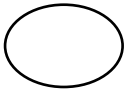
38 To join the two ends of the binding, open up the beginning and end of the binding tails, lay them flat and fold the ends back so the two ends touch. Mark these folds by creasing or with pins – this is where your seam needs to be. Open out the binding and sew the pieces together at these creases. Trim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

39 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 wonderfully festive quilt is finished.

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.

