



# MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

Winter Bird Quilt  
Petrol



# Winter Birds Quilt

(Petrol colourway)

A whole flock of little birds singing in holly branches is the perfect theme to celebrate winter. The quilt design is full of interest but the techniques are straightforward and the finished result is charming. The colour scheme is suitably seasonal, with the Merry Little Christmas fabric collection and its blenders providing lots of rich reds and festive greens. A petrol-coloured print is used as the background, contrasted with a putty white Chambray. A second quilt in this design uses burgundy and putty white as the backgrounds. On the same winter bird theme there are also two matching pillows – see [tildasworld.com](http://tildasworld.com) for the instructions.

Difficulty rating \*\*

## Materials

- Fabric 1: about 9in (23cm) square – Paper Scenes burgundy (100625)
- Fabric 2: ¼yd (25cm) – Holly red (100621)
- Fabric 3: ¼yd (25cm) – Carol burgundy (100622)
- Fabric 4: ¼yd (25cm) – Mistletoe red (100623)
- Fabric 5: ¼yd (25cm) – Holly moss (100631)
- Fabric 6: ¼yd (25cm) – Carol moss (100632)
- Fabric 7: ⅝yd (15cm) – Mistletoe pistachio (100633)
- Fabric 8: ⅝yd (15cm) – Joy pine (100634)
- Fabric 9: ⅝yd (15cm) – Paper Scenes artichoke (100635)
- Fabric 10: ¼yd (25cm) – Holly clay (100636)
- Fabric 11: ¼yd (25cm) – Carol cream (100637)
- Fabric 12: ¼yd (25cm) – Joy cream (100638)
- Fabric 13: ¼yd (25cm) – Mistletoe cream (100639)
- Fabric 14: about 9in (23cm) square – Eve red (110138)
- Fabric 15: about 5in (13cm) square – Noel red (110139)
- Fabric 16: 3½yds (3.2m) – Eve petrol (110142) (background)
- Fabric 17: ¼yd (25cm) – Joy red (100642)
- Fabric 18: ⅝yd (15cm) – Noel mist (110143)
- Fabric 19: ⅝yd (15cm) – Eve pine (110144)
- Fabric 20: ⅝yd (15cm) – Noel moss (110145)
- Fabric 21: ⅝yd (15cm) – Eve sage (110146)
- Fabric 22: ¼yd (25cm) – Noel cream (110147)
- Fabric 23: about 16in (40.5cm) square – Eve clay (110148)
- Fabric 24: about 16in (40.5cm) square – Noel taupe (110149)
- Fabric 25: 3yds (2.75m) – Chambray putty white (160043) (background)
- Fabric 26: about 9in (23cm) square – Tiny Dot red (160081)
- Fabric 27: ¼yd (25cm) – Stripe green (160082)
- Fabric 28: about 5in (13cm) square – Polka Dot red (160085)
- Fabric 29: about 9in (23cm) square – Gingham red (160087)
- Wadding (batting): 73in x 89in (185.5cm x 226cm)
- Backing fabric: 5yds (4.6m) – Joy cream (100638)
- Binding fabric: ⅝yd (60cm) – Eve sage (110146)
- Piecing and quilting threads
- Black stranded cotton (floss) for French knot eyes on the birds
- 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 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 81in (165.7cm x 205.7cm)

## 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

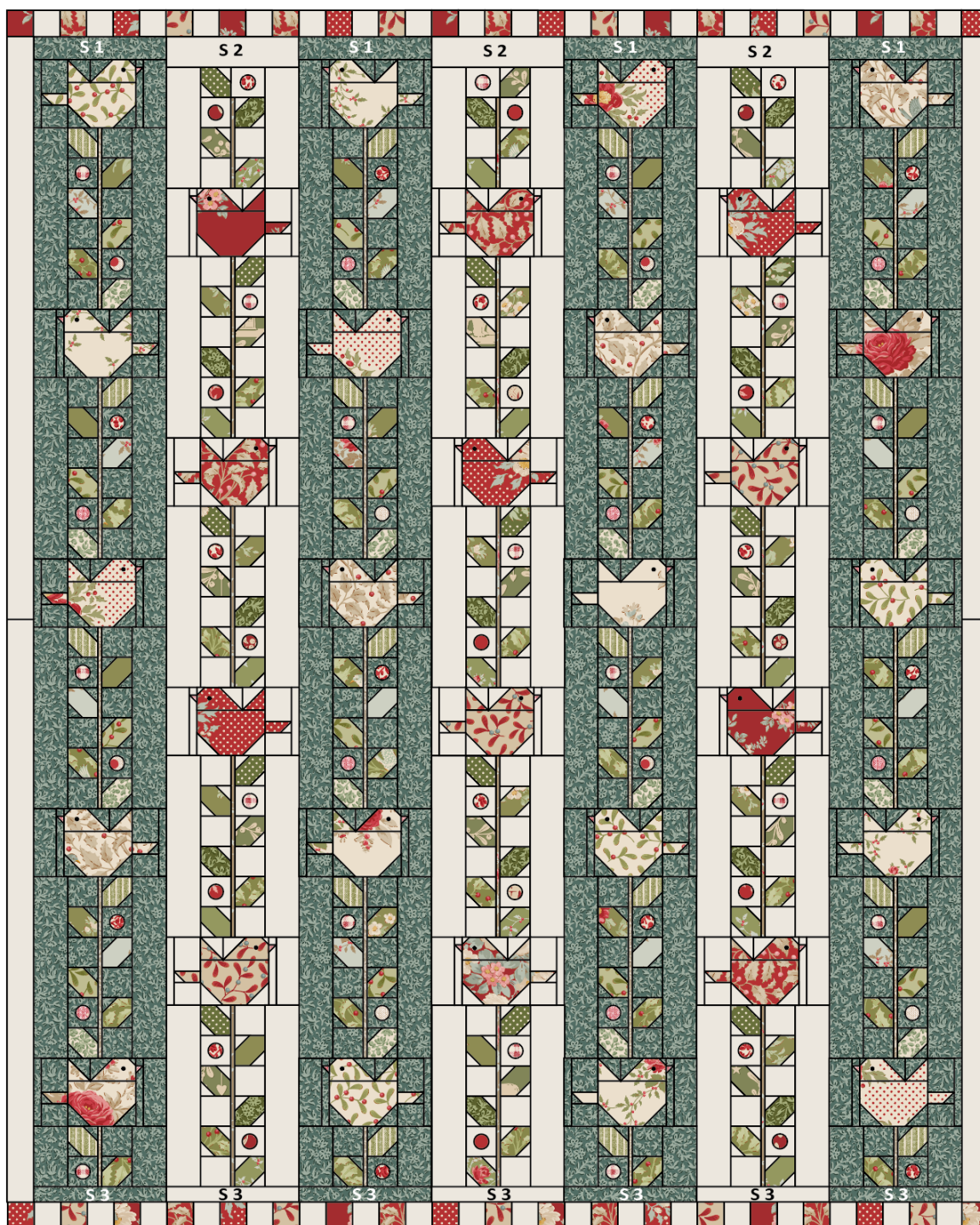
1 The quilt layout consists of seven columns made up of Bird blocks and Leaf blocks.

Sashing pieces (S1, S2 and S3) are used at the top and bottom of the columns to make the columns the same height. There is an unpieced border at the sides of the quilt and a border of pieced squares at the top and bottom. Within the columns, there are two Bird blocks, one facing left and the other right, both in four different colourways. There are also four Leaf blocks of varying heights. These blocks also have reflected versions. The Leaf blocks have 'berries' made with turned-edge appliqué and a circle pattern is included if required. Refer to **Fig A** for the fabrics used and **Fig B** for the quilt layout.

**Fig A** Fabric swatches (Winter Birds Quilt – petrol)



**Fig B** Quilt layout



## Cutting Out

2 Start by cutting the sashing and border pieces, as follows.

- From Fabric 16 cut four pieces  $9\frac{1}{4}\text{in} \times 2\text{in}$  (23.5cm x 5.1cm) for Sashing 1 (see S 1 on Fig B).
- From Fabric 16 cut four pieces  $9\frac{1}{4}\text{in} \times 1\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$  (23.5cm x 3.8cm) for Sashing 3 (S 3).
- From Fabric 25 cut three pieces  $9\frac{1}{4}\text{in} \times 2\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$  (23.5cm x 6.4cm) for Sashing 2 (S 2).
- From Fabric 25 cut three pieces  $9\frac{1}{4}\text{in} \times 1\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$  (23.5cm x 3.8cm) for Sashing 3 (S 3).
- From Fabric 25 cut four strips  $2\frac{1}{4}\text{in} \times 39\text{in}$  (5.7cm x 99cm) for the side borders. For ease of cutting, because this is a Chambray fabric, these strips can be cut across the fabric width. Using  $\frac{1}{4}\text{in}$  (6mm) seams, join the strips into two pairs, each  $77\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$  (196.8cm) long.

- From Fabric 25 cut thirty-six 2¼in (5.7cm) squares for the top and bottom border.
- From Fabric 2 cut nine 2¼in (5.7cm) squares for the top and bottom border.
- From Fabric 3 cut nine 2¼in (5.7cm) squares for the top and bottom border.
- From Fabric 4 cut nine 2¼in (5.7cm) squares for the top and bottom border.
- From Fabric 17 cut ten 2¼in (5.7cm) squares for the top and bottom border.

**3** For the Leaf blocks (A, B, C, D, E and F), use the cut sizes given in **Fig C** and follow the fabric colours given in **Fig E**.

For the appliqué circles cut the following 1½in (3.8cm) diameter circles (use the pattern provided if you wish). This size includes a ¼in (6mm) seam allowance:

- Fabric 1 – cut eight.
- Fabric 14 – cut eighteen.
- Fabric 15 – cut seven.
- Fabric 26 – cut eight.
- Fabric 28 – cut eight.
- Fabric 29 – cut seventeen.

**4** For the Bird blocks, use the cut sizes given in **Fig D** and follow the fabric colours given in **Fig F** and **Fig G**. The Bird blocks are identified in **Fig H**, showing exactly where each bird occurs in the seven columns of the quilt.

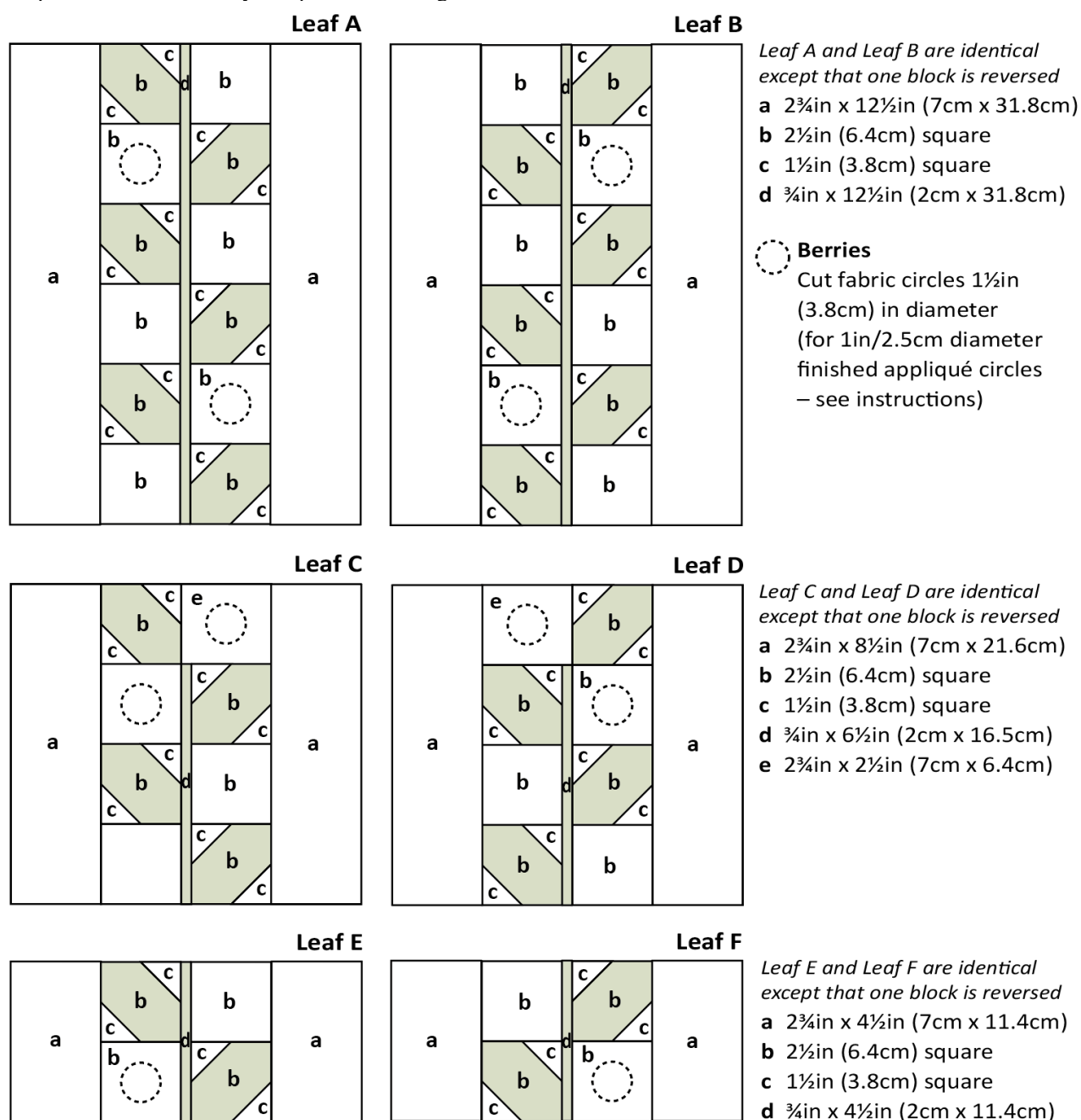
**5** Cut the backing fabric across the width into two pieces. Sew together along the long side and press the seam open. Trim to a piece about 73in x 89in (185.5cm x 226cm). This is about 4in (10.2cm) larger all round than the quilt top, to allow for quilting and finishing.

**6** 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 C** Cut measurements for the Leaf blocks

Sizes include ¼in (6mm) seam allowances

All pieces to be cut initially as squares or rectangles



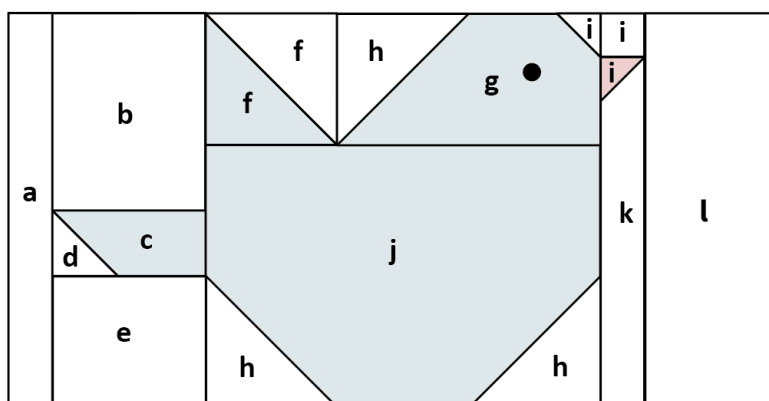
# Fig D Cut measurements for the Bird blocks

Sizes include ¼in (6mm) seam allowances

All pieces to be cut initially as squares or rectangles

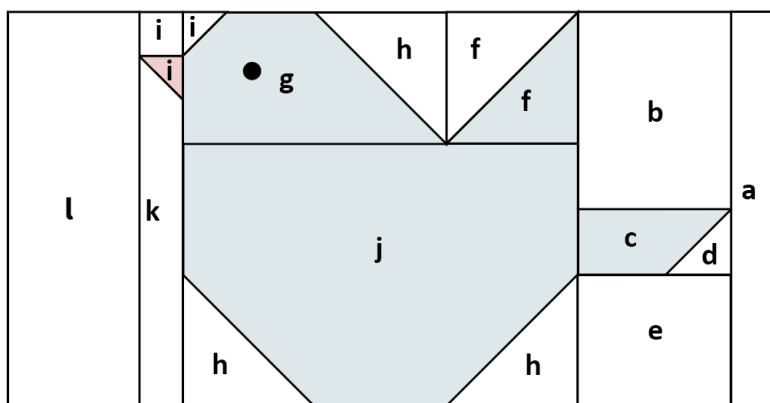
Bird G and Bird H are identical except that one block is reversed

## Bird G



- a** 1in x 5in (2.5cm x 12.7cm)
  - b** 2¼in x 2¾in (5.7cm x 7cm)
  - c** 2¼in x 1¼in (5.7cm x 3.2cm)
  - d** 1¼in (3.2cm) square
  - e** 2¼in x 2in (5.7cm x 5.1cm)
  - f** 2¾in (6cm) square for 2in (5.1cm) unfinished HSTs
  - g** 3½in x 2in (9cm x 5.1cm)
  - h** 2in (5.1cm) square
  - i** 1in (2.5cm) square
  - j** 5in x 3½in (12.7cm x 9cm)
  - k** 1in x 4½in (2.5cm x 11.4cm)
  - l** 2in x 5in (5.1cm x 12.7cm)
- Eye** Work as a French knot

## Bird H



- a** 1in x 5in (2.5cm x 12.7cm)
  - b** 2¼in x 2¾in (5.7cm x 7cm)
  - c** 2¼in x 1¼in (5.7cm x 3.2cm)
  - d** 1¼in (3.2cm) square
  - e** 2¼in x 2in (5.7cm x 5.1cm)
  - f** 2¾in (6cm) square for 2in (5.1cm) unfinished HSTs
  - g** 3½in x 2in (9cm x 5.1cm)
  - h** 2in (5.1cm) square
  - i** 1in (2.5cm) square
  - j** 5in x 3½in (12.7cm x 9cm)
  - k** 1in x 4½in (2.5cm x 11.4cm)
  - l** 2in x 5in (5.1cm x 12.7cm)
- Eye** Work as a French knot

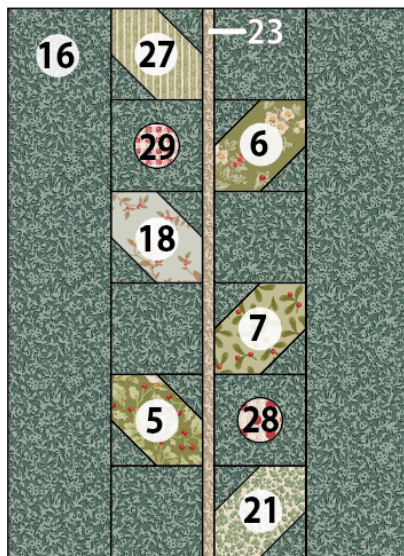
# **Fig E** Colourways for the Leaf blocks

Bold numbers in circles indicate the fabrics used (see Fig A)

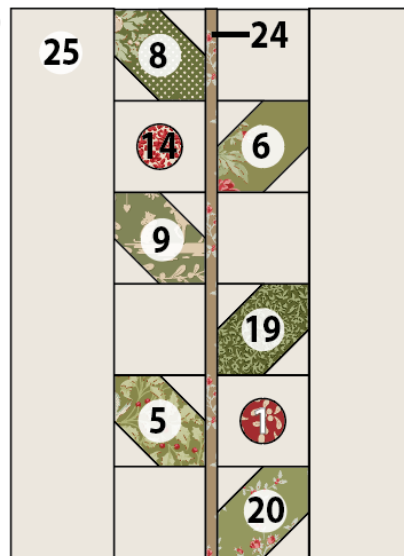
The background is Fabric 16 for the dark blocks and Fabric 25 for the light blocks

Make the number of blocks indicated

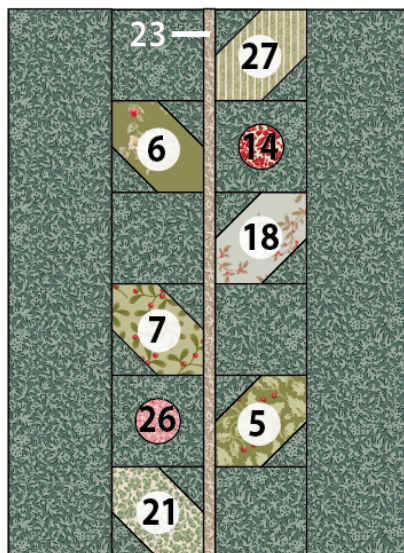
**A 1 x 8**



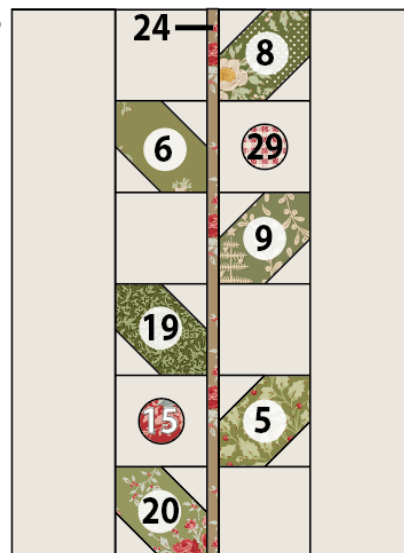
**A 2 x 6**



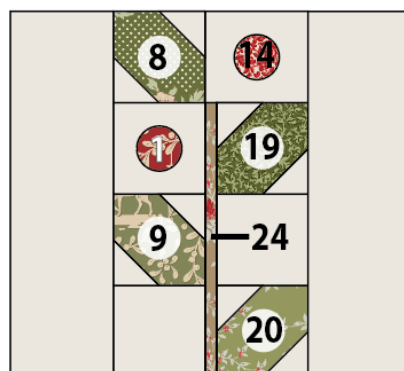
**B 1 x 8**



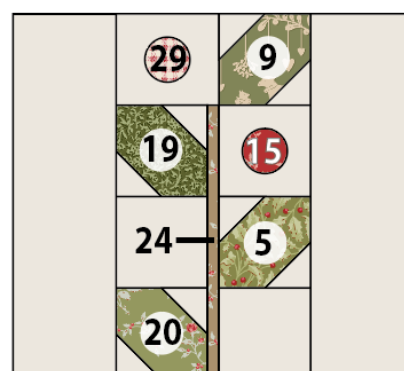
**B 2 x 6**



**C x 2**



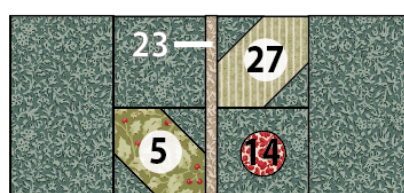
**D x 1**



**E x 2**



**F x 2**



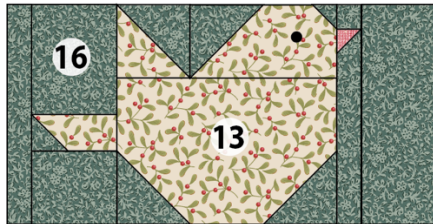
## Fig F Colourways for the dark Bird blocks

Bold numbers in circles indicate the fabrics used (see Fig A)

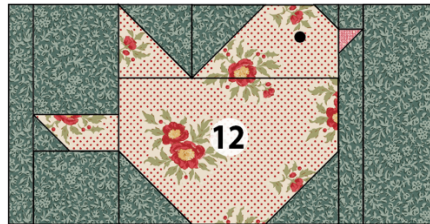
The background is Fabric 16 for the dark blocks. All beaks are Fabric 26

Make the number of blocks indicated

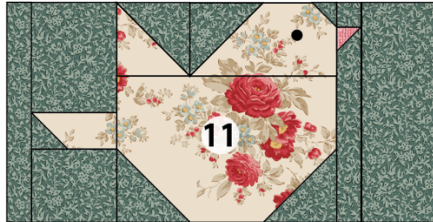
**G 1 x 1**



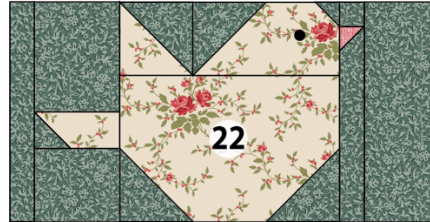
**G 2 x 3**



**G 3 x 4**



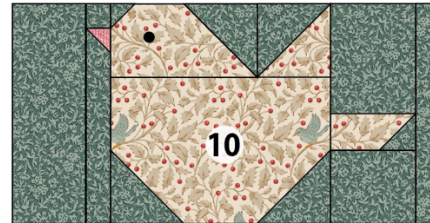
**G 4 x 2**



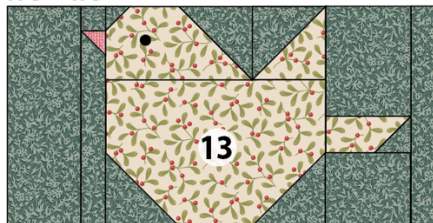
**H 1 x 2**



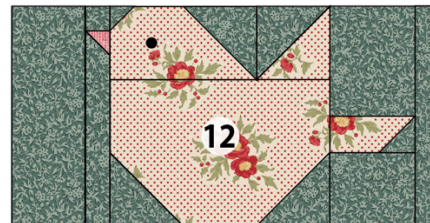
**H 2 x 4**



**H 3 x 3**



**H 4 x 1**



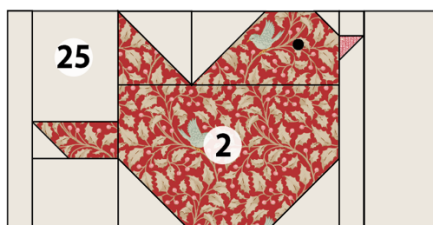
## Fig G Colourways for the light Bird blocks

Bold numbers in circles indicate the fabrics used (see Fig A)

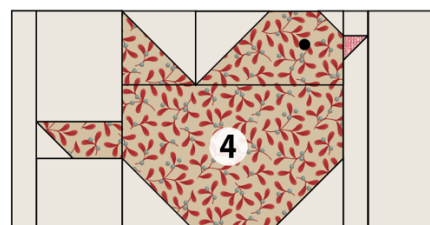
The background is Fabric 25 for the light blocks. All beaks are Fabric 26

Make the number of blocks indicated

**G 5 x 3**



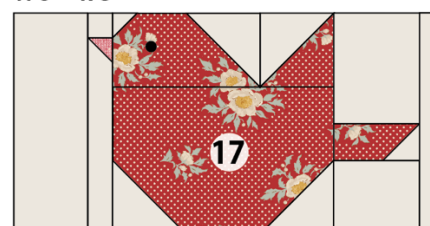
**G 6 x 3**



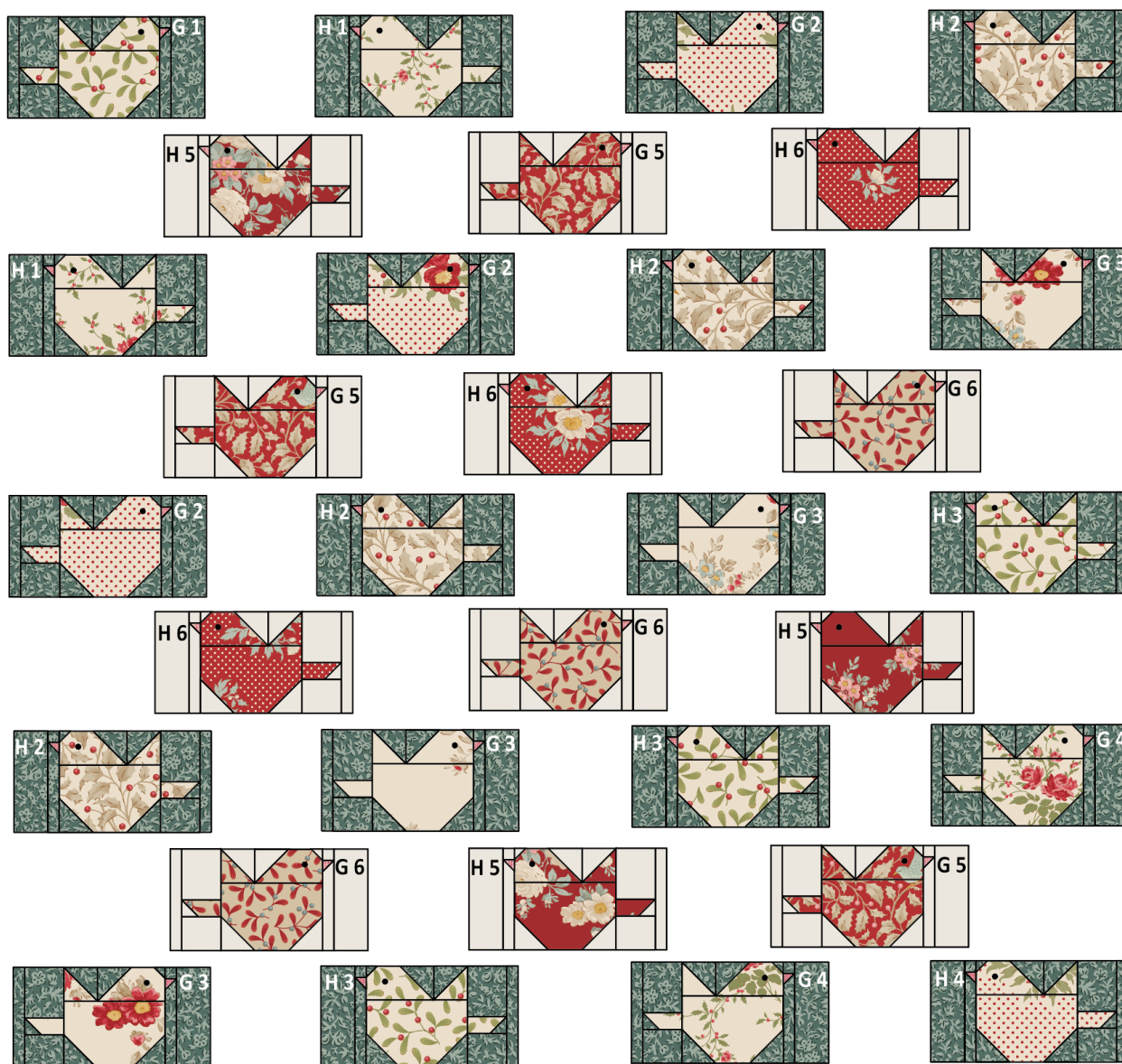
**H 5 x 3**



**H 6 x 3**



**Fig H** Bird blocks identified

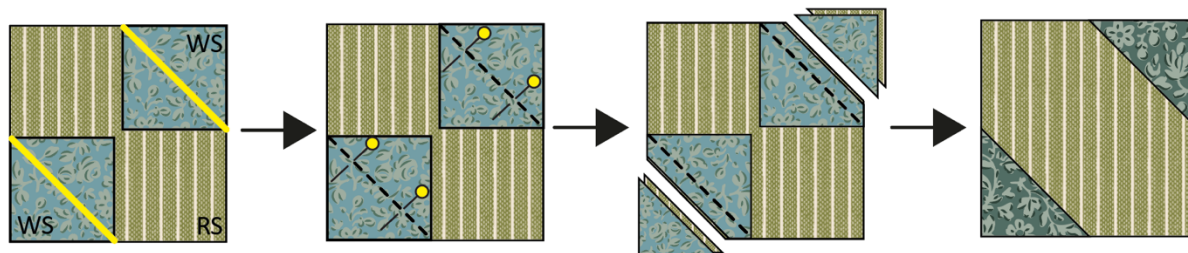


## Making the Leaf Blocks

**7** The Leaf blocks are all made in a similar way, except that some blocks have six leaves, some four leaves and some only two leaves. The leaves themselves are made up of a unit that has a print fabric square with two corner triangles, created using the technique shown below in **Fig I**. Follow **Fig E** carefully to see the correct fabrics to use and on which corners to place the triangles.

**8** To make the corner units, choose the correct background fabric square and the two smaller print squares – **Fig I** shows a leaf unit from block A1. Place the square of print fabric right side (RS) up. Take the two smaller squares and pencil mark a diagonal line on the wrong side of each square. Position the squares right sides together with the print rectangle, in the correct positions for that particular unit and with the marked lines in the directions shown in the diagram. Pin in place and then sew along each marked line. Trim off excess fabric  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) outside the sewn lines and press each triangle outwards. Check the size of the unit, which needs to be  $2\frac{1}{2}$ in (6.4cm) square (unfinished) (for all of the Leaf blocks).

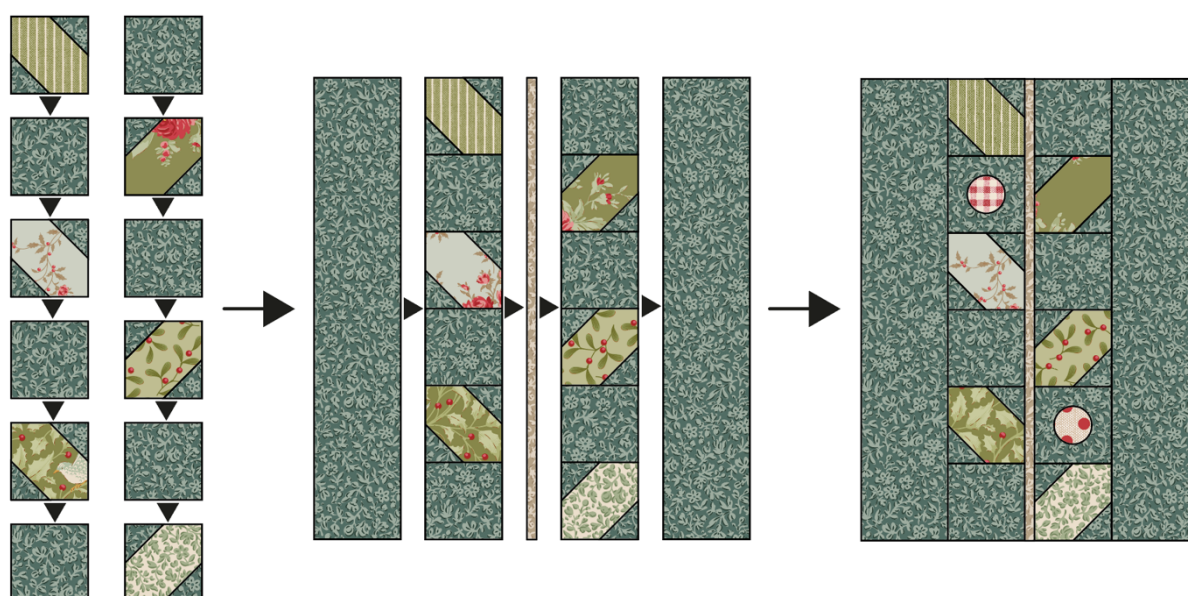
**Fig I** Making a corner triangle unit



**9** When all of the individual leaf units have been made for a block, they can be sewn together with the other pieces needed for the block. The assembly process is shown in **Fig J**, with block A1 shown. Follow the stages shown in the diagram, pressing each seam as you sew, pressing them open or to one side. This tallest Leaf block should be  $9\frac{1}{4}\text{in} \times 12\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$  (23.5cm x 31.8cm) (unfinished). The appliqué circles for the berries can be added now or when all of the Leaf blocks are made (the appliqué is described in Step 15).

**Fig J** Making a Leaf block

Leaf A1 shown



**10** Make all of the Leaf blocks needed, following **Fig E** carefully for the different layouts and fabrics used. There are thirty-five Leaf blocks needed in total, as follows:

- Eight of block A1.
- Six of block A2.
- Eight of block B1.
- Six of block B2.
- Two of block C.
- One of block D.
- Two of block E.
- Two of block F.

The tallest Leaf block should be  $9\frac{1}{4}\text{in} \times 12\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$  (23.5cm x 31.8cm) (unfinished).

The medium Leaf block should be  $9\frac{1}{4}\text{in} \times 8\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$  (23.5cm x 21.6cm) (unfinished).

The shortest Leaf block should be  $9\frac{1}{4}\text{in} \times 4\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$  (23.5cm x 11.4cm) (unfinished).

## Making the Bird Blocks

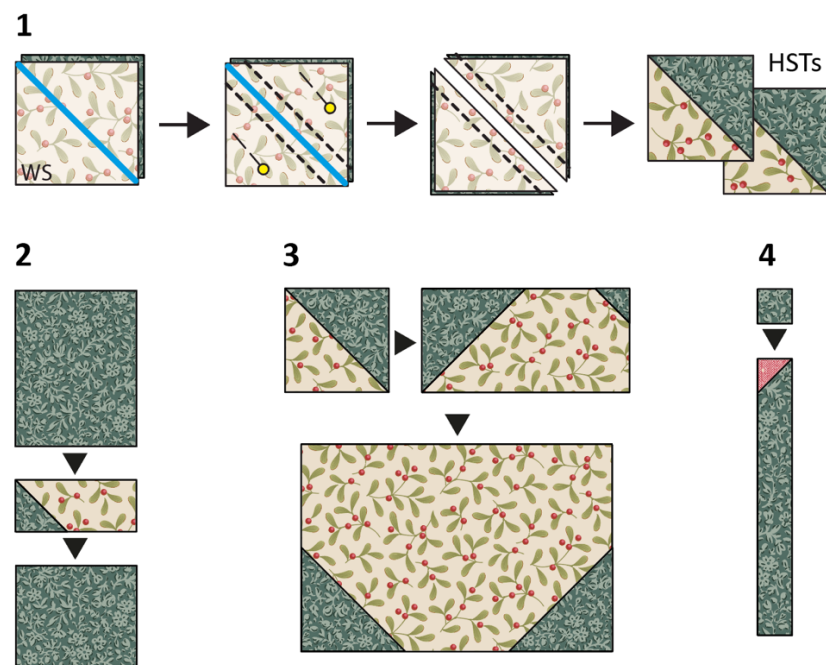
**11** The Bird blocks are all made the same way, except that the design is reversed (flipped) for half of the blocks. Follow **Fig F** and **Fig G** carefully to see the layouts and the correct fabrics to use. The birds use a half-square triangle (HST) unit for the tail. The method shown in **Fig K 1** makes two units at the same time, as follows.

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. Cut the units apart along the marked line and press the units. (normally towards the darker fabric). Check each HST is 2in (5.1cm) square (unfinished).

**12** The Bird blocks also use corner triangle units in a similar way to the Leaf blocks. To make these, use the technique shown previously in **Fig I**. Follow **Fig K2, K3** and **K4** below to see where these triangles occur, paying close attention to selecting the correct sizes and fabrics.

**Fig K** Making the units for a Bird block

Bird G1 shown



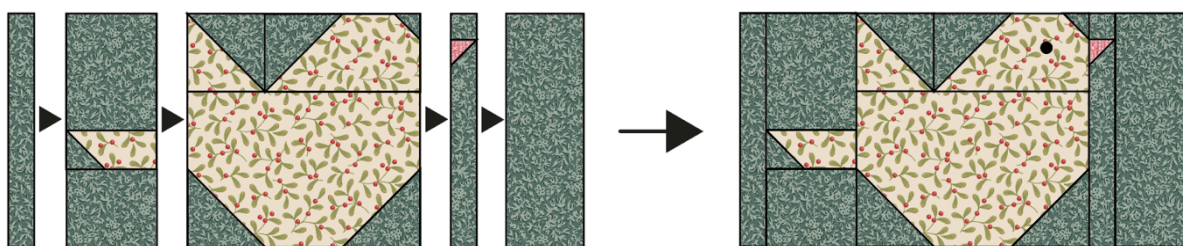
**13** When all of the individual units have been made for a Bird block, they can be sewn together with the other pieces needed for the block. The assembly process is shown in **Fig L**, with block G1 shown. Follow the stages shown in the diagram, pressing each seam as you sew, pressing them open or to one side. The Bird block should be  $9\frac{1}{4}$ in x 5in (23.5cm x 12.7cm) (unfinished). You can add the French knot eye now or later (see Step 17).

**14** Make the birds facing in the opposite direction in the same way but reversing the pieces. Make all of the Bird blocks needed, following **Fig F** and **Fig G** carefully for the different layouts and fabrics used.

There are thirty-two Bird blocks needed in total, as follows:

- One of block G1.
- Three of block G2.
- Four of block G3.
- Two of block G4.
- Three of block G5.
- Three of block G6.
- Two of block H1.
- Four of block H2.
- Three of block H3.
- One of block H4.
- Three of block H5.
- Three of block H6.

**Fig L** Assembling a Bird block  
Bird G1 shown



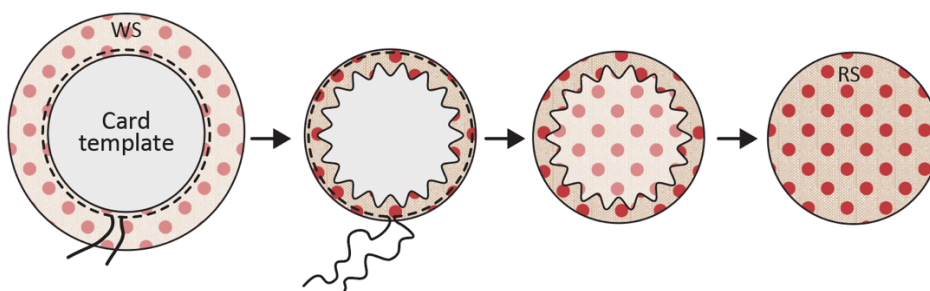
## Sewing the Appliqué and the Eyes

**15** Make the appliqué berries for the Leaf blocks using a card and gathering thread technique (turned-edge appliqué). You could use a different method if you prefer. Cut a 1in (2.5cm) diameter circle from a piece of stiff card. Take the 1½in (3.8cm) diameter circle of fabric cut earlier and place the 1in (2.5cm) diameter card circle in the centre of the fabric on the wrong side. Mark the card circle (**Fig M**). Remove the card for the moment. Using a strong or doubled thread, hand sew a gathering stitch all around this marked inner circle, slightly outside of the marked line. Leave tails of thread, as in the diagram. Put the card circle back in place and pull on the gathering thread to gather it up over the edge of the card. Tie off the thread. Press well and then remove the card. Press again from the right side using a little spray starch if you wish. Make the number of circles needed for all of the blocks, as follows:

- From Fabric 1 – make eight circles.
- From Fabric 14 – make eighteen circles.
- From Fabric 15 – make seven circles.
- From Fabric 26 – make eight circles.
- From Fabric 28 – make eight circles.
- From Fabric 29 – make seventeen circles.

**16** Using a matching hand sewing thread and small slip stitches, sew the circles in place on the blocks and press.

**Fig M** Sewing the appliqué



**17** Work the eyes on the birds using black stranded cotton (floss) with six strands wrapped twice around the needle. (You may have already sewn these.)

## Assembling the Quilt

**18** The quilt is assembled in seven vertical columns first. Lay out the blocks and sashing pieces, following **Fig N**, taking care to place the blocks in the correct positions and facing the correct way. Sew each column, matching seams neatly where needed and pressing seams open or to one side. Each sewn column should measure 77½in (197cm) long. Now sew the columns together, matching seams neatly and press.

| Column 1 | Column 2 | Column 3 | Column 4 | Column 5 | Column 6 | Column 7 |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| S 1      | S 2      | S 1      | S 2      | S 1      | S 2      | S 1      |
| G1       | C        | H1       | D        | G2       | C        | H2       |
| A1       | H5       | B1       | G5       | A1       | H6       | B1       |
| H1       | B2       | G2       | A2       | H2       | B2       | G3       |
| B1       | G5       | A1       | H6       | B1       | G6       | A1       |
| G2       | A2       | H2       | B2       | G3       | A2       | H3       |
| A1       | H6       | B1       | G6       | A1       | H5       | B1       |
| H2       | B2       | G3       | A2       | H3       | B2       | G4       |
| B1       | G6       | A1       | H5       | B1       | G5       | A1       |
| G3       | A2       | H3       | B2       | G4       | A2       | H4       |
| E        | S 3      | F        | S 3      | E        | S 3      | F        |
| S 3      | S 3      | S 3      | S 3      | S 3      | S 3      | S 3      |

**20** Sew the side border strips to the quilt as in **Fig P**, pressing the seams towards the borders. Now add the pieced squares borders to the top and bottom of the quilt and press inwards, towards the quilt. Your quilt top is now finished.

Numbers indicate fabrics used, in a repeating pattern

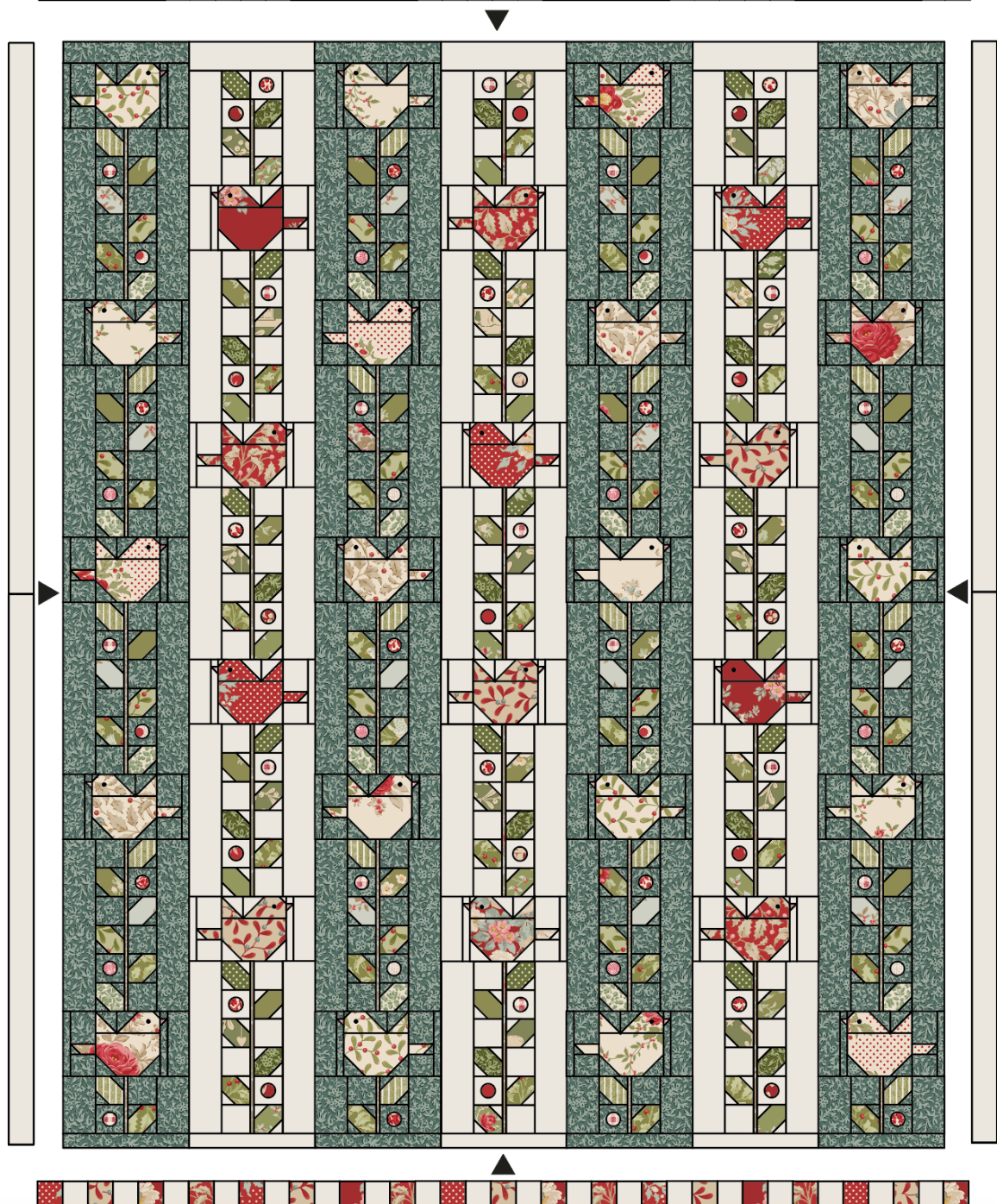
Numbers indicate fabrics used, in a repeating pattern

3 25 2 17 4

Repeat

17 25 4 3 2

Repeat



## Quilting and Finishing

**21** 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.

**22** 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.

**23** 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.

**24** 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 winter bird quilt is finished.

## Winter Birds

### Circle pattern for appliqué

Berries are 1in (2.5cm)  
finished diameter

