

Tilda®

Songbird

Soirée Quilt
Blue/Yellow



Soirée Quilt

(Blue/yellow colourway)

This beautiful quilt features the lovely Songbird fabric collection and its blenders, inspired in part by the enduring style and elegance of Art Nouveau. The quilt blocks feature graceful ladies perfectly dressed for an evening soirée in long gowns in soft, water-colour shades. As an added decorative touch, buttons are used on the appliquéd circle hair ornaments. This quilt uses predominantly fresh and delicate yellows and blues, but the quilt pattern is also available in a slightly more sophisticated green/coral colourway. There are also four matching pillows, each with a different coloured background – coral, sage mist, mustard and light blue. See tildasworld.com for all the instructions.

Difficulty rating ***

Materials

- Fabric 1: 4yds (3.75m) – Lila light yellow (110159) (background)
- Fabric 2: fat quarter (*not* a long quarter *) – Ava blue (100651)
- Fabric 3: fat quarter – Songbird blue (100652)
- Fabric 4: fat quarter – Aubrey blue (100653)
- Fabric 5: fat quarter – Flora blue (100654)
- Fabric 6: fat quarter – Cora blue (100655)
- Fabric 7: fat quarter – Aubrey mustard (100656)
- Fabric 8: fat quarter – Cora mustard (100657)
- Fabric 9: fat quarter – Flora mustard (100658)
- Fabric 10: fat quarter – Songbird mustard (100659)
- Fabric 11: fat quarter – Ava teal (100660)
- Fabric 12: fat quarter – Lila peach (110150)
- Fabric 13: fat quarter – Lila light blue (110156)
- Fabric 14: fat quarter – Stella blue (110157)
- Fabric 15: fat quarter – Lila blue (110158)
- Fabric 16: fat quarter – Stella yellow (110160)
- Fabric 17: fat quarter – Lila mustard (110161)
- Fabric 18: $\frac{1}{2}$ yd (50cm) – Solid cappuccino (120007)
- Fabric 19: $\frac{3}{8}$ yd (40cm) – Chambray grey (160006)
- Wadding (batting): $70\frac{1}{2}$ in x $88\frac{1}{2}$ in (179cm x 225cm)
- Backing fabric: 5yds (4.6m) – Songbird mustard (100659)
- Binding fabric: $\frac{5}{8}$ yd (60cm) – Lila light yellow (110159)
- Erasable fabric marker
- Piecing and quilting threads
- Black stranded cotton (floss) for French knot eyes
- Quilter's ruler, rotary cutter and mat
- Scrap of thick card for appliquéd
- Buttons for hair ornament Songbird Buttons blue/yellow 16mm (400075) – 16 buttons (2 packs)

Fabric Notes

Where a fat quarter is given in the Materials list (Fabrics 2 to 17), do **not** use a long quarter, as this shallower cut will not be deep enough. A fat quarter is assumed to be approximately 21in x 18in (53.3cm x 45.7cm) and must be a minimum of 18in (45.7cm) deep.

Finished Size

62½in x 80½in (158.7cm x 204.5cm)

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 selvedges.
- 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 sixteen Lady blocks, arranged in vertical columns. Eight of the ladies face left and eight face right. Each lady has a different dress colour. The block columns are staggered by the use of sashing filler rectangles at the top and bottom of alternate columns. A border of differing widths is used around the edges of the quilt. An appliquéd circle is used as a hair decoration on each lady, with a button detail in the centre. Refer to **Fig A** for the fabrics used and **Fig B** for the quilt layout.

Fig A Fabric swatches (Soirée Quilt – blue/yellow)

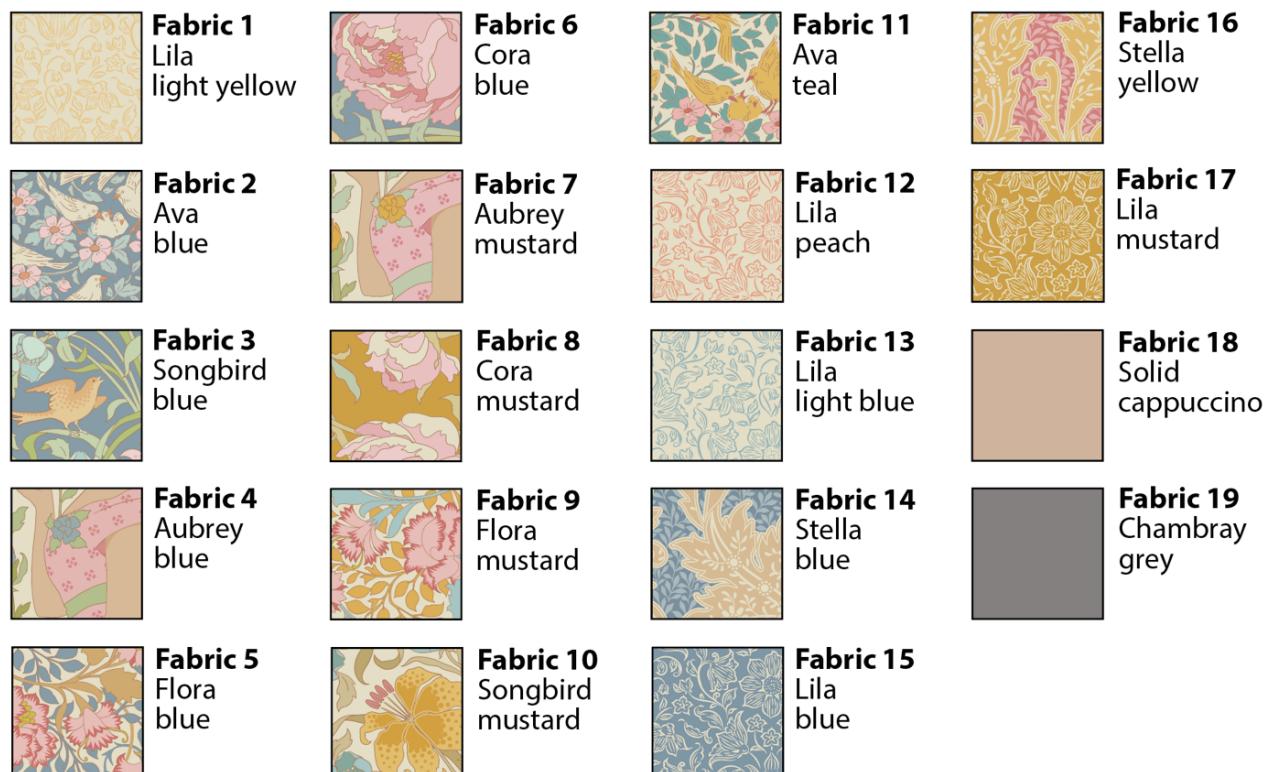
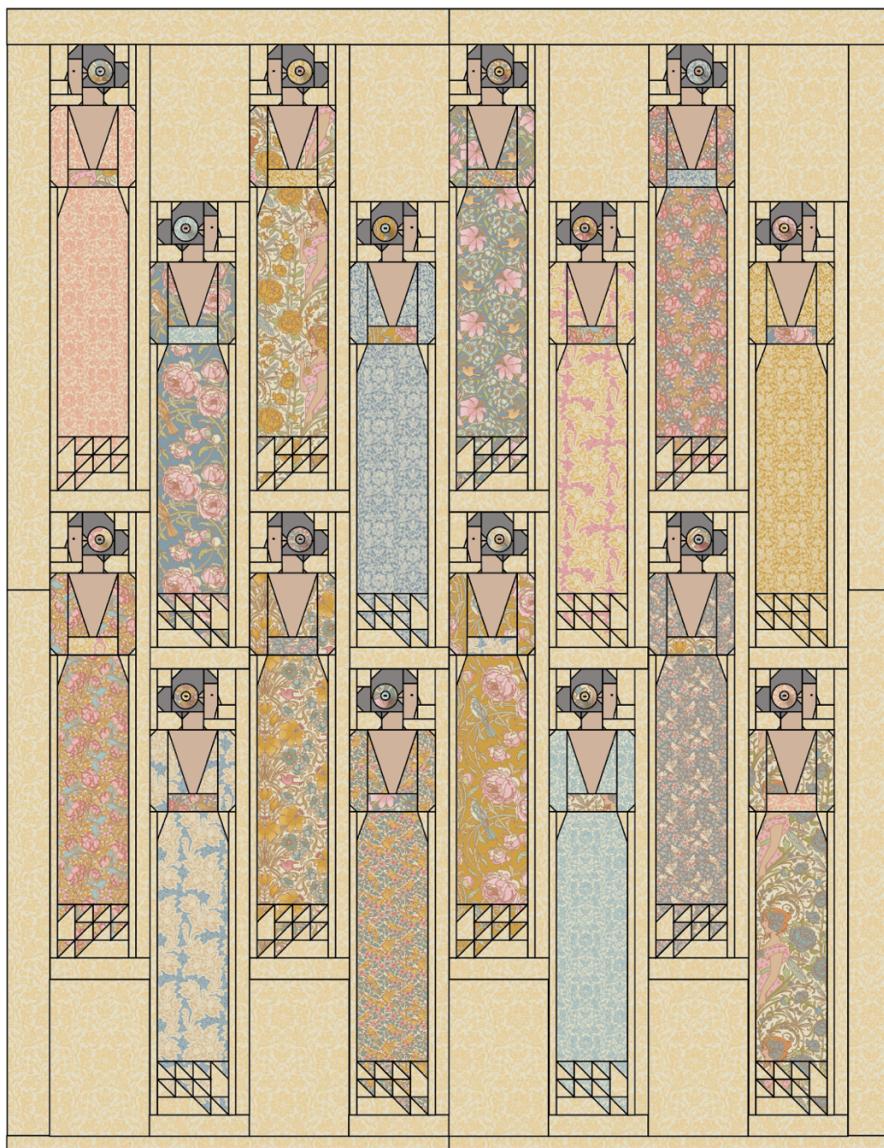


Fig B Quilt layout



Cutting Out

2 Begin by cutting Fabric 1, starting with the long vertical pieces for the side borders and the vertical pieces **dd** and **ee** for the blocks (see **Fig C**), cutting down the fabric length, as follows.

- For the side borders, cut four strips $3\frac{1}{2}\text{in} \times 38\frac{3}{4}\text{in}$ (9cm x 98.4cm). Using a $\frac{1}{4}\text{in}$ (6mm) seam, join them together into two pairs, each 77in (195.6cm) long.
- For block pieces **dd**, cut a total of thirty-two, each $1\text{in} \times 21\frac{3}{4}\text{in}$ (2.5cm x 55.2cm). Two strips will be used for each of the sixteen blocks.
- For block pieces **ee**, cut a total of sixteen, each $1\frac{1}{2}\text{in} \times 31\frac{3}{4}\text{in}$ (3.8cm x 80.6cm). One strip will be used for each of the sixteen blocks.

3 Still using Fabric 1, cut the following pieces for the sashing filler rectangles and the horizontal borders, as follows.

- For sashing, cut eight pieces $7\frac{1}{2}\text{in} \times 11\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$ (19cm x 29.2cm).
- For the top border, cut two strips $31\frac{1}{2}\text{in} \times 3\text{in}$ (80cm x 7.6cm). Using a $\frac{1}{4}\text{in}$ (6mm) seam, join them together into a strip $62\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$ (158.8cm) long.
- For the bottom border, cut two strips $31\frac{1}{2}\text{in} \times 1\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$ (80cm x 3.8cm). Using a $\frac{1}{4}\text{in}$ (6mm) seam, join them together into a strip $62\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$ (158.8cm) long.

4 For the Lady blocks, use Fabric 1 and carefully cut out the sizes given in **Fig C**.

5 For the Lady blocks, use the remaining fabrics, following the cut sizes given in **Fig C** and the fabric colours and positions shown in **Fig D** for the different block colourways. The positions of the buttons are shown but these need to be added after quilting.

Fig C Cut measurements for the Lady blocks

Sizes include $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam allowances

All pieces to be cut initially as squares or rectangles, except for appliquéd circle

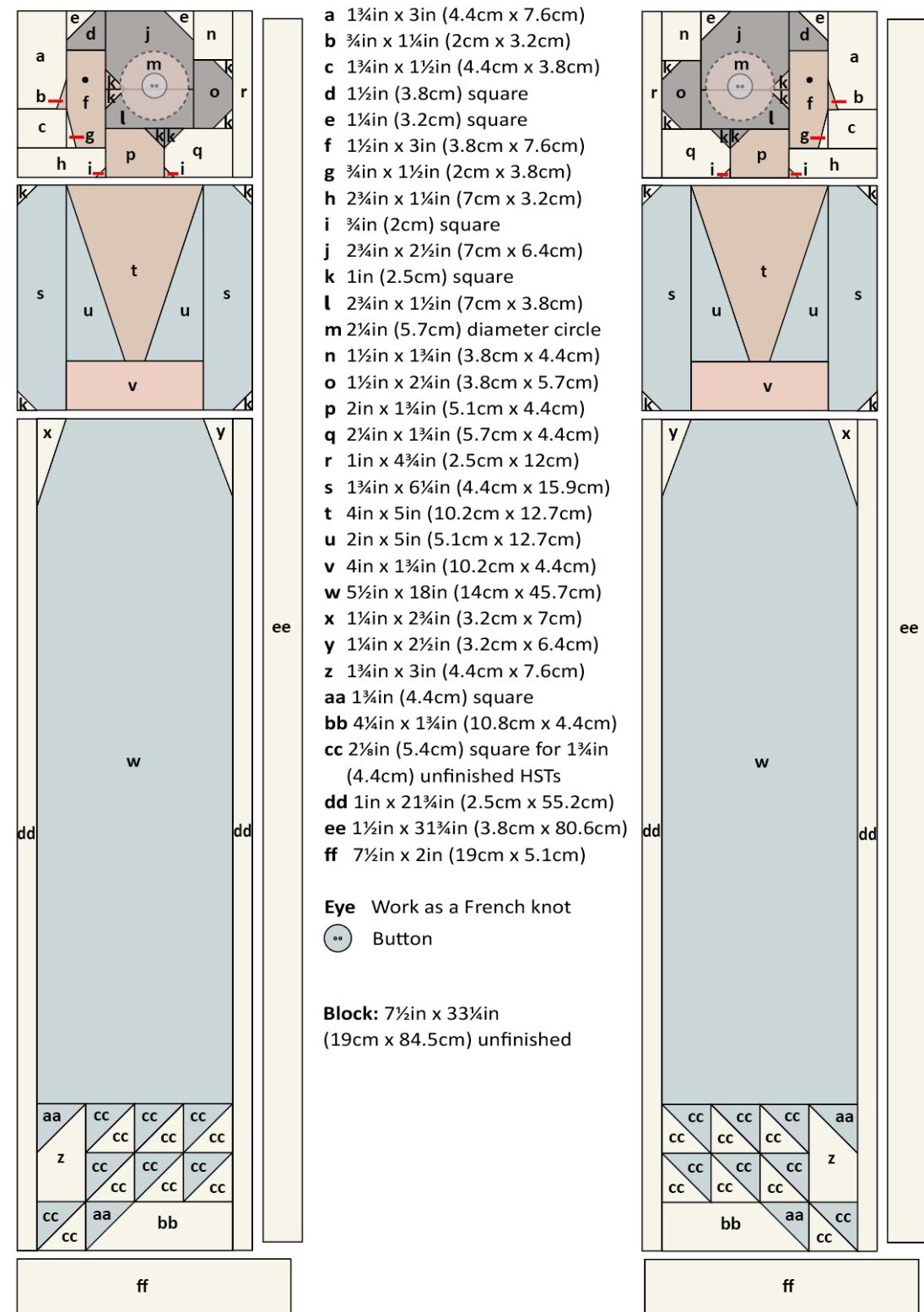


Fig D Colourways for the Lady blocks

Bold numbers indicate the fabrics used (see Fig A). All background is Fabric 1.

All skin is Fabric 18. All hair is Fabric 19. Buttons are not shown. Make one of each block



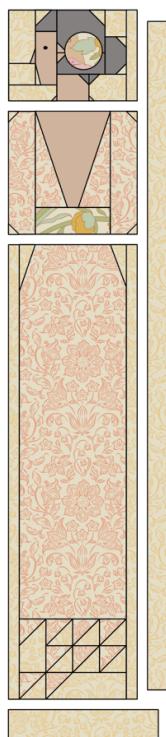
6 Cut the backing fabric across the width into two pieces. Sew together along the long side and press the seam open. Trim to a piece about $70\frac{1}{2}\text{in} \times 88\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$ (179cm x 225cm). This is about 4in (10.2cm) larger all round than the quilt top, to allow for quilting and finishing.

7 Cut the binding fabric into eight $2\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$ (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.

General Techniques Used

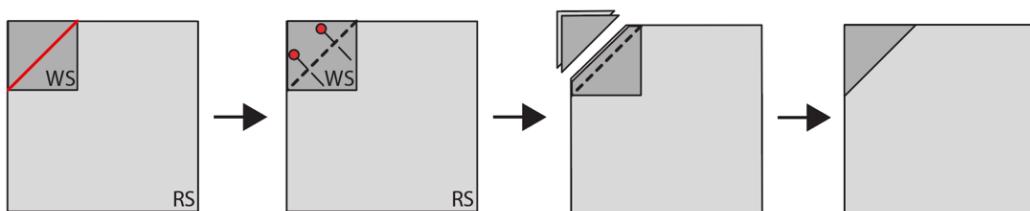
8 Fig E shows the sections that make up a block (regardless of whether it faces left or right) – the head section, chest section and skirt section. There are two general techniques that occur in the block – corner triangle units and half-square triangle units – in various sizes. The basic methods are described here, so refer back to this section, if needed, as you make the blocks. Some units also need oblong corner triangles, but these techniques will be described in detail with each section as the piecing is a little more complicated.

Fig E Block sections



9 Making a corner triangle unit: Some units have one corner triangle, others have two, but the basic process is the same, as follows. Follow the stages shown in **Fig F**. Select the correct base/background fabric piece (which may be a square or a rectangle) 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.

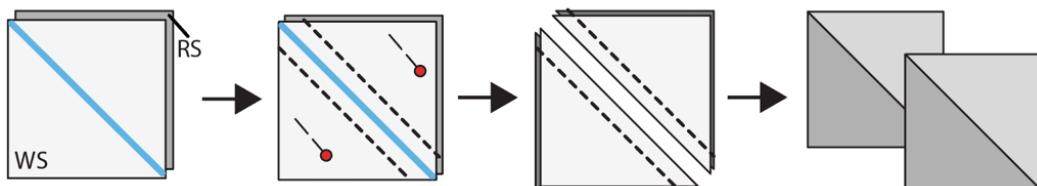
Fig F Making a corner triangle unit



10 Making half-square triangle units: Half-square triangles (HSTs) are used at the base of the skirt to give a feathery edge. To make HSTs, follow the basic process shown in **Fig G**, 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 $1\frac{3}{4}$ in (4.4cm) square (unfinished).

Fig G Making half-square triangle units



Making a Lady Block

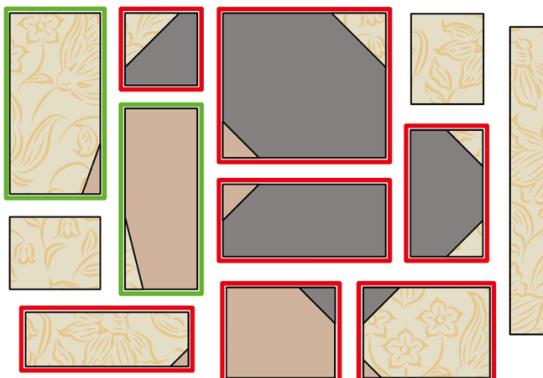
Making the Head Section

11 Block 1 for a left-facing lady is shown in the diagrams, but the right-facing lady is made in the same way. We will start with the head section. This is made up of twelve units, most using corner square triangle units (outlined in red on the diagram), but there are also some oblong corner units (outlined in green) and three unpieced units. **Fig H** shows these units for the head section. Start by making the units with corner square triangles (red outlined ones), following **Fig C** for the cut pieces. At this stage, the head uses just three fabrics – background Fabric 1, skin Fabric 18 and hair Fabric 19. Some of the triangles are very small, so reduce your stitch length when sewing these.

Fig H Making the units for the head section

Units outlined in red have square corner triangles

Units outlined in green have oblong corner triangles



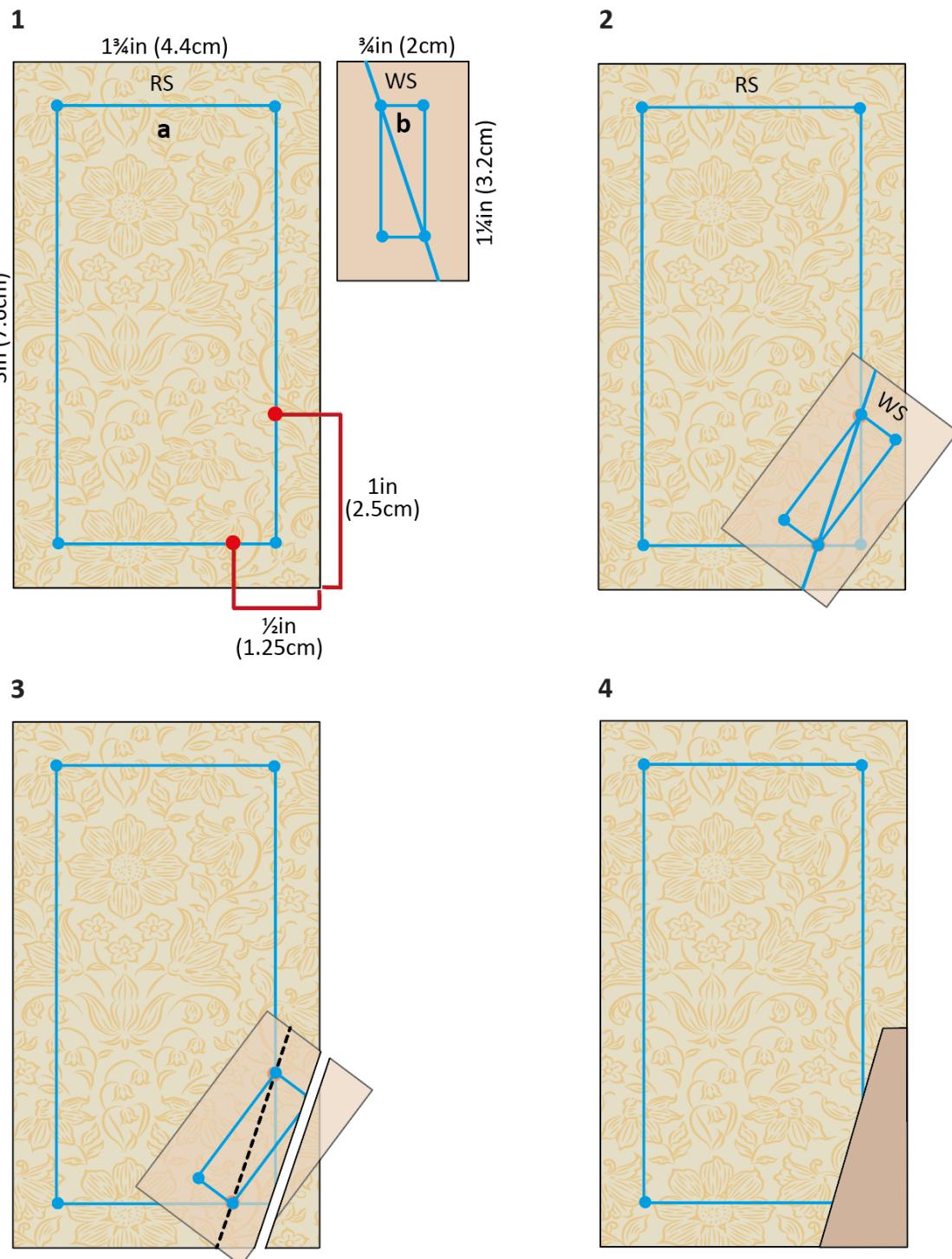
12 Once the corner triangle units have been made, set them to one side. Now make the two units with oblong corner triangles (green outline) – Unit **a+b** (**Fig I**) and Unit **f+g** (**Fig J**). These have different measurements and are illustrated in the detailed diagrams. We will describe Unit **a+b** (the nose) first.

13 Begin by taking the background fabric piece **a**, and on the right side (RS) use a removable marker to mark the $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam allowance or just dots at the corners (see **Fig I 1**). On the bottom edge mark a dot on the seam allowance (shown in red), $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.25cm) in from the bottom right-hand edge. Mark another dot on the seam allowance (shown in red), 1in (2.5cm) up from the bottom right edge, as shown.

Take the Fabric 18 (nose skin) piece **b** and on the wrong side (WS) mark the $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam allowance, either with pencil lines or just dots at the corners (see **Fig I 1**). Mark a diagonal line in the direction shown, making sure the line goes through the seam allowance dots (and **not** the outer corners of the fabric piece).

14 Take the background piece and, with right sides together with the nose skin piece, angle the smaller piece following **Fig I 2**, so the seam allowance dots meet the red dots beneath on the background piece. Pin in place and sew along the marked diagonal line. Fold the triangle over to briefly check that its straight edges align with the larger piece of fabric. Put the triangle back flat and then use a quilting ruler to trim off excess fabric $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) away from the sewn lines, as shown in **Fig I 3**. Press the triangle outwards and check its straight edges are aligned with the larger piece. Check the unit's size – it should be the same size as the original background piece (**Fig I 4**). Remove the marked lines.

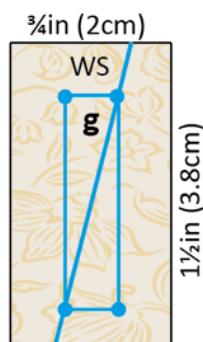
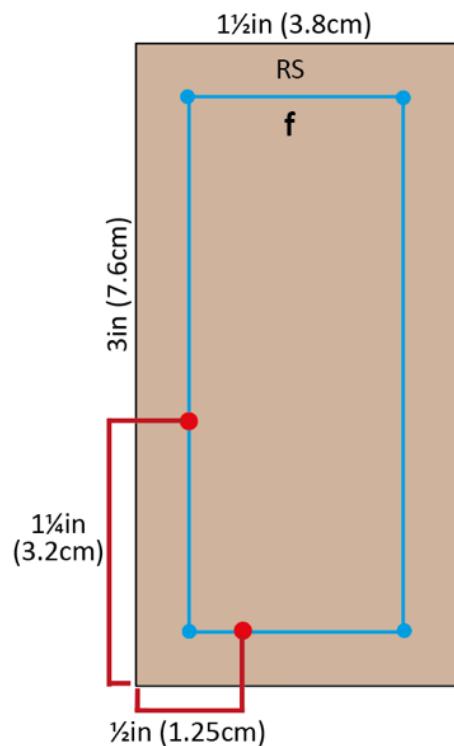
Fig I Making Unit a+b for the head section



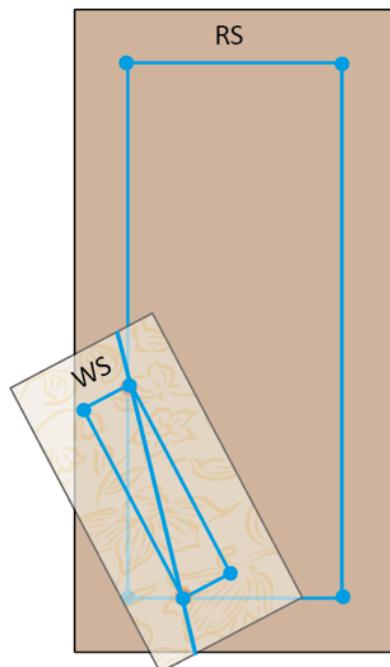
15 Now make Unit **f+g** for the head section, using the same technique as the previous unit, but closely following the measurements and position of the red dots shown in **Fig J 1**. This time, the larger piece of fabric (**f**) is the skin of the face and the smaller piece (**g**) is background fabric. The angle goes in the opposite direction for this unit. Mark the dots, angle, pin, sew the diagonal line and trim excess, as before. Press the triangle outwards and check its straight edges are aligned with the larger piece. Check the unit's size – it should be the same size as the original skin piece.

Fig J Making Unit **f+g** for the head section

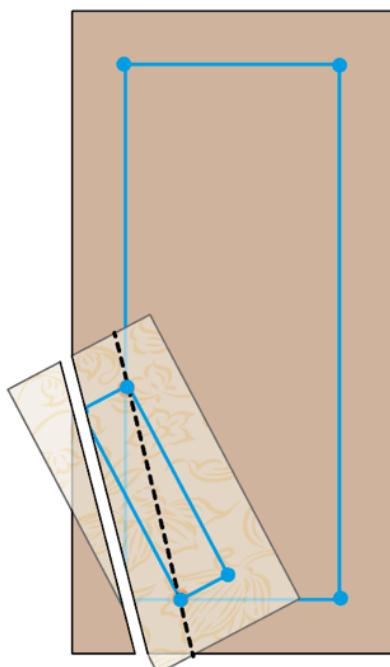
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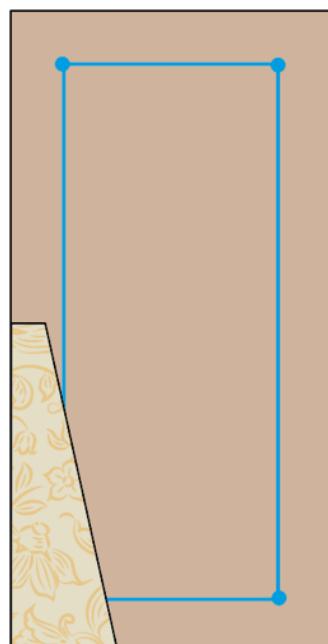
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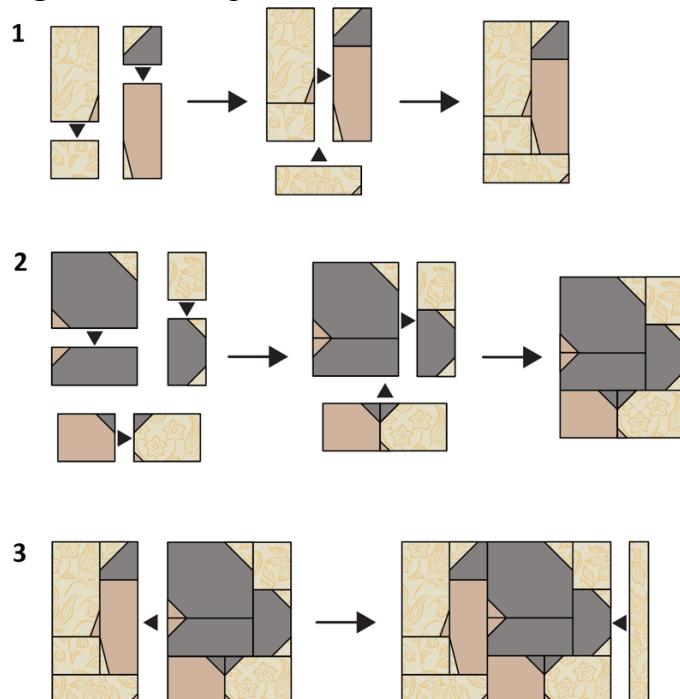


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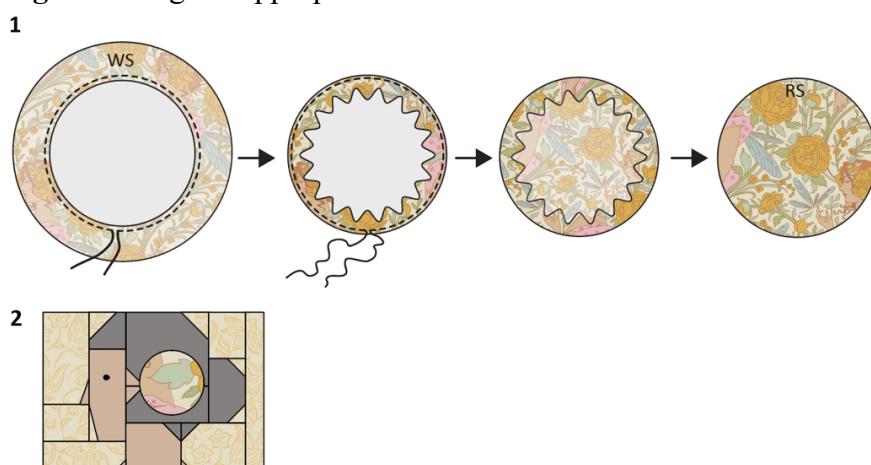
16 Once all the units for the head section have been made, lay them out in the correct order and sew them together following the stages shown in **Fig K**. Press seams open or to one side. Once sewn, the head section should measure 6½in x 4¾in (16.5cm x 12cm) (unfinished).

Fig K Assembling the head section



17 Make the appliqué circle for the hair as follows. A card and gathered thread technique is easy to do. Cut a 1¾in (4.4cm) diameter circle from stiff card. Take the 2¼in (5.7cm) diameter circle of print fabric cut earlier and place the card circle in the centre of the fabric on the wrong side. Mark the card circle (**Fig L 1**). Remove the card for the moment. Using a strong, doubled thread, hand sew a gathering stitch all around this marked inner circle, slightly *outside* of the marked line. Leave tails of thread. 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 remove the card. Press again from the right side using a little spray starch if you wish. Using a matching colour of hand sewing thread and small slip stitches, sew the circle in place on the lady's hair and press (**Fig L 2**). Add the French knot eye using six strands of stranded cotton wrapped twice around the needle. Do *not* sew the button in place yet.

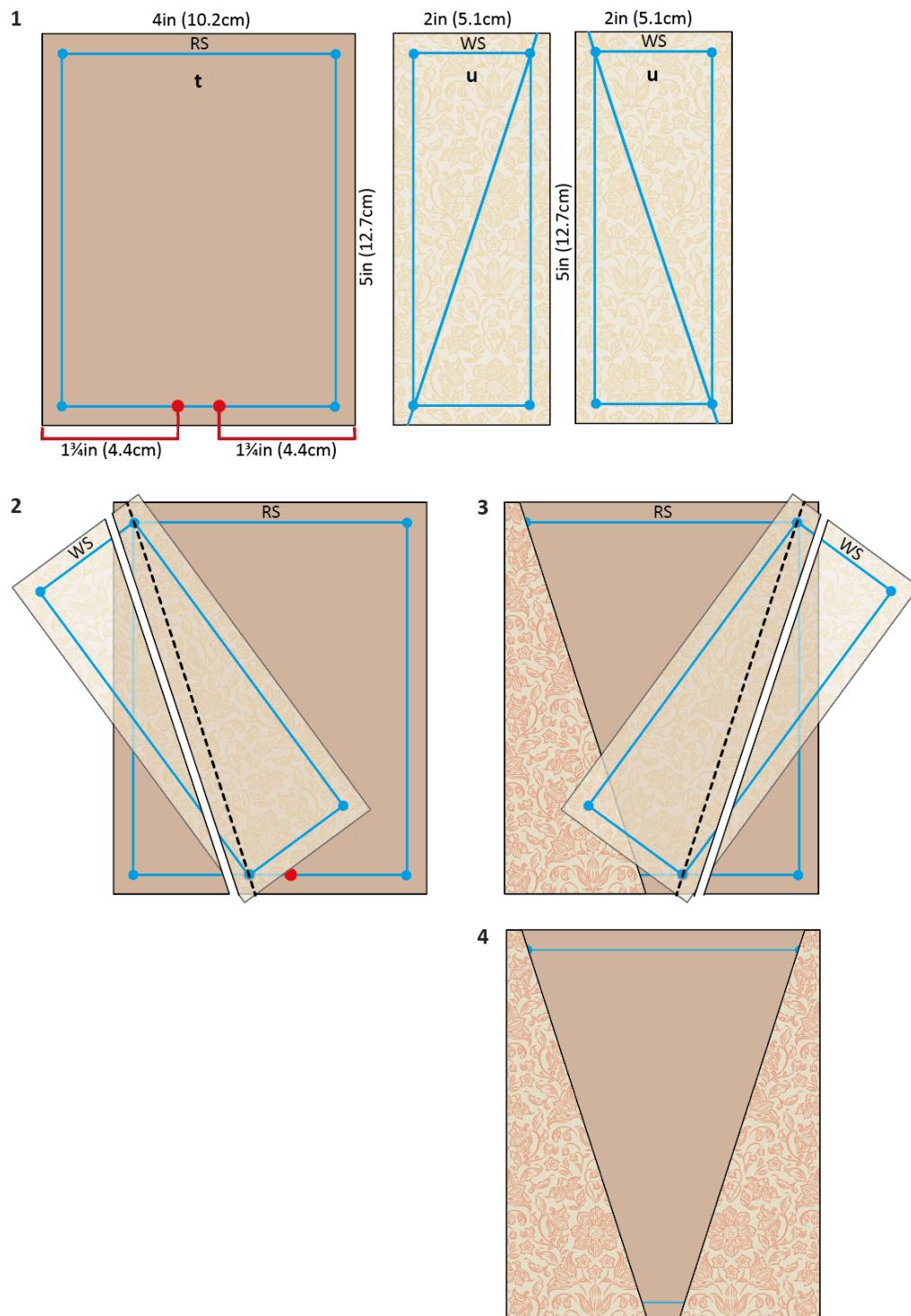
Fig L Making the appliqué circle



Making the Chest Section

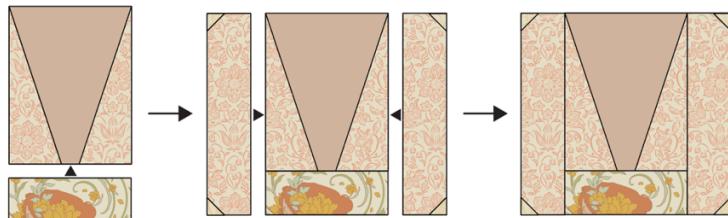
18 The chest section also has a unit with oblong corner triangles, to create the V shape for the neck of the dress. Make Unit **t+u+u**, using the same technique as the previous units, but closely following the measurements and position of the red dots shown in **Fig M 1**. The larger piece of fabric (**t**) is the skin and the smaller pieces (**u**) are print fabric pieces for the dress. There are two angles for this unit. Add the smaller pieces one at a time, as shown in **Fig M 2** and then **Fig M 3**, marking the dots, angling, pinning, sewing the diagonal line and trimming excess, as before. As it is sewn, press each triangle outwards and check the straight edges are aligned with the larger piece. Check the unit's size – it should be the same size as the original skin piece (**Fig M 4**).

Fig M Making Unit **t+u+u** for the chest section



19 To finish the chest section, make the two units for the chest that need corner triangles and then arrange all of the units as shown in **Fig N**. Sew them together following the stages shown in the diagram. Press seams open or to one side. Once sewn, the chest section should measure $6\frac{1}{2}\text{in} \times 6\frac{1}{4}\text{in}$ (16.5cm x 15.9cm) (unfinished).

Fig N Assembling the chest section

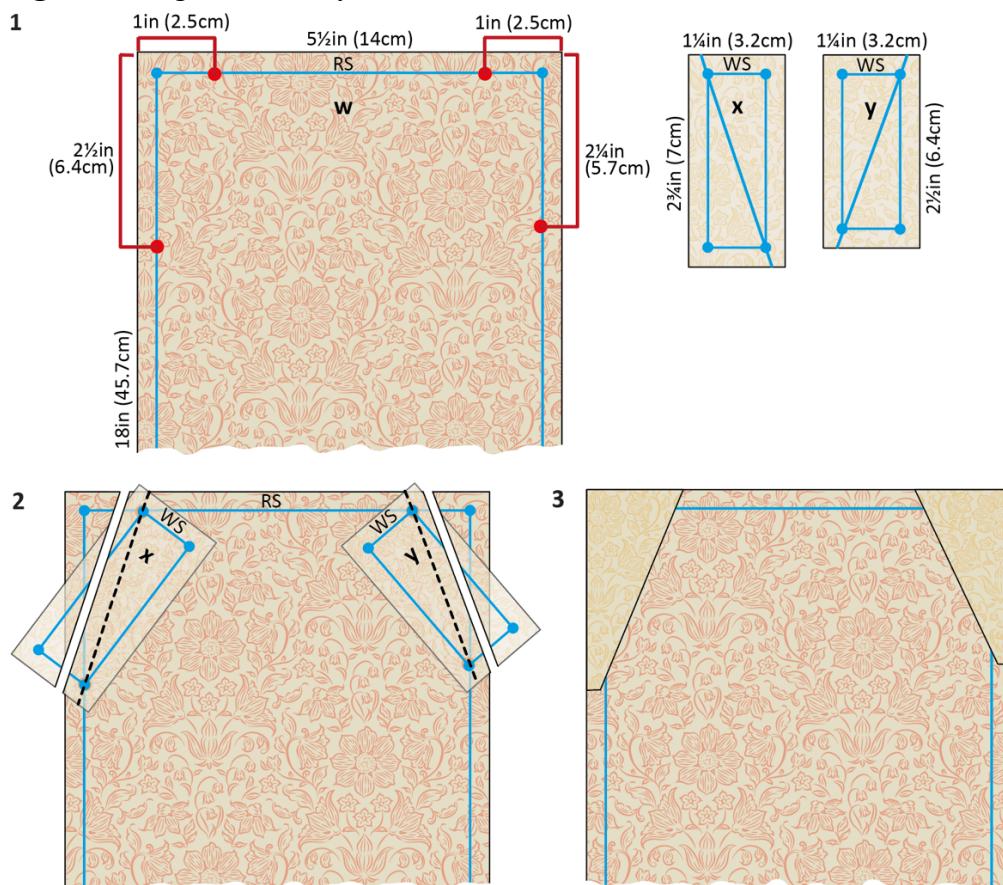


Making the Skirt Section

20 The skirt section also has a unit with oblong corner triangles, to create the shape for the tummy and bottom. Note that these two triangles are different heights, so don't confuse them. Make Unit **w+x+y**, using the same technique as the previous units, but closely following the measurements and position of the red dots shown in **Fig O 1**. The larger piece of fabric (**w**) is the print fabric of the skirt and the smaller pieces (**x** and **y**) are background fabric. (Note: the whole length of the skirt piece isn't shown as it's very long.) There are two angles for this unit. The smaller pieces can be added at the same time, as they do not touch each other.

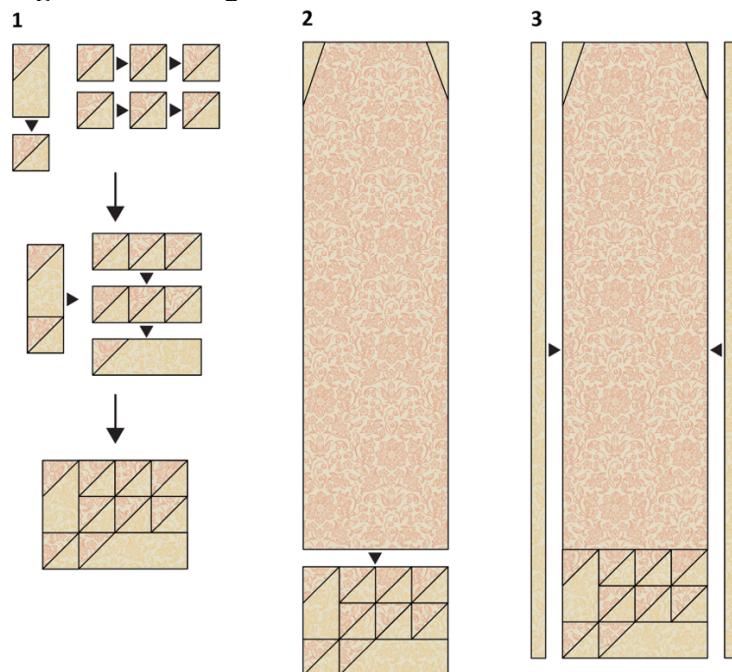
Follow **Fig O 2** for angling, pinning, sewing the diagonal lines and trimming excess. Press each triangle outwards and check the straight edges are aligned with the larger piece. Check the unit's size – it should be the same size as the original dress fabric piece (**Fig O 3**).

Fig O Making Unit **w+x+y** for the skirt section



21 Now make the HST units for the skirt section (seven in total), referring to Step 10 and **Fig G** if needed. Make the two units that need corner triangles and then arrange all the units as in **Fig P**. Sew them together following the stages in the diagram. Press seams open or to one side. Once sewn, the skirt section should measure $6\frac{1}{2}$ in x $21\frac{3}{4}$ in (16.5cm x 55.2cm) (unfinished).

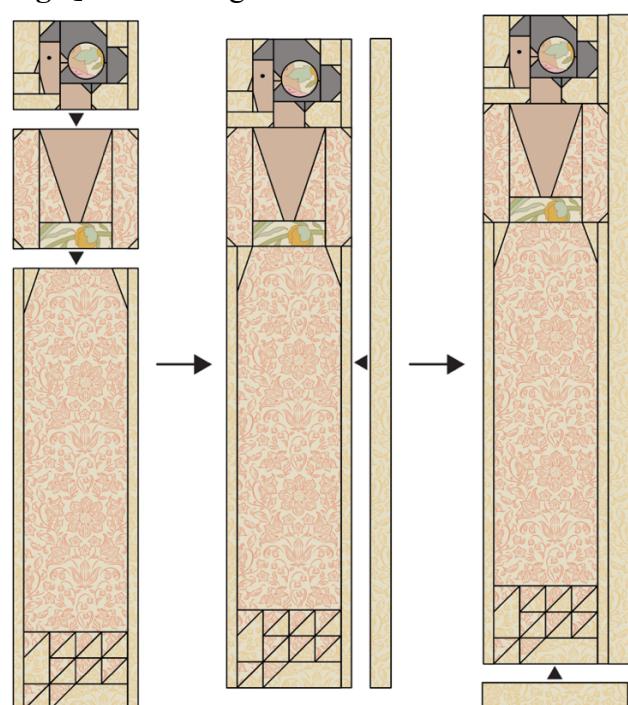
Fig P Assembling the skirt section



Assembling the Block

22 When all of the sections for a block are made, follow **Fig Q** to sew the sections together. Once sewn, the block should measure $7\frac{1}{2}$ in x $33\frac{1}{4}$ in (19cm x 84.5cm) (unfinished).

Fig Q Assembling the block



23 Make the other fifteen blocks in the same way, following **Fig D** for the correct colours. Note that for the right-facing blocks the pieces will be reversed (flipped), so take care to place them correctly before sewing.

Assembling the Quilt

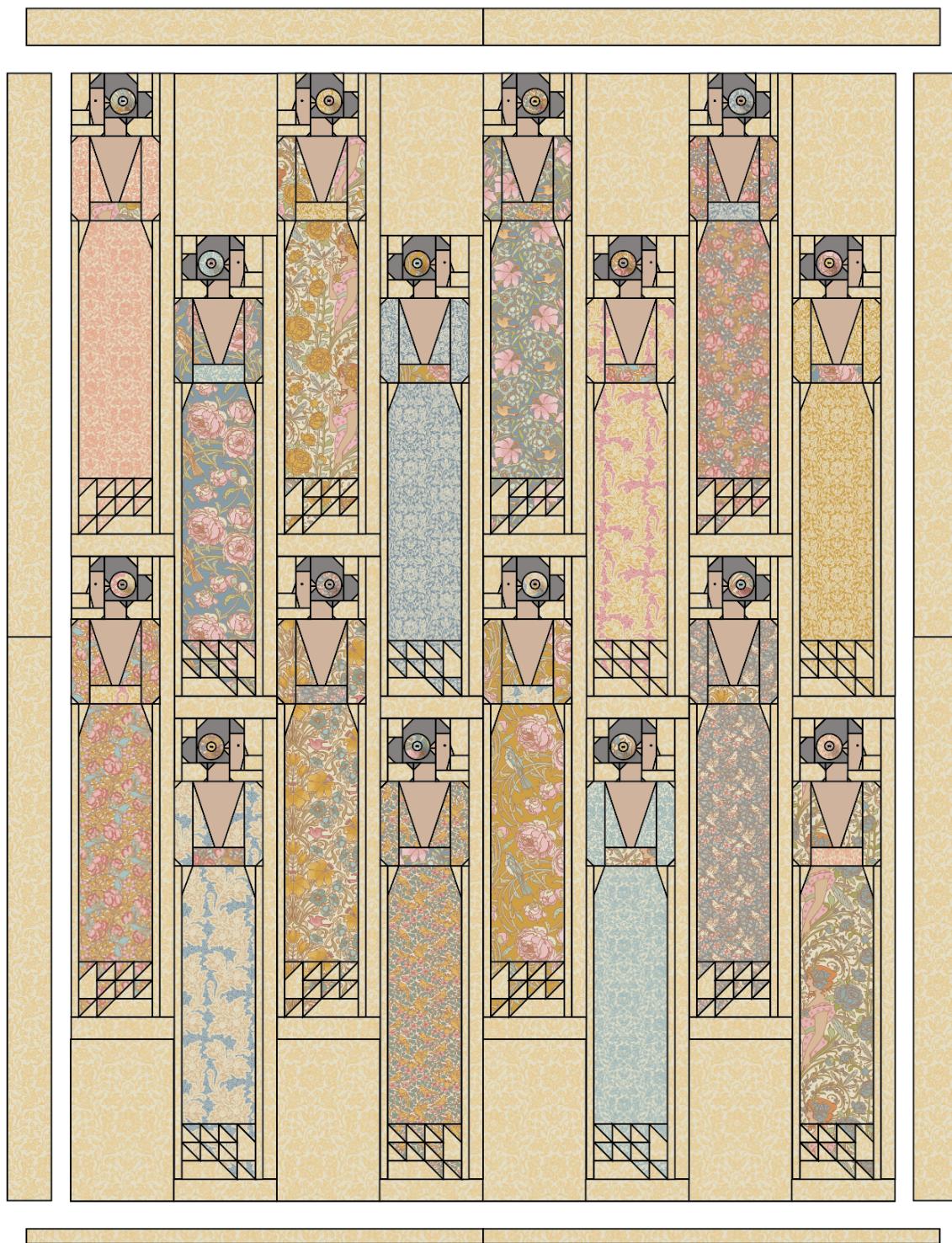
24 The quilt is assembled in columns. Follow **Fig R** carefully, laying out the block columns as shown, plus the sashings pieces needed. (See also **Fig D** for the block positions.) Using $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seams, sew each column together in turn and press seams open or to one side. Each sewn column should measure 77in (195.6cm) long.

Fig R Assembling the quilt columns



25 Now sew the columns together, pressing seams to one side (**Fig S**). Add the side borders and press seams outwards. Add the top and bottom borders and press seams outwards.

Fig S Sewing the columns together and adding the border



Adding the Buttons

26 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, sew them in place by hand on the appliquéd circles, using matching sewing thread.

Quilting and Finishing

27 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.

28 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.

29 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.

30 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 elegant quilt is finished.

Soirée Quilt

Circle appliqué
Actual size

Includes a $\frac{1}{8}$ in (6mm)
seam allowance for
turned-edge appliqué

