



Diamonds and Chains Quilt

(using Alison Glass and Dimples fabrics)



Approx. finished size: 48" by 48"

By Valerie Nesbitt

Fabrics requirements:

1 pack (20 squares) x 10" squares of Alison Glass and Dimples fabrics

Background fabric – 1.5m (includes border)

Contrast border fabric – 50cm

Workshop Notes

This is an easy block created from half-square triangle units and 4-patch corners that create a visual chain of colour across the quilt.

A 10" finished block has been used, which means each unit is 2.5" finished. HOWEVER, as the block is 4 units x 4 units it is very easy to upsize; to make a 12" finished block therefore the units need to be 3" finished.

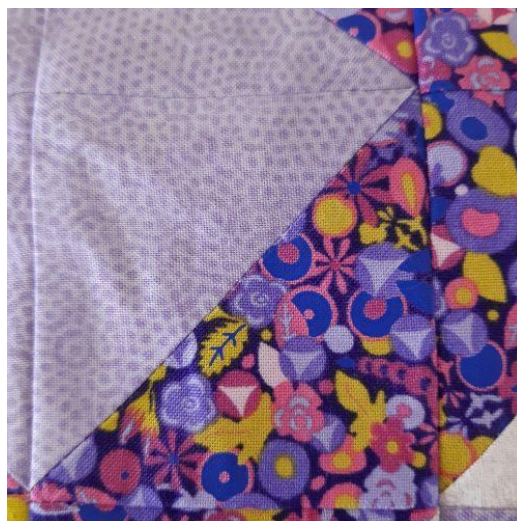
Sewing: it is assumed where appropriate that a ¼" seam allowance is used.

Construction per block

HALF SQUARE TRIANGLE UNITS: using 2.5" finished paper Thangles method:



Outer blocks
Background and pattern



Centre Blocks
Dimples and Pattern

Take a strip of colour fabric cut 3" wide and lay it right side down on top of background fabric, also cut at 3" wide

Pin Thangles papers into place;

sew on the dotted line;

cut on the solid lines;

tear off paper ;

make 8 units of this colourway.

Assuming you are making a different colour way for the centre you need also need to make 4 units (as per above), in those two colours.

FOUR PATCH:



Calculation for 4patch:

You always take the **finished size** of the unit and divide it:

So 2.5" divided in half – for the four patch gives 1.25"

THEN you add the seam allowance i.e. 1/2" so gives a strip to cut of 1.75"

Take strip of each colour (cut at 1.75") and sew together down the length; cut apart into units (at 1.75") while still closed – you get a better result.

You need a total of 8 units which when sewn together will create four 4 patch units for the corners/chain effect.

Finger press.

Block Construction

Place all the units for the block in front of you ready for sewing.
Sew together in rows – take care on the points.
Think about how this will be pressed later and sew so that you enable this.
Open those centre seams, to even up the bulk.
Once the block is sewn, you can give it a press – I like to use Best Press.
The Quilt sample has 9 blocks.



Quilt Construction

The 9-block quilt is finished by using vertical sashing of the background fabric which is cut 3" wide with 3" (cut size) cornerstones cut from a contrasting fabric. Measure your block (now that it has been pressed) and cut the sashing that length!
Add vertical sashing to all the rows – remember which is which with the help of a pin in the to the top left-hand corner of each row.
Create horizontal sashing from 3 sashing strips and 2 cornerstones.
With just 3 rows I add this either side of the middle row – I find I get less confused! – remember that pin in the top left-hand corner of the row as your marker when you've done this.
Add row 1 above it and then row 3 below.
Press

Add borders:



1st border was cut 3" with just 4 corners of the contrast fabric (same as cornerstones in the sashing)
2nd border was cut 2.5" from contrast border fabric (so slightly smaller) again with corner stones but this time of the background fabric.
3rd border was cut 4" with 4" cornerstones from contrast border fabric.

Always measure these borders/mark them somehow - so you don't get wavy edges; don't just sew them into place as the fabric has a degree of stretch and the quilt is getting a little heavy at this stage.
Always add the quilt to the border strip – again you get a better result, and you will avoid the quilt slipping away and your sewing missing it!

ALTERNATIVE COLOUR OPTIONS.

Obviously make as many blocks as you feel you would like – easy to calculate as the blocks are 10" finished and the sashing just 2.5" finished.

A British Single bed quilt – including borders is approx. 60" x 90"

©Valerie Nesbitt 2021