Carolyn Gibbs Quilts

Patchwork and Quilting talks, workshops and instruction kits.

19 Wood Lane Close, Sheffield S6 5LY.
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Easter Morning

This beautiful block is ideal to practice advanced techniques using a striped fabric with a complex design to its full advantage.

It shows how careful cutting and pressing can ensure the most effective placing of the stripes, with precise matching.





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Outer units

Decide on placement of stripe for outer sections:

Consider:

- Cut a mask to help you decide which portion of a multi-striped fabric will look best in your chosen location; for this project, a right-angled triangle shaped hole which is 2 ” along on the short edge, and 3” long on the long edge will show you the finished shape of each outer border section.
- Lay over various possible areas, and use a mirror to assess the effect of reversing the design down the short edge. This is how the units join on the block diagonals.
- Which colour/width of stripe will go best at the centre, where the stripe pattern is mirror-imaged? Avoid a broad one, as this will be too dominant when reflected.
- For this, aim for the seam line in the *middle* of a stripe, not at the edge.
- It doesn’t matter too much what is at the other edge - ideally check that it is a colour which will show up against the plain fabric to give a crisp triangle point.
- Remember that your finished triangle will be 2” wide, and that you need to add a seam allowance of ¼” onto this selected seam position on one side, and ⅝” onto the other side (more is needed as this is the long triangle point) (and that neither of these will be seen!)
- Cut a piece of paper 2 ⅞ ” wide as a template, and, placing over the card window, mark it with the identified stripes.
- Mark which edge is the central edge, and which edge will be at the triangle point.
- Use this template to cut a 23” long strip which is 2 ⅞” wide, with the stripes as desired.
- Cut into eight identical 2 ⅞” squares.
- Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of each square; half one way, and half the other.



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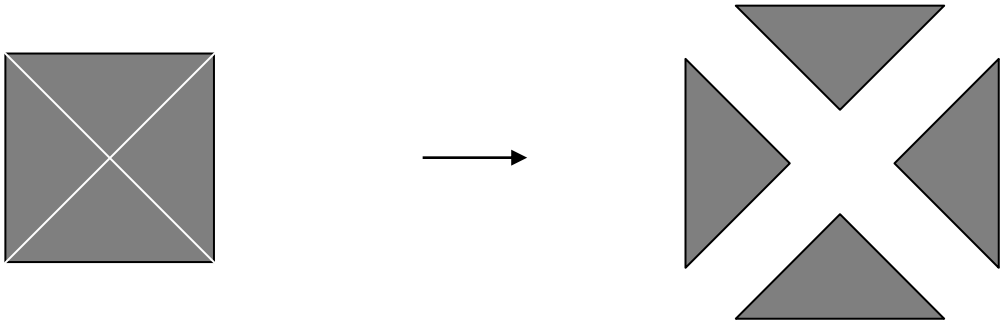
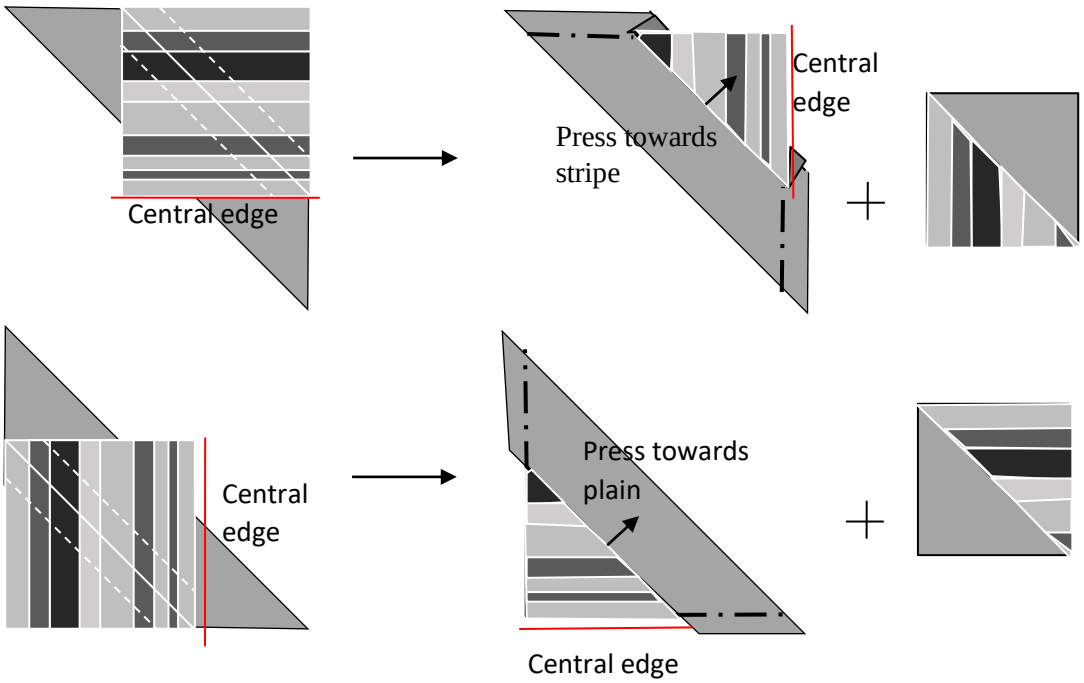
Cut 2 large 8 ⅛" squares from the plain fabric.

Cut each along both diagonals to make eight triangles.



- Place a striped square onto each triangle; half as in the first orientation, and half as the second. Make sure that the selected area to be the central edge is as shown.
- Stitch ¼" away from both sides of the line.



- Cut along the line, and press as shown. You will have made extra half-square triangle units as a by-product.
- Trim in line with the edges of the striped triangle as shown by the dotted lines.
- Again, accuracy can be improved by lining up the 45° line on a quilters ruler along the diagonal edge, and trimming so that the other two edges finish 4 ½".



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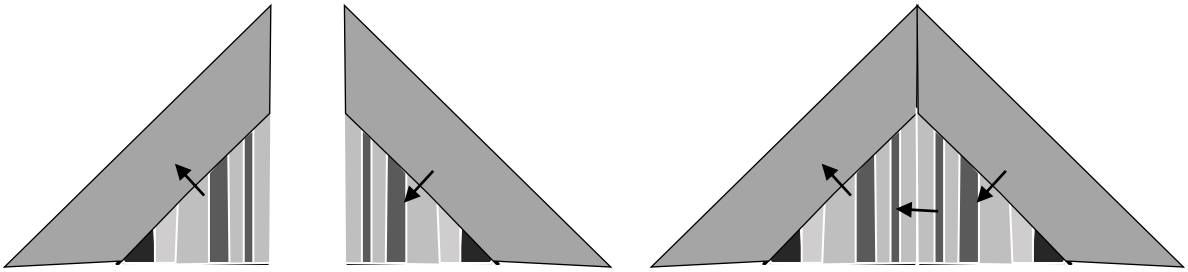
The different placing of the stripes causes mirror-image pairs of units to be made.

Pair them all up, and stitch together along the short side which has a long stripe.



The seams are pressed in opposite directions, so should shuffle flat nicely.

Press the new seam as shown on diagram above on all four units.

Inner units

Decide on placement of stripe for inner sections:

Consider:

- Cut a mask to help you decide which portion of a multi-striped fabric will look best in your chosen location; for this project, a trapezium shaped hole which is 1 ½ ” wide, 6” long on one side, and 3” long on the other side will show you the finished shape of each inner border section.
- Lay over various possible areas, and use a mirror to assess the effect of:
    - reversing the design down the long edge – this will be the centre of the block.
    - Reversing the end at an angle of 45°. This is how the units join on the block diagonals.
- Which colour stripe will go best against plain fabric?
- Which colour/width of stripe will go best at the centre, where the stripe pattern is mirror-imaged? A narrow flash of a contrasting colour looks good as a centre feature, and will be better than a broad one.
- For both of these, aim for the seam line in the *middle* of a stripe, not at the edge.

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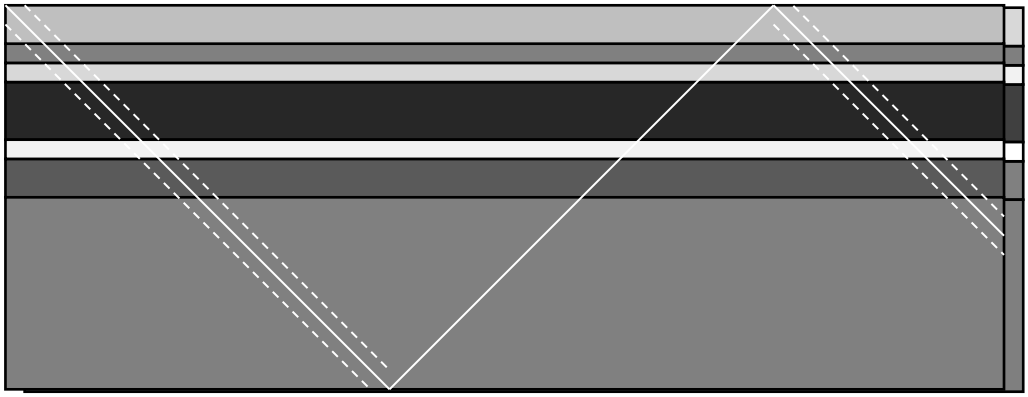
- Remember that your finished piece will be 1 ½" wide, and that you need to add ¼" seam allowance on both sides of your selected portion (and that these will not be seen!)
- Cut a piece of paper 2" wide as a template, and, placing over the card window, mark it with the identified stripes.
- Mark which edge is the central edge, and which edge is going to join to the plain.

Cut two 28" x 2" wide strips from both the plain and striped fabrics, as decided above. As you need eight multiples of 7", consider this if you can't cut it all in one strip, and cut it longer if necessary.

Place each plain strip on top of a striped strip, right sides together, and with the striped side up, stitch together down one edge with ¼" seam.

- Make sure you are stitching the correct edge of the stripe – i.e. NOT the centre edge!
- Aim for a consistent seamline position relative to the visible stripe.
- Press one strip-pair behind the striped fabric, and press one strip-pair behind the plain fabric.
- On the wrong side of the paired strips with the seam pressed towards the striped strip, draw a line at 45° across the strip, starting at the corner.
  Use a ruler with a 45° line placed along the strip seam to do this
- Continue to draw zig-zagging lines at 45°, as shown in the diagram below – I have only shown part of the strip-pair, but you should fit six diagonal lines on each.
- Now place each marked strip on top of one of the remaining paired strips (those that have the seam pressed towards the plain fabric), right sides together; stripy fabric on top of stripy fabric. Shuffle the opposing seams to nestle together.





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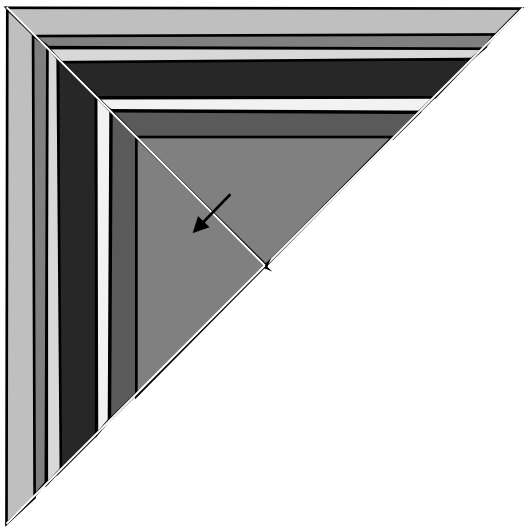
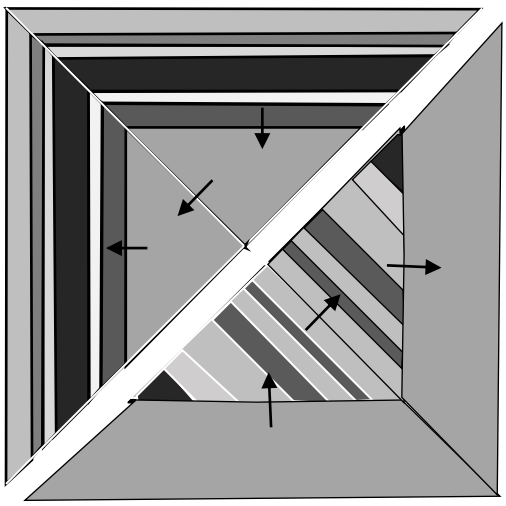
- Put a pin down the edge of one of the strips in an area just away from a marked line.
- Open up carefully, and see whether it is matched to the edge of the strip below.
- If it isn't quite lined up, adjust until it is.
- When the line-up is perfect, it is, then pin others similarly.
- Now stitch ¼" away from each side of *every other* marked line.
- Cut along the lines, and open out to form triangles.
- Check stripe match is perfect before pressing all of the seams the same way as shown.
- Press carefully, ensuring that the outer edges are at a 90° angle by lining up the unit on the grid on a "Cut and Press" board.
- *(Note that you have also made the same units with the stripe in the reverse position). These are not needed, but you could use them to make another block.*





Now join the two types of unit together; all the seams should meet pressed in the opposite direction.

Press two units with the new seam towards the inner units, and two towards the outer units.

Four of these are then joined to form the completed block, with the diagonal seams alternating as shown:

