

Fletcher

a free
quilt
pattern



shiny happy world

Fletcher is a great introduction to using diagonal lines in your quilts. I designed it especially for beginners, which makes it an easy and relaxing pattern for more experienced quilters.

I use an easy technique that minimizes any bias stretch on those diagonal seams - and leaves you with a bunch of leftover half-square triangles you can use on the quilt back.

Easy and thrifty.

That's my kind of quilt. :-)

shiny happy world

Instructions

Throughout the pattern you'll see some phrases in the instructions in **purple**. That means they link to free online video tutorials showing you exactly how to do that step of the project. If you're viewing this on your computer or tablet, just click the link. If you're working from a printout of the pattern, go to www.shinyhappyworld.com. Click on the **Quilting Lessons** tab at the top of the page and you'll find all the quilting tutorial links in one handy place. You can totally do this!

Special Tools

I recommend using a 1/4" foot for all sewing. It doesn't come with most sewing machines, but it usually costs less than \$10 (price will depend on your machine) and *it's totally worth it*. It will make your piecing much more accurate and eliminate potential headaches in all the quilts you make. I show what it is **in this video**.

Fabric

Don't use stretchy fabrics! Hit the Quilting Cottons section of any fabric store and you'll be in the right stuff.

I recommend using a mix of fabrics in two colors - plus a third solid. You can see in my sample that the columns alternate between blue/green prints and pink/orange prints, both paired with solid black sections.

All the prints in my quilt are from the Mixteca collection from Cloud9 Fabric, paired with solid black. It's bold and dramatic and I love it.

But the quilt would also be beautiful in soft pastels. How about green and yellow prints paired with soft grey?

Or go for a more traditional look by using white for your solid.

Whatever you do, it's going to look pretty awesome. :-)

The next section of the pattern is the cutting instructions. If you need a tutorial about rotary cutting, you can **find one here**. Find the size quilt you want to make and cut out all your pieces. You did already wash and iron your fabric, right? Definitely do that first!

After you cut up all your fabric breathe a big sigh of relief. The hardest part is over! The rest is fun, fun, fun! Turn to the piecing instructions at the end and sew everything together. Use 1/4 inch seam allowances everywhere.

Ready? Let's make this quilt!

Fabric requirements

Most fabric is 40-44 inches wide and all yardage requirements and cutting instructions are based on that. If you've bought extra-wide fabric, you'll need to make adjustments.

Crib Quilt (48" wide x 61" tall)

- 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ yard black fabric
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ yards pink fabrics (use a variety or scraps)
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ yards blue fabrics (use a variety or scraps)
- 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ yards for backing (plus scraps)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ yard for binding

Napping Quilt (60" wide x 72" tall)

- 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ yard black fabric
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards pink fabrics (use a variety or scraps)
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards blue fabrics (use a variety or scraps)
- 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ yards for backing (plus scraps)
- $\frac{5}{8}$ yard for binding

Twin Quilt (66" wide x 83" tall)

- 3 $\frac{5}{8}$ yard black fabric
- 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ yards pink fabrics (use a variety or scraps)
- 2 yards blue fabrics (use a variety or scraps)
- 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards for backing (plus scraps)
- $\frac{5}{8}$ yard for binding

Queen Quilt (84" wide x 94" tall)

- 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ yard black fabric
- 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ yards pink fabrics (use a variety or scraps)
- 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ yards blue fabrics (use a variety or scraps)
- 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ yards for backing (plus scraps)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ yard for binding

King Quilt (108" wide x 94" tall)

- 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ yard black fabric
- 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards pink fabrics (use a variety or scraps)
- 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards blue fabrics (use a variety or scraps)
- 5 $\frac{5}{8}$ yards for backing (plus scraps)
- $\frac{7}{8}$ yard for binding

Ready for cutting? Turn to the size you want to make and follow the instructions.

Crib Quilt

48" wide x 61" tall

8 columns



Black Fabric

Cut 12 strips 6 1/2" wide the entire width of the fabric (from selvedge to selvedge).
From 10 of the strips cut 20 rectangles, each 17" long x 6 1/2" wide.
From 2 of the strips cut 8 squares 6 1/2" on each side.

Pink Fabric

Cut 6 strips 6 1/2" wide the entire width of the fabric (from selvedge to selvedge).
From those strips cut 12 rectangles, each 17" long x 6 1/2" wide.

Blue Fabric

Cut 6 strips 6 1/2" wide the entire width of the fabric (from selvedge to selvedge).
From 4 of the strips cut 8 rectangles, each 17" long x 6 1/2" wide.
From 2 of the strips cut 8 squares 6 1/2" on each side.

Binding

Cut 6 strips 2 1/4 inches wide, the full width of the fabric.

Backing

Cut 1 piece 70" long. Cut 2 strips 4 1/2" wide, the full width of the fabric.

Napping Quilt

60" wide x 72" tall

10 columns



Black Fabric

Cut 17 strips 6 1/2" wide the entire width of the fabric (from selvedge to selvedge).
From 15 of the strips cut 30 rectangles, each 17" long x 6 1/2" wide.
From 2 of the strips cut 10 squares 6 1/2" on each side.

Pink Fabric

Cut 9 strips 6 1/2" wide the entire width of the fabric (from selvedge to selvedge).
From 8 of the strips cut 15 rectangles, each 17" long x 6 1/2" wide.
From 1 of the strips cut 5 squares 6 1/2" on each side.

Blue Fabric

Cut 9 strips 6 1/2" wide the entire width of the fabric (from selvedge to selvedge).
From 8 of the strips cut 15 rectangles, each 17" long x 6 1/2" wide.
From 1 of the strips cut 5 squares 6 1/2" on each side.

Binding

Cut 7 strips 2 1/4 inches wide, the full width of the fabric.

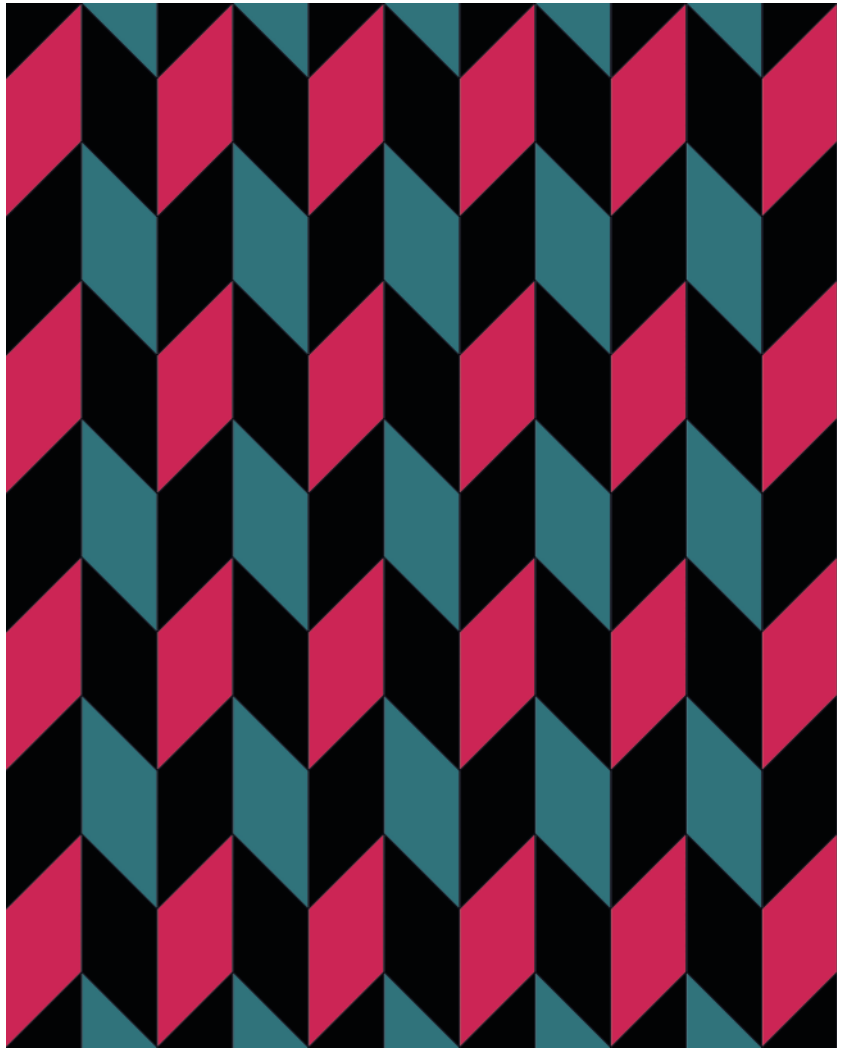
Backing

Cut 1 piece 80" long. Cut 2 strips 5 1/2" wide, the full width of the fabric.

Twin Quilt

66" wide x 83" tall

11 columns



Black Fabric

Cut 21 strips 6 1/2" wide the entire width of the fabric (from selvedge to selvedge).
From 19 of the strips cut 38 rectangles, each 17" long x 6 1/2" wide.
From 2 of the strips cut 12 squares 6 1/2" on each side.

Pink Fabric

Cut 12 strips 6 1/2" wide the entire width of the fabric (from selvedge to selvedge).
From those strips cut 24 rectangles, each 17" long x 6 1/2" wide.

Blue Fabric

Cut 10 strips 6 1/2" wide the entire width of the fabric (from selvedge to selvedge).
From 8 of the strips cut 15 rectangles, each 17" long x 6 1/2" wide.
From 2 of the strips cut 10 squares 6 1/2" on each side.

Binding

Cut 8 strips 2 1/4 inches wide, the full width of the fabric.

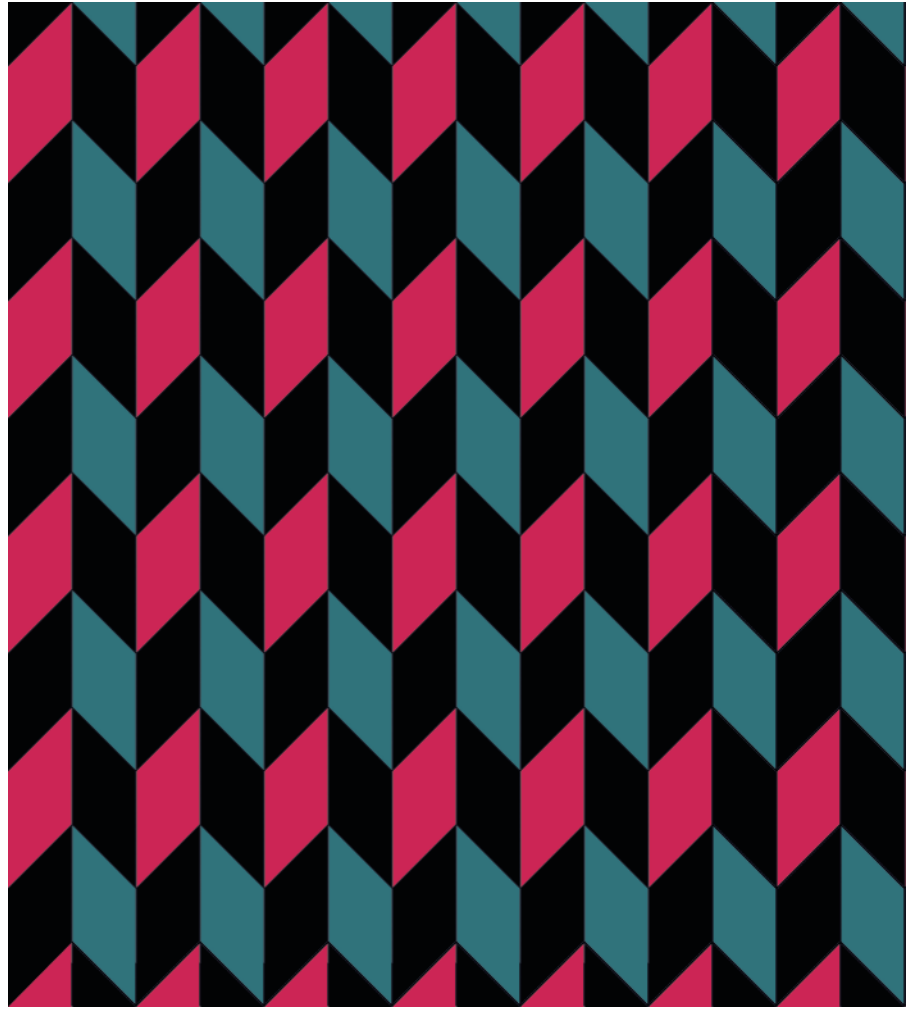
Backing

Cut 1 piece 90" long. Cut 3 strips 10 1/2" wide, the full width of the fabric.

Queen Quilt

84" wide x 94" tall

14 columns



Black Fabric

Cut 31 strips 6 1/2" wide the entire width of the fabric (from selvedge to selvedge).

From 28 of the strips cut 56 rectangles, each 17" long x 6 1/2" wide.

From 3 of the strips cut 14 squares 6 1/2" on each side.

Pink Fabric

Cut 16 strips 6 1/2" wide the entire width of the fabric (from selvedge to selvedge).

From 14 of the strips cut 28 rectangles, each 17" long x 6 1/2" wide.

From 2 of the strips cut 7 squares 6 1/2" on each side.

Blue Fabric

Cut 16 strips 6 1/2" wide the entire width of the fabric (from selvedge to selvedge).

From 14 of the strips cut 28 rectangles, each 17" long x 6 1/2" wide.

From 2 of the strips cut 7 squares 6 1/2" on each side.

Binding

Cut 9 strips 2 1/4 inches wide, the full width of the fabric.

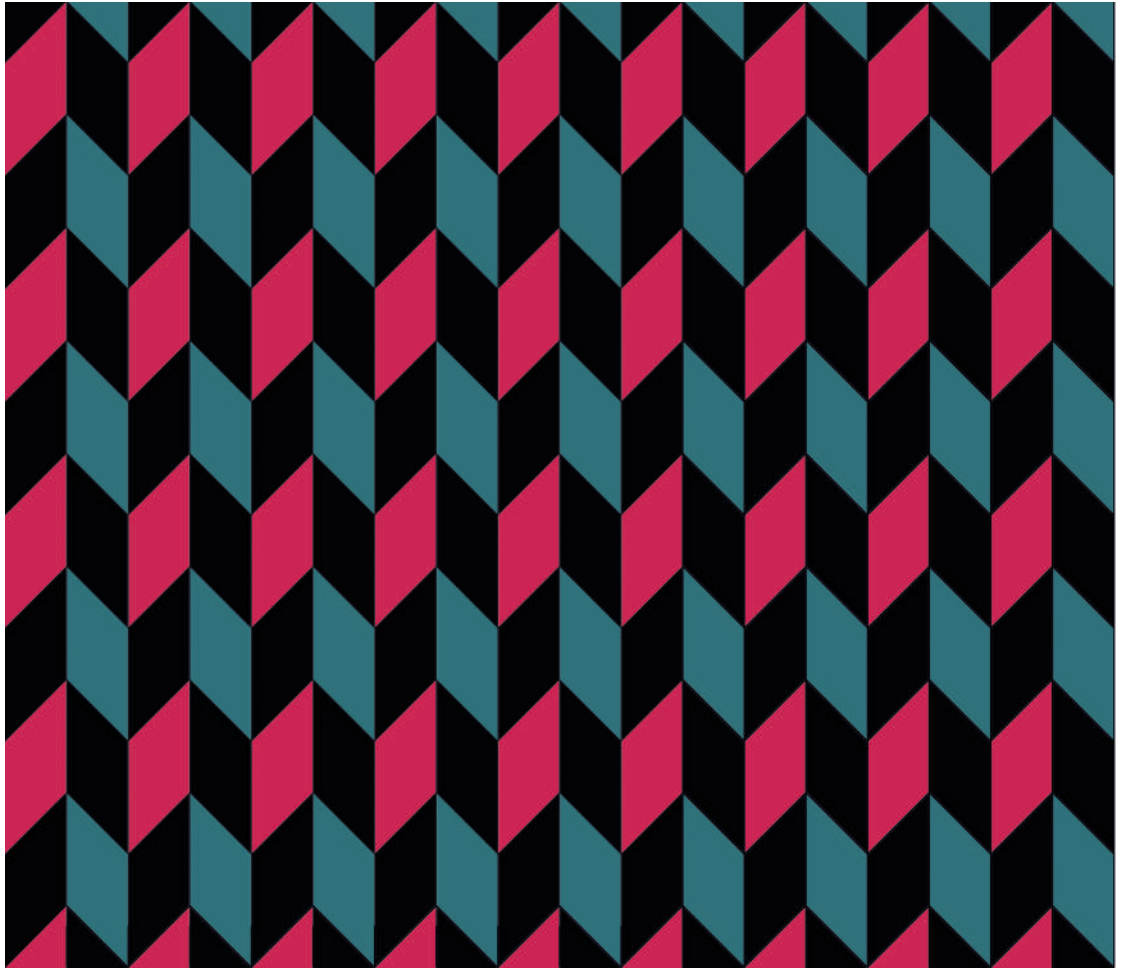
Backing

Cut 1 piece 100" long. Cut a second piece 50" long, then cut it in half again so you have two pieces, each approximately 20" wide x 50" long.

King Quilt

108" wide x 94" tall

18 columns



Black Fabric

Cut 39 strips 6 1/2" wide the entire width of the fabric (from selvedge to selvedge).
From 36 of the strips cut 72 rectangles, each 17" long x 6 1/2" wide.
From 3 of the strips cut 18 squares 6 1/2" on each side.

Pink Fabric

Cut 20 strips 6 1/2" wide the entire width of the fabric (from selvedge to selvedge).
From 18 of the strips cut 36 rectangles, each 17" long x 6 1/2" wide.
From 2 of the strips cut 9 squares 6 1/2" on each side.

Blue Fabric

Cut 20 strips 6 1/2" wide the entire width of the fabric (from selvedge to selvedge).
From 18 of the strips cut 36 rectangles, each 17" long x 6 1/2" wide.
From 2 of the strips cut 9 squares 6 1/2" on each side.

Binding

Cut 11 strips 2 1/4 inches wide, the full width of the fabric.

Backing

Cut 2 pieces, each 100" long.



Step 1

Line up two rectangles (one solid and one print - right sides together) to form a backwards L as shown in the photo.

Draw a line from corner to corner in the corner of the L. I used white chalk here so it would show up well.

For the pink fabrics you'll do the exact same thing, except the L will not be backwards. That will make the seam slant in the opposite direction.

Step 2

Sew two lines to join the rectangles and also to create a half-square triangle from the corner scraps.

Line #1 is sewn right on the first chalk line I drew in Step 1 - exactly from corner to corner. This is what joins your rectangles.

Line #2 is 1/4" from line #1, toward the corner of the L. I don't usually mark line #2 - just use my presser foot to line it up with the stitching line #1, but I marked it here so you can see it. This is the seam that turns your corner scraps into half-square triangles.



Step 3

Cut the blocks apart between the two seams.

Sewing both seams before cutting them apart helps keep those diagonal bias seams from stretching. Neat, eh?

Step 4

Open up the rectangle strip and **press the seam** toward the darker color.

Keep adding rectangles, alternating between solid and prints, until you have the right number and configuration for one column in the sketch for the size quilt you're making.

We'll get to the square that finishes the end in Step 6.



Step 5

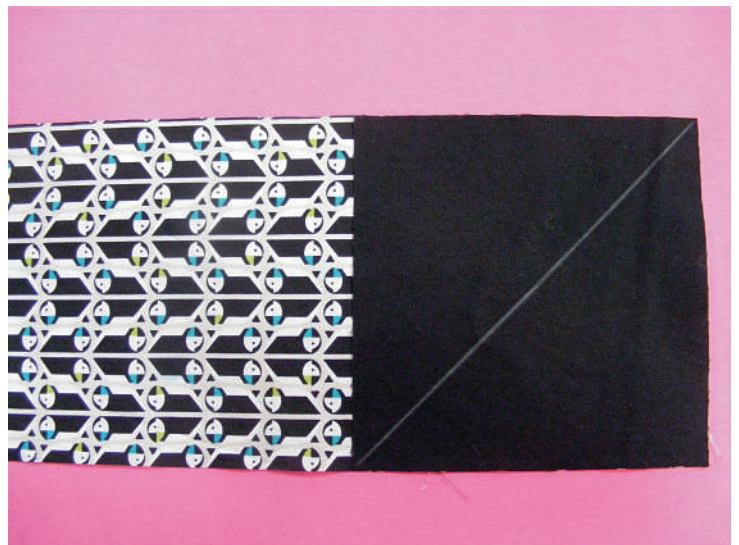
Open up the square and press the seam toward the darker color. It's a half-square triangle.

Set all the half-square triangles aside for now. They'll only be used on the back of the quilt.

Step 6

For the smaller triangles at the top and bottom of each column, sew a square to the column instead of one of the rectangles.

Sew it on exactly the same way you do the rectangles - by marking and sewing a seam from corner to corner of the block. I don't show it here, but you'll also want to sew up a half-square triangle from the scraps, just like Step 2 from the rectangles.



Put It All Together

Ok - now you know how to sew those rectangles and squares together into columns with dramatic angled seams. Go back to the cutting instructions for the size quilt you're making and take a look at the diagram there.

Follow the diagram to make the right number of columns for each color. Make sure your pink angles slant in the opposite direction from your blue angles! I actually check *every single time* before I sew. I just flip the pieces open a bit after I've drawn the sewing line so I can visualize the finished seam and I check the angle against my diagram. Better safe than sorry.

Sew all the columns together to make your quilt top. I pin at each intersection to help keep those seams lined up, then put a couple more pins in the side of each rectangle.

Watch this video for help nesting those seams together.

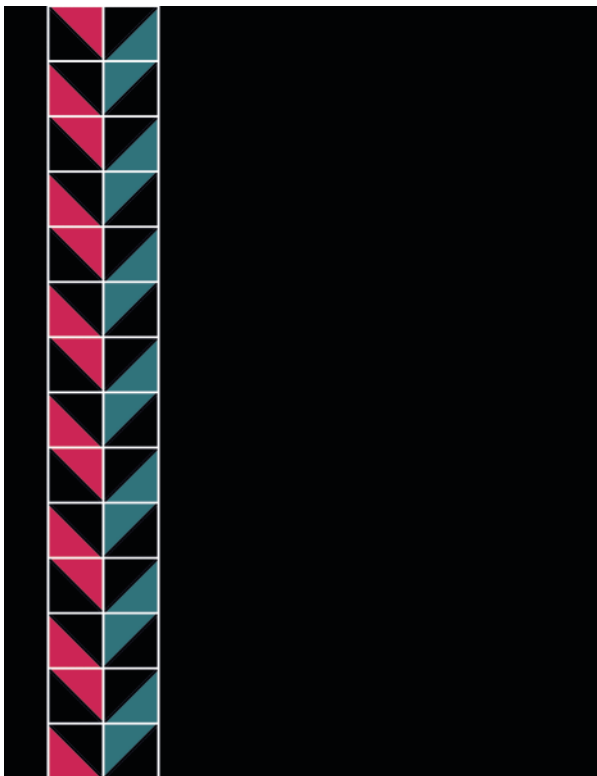
Press it all flat.

Almost there!

Woo hoo! The quilt top is done! Call a friend and brag a little. Maybe take a couple of photos and share them online.

Now it's time to piece together the quilt backing. The back will be a few inches larger than the front all the way around.

You already cut the fabric. Remember? Back at the cutting instructions pages? It was a while ago, I know. :-). Gather up those pieces and all your half-square triangle scraps and follow the diagram for your quilt size.



Crib

Join the 4 1/2" strips together to make the long strip that runs down the left edge.

Join the half-square triangles as shown in the diagram to make the fancy pieced strip in the middle. You'll have some half-square triangle blocks left over - use them to make a matching pillow!

Use the large, full-width section of fabric for the wide strip on the right.

Join the sections together for the complete quilt back.

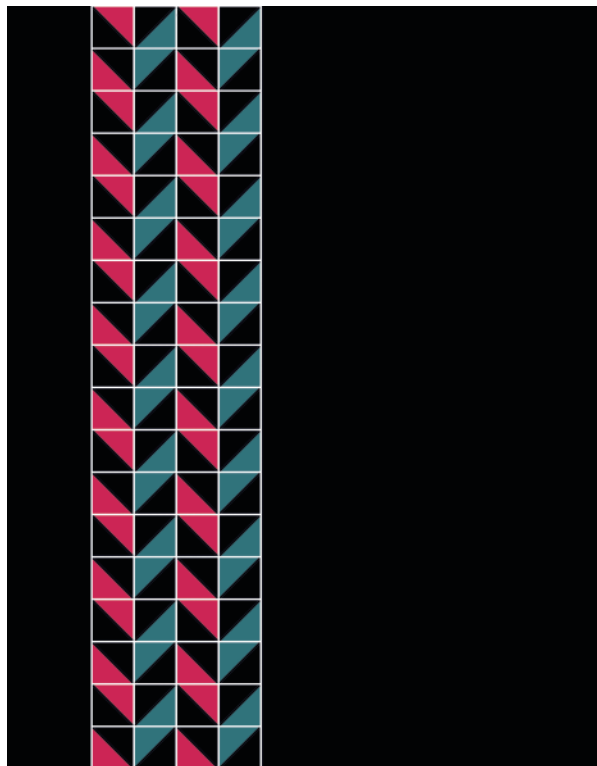
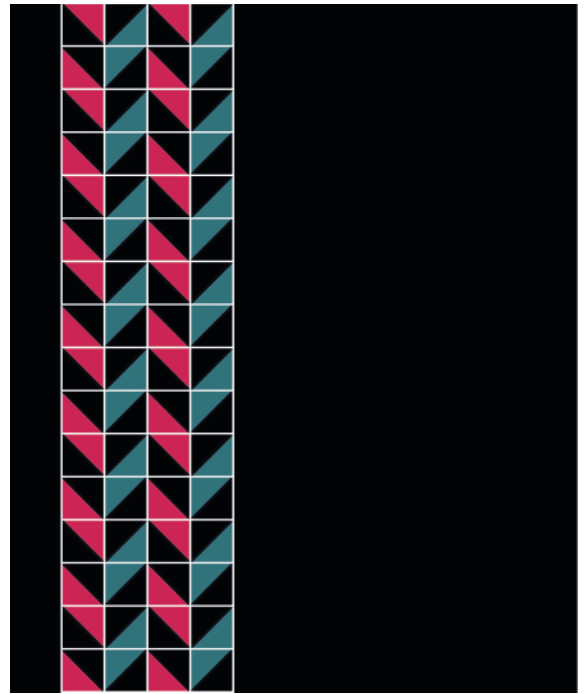
Napping

Join the 5 1/2" strips together to make the long strip that runs down the left edge.

Join the half-square triangles as shown in the diagram to make the fancy pieced strip in the middle. You'll have some half-square triangle blocks left over - use them to make a matching pillow!

Use the large, full-width section of fabric for the wide strip on the right.

Join the sections together for the complete quilt back.



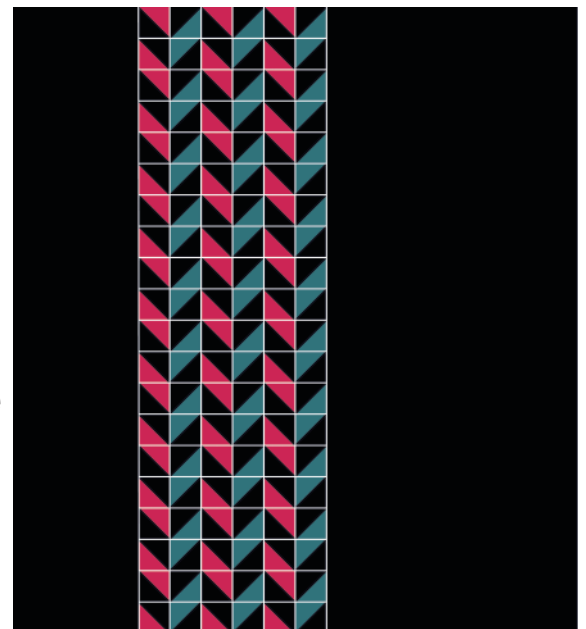
Twin

Join the 10 1/2" strips together to make the long strip that runs down the left edge.

Join the half-square triangles as shown in the diagram to make the fancy pieced strip in the middle. You'll have some half-square triangle blocks left over - use them to make a matching pillow!

Use the large, full-width section of fabric for the wide strip on the right.

Join the sections together for the complete quilt back.



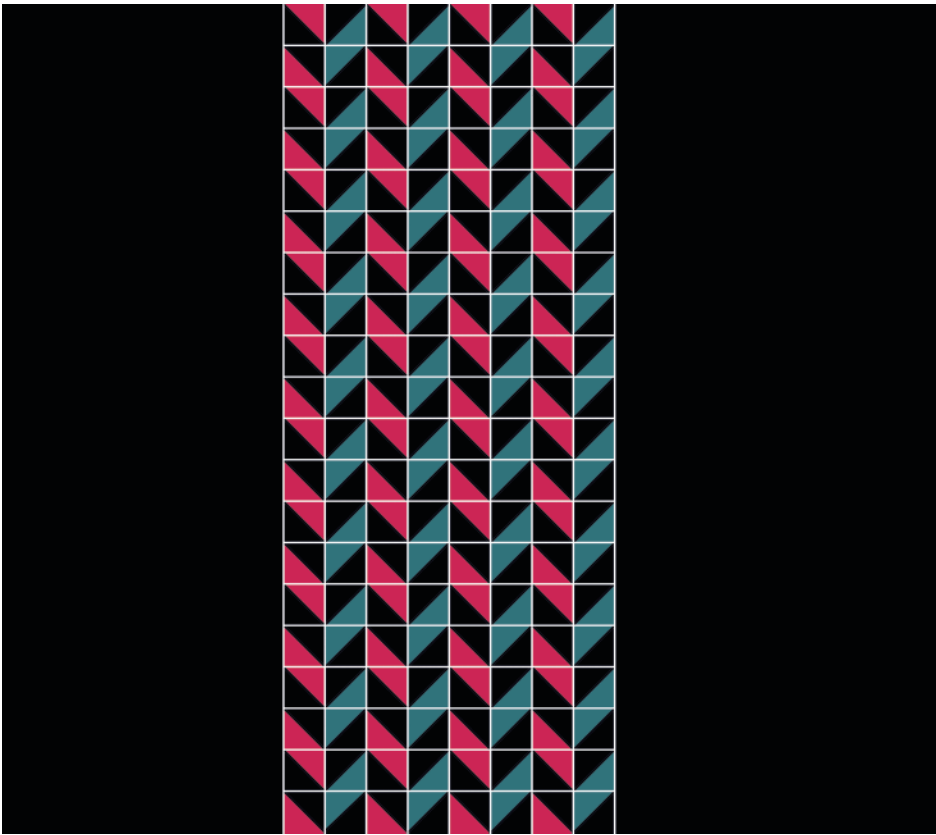
Queen

Join the two 20" x 50" pieces together to make the long 20" x 100" strip that runs down the left edge.

Join the half-square triangles as shown in the diagram to make the fancy pieced strip in the middle. You'll have some half-square triangle blocks left over - use them to make a matching pillow!

Use the large, full-width section of fabric for the wide strip on the right.

Join the sections together for the complete quilt back.



King

Join the half-square triangles as shown in the diagram to make the fancy pieced strip in the middle. You'll have some half-square triangle blocks left over - use them to make a matching pillow!

Use one full-width section of fabric on each side of the fancy pieced strip in the middle. It'll be a few inches wider than you need, but you can save the extra you cut off when you trim the excess backing away.

Join the sections together for the complete quilt back.

Almost done!

You have a front and back - now you need to layer, baste, quilt and bind. Ready?

[Watch this video to see how to layer and baste your quilt sandwich.](#)

[Watch this video to see how to machine quilt.](#) I quilted this one in parallel lines running the length of the quilt - 1 1/2" apart. [This video shows how to quilt perfectly parallel lines.](#)

[Watch this video for some extra info showing how to quilt a big quilt on a standard sewing machine.](#)

[Watch this video to see how to bind your quilt.](#)

Brag a little!

Or a lot. :-) You just made a quilt! Pat yourself on the back. Call everyone you know. Take photos and share them with the world. Especially share them with me - I want to see what you made! Send a photo to me at blockhead@wendigratz.com. Then visit [Shiny Happy World](#) for more patterns, plus lots of free projects and helpful tutorials.

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