

the block to dark at the outside. The manner in which you arrange the strips will determine how scrappy or organized your quilt will look. For an organised look, choose strips that very obviously go from light to dark. For a scrappy look switch the fabrics around with less attention to grading the value of the strips.

**6.** Position the first strip so there is a 2in overhang at the start of the seam. Start sewing  $\frac{1}{2}$ in in from the edge. The extra fabric and the partial seam are required to finish the first round of the hexagon. Place a pin at the beginning of this strip to mark it as the starting point. Fold the strip back and finger press open.

**7.** Take care not to press the block out of shape as the rounds are added to the hexagon. Place the iron on top of the fabric but do not push in any direction. Accurate cutting of the strips and precise  $\frac{1}{4}$ in seams are very important in order to maintain the hexagon shape.

**8.** Using the ruler and rotary cutter, trim the edge of the strip flush with the next side of the hexagon following Diagram 2.

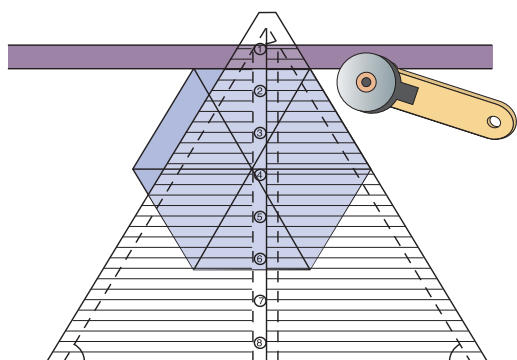


Diagram 2

**9.** Move to the next side of the hexagon, pin the strip of fabric in place and stitch. Fold the strip back and finger press open. Using the ruler and rotary cutter, trim the edge of the strip flush with the next side of the hexagon.

**10.** Continue in the same manner until the last side of the hexagon is reached. Fold the excess strip back so the right sides of the strips are together and stitch. Trim all seams and press flat.

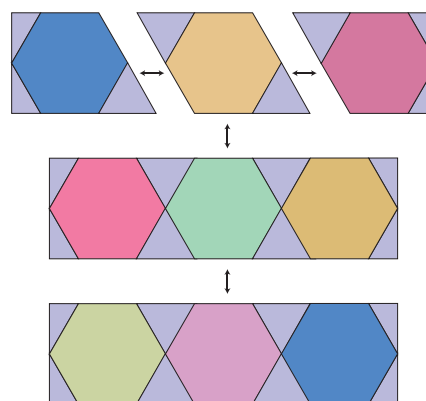
**11.** Add another three rounds of strips in the same manner.

## Assemble the blocks

**1.** Following the photograph of the quilt, arrange the blocks into three rows of three blocks. Distribute the fabrics and colours evenly across the surface of the quilt. It is a good idea at this point to use your design wall so you can rearrange the blocks until you are happy with the colour placement.

**2.** Following the Quilt Assembly Diagram, join the blocks into three rows of three blocks.

**3.** Join the rows, matching the corners of the hexagons carefully and placing diamonds made from two 60-degree triangles between them. Add one triangle at each end of the rows. Press.



Quilt Assembly Diagram

## Add the borders

**1.** Join the five strips of brown fabric together end to end to create one long strip. Measure the width of the quilt through the centre and trim two strips of this length from the long strip. Stitch the strips to the top and bottom edges of the quilt top. Press.

**2.** Measure the length of the quilt through the centre and trim two strips of this length from the remaining long strip of fabric. Stitch to the left and right edges of the quilt top. Press.

**3.** To make Border 2, join triangles cut from the swirl fabrics to make two strips of 25, 60-degree triangles and two strips of 28, 60-degree triangles. It is helpful to develop a pattern to keep the colours balanced.

**4.** Sew a half-triangle to the ends of the strips to make them square.

**5.** Sew the two strips of 28 triangles to the two longer edges of the quilt top and press the seam allowances towards Border 1.

**6.** Stitch one  $3\frac{1}{2}$ in square to either end of the other two borders and press the seam allowances towards squares. Join the strips to the quilt top and press.

## Finish the quilt

**1.** Cut the length of backing fabric in half, remove the selvages and join the two pieces to make a backing with one vertical join. Press the seam allowance open.

**2.** Following the instructions for Preparing the Quilt Sandwich in Basics on page 106, pin or baste the quilt top, batting and backing together.

**3.** Quilt as desired. Kathy and Sarah's quilt has been hand quilted using Perlé thread. They quilted alternate triangles at the centre of the blocks and in the ditch at the joins of the strips. The mottled triangles were quilted with lines of stitching echoing the shape of the diamonds and alternate triangles in Border 2 were quilted  $\frac{1}{8}$ in from the edge.

**4.** Following Binding the Quilt in Basics on page 106, use the six,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ in strips to bind the quilt. ©

*A kit for this quilt is available for \$110 from Material Obsession. For further information on designs by Kathy Doughty and Sarah Fielke of Material Obsession, see the Stockists & Contacts list.*