

the position by holding the foundation and fabric up to a light. Pin in place with a flathead pin.

4. Fold the foundation back along one long line of Area 1 to expose the fabric beneath. Cut an accurate $\frac{1}{4}$ in seam allowance by placing a $\frac{1}{4}$ in line on a quilter's ruler down on the folded edge of the paper and use a rotary cutter to trim the excess fabric. Fold the foundation back and trim the other side in the same manner. The advantages of this step are to indicate the correct angle for lining up the next piece of fabric and to reduce bulk by neatening the seam allowances. This is particularly important when using light value fabrics as it lessens any shadowing from darker fabrics.

5. Place a 3in x 5in cream/gold rectangle, right sides together, with the black rectangle under the foundation, lining up the lower edges and with the top edge extending past the foundation. Pin in place along the line between Areas 1 and 2. Fold back the cream/gold fabric to check it covers Area 2 with a seam allowance. If the placement is correct, fold the fabric back. Checking each placement prevents the need to unpick pieces of fabric that do not cover the required area.

6. With a reduced stitch length, begin stitching from the outside of the foundation along the line between Areas 1 and 2 and continue three or four stitches into the next area. Press the seam.

7. Place a second 3in x 5in cream/gold rectangle, right sides together, along the other side of the black rectangle so it will cover Area 3. Pin in place along the line between Areas 1 and 3 and continue in the same manner as the first seam.

8. To cover Area 4, place a 2in square of dark gold fabric, right sides together, with the black fabric at the lower edge of Area 1. Pin and check the placement and stitch along the line, extending the stitching from the edge of the paper to a few stitches within Area 5. Press back into place.

9. Before the red fabric for Area 5 is added, trim the excess cream/gold and dark gold fabrics. As the stitching extends into this area it is not possible to fold the foundation back to the line in the same way as the other pieces. For this seam allowance, fold the foundation parallel to the seam, approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ in away and trim with a ruler and rotary cutter.

10. Place a $2\frac{1}{2}$ in x 7in rectangle of red fabric, right sides together, with the cream/gold and dark gold edge, placing the top of the rectangle a little above the foundation. Pin in place and fold back to check that Area 5, including the lower seam allowance, is covered by the red fabric. Fold the fabric back and stitch along the line from one edge of the foundation to the other. Press in place and pin. Fold the foundation along the line between Areas 5 and 6 and trim the excess red fabric to $\frac{1}{4}$ in.

11. The fabric covering Area 6 forms the points of the centre star of the block. Michelle used the same fabric as Border 2, the binding and the appliquéd centres but she cut pieces from the $2\frac{1}{2}$ in strips carefully to use only the black/gold areas of the print so the star pattern is prominent.

12. Cover Area 6 in the same manner as the other areas. However, it is particularly important to pin the fabric in place, fold it back and check the placement before stitching. After stitching, press the piece in place.

13. With the rotary cutter, ruler and mat, trim the straight edges of the segments to the broken lines. Use scissors for the top and bottom curved edges.

Join the segments

1. Twelve segments are required for each block. Join two segments, placing a pin through the top corner of one and matching it to the top corner of the other. Place another pin through the points where the red Area 5 meets the black Area 6.

2. Adjust the stitch length of the machine to the longest possible stitch and baste along the line. The chain piecing technique can also be employed here, basting four pairs, one pair for each block, at a time.

3. The basting stitch is used as it is easier to remove if the pieces do not match. Large stitches do not damage the foundation papers as much as a smaller stitch, should the seam need to be unpicked and restitched.

4. Check the placement of the pieces, particularly the inner star created by the black fabric covering Area 6. If the placement is correct, re-stitch the seam with a reduced stitch length.

5. Continue in the same manner, adding segments to each pair, until there are 12 segments in each set. Stitch the final seam to complete each circle of points.

Appliqué the centre circles

1. The circles cut using Template A form the centres of the compasses. On each circle, press the seam allowance back over the edge of the freezer paper, working slowly around the circle to avoid points on the finished edge. Spray the pressed circles lightly with spray starch and press again to achieve a crisp, pressed edge. Remove the freezer paper.

2. Use black thread in the bobbin and monofilament thread in the top of the machine, loosen off the top tension and select blind hem stitch. Adjust the width and length of the stitch from the default to a small stitch, around a width of 1 and a length of $\frac{1}{2}$. The straight component, or length of the stitch, will be on the background fabric and this determines the distance between the stitches that hold the appliqué in place. The width component, or zigzag of the stitch, joins the appliqué to the background. The zigzags should not be too noticeable, with the length between them less than $\frac{1}{4}$ in but more than $\frac{1}{8}$ in. Experiment until you are happy with the stitch. However, if a satisfactory stitch cannot be achieved on your machine, substitute a small zigzag stitch.

3. Pin a circle to the centre of each block, lining up the printed motif with the centre of the red points at the top and bottom of the block. Stitch around the edge. Pull the ends of the threads to the back of the block, knot and trim.

4. Remove the papers from the blocks, gently supporting each seam as the paper is pulled away. The smaller stitches make removal of the papers easier, as there are more perforations.

Add the red arcs

1. To cut each set of four arcs for the blocks, place one $10\frac{3}{4}$ in strip of red fabric on your ironing board wrong side up. Place the four freezer paper templates along the strip, topping and tailing them so they fit along the strip. Iron to fuse. The freezer paper arcs can be reused.

2. Cut out the straight edges with a rotary cutter and the curved edges with scissors.