



# fanfare

A designer's remake of her great-great-grandmother's quilt builds on tradition. Modern fabrics and low-volume background prints look right at home in a classic fan block setting.

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A QUILTING LIFE ([WWW.AQUILTINGLIFE.COM](http://WWW.AQUILTINGLIFE.COM))  
MACHINE QUILTER MARION BOTT



PHOTOGRAPHER MARTY BALDWIN

PHOTOGRAPHER GREG SCHEIDEMANN



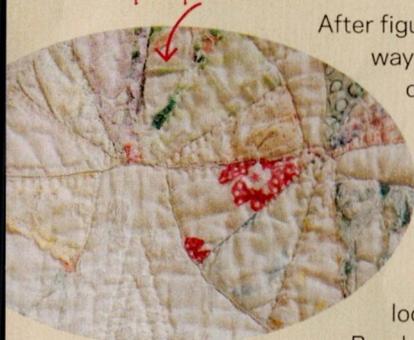
# HISTORY

## Repeated

BY **SHERRI MCCONNELL**

About three years ago I was given an old family quilt, most likely one of the last made by my great-great-grandmother Emma Acelia Wakefield Fitzgarrald. While the quilt was in terrible shape, I wanted it because the design struck me as something I hadn't seen before. In fact, so many of the fabrics were faded, missing, and torn that it was hard to figure out the pattern the quiltmaker had used to set her blocks. I was determined to re-make the design in honor of the original quiltmaker.

antique quilt detail



After figuring out a good way to make the blocks, deciding on the tools I wanted to use, and determining the size quilt I wanted to make, I luckily happened upon the design layout while looking through Barbara

Brackman's *Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns*. The layout

was published twice by Nancy Cabot in the *Chicago Tribune*. In 1933, Nancy called it Mohawk Trail, and in 1937, she called it Path of Fans.

I used 17 different low-volume background fabrics and 75 different print fabrics from a variety of collections by Denyse Schmidt for FreeSpirit Fabrics. I felt like these fabrics would invoke the feeling of the original quilt while at the same time making it truly a quilt for today.

Remaking this quilt is one of the best quilting experiences I have had. Not only was I able to bring a quilt in poor condition back to life, but I also felt a connection

to my great-great-grandmother knowing I was making the same quilt she had made.



fabric selection for new quilt

## materials

- ▶ 216—5" charm squares or 3½ yards total assorted prints (blocks)
- ▶ 3¾ yards assorted light prints (blocks)
- ▶ ⅝ yard turquoise print (binding)
- ▶ 4¼ yards backing fabric
- ▶ 75" square batting
- ▶ Freezer paper
- ▶ Spray starch and small paintbrush
- ▶ Simpli-EZ 30° Triangle Ruler from Simplicity Studio (optional)

### Finished quilt:

66½" square

**Finished block:** 22" square

### Yardages and cutting

**instructions** are based on 42" of usable fabric width.

**Measurements** include ¼" seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

## cut fabrics

Cut pieces in the following order.

Patterns are on *Pattern Sheet 1*. To make a plastic template of Pattern A, see *Make and Use Templates*,

*Pattern Sheet 2*. (Pattern B templates will be made later, when preparing fan units for appliquéing.)

**IF USING CHARM SQUARES, refer to Cutting Diagram 1**

**From each assorted print charm square, cut:**

- ▶ 2 of Pattern A (or two 5"-tall wedges using Simpli-EZ 30° Triangle Ruler)

**IF USING YARDAGE OR SCRAPS, refer to Cutting Diagram 2**

**From assorted prints, cut:**

- ▶ Enough 5"-wide strips to total about 850" in length; cut strips into 432 of Pattern A (or 432—5"-tall wedges using Simpli-EZ 30° Triangle Ruler)

**From assorted light prints, cut:**

- ▶ 144—6" squares

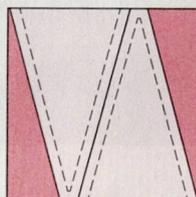
**From turquoise print, cut:**

- ▶ 7—2½×42" binding strips

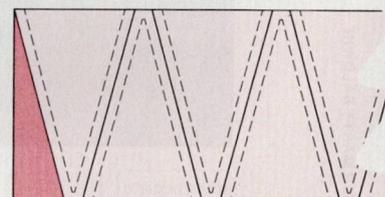
## assemble fan units

**1.** Sew together two assorted print A wedges; press seam open. Add a third assorted print A wedge to make a fan unit (**Diagram 1**); press seam open.

**2.** Repeat Step 1 to make 144 fan units total.



CUTTING DIAGRAM 1



CUTTING DIAGRAM 2

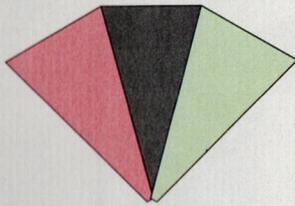


DIAGRAM 1

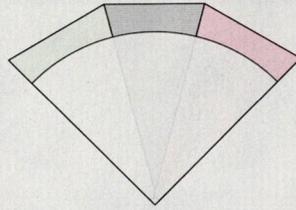


DIAGRAM 2

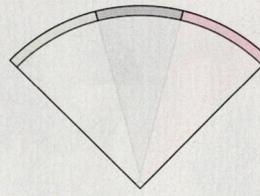


DIAGRAM 3

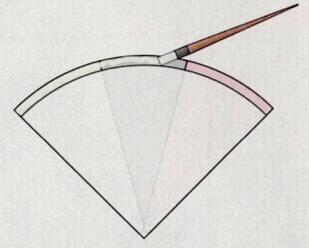


DIAGRAM 4

### prepare appliqués with freezer-paper templates

Designer Sherri McConnell used a freezer-paper-and-starch method to prepare fan units for appliqué. To use this method, complete the following steps.

**1.** Lay freezer paper, shiny side down, over Pattern B. Use a pencil to trace the pattern 10 times. Press the sheet of traced shapes atop two layered sheets

of freezer paper (all shiny sides down); fuse with a hot dry iron. Cut out layered shapes on drawn lines to make 30 triple-thick freezer-paper templates.

**2.** Referring to Diagram 2, position a freezer-paper template, shiny side down, on the wrong side of a fan unit with straight edges aligned. Using a hot dry iron, press template in place; let cool. Trim excess fabric  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $\frac{3}{8}$ "

beyond curved edge of freezer-paper template (Diagram 3).

**3.** Spray a small amount of starch into a dish. Cover a pressing surface with a tea towel or muslin. Place template-topped fan unit facedown on prepared pressing surface. Dip a paintbrush in starch, and paint seam allowance (fabric that extends beyond edge of template; Diagram 4).

**4.** Using tip of a hot dry iron, fold seam allowance over edge of freezer-paper template and press until fabric is dry. Carefully peel off template. You may need to re-press the edges slightly after removing the template. Save template for reuse; each one can be reused about five times.

**5.** Repeat steps 2-4 to prepare each fan unit for appliqué.



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Bertie's Autumn



Farmers Wife 1930's



Bumper Crop

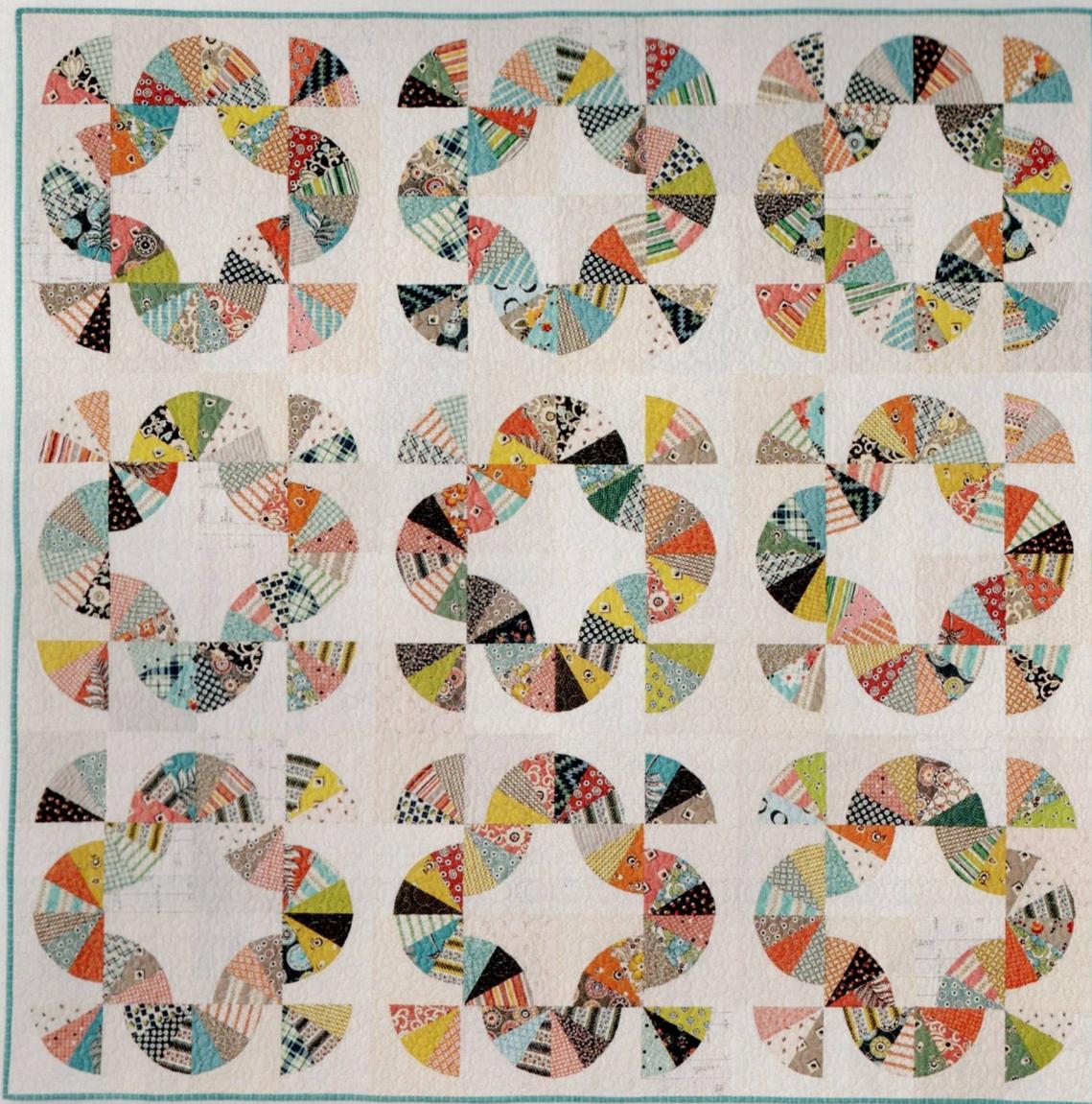


Farmer's Wife



Farm Girl Vintage

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## appliqué and assemble blocks

**1.** Position a prepared fan unit in one corner of a light print 6" square, aligning straight edges of fan unit and square (Diagram 5). Hand- or machine-stitch curved edge in place to make a fan block. For stability, Sherri did not trim the background fabric after completing the appliqué. If desired, baste straight edges of fan unit to light print square within seam

allowances. Repeat to make 144 fan blocks total.

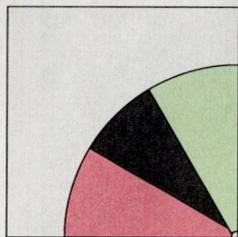


DIAGRAM 5

**2.** Referring to Diagram 6, lay out 16 fan blocks in four rows. Sew together pieces in each row. Press seams

open. Join rows to make a Mohawk Trail block. Press seams open. The block should be 22½" square including seam allowances. Repeat to make nine Mohawk Trail blocks total.

## assemble quilt top

Referring to Quilt Assembly Diagram, sew together blocks in three rows. Press seams open. Join rows to complete quilt top. Press seams open.

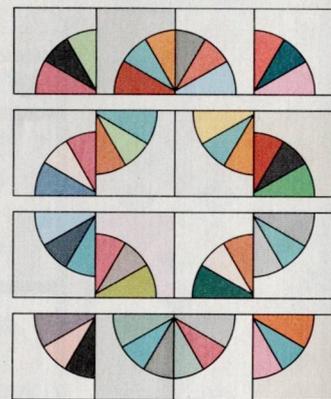
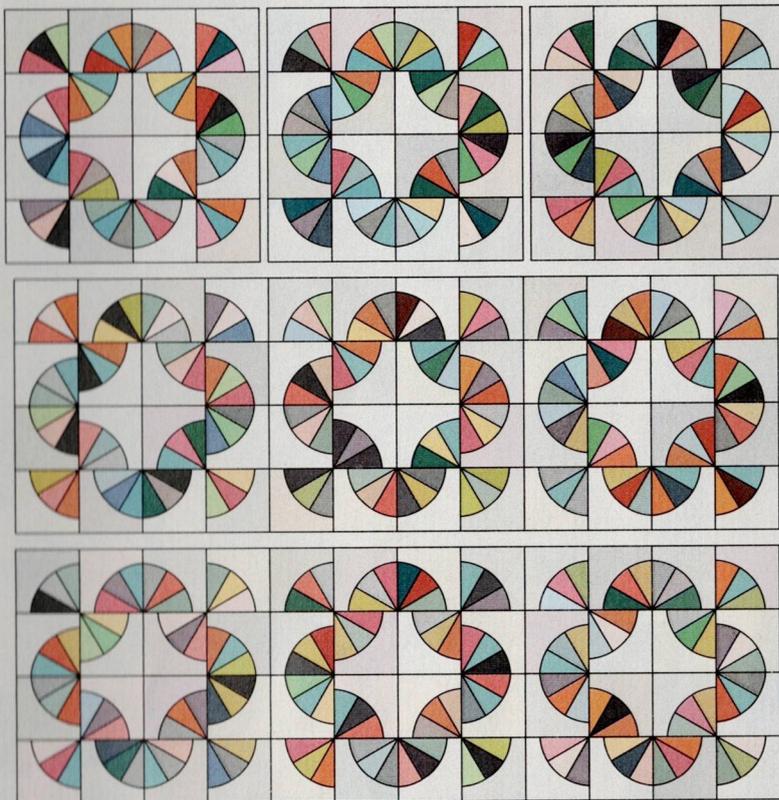


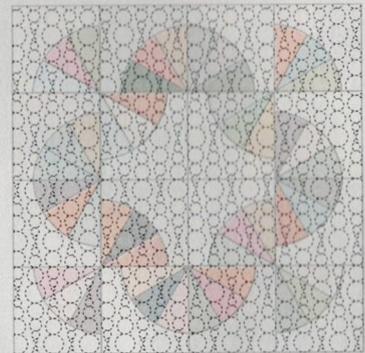
DIAGRAM 6



QUILT ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

## finish quilt

1. Layer quilt top, batting, and backing; baste. (For details, see Complete Quilt, Pattern Sheet 3.)
2. Quilt as desired. Marion Bott machine-quilted rows of circles in graduating sizes across the quilt top (Quilting Diagram).
3. Bind with turquoise print binding strips. (For details, see Complete Quilt.)



QUILTING DIAGRAM

## COLOR..... OPTION

Quilt tester Laura Boehnke played with the layout of the fan blocks to make her wall hanging version of *Fanfare*. Rather than hand-stitching the fan unit edges in place, Laura used monofilament thread and a narrow zigzag stitch. The light ecru block backgrounds provide wonderful space to showcase machine quilting. Laura added 1"- and 3"-wide borders to finish the 30"-square quilt.



**FABRICS** are from the Cloverdale House collection by Di Ford and the Itsy Bits 2014 collection by Renee Nanneman, both for Andover Fabrics ([andoverfabrics.com](http://andoverfabrics.com)).

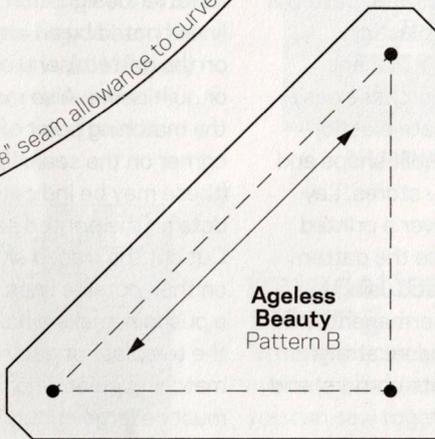


# AMERICAN PATCHWORK & QUILTING®

FEBRUARY 2016 ISSUE 138

Fanfare  
Pattern B

Add 1/4" or 3/8" seam allowance to curved edge when cutting out fabric pieces.



Ageless  
Beauty  
Pattern B

**STARS ALIGNED**

pages 44-51

**FANFARE**

pages 52-57

**NEUTRAL OR NOT?**

pages 58-65

**AGELESS BEAUTY**

pages 76-81

**DOTTED SWISS**

pages 82-90

**BIG IMPACT**

pages 94-100

**QUILT IT THREE WAYS**

page 104

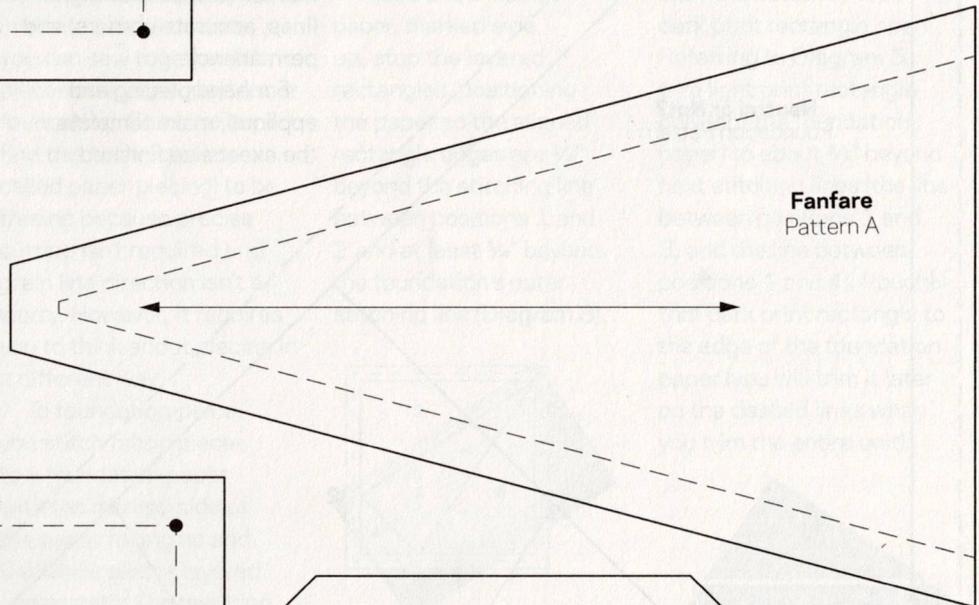
**our promise to you**

Prior to publication, we cut, sew, and assemble at least four blocks of every quilt to verify the accuracy of our patterns and instructions. Then an experienced team of editors reviews the materials lists, how-to directions, and illustrations to make sure the information we provide you is clear, concise, and complete.

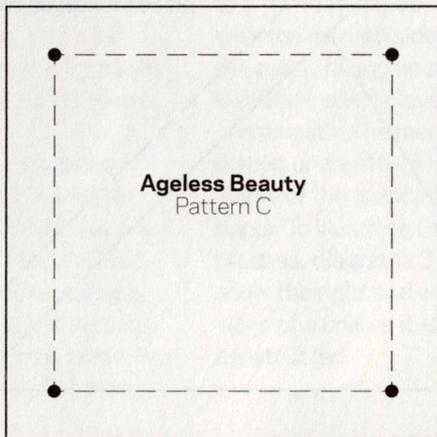
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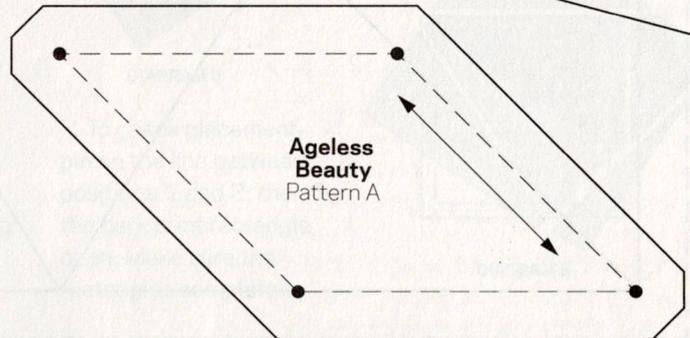
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Fanfare  
Pattern A



Ageless  
Beauty  
Pattern C



Ageless  
Beauty  
Pattern A

**Fanfare**  
Pattern B

Add  $\frac{1}{4}$ " or  $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance to curved edge when cutting out fabric pieces.

Ageless