



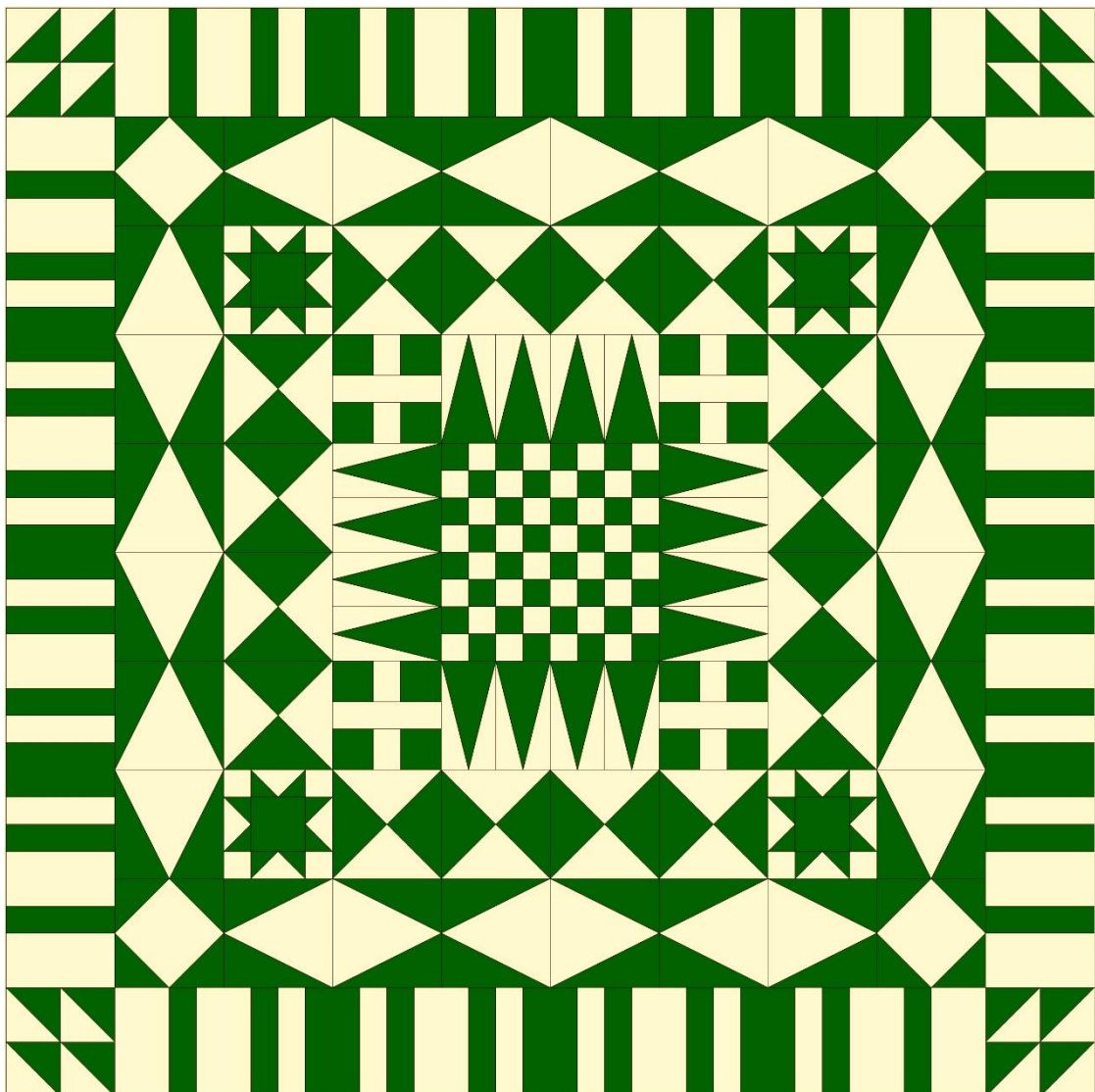
Greenmarket Square - PART 12

Layouts

A classic Medallion Quilt! Did you guess? A Medallion quilt has a large, centred block or panel surrounded by solid, pieced, or appliquéd borders. It is a very versatile design that is not determined by a specific quilting genre; it can be both traditional and modern, and anything in between.

Since most quilters have probably made a scrappy quilt, I did not get you to sew sections together as we went along. This now gives you the opportunity to move blocks around within each round and get a good flow and distribution of colours and textures, which can be a bit random if you are sewing blind.

Full: 80"x 80"

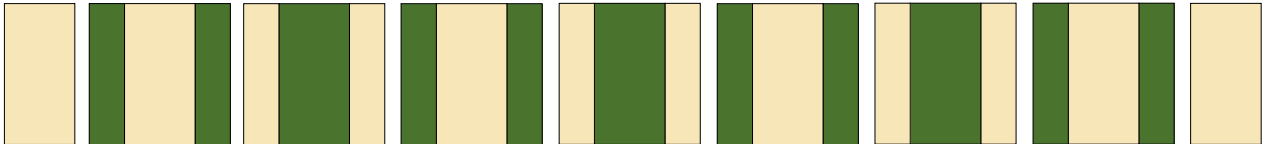


Lay your blocks out as shown in the diagrams below.

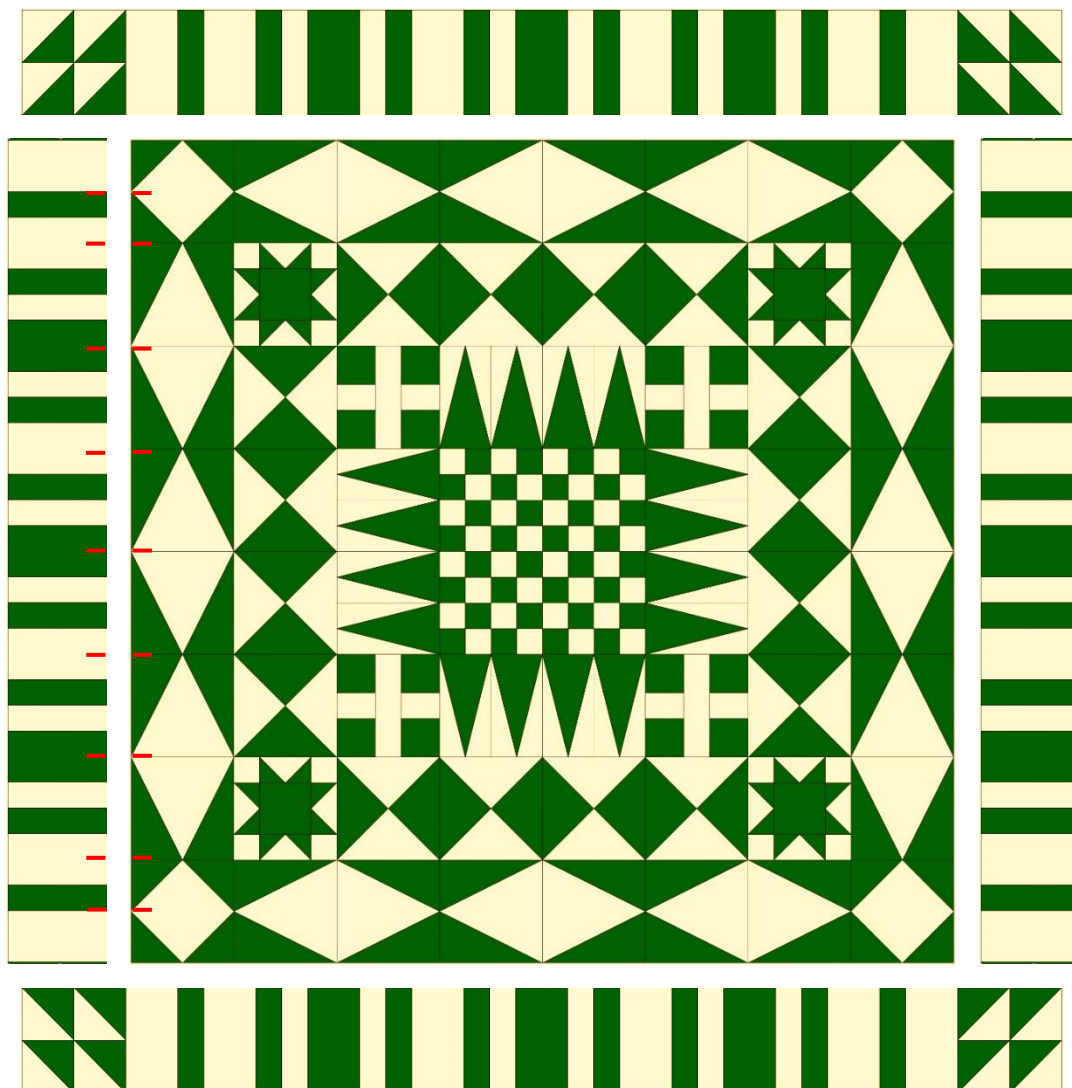
The final outer layer of blocks must be sewn as a border AFTER you sew the central section together. The outer border has half-drop blocks, whose seams do not align with the seams in the central section.

First, sew the central blocks in (8) horizontal rows. Press seams open (or to the dark fabric). Then sew the rows together to form the central section. Press seams open.

Next, sew the top, bottom and side blocks in strips as indicated in the diagram. Each border is the same (except for the top and bottom, which have the corner blocks).

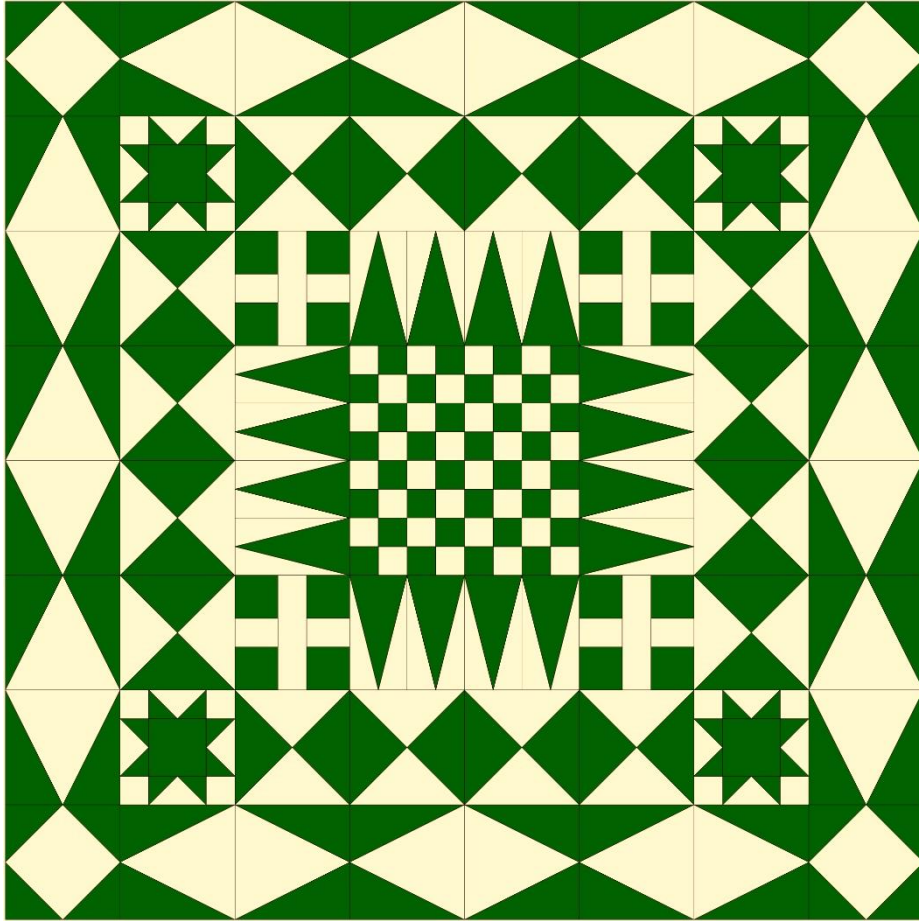


For accurate positioning of the striped border blocks, finger press the middle of each wide fabric in the Rail block. Align this mark with the corresponding seam in the central section. See red marks on the diagram below.

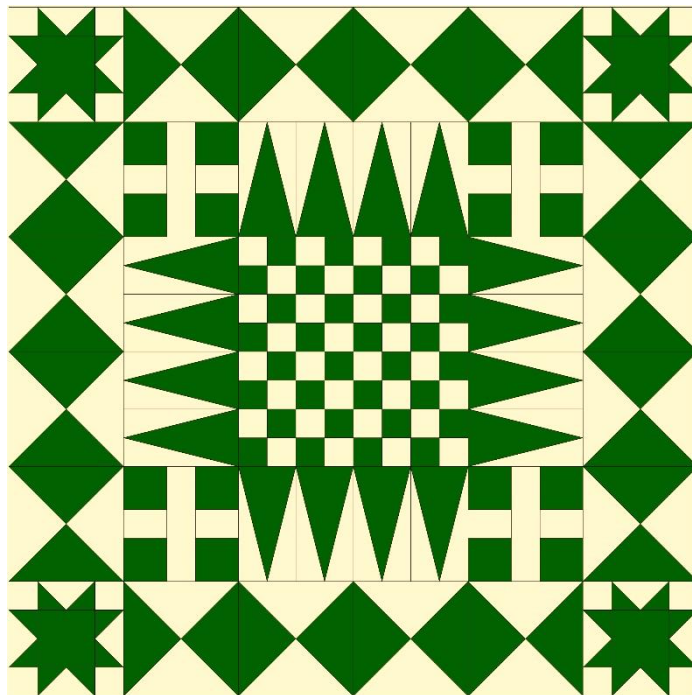


Sew the borders to the central section of the quilt. Sides first, then top and bottom. Press seams open, press from the front.

Throw: 64"x 64"



Baby, Lap or Wall: 48"x 48"

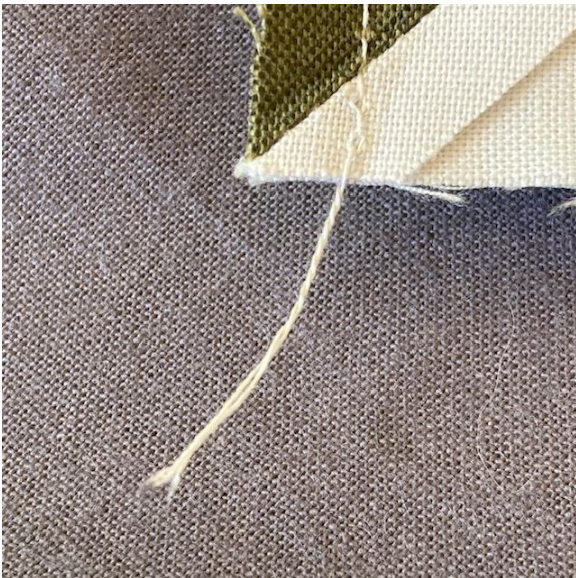


Did you notice the checkerboard in the centre of the quilt? It's perfect for a game of chess or draughts. Make a drawstring bag with your leftover fabric for the game pieces as a fun bonus.

SEWING TIPS

Sometimes it's worth repeating yourself! LOL

1. I do not backstitch at the beginning and end of a seam; I think it creates extra bulk and can distort the edge. I rather sew a few stitches in the air before starting to stitch onto the fabric and after I have finished the seam. This creates a twist of stitches which keeps your seam end from opening. When chain-piecing, allow some thread between the blocks so there is enough at the end and start of the next seam when cutting the units apart. I trim these threads after I have crossed the seam when joining units or blocks together.



2. If the end of your seam strays when sewing, hold your index finger close to the presser foot for the last ½" or so of the seam. This helps guide the last bit of fabric and feeds it straight into the presser foot.

3. When sewing units with a bulky starting end, rather than pushing the fabric under the presser foot, raise the presser foot and place it on the fabric before you start sewing. You have more control for getting a consistent seam and less chance of the fabric layers shifting.

4. Use a standing pin when aligning points. Insert the pin through the two points, then take another pin and pin the seam allowance across the point, be careful not to shift the layers of fabric. Remove the standing pin.

5. In the real quilting world, pieced blocks are sometimes a little short of the correct finished size. When sewing these blocks together, sew with the larger sized block on the bottom. Make sure you pin (at least) the start and end. The sewing machine feed-dogs will take care of easing the fabric so that they fit together.

6. We all strive to get sharp points and matching seams, but please do not stress if some are not perfect. Your quilt will still be gorgeous.

Quilting


As usual, there are so many options to choose from: big stitch quilting, simple grids (squares, diamonds), diagonal lines, horizontal/vertical lines, simply edge-to-edge quilting designs. Or how about no quilting? Hand-tied quilts are on-trend now; consider a coordinating or contrasting yarn for added interest.

If you press your seams open, the only quilting technique you cannot use is “stitching in the ditch” because there is no ditch.

This quilt has large areas to practice ruler work (GHQG member Stephanie Geldenhuys offers super classes on this technique), walking foot quilting (in the style of Jacquie Gering) or shape by shape free-motion quilting (in the style of Angela Walters).

Binding

This is an opportunity to add an extra design element with an unexpected colour accent. Consider a complementing or contrasting colour to finish and frame your quilt.

 Binding: (8) 2½” (or your preferred binding width) x WOF

Cut enough strips to go around the quilt plus 12” for cornering and seams. Strip width can vary from 2” to 2½” and even wider if you prefer a binding broader than the traditional ¼” width. The binding strips are usually sewn together with a diagonal seam to distribute the seam bulk and for the most inconspicuous joining.

Trim excess fabric ¼” from stitching. Press seams open. Attach binding.

Yay! We have completed the “Greenmarket Square” Mystery Quilt!

Hope you enjoyed this adventure.

Cannot wait to see your finished quilts!

Share your progress photos on Facebook and Instagram. Tag the @ghqg_south_africa and @dianavandeyar and post with the hashtags #GHQGMysteryQuilt #greenmarketsquarequilt so everyone can find your awesome work!