

Carefree QUILTS

joy-lily

A free-style twist on
classic designs

Carefree QUILTS



features

- Quilters of every skill-level will have fun learning to create casual, contemporary versions of 12 traditional quilt blocks with this no-worry, no-fuss method. After mastering the block construction, they will enjoy making 13 projects, ranging from quilts, table runners, wallhangings and aprons with their fun, relaxed blocks!
- While precision is emphasized in many quilt books, *Carefree Quilts* encourages all quilters to stop worrying about matching seams and exact measurements. Sewers will love learning how to make these beautiful, yet stress-free, quilts.
- While making the blocks and learning these free-form methods, readers will also learn basic quilt techniques including strip piecing, curved piecing, foundation piecing, sewing on a bias, making bias tape, flip-and-sew method, piece swapping, assembling and binding.
- Readers will be guided step by step through the construction of each block and quilt. Each section is beautifully illustrated to help ensure sewing success!

about the author

Joy-Lily is a silk painter, dyer, quilt-maker and fabric printer. A former graphic designer, her fiber work has been exhibited in New York, Washington DC, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Fe, Hannover Germany and Beijing. Joy-Lily has been teaching quilting and other crafts since 1989, and for 9 years she was artist-in-residence, through the California Arts Council in San Francisco, working with elders in textile media. In 2007 she designed her first line of fabric for P&B Textiles, and her instructional articles have been published in *Quilters Newsletter*, *Surface Design Journal* and *Woman's Day*. She actively teaches fiber arts through adult education and quilt and art guilds.



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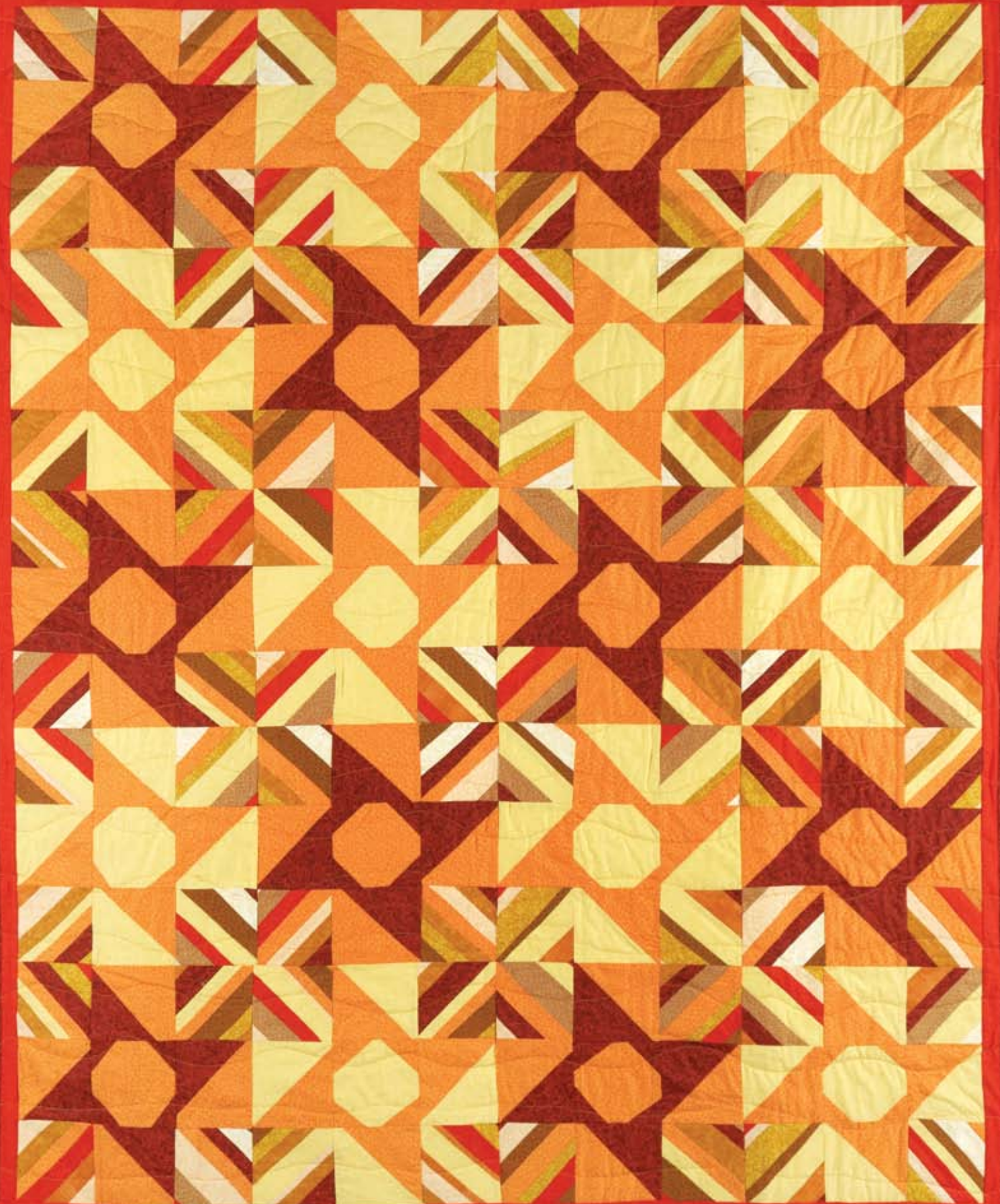
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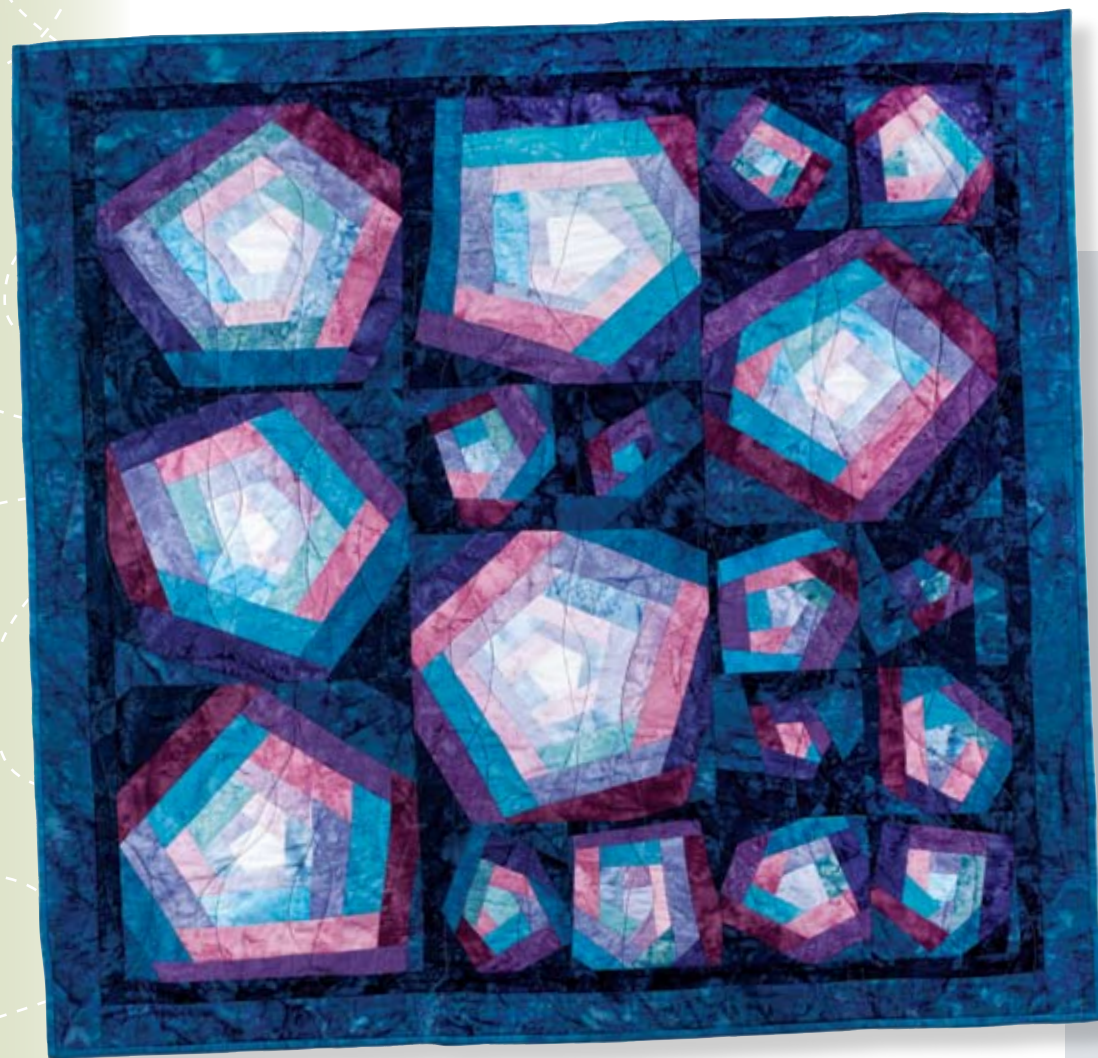
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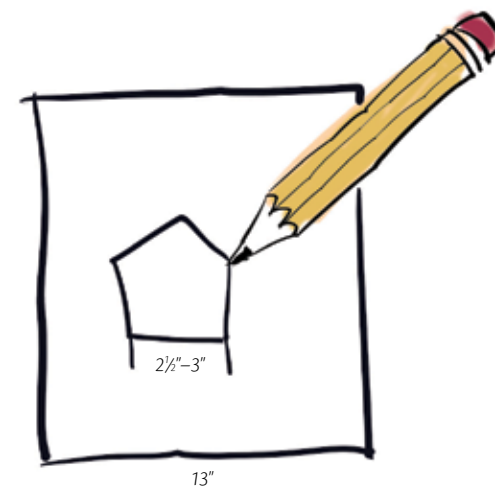
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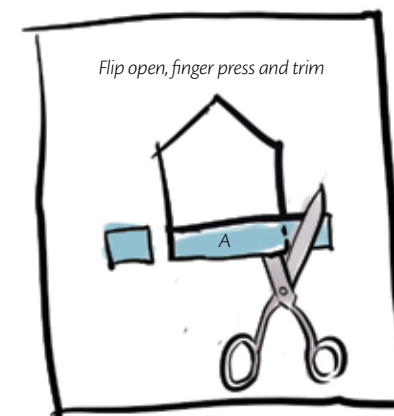
A FREE-STYLE FOUNDATION-PIECED BLOCK USING FABRICS IN GRADED VALUES



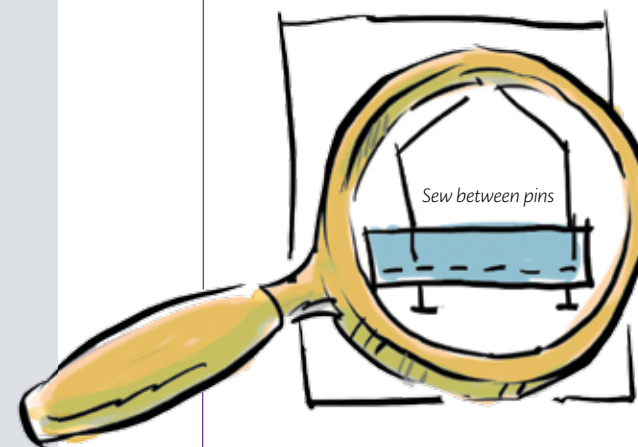
sew the Wacky Web block



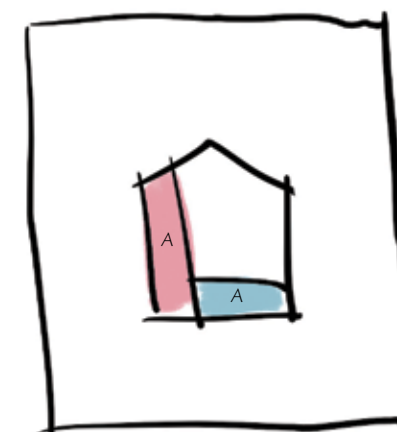
1 Lightly draw a five-sided shape (like a house with a peaked roof) in the center of the white fabric square, measuring approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ "–3" wide. The shape may have different length sides.



3 Flip this strip right side up, and finger press or iron the seam flat. Trim the strip at the end of the stitching using scissors. Trim it at the angle that continues the line of the pentagon; this may mean trimming the strip at an odd angle.



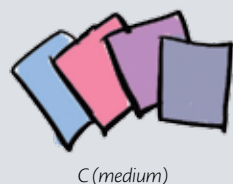
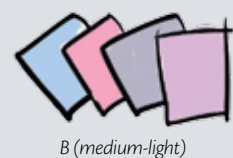
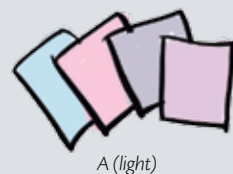
2 Start with a strip of fabric of the lightest value (A). Place the strip right side down along the edge of the pencil line on one side of the house. The strip will lay inside the line. Place pins in the strip to mark the beginning and the end of the line. Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam along that edge, sewing only between the pins. Do not back-stitch.

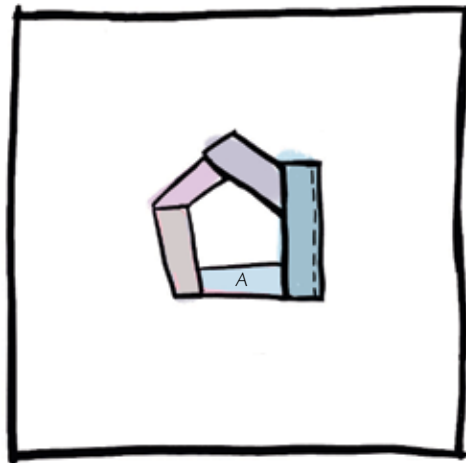


4 Moving clockwise, position a different strip of the same value fabric (A) right side down along the next edge of the pencil line. Make sure this strip covers the end of the first strip and extends beyond the adjacent pencil line. Pin and sew as in Step 2.

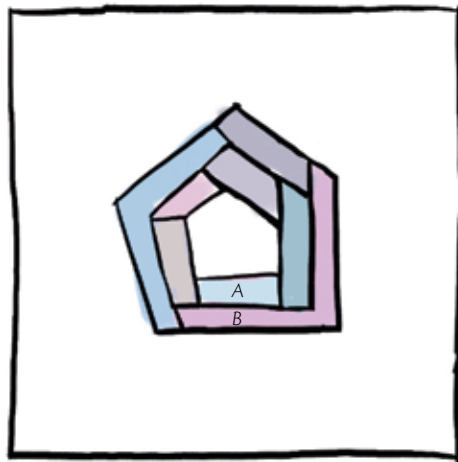
for a single block you'll need:

- A 13" × 13" square of white fabric
- 15-20 fabrics ($\frac{1}{4}$ yard each): Referring to the image at right, choose at least 3 fabrics of each value from light (A) to dark (E). Rotary cut a 2" wide strip from each fabric about 18" long. They may include more than one color, but each group must be the same degree of light or dark. (See page 16 for more information on how to see the values of fabrics.)
- Fabric scissors
- Rotary cutter and cutting mat
- No. 2 pencil
- Ruler
- A few pins
- Iron and ironing surface
- Sewing machine with light bobbin thread and medium-value top thread





5 Using the lightest value group of fabrics (A), repeat Steps 2-4 on each side of the pentagon. Align each new fabric with the edge of the fabric just under it. After sewing, flip each strip, press and trim before placing and sewing the next one. Use pins to temporarily hold each newly flipped strip flat and in place.



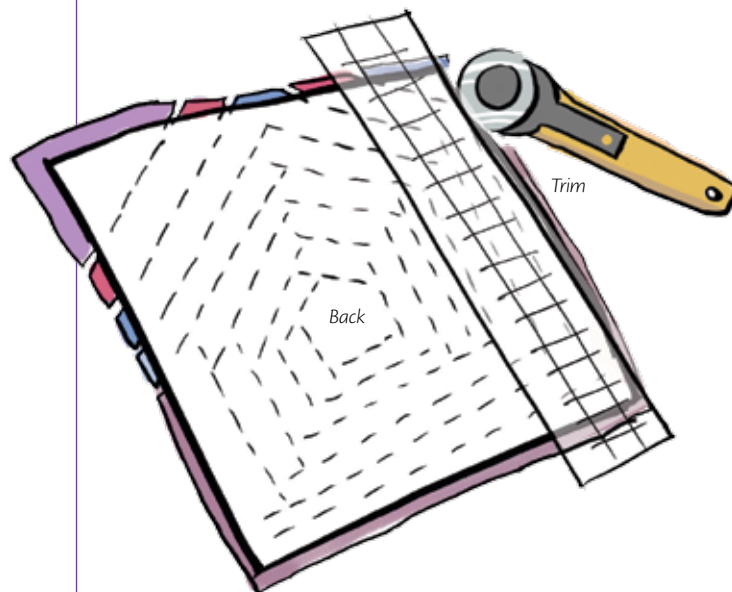
6 When the pentagon has strips sewn to all five sides, repeat Steps 4 and 5 using medium-light fabrics (B) on all five sides. After completing each ring, change to the next darker value. Fill outer corners with a dark value fabric.

fun to try!

This block can also be sewn without attention to the gradual value change, but the block will have a different, more scrappy look.



7 Press the square face up. Turn it to the back and rotary cut the excess fabric off to achieve a $12\frac{1}{2}$ " square. All extra strip bits hanging over the white fabric edge will be cut off in this step.



assemble the Wacky Web quilt

1 Following the previous directions, sew 6 Wacky Web blocks onto 13 " muslin squares. Trim each to $12\frac{1}{2}$ " squares.

2 In the same way, sew 12 Wacky Web blocks onto 7 " squares of muslin. Begin with a $1\frac{1}{2}$ "- 2 " pentagon of light-medium (B) or medium (C) fabric in the center, instead of leaving a white center. Cut strips to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. Continue outward, each ring the next darker value. Once sewing is complete, trim excess fabric to create 7 " square blocks.

3 Sew the 7 " blocks together in pairs. Press seams open. One pair of small blocks equals $\frac{1}{2}$ of a large block. Trim each pair to $12\frac{1}{2}$ " \times 7 ".

4 Assemble 3 rows of blocks as shown below. Press seams open. Trim to clean up the top and bottom edges of each row.

5 Sew the rows together. Corner matching is not necessary. Press seams open.

6 Trim the quilt to square.

7 Sew on top and bottom strips of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " inner border of darkest value (E) fabric. Press and square off the corners. Then sew on the left and right side inner borders. Press and square off the corners.

8 Repeat Step 7, using $2\frac{1}{2}$ " strips of medium-dark (D) fabric for the outer border.

9 Layer the quilt, top-stitch and bind as shown in Chapter 5.

