

Pattern of the Month

August 2014

For Members of the MQG



MODERN QUILT GUILD



Kite Tails

by Amy Friend

Seacoast MQG Member

The Modern Quilt Guild's mission is to support and encourage the growth and development of modern quilting through art, education and community. www.modernquiltguild.com

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Kite Tails Quilt Pattern

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Kite Tails is a paper pieced pattern that repeats one large block measuring 12" x 18." Although this is a single block quilt, the blocks are rectangular and occasionally inverted. The end result has an irregular/random appearance. The negative space plays an important role by helping to create a dynamic design.

Dimensions: 60" x 72"

Supplies:

4 ½ yards of the background fabric
¼ yard cuts of approximately 18-21 prints
4 ¼ yards backing
65" x 77" piece of batting
½ yard binding
coordinating thread

Fabric Choices:

Background fabric: RJR Cotton Supreme Solid in Canvas
Prints: An assortment of Cotton and Steel prints, mixed designers and blenders
Backing: Melody Miller Ruby Star Polka Dot Patchwork (wide width so it only requires an additional 5" strip added to one side)
Batting: Warm and White batting
Binding: Cotton and Steel
Thread: Aurifil 2311, Muslin

Seam allowances are ¼".

For paper piecing, it is recommended that you use a 90 point needle and decrease your stitch length to about a 1.7.

Pattern Printing:

*To print your patterns, set the print scaling to "none" or "100 %". If you are in Europe/UK, change the paper size on the print menu to US Letter and Borderless. The width of pattern piece A should be 6 1/2" including the seam allowances.

Print 20 copies of the pattern on lightweight copy paper or paper made specifically for paper piecing.

The pattern pieces are too long to fit on one page. Trim along the fine thin line at the bottom of the first page of Pattern Piece A. Match it to the top of pattern piece A from the next page. Tape, avoiding the lines where you will be stitching. Do the same with the Pattern Piece B.

Block Instructions:

Rather than pre-cutting lots of pieces, simply cut your prints into 8" widths. Similarly, cut the background fabric into 8" widths by a workable length of approximately 16." This will decrease fabric waste with this particular pattern.

Work with one Pattern Piece A and one Pattern Piece B at the same time, as a set. Begin piecing with the background fabric matching up with section A1 and a print for section A2. Hold the pattern up to the light and from the wrong side, mark the starting point and ending point of the row of stitches with a pin and then place the fabric at the correct angle over A2. Flip back so the right side faces the background fabric, stitch, trim and press. Now use this same print to complete B2 on the corresponding pattern piece. You will find that because the angles are opposite, there is very little waste after trimming. It will also help keep directional prints heading in the correct direction. Do the same with the background fabrics. Alternate between the prints and background fabrics.

The following images will help illustrate this point.



Pins are used to mark the angle by holding the pattern piece up to the light. Then the red print is folded back to meet the line on the pattern piece.

Next, the fabric is flipped back while maintaining its position so that the right side is facing down. Pin the fabric in place, flip the block over and stitch along the corresponding line.



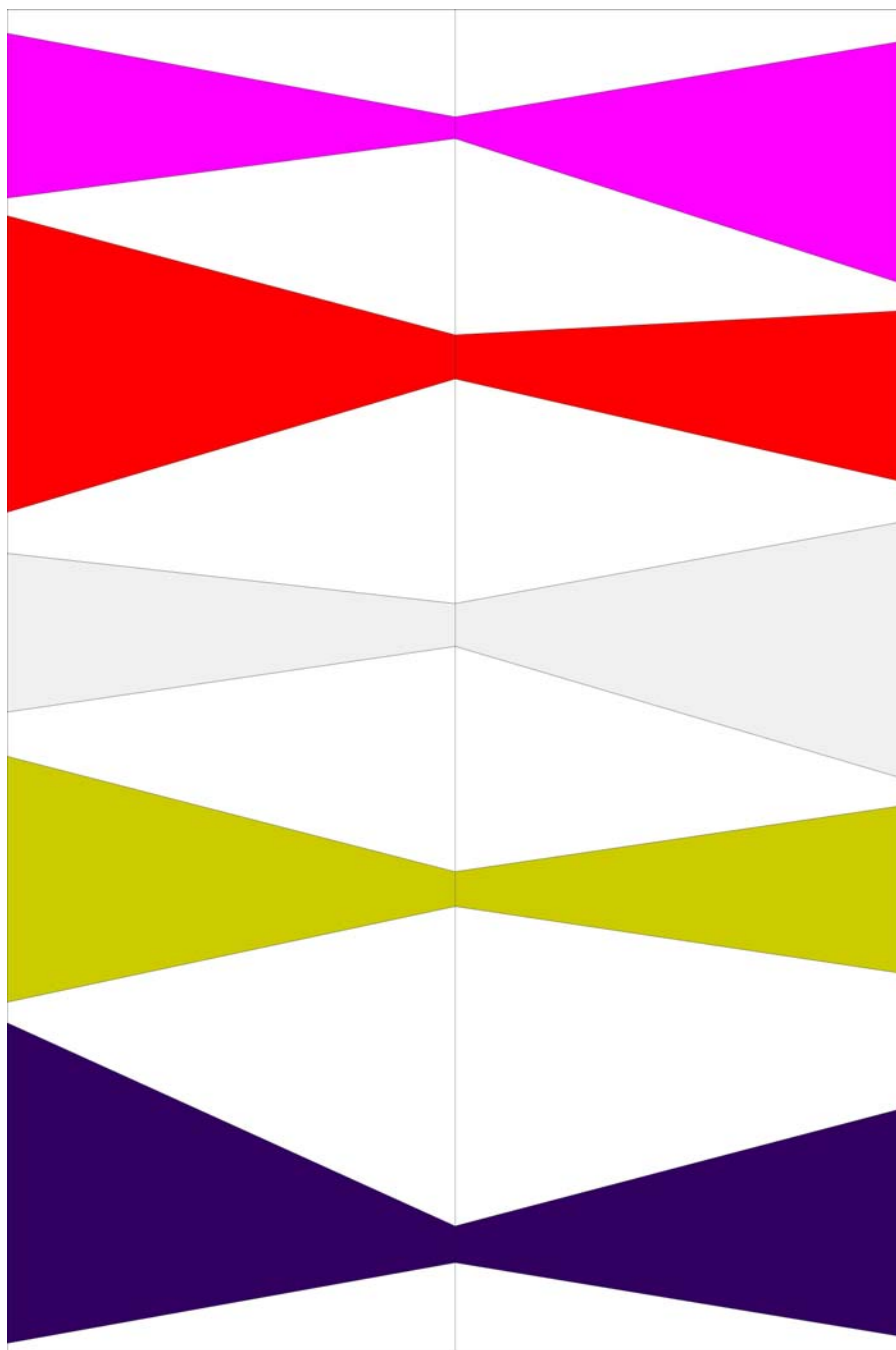
Using scissors, trim about 1/4" from the stitching. Set aside the background fabric that you just trimmed off. It will be used to piece Pattern Piece B.

Press the printed fabric down and mark the beginning and end of the next row of stitching with pins.



Repeat the steps with the background fabric. Fold the fabric under to match the angle.

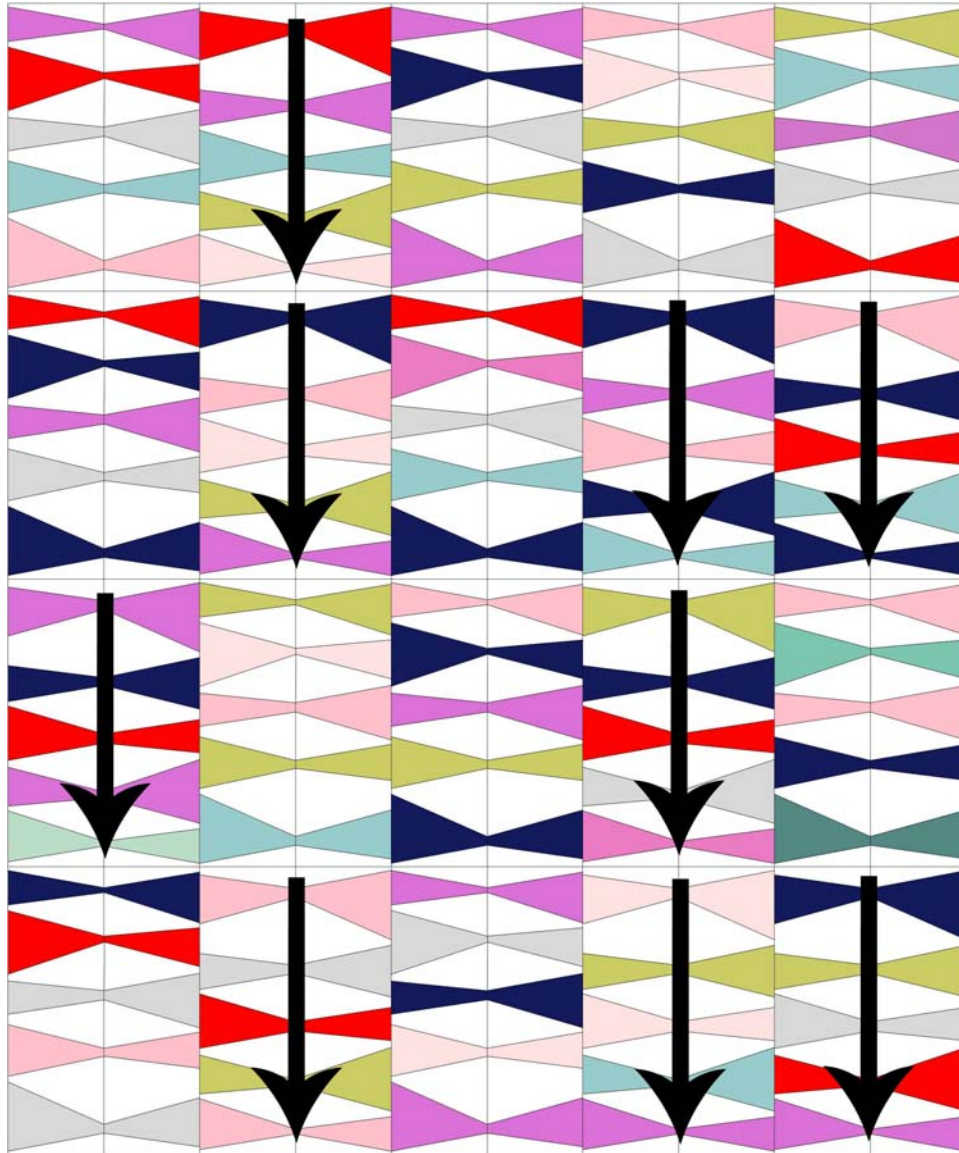
Again, flip the fabric back and secure with pins. Stitch along the line. As you can see with this previously trimmed piece of background fabric, the angles approximately match the angle of the seam line and not waste a lot of fabric when it's time to trim. This is why working on Pattern Pieces A and B in tandem is helpful.



Paper piece matching sets of Pattern Piece A and B, trim along the seam allowance as marked on the pattern, and seam down the middle. Do not iron the center seam until you know where you will place the block for your final layout.

Complete 20 sets of blocks. If you are using directional fabrics, you may want to piece some blocks in the reverse order so that they can be inverted.

Quilt Layout

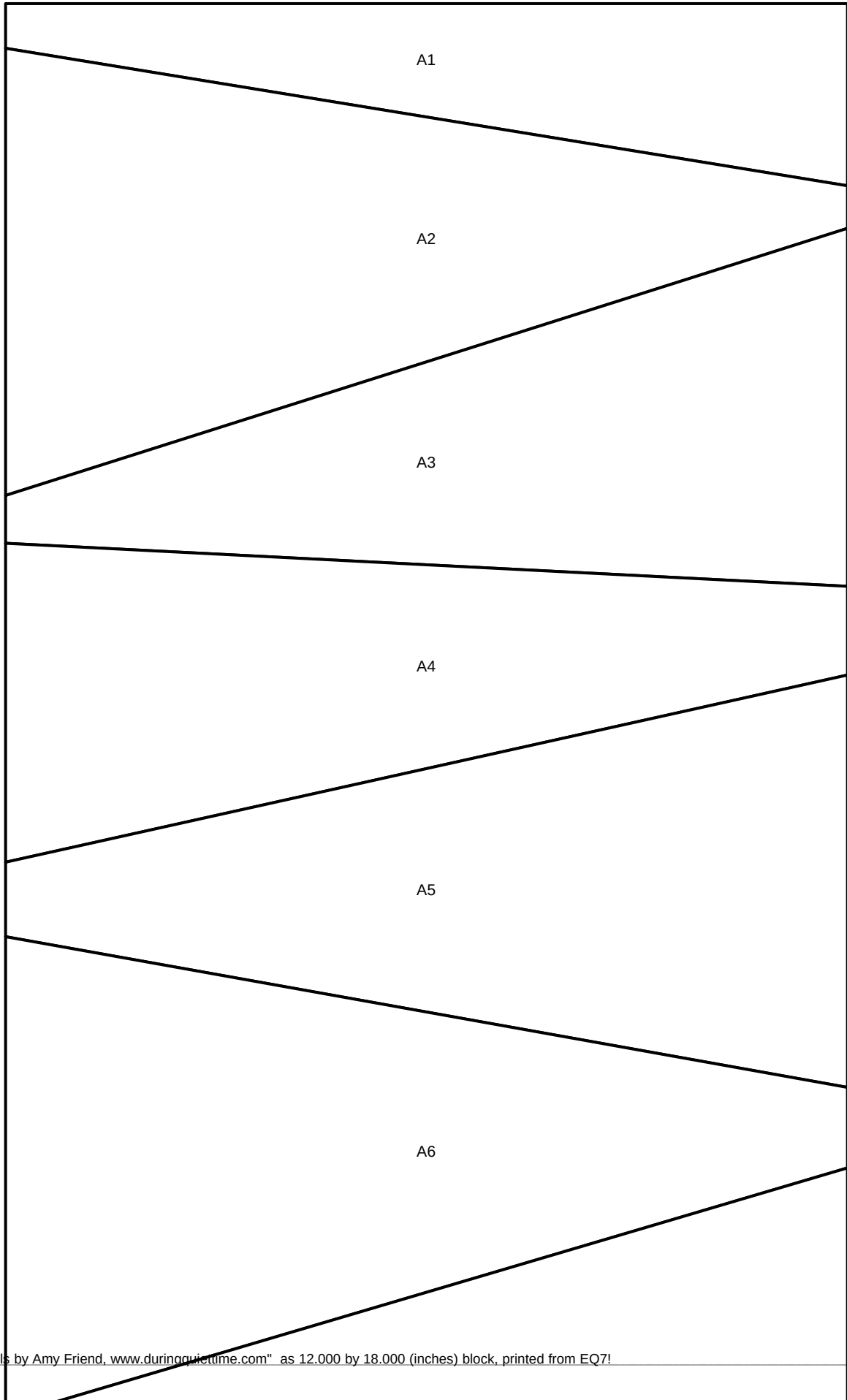


Lay your blocks out in a 5 x 4 configuration. The arrows represent blocks that were inverted in my layout. Once you have settled on your layout, stitch the rows of blocks together. Press the seams in the odd numbered rows to the right and press the seams of the even numbered rows to the left. Now join the rows and the seams should nest nicely. Remove all papers.

Finishing your Quilt

Create your backing and baste the quilt. There are so many possibilities for quilting. In this example, the quilting was done in randomly placed Xs of varying sizes in each column, echoing the shapes of the kite tails.

Cut your binding fabric into 2 1/4" strips and bind.



B1

B2

B3

B4

B5

B6

B7

A7

A8

A9

A10

A11

B7

B8

B9

B10

B11

