

Sewing Studio Organization

By the Adventurous Quilter

How to use ANY number of 'orphan' quilt blocks to make a quilt!

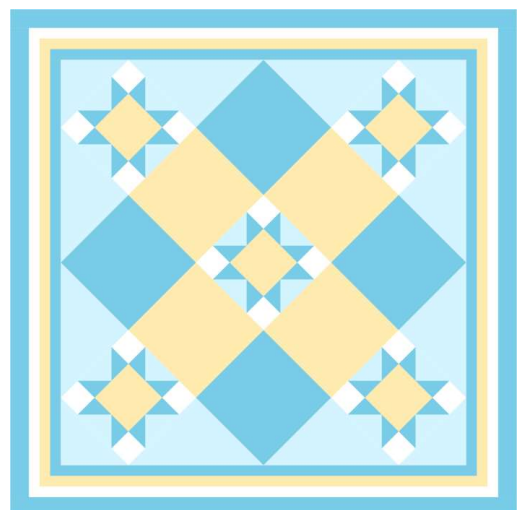


What is an 'orphan block'?

Quilters use the term orphan block when talking about leftover random quilt blocks they have made for a wide variety of reasons.

Examples of how orphan blocks are born:

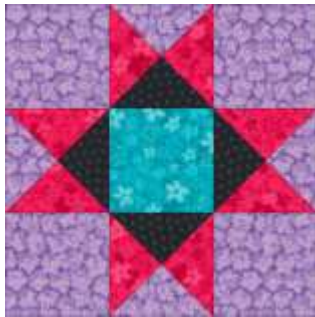
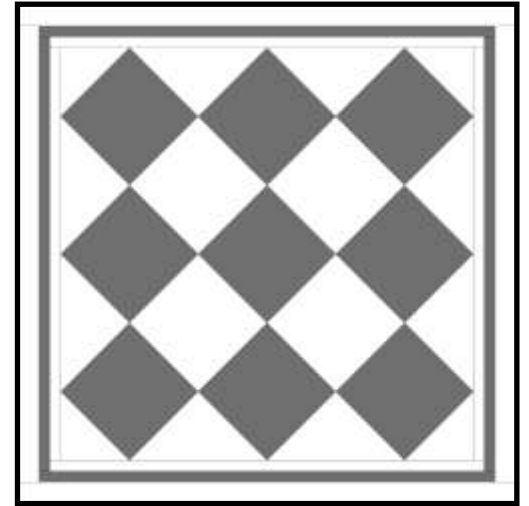
- . Testing a pattern
- . Testing a colorway
- . Making one too many blocks for the project
- . Started a quilt but never got back to that UFO (unfinished object)



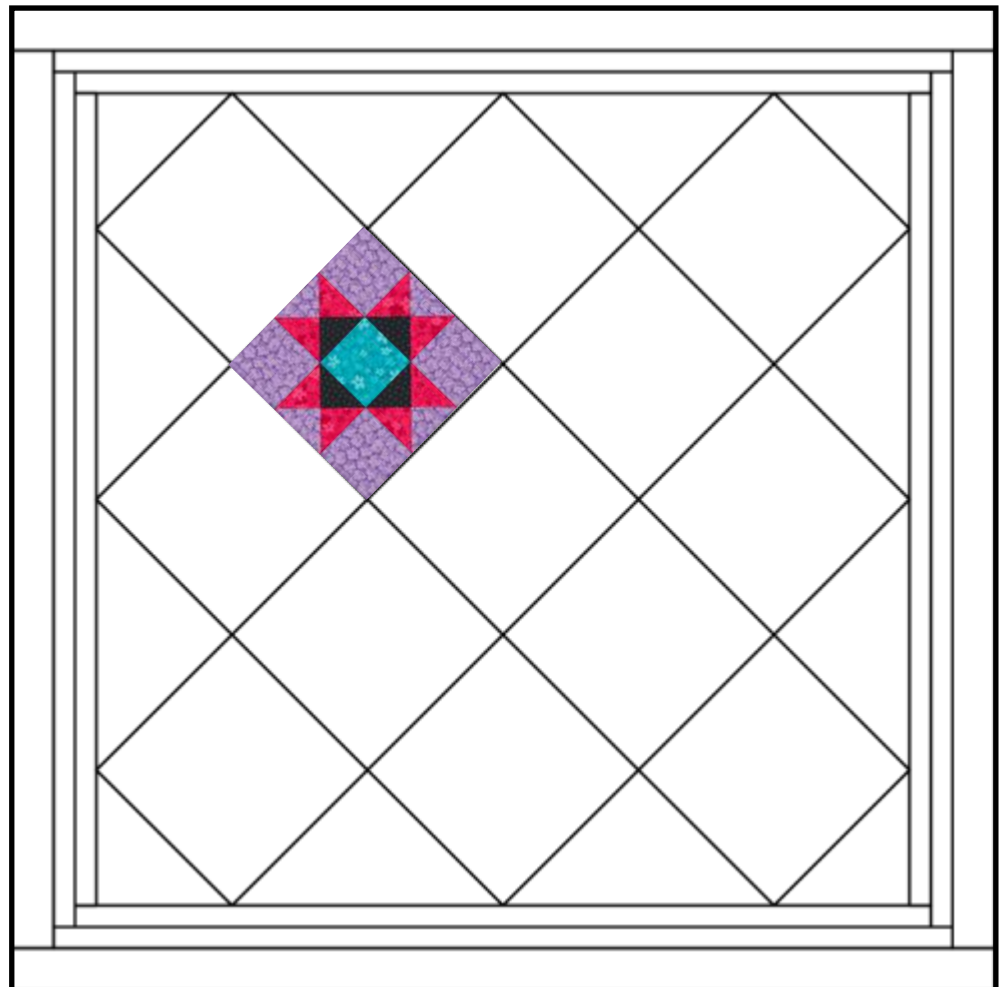


When you have 20 or less blocks that are symmetrical traditional quilt blocks an on-point layout is often the best way to get the most out of your blocks and turn them into a whole quilt!

On point simply means the block is sitting in a diamond layout rather than a more basic horizontal rows layout.



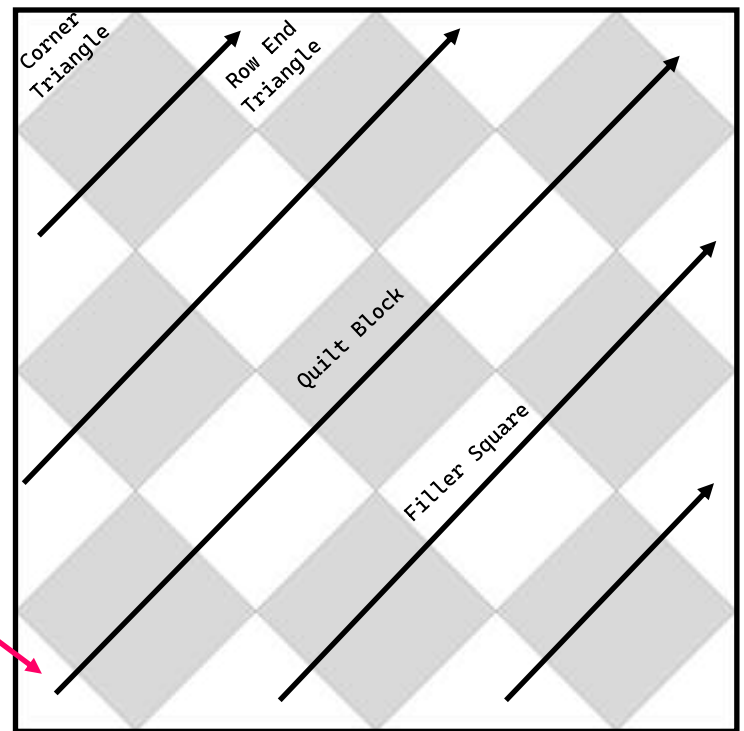
On Point



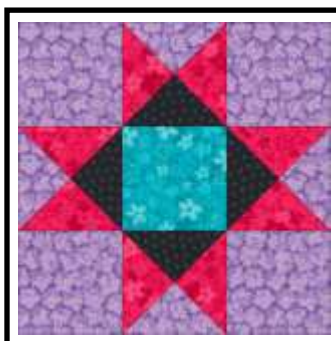
To make an on-point quilt the rows run diagonally! At the end of each row a triangle is added to achieve a square quilt centre.



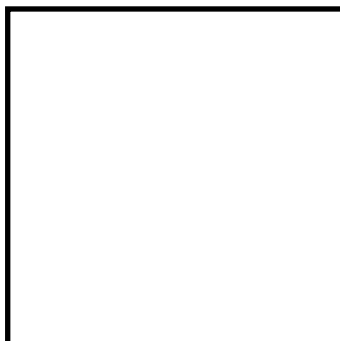
* Just remember the centre diagonal row will need two corner triangles, one at each end, rather than two row end triangles.



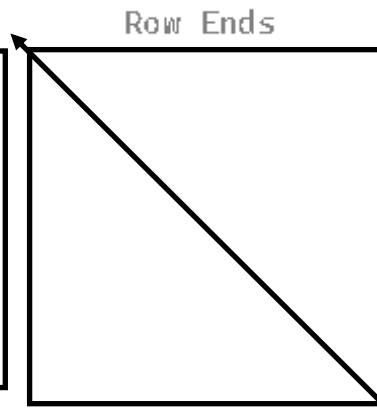
To get those triangles cut a square of background fabric just a little bigger (e.g. add 1/2" on both dimensions) than your block size and cut it in half diagonally to create two triangles. Your quilt centre can be 'squared up' after it is complete to trim off any excess fabric but be sure to leave a 1/4" seam allowance all the way around!



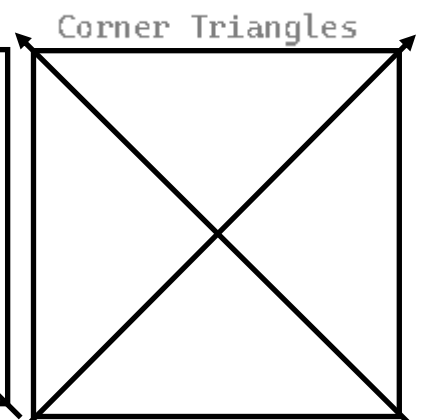
Block Size



Filler Squares
of background fabric

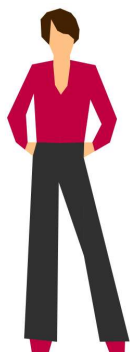


Slightly larger
square cut on
the diagonal.
Makes two row
end triangles!



Slightly larger
square cut on
both diagonals.
Makes all 4
corner triangles!

* Just remember the centre diagonal row will need two corner triangles, one at each end, rather than two row end triangles.





One Orphan Block

The simplest thing to do if you only have one block is to place it in the quilt centre and use fabrics that complement the block to surround it in an on-point layout and add simple borders.

For a 12" quilt block and feature borders cut 2.5" wide this quilt would be approximately 52" square!



The perfect quick easy
charity baby quilt!

One Orphan Block Option 2

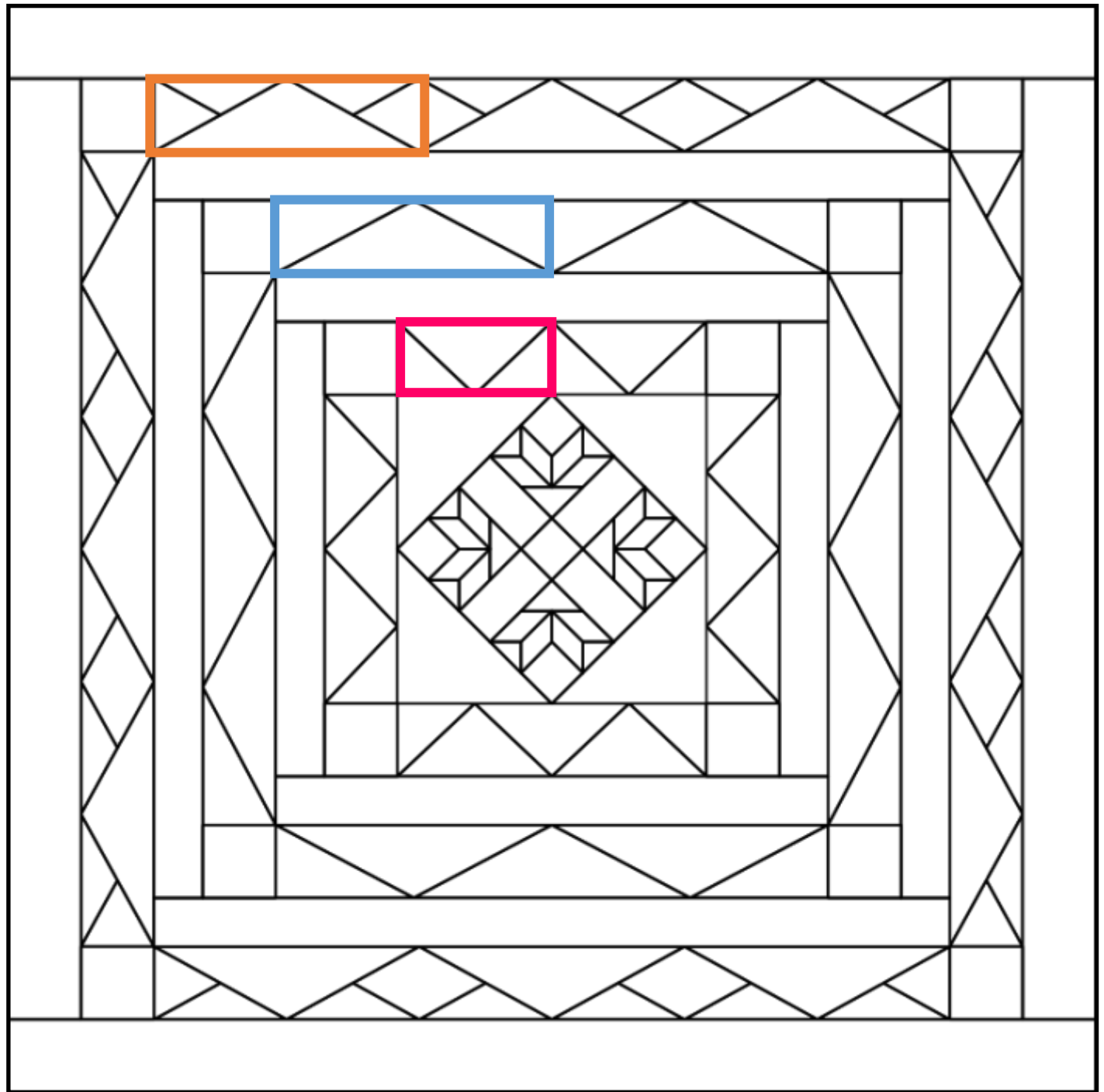


Build out from the centre with borders!

These are easy to create with mostly simple HSTs (half square triangles) and flying geese units! See over page for some tips to create your own templates.

In the example shown the centre block is 12" square with 3 simple borders and 3 feature borders that are 3" wide once sewn in.

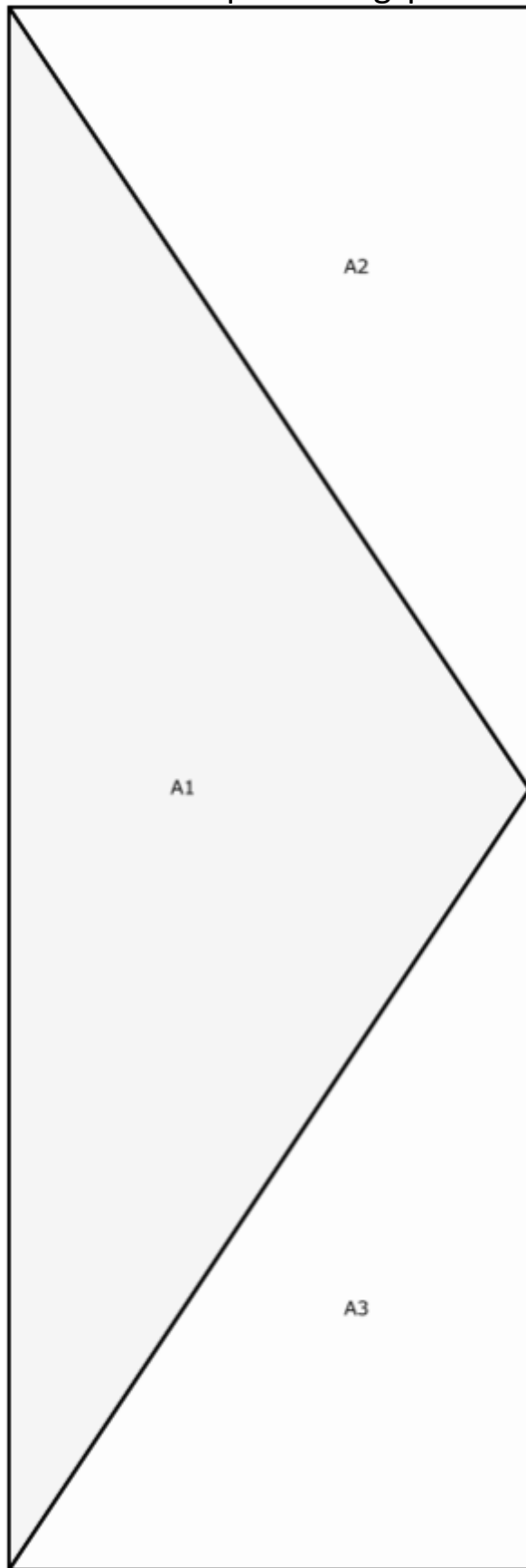
One Orphan Block Option 2



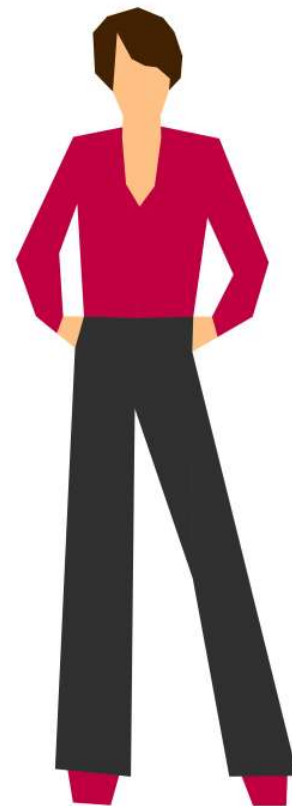
Feature border 1 is simply 8 flying geese units and 4 simple cornerstones!

Feature border two is also just 8 flying geese units and 4 simple cornerstones!

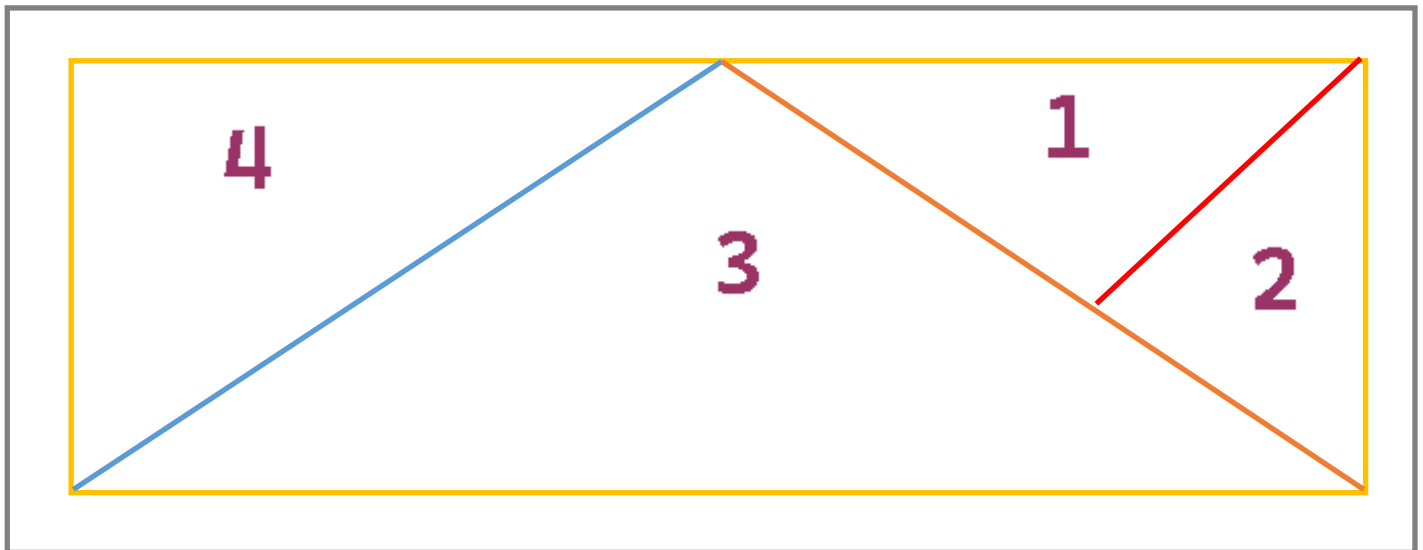
Feature border 3 is simply 12 flying geese units with some additional detail and 4 simple cornerstones!



To foundation paper piece a flying geese unit is pretty easy. This is a 9" x 3" flying goose pattern.



If that isn't the right size then simply make your own template by cutting a rectangle of paper the size you need, but be sure to remember to add the 1/4" of seam allowance all the way around. Then draw the lines to create the goose.

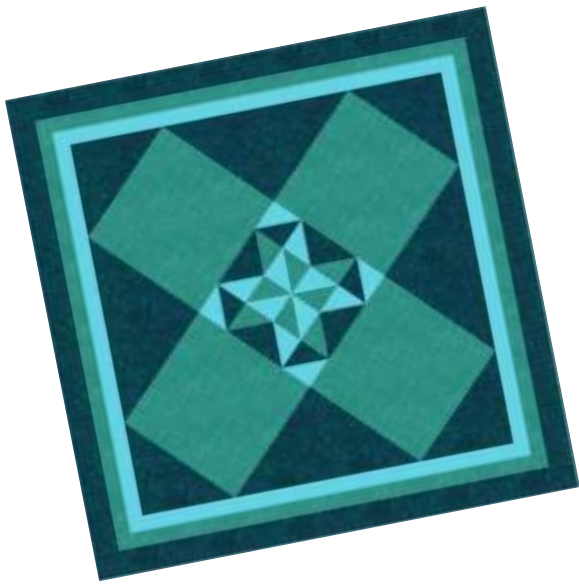


To create the template for the slightly more detailed fling goose unit:



1. The size block you want
2. The size you cut you paper is 1/4" larger all the way around. You can use a glue stick to join pieces of paper if you need a larger template than fits on your paper.
3. Using a ruler draw a line from the bottom left corner to the centre top
4. Draw a line from the centre top to the bottom right corner
5. Draw a line from the top right corner to a point on the orange line (be sure to measure where that point is on the orange line for consistency)
6. Number the template in sewing order

Now you can create your own borders!



**So dig out your
single quilt
blocks and get
stitching!**



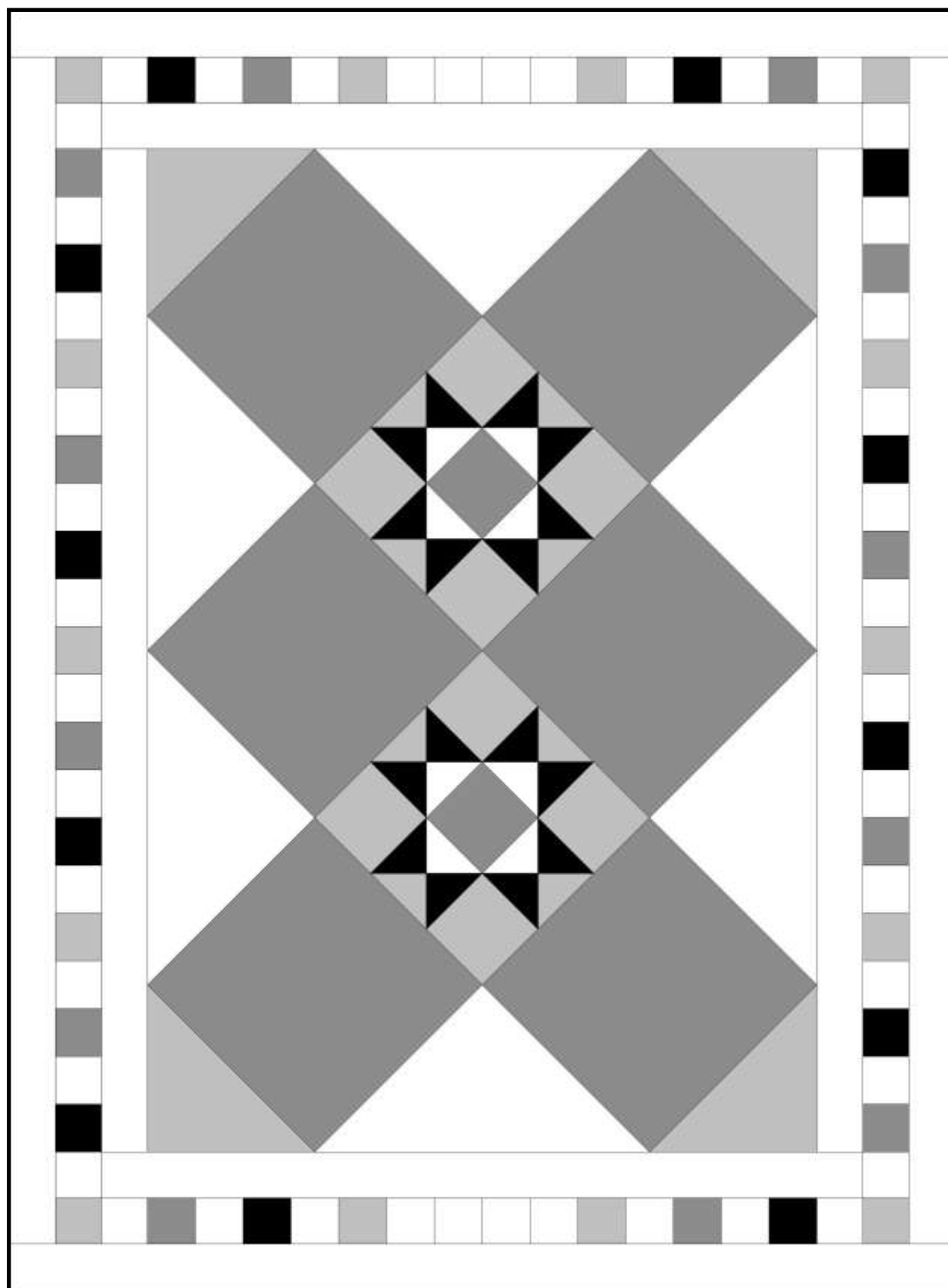
Two Orphan Blocks



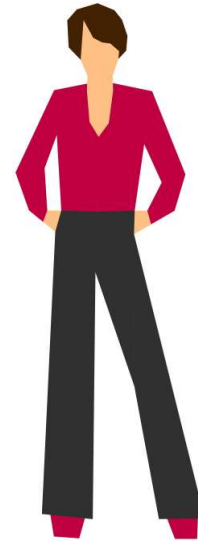
A cute scrappy squares border brings all the fun colors from the quilt centre out to the borders!

Two Orphan Blocks

Printable Quilt Layout!



**This can work
with many blocks
and palettes!**

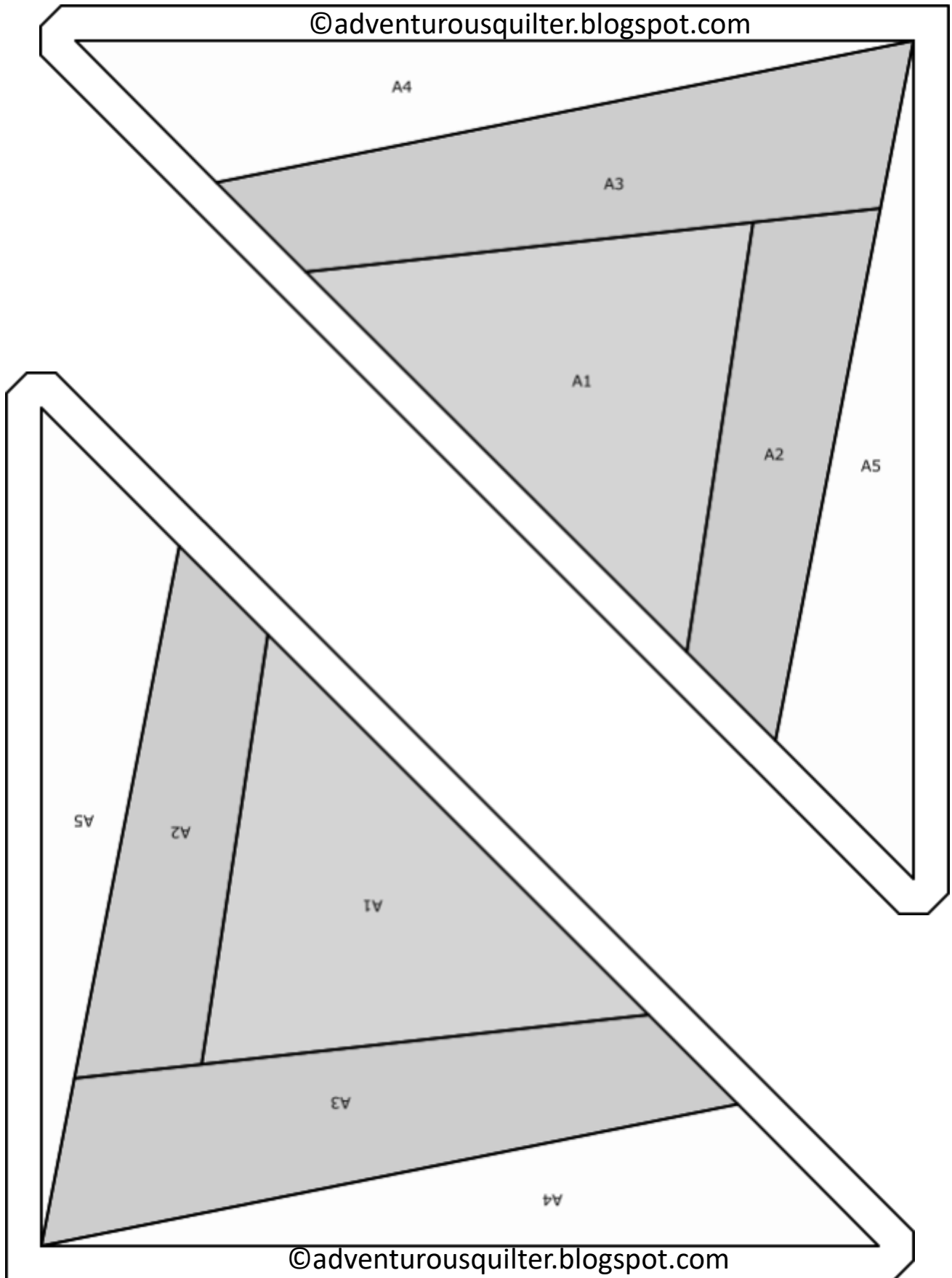


**In this example I have
designed an FPP block
that adds pizzazz to some
of the negative space!**

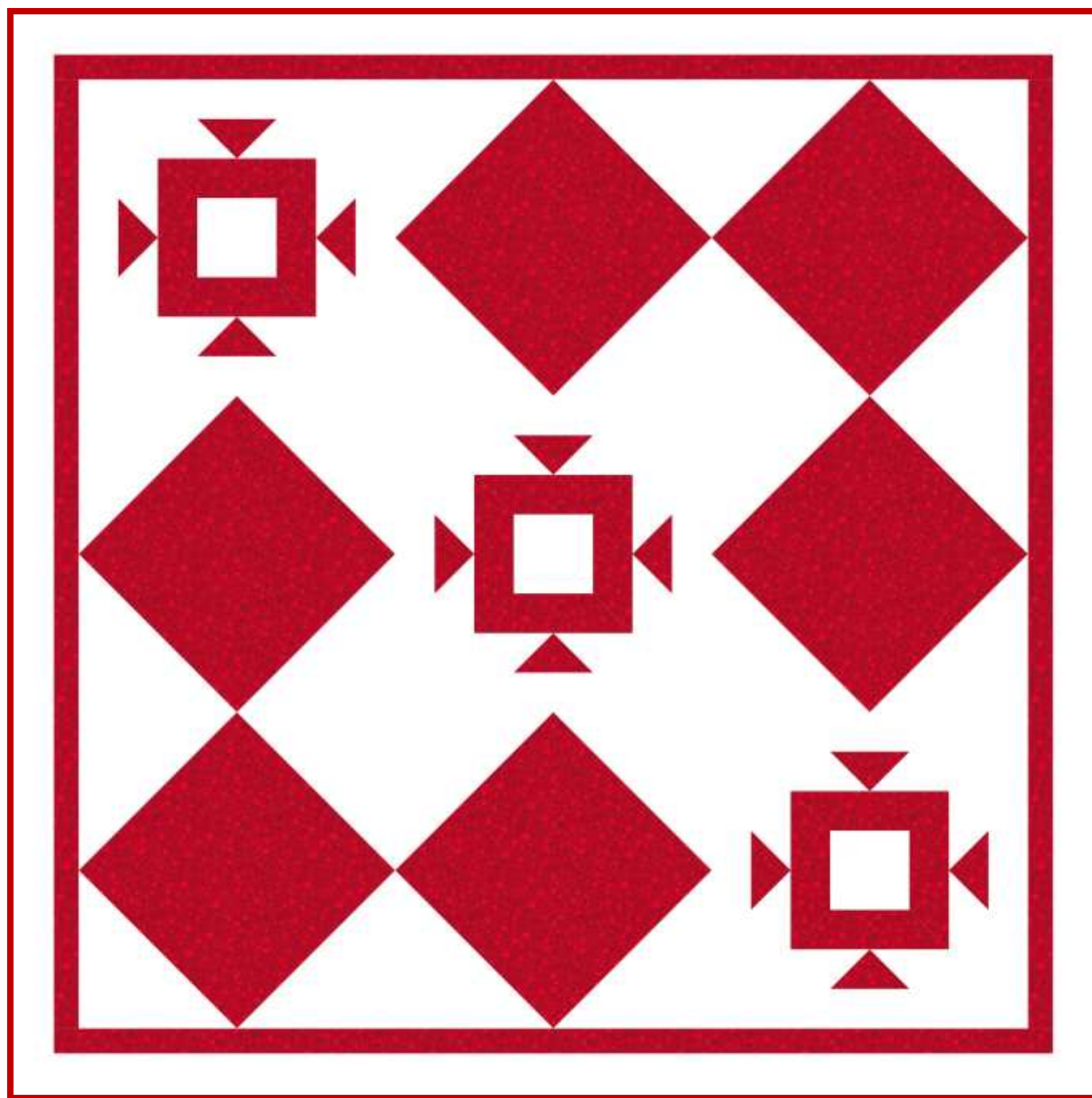
**The block pattern for a
6" block is provided
overpage but remember you
can always draft your own
bigger version if needed
with just paper, glue
stick, ruler and a pen
or pencil!**



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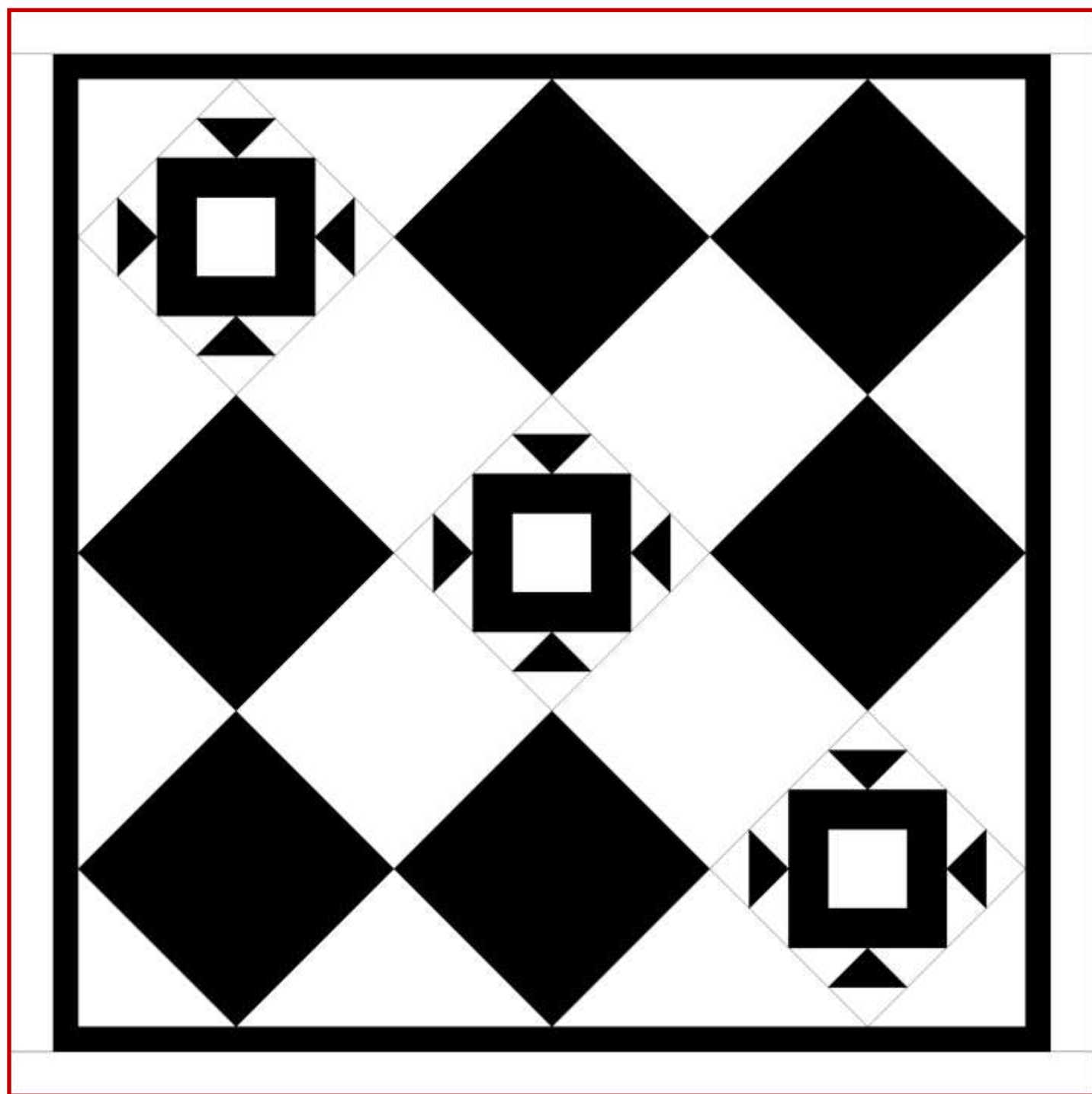


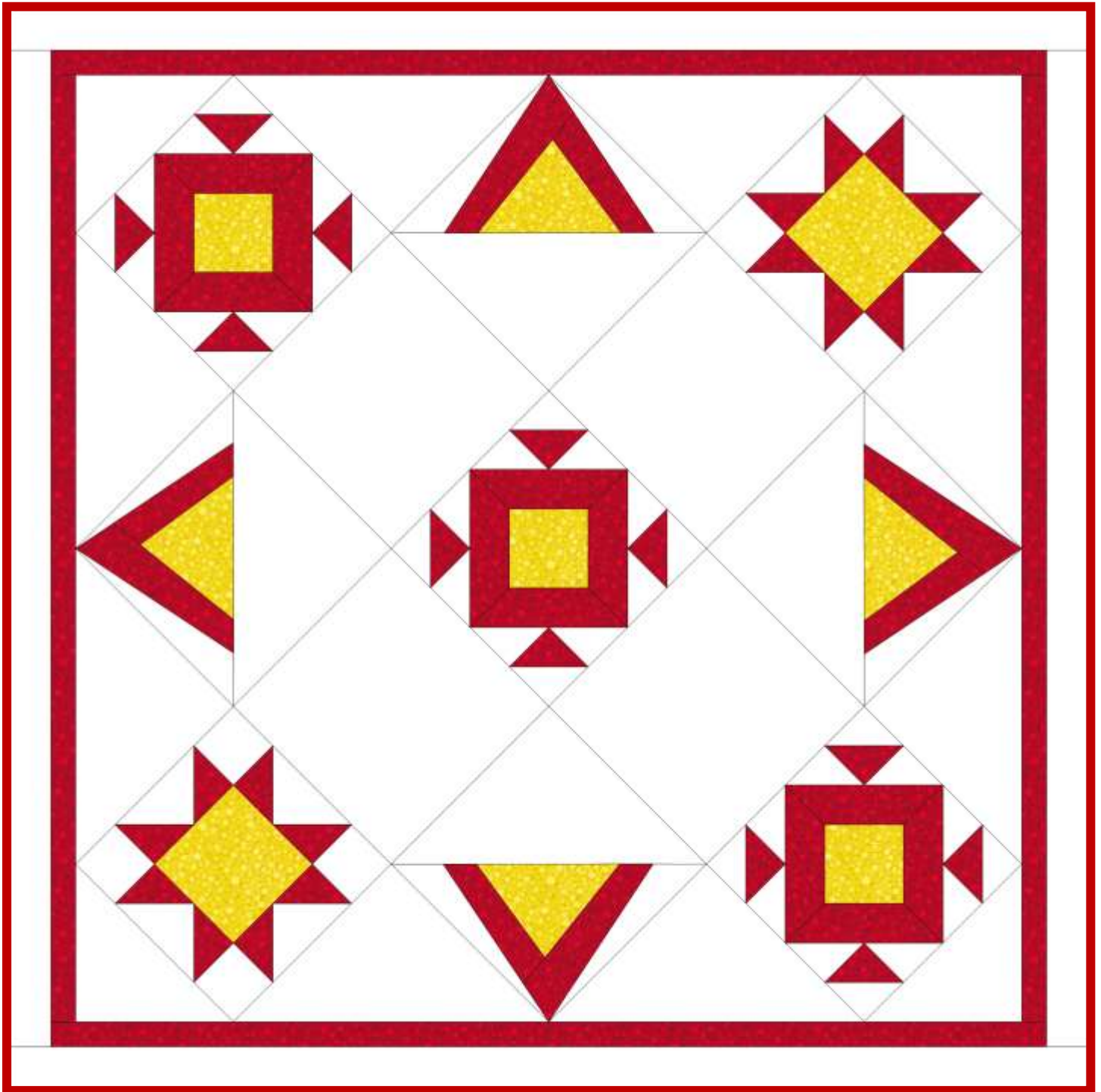
Three Orphan Blocks



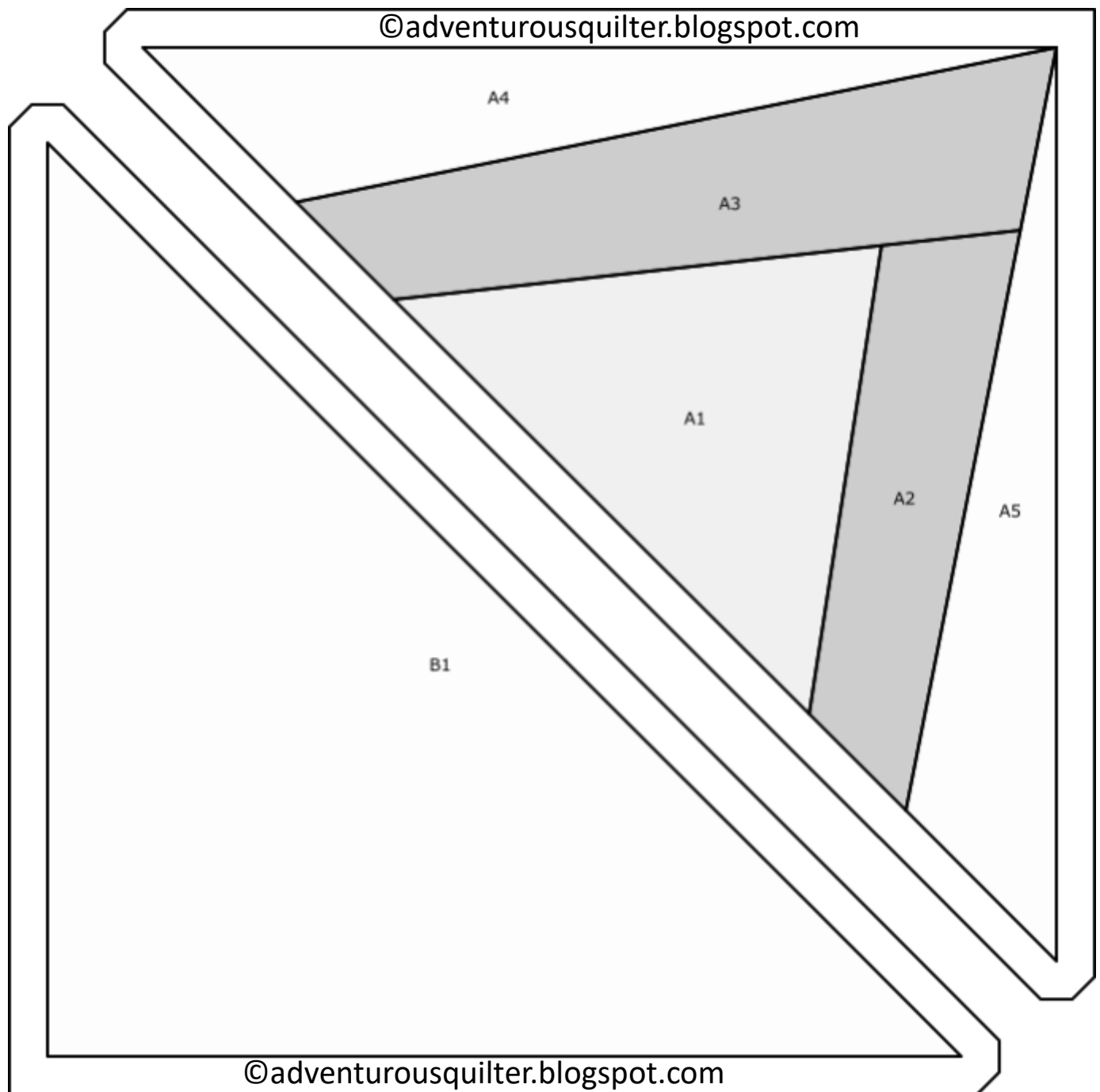
Three Orphan Blocks

Printable On-Point Layout



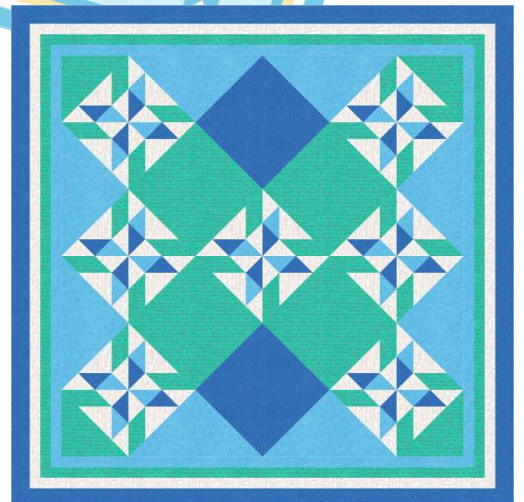
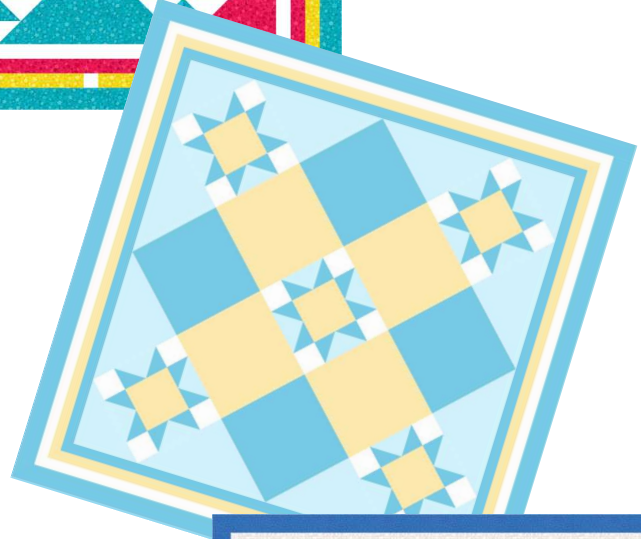


**In this example 4 FPP
blocks are used to fill
some negative space!**



**Makes a 6" block plus
seam allowance**

Once you get the hang of using orphan blocks in an on-point layout you can truly demolish your quilt block hoard!

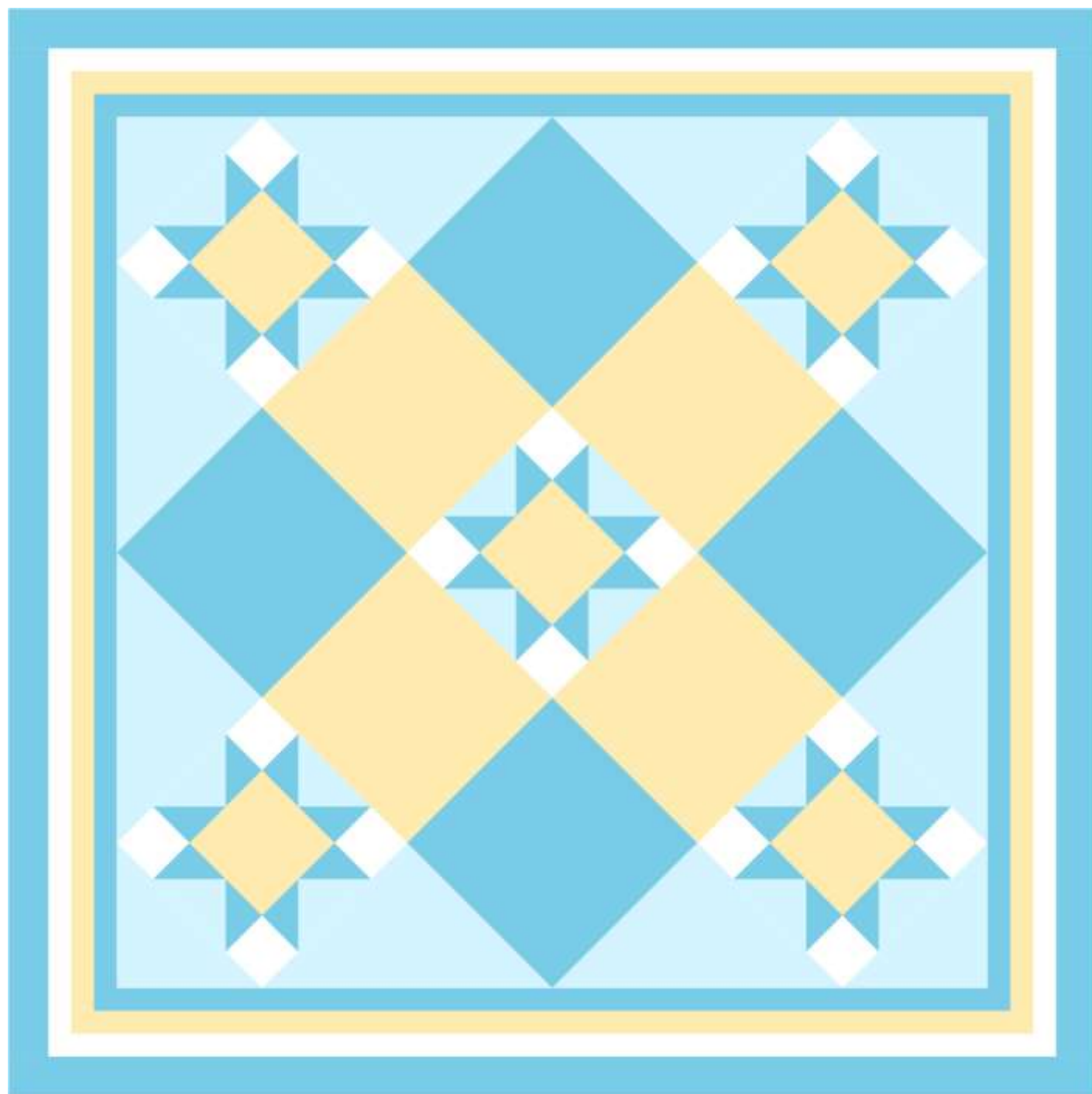


Four Orphan Blocks

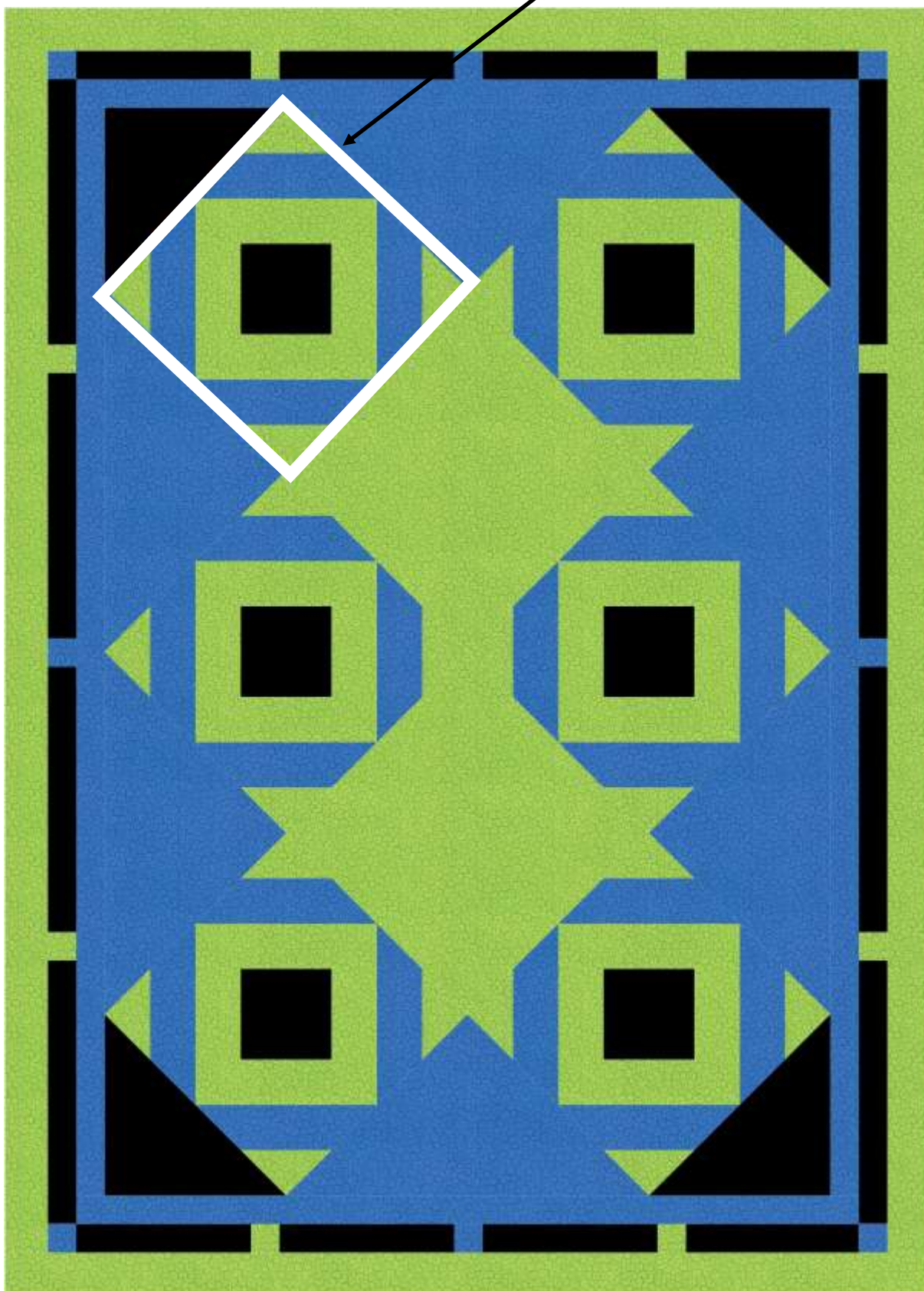


**Four 12" blocks can make a
terrific baby quilt!**

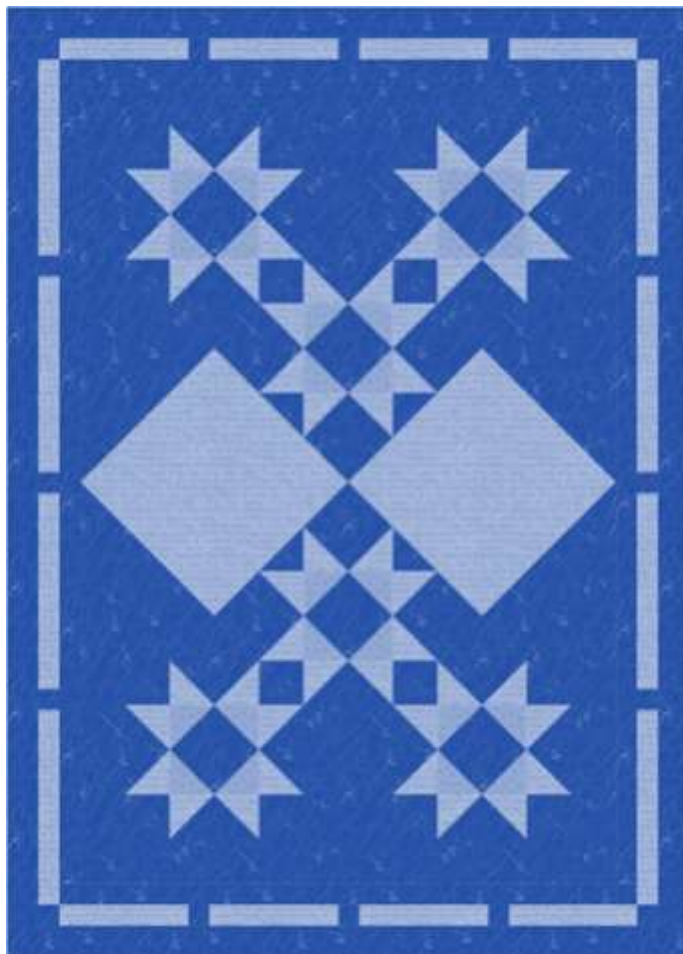
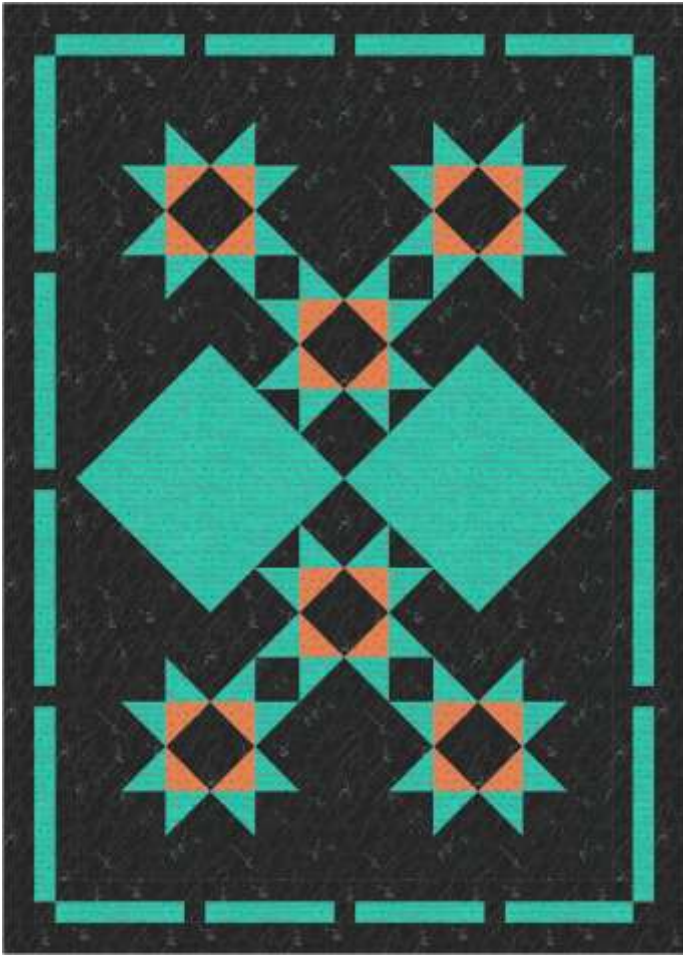
Five Orphan Blocks



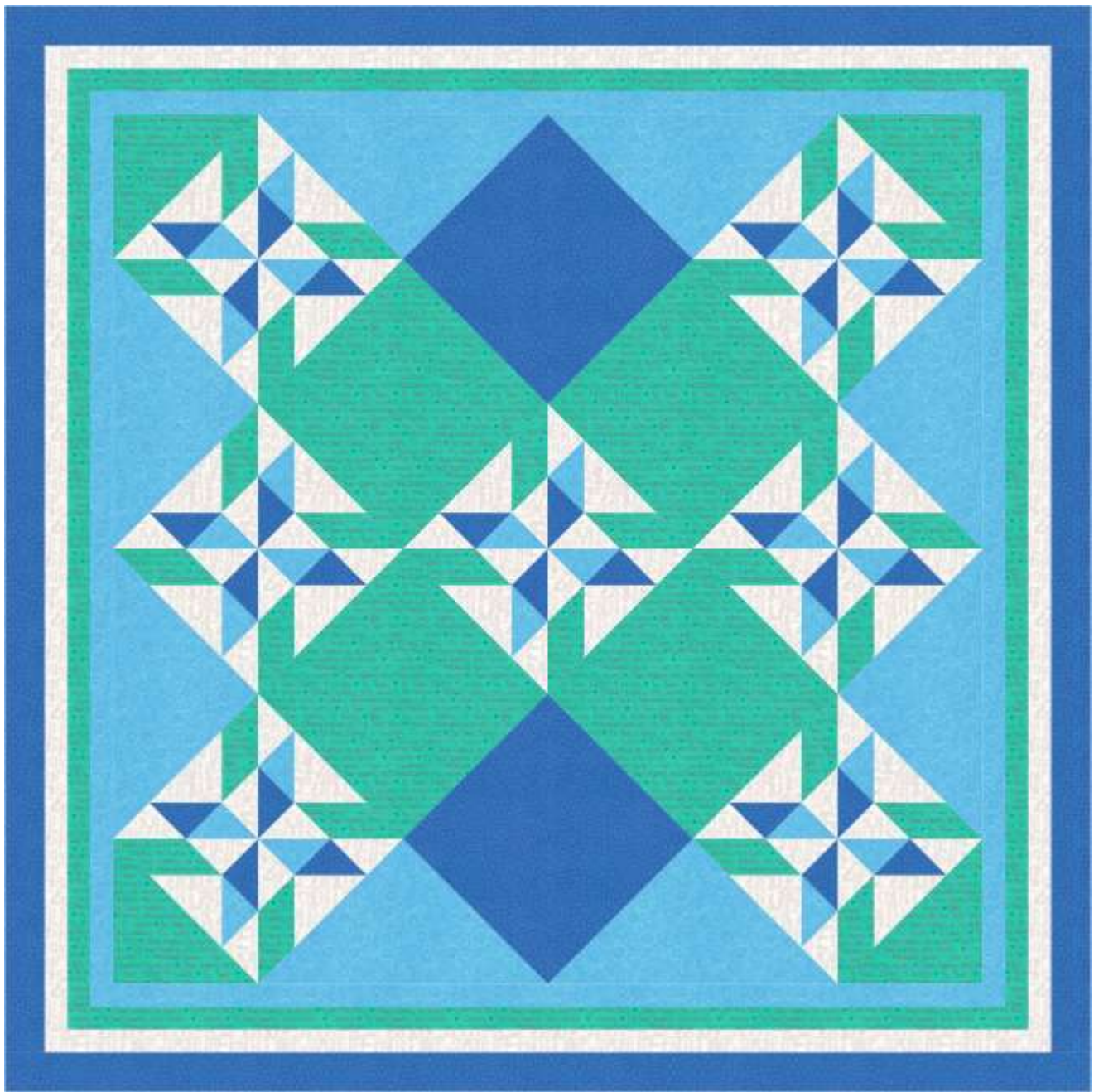
Six Orphan Blocks



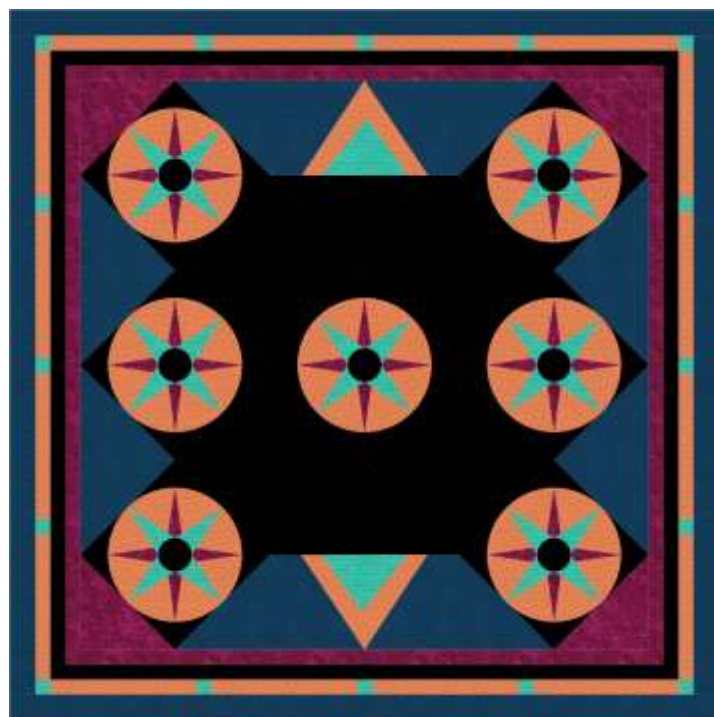
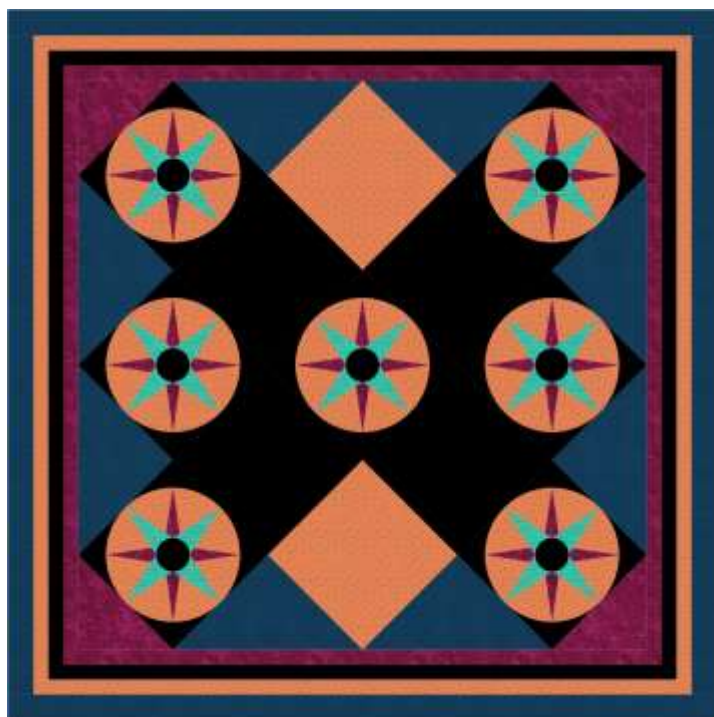
Six Orphan Blocks



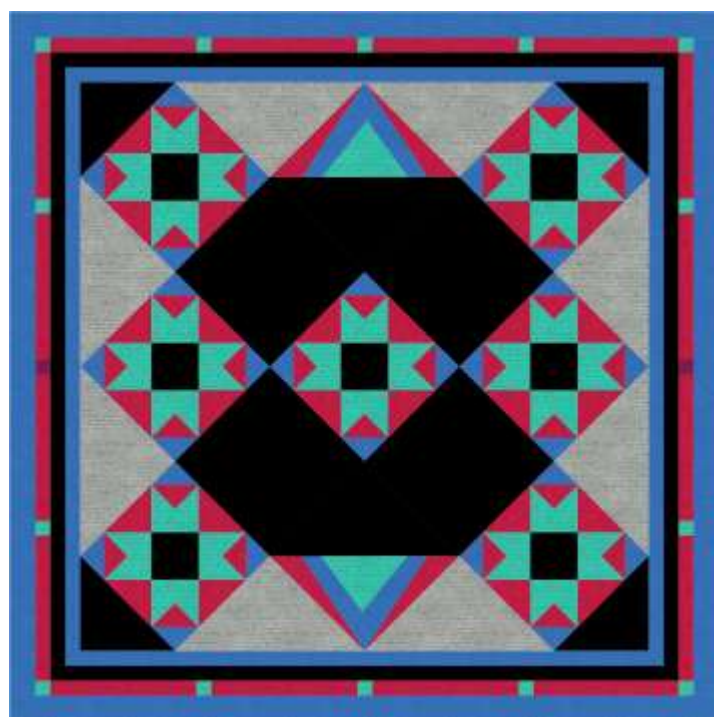
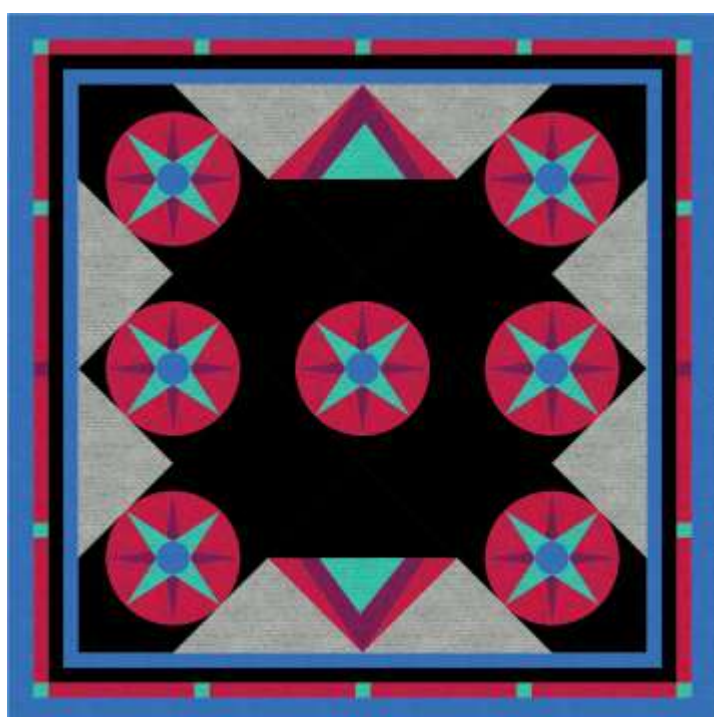
Seven Orphan Blocks



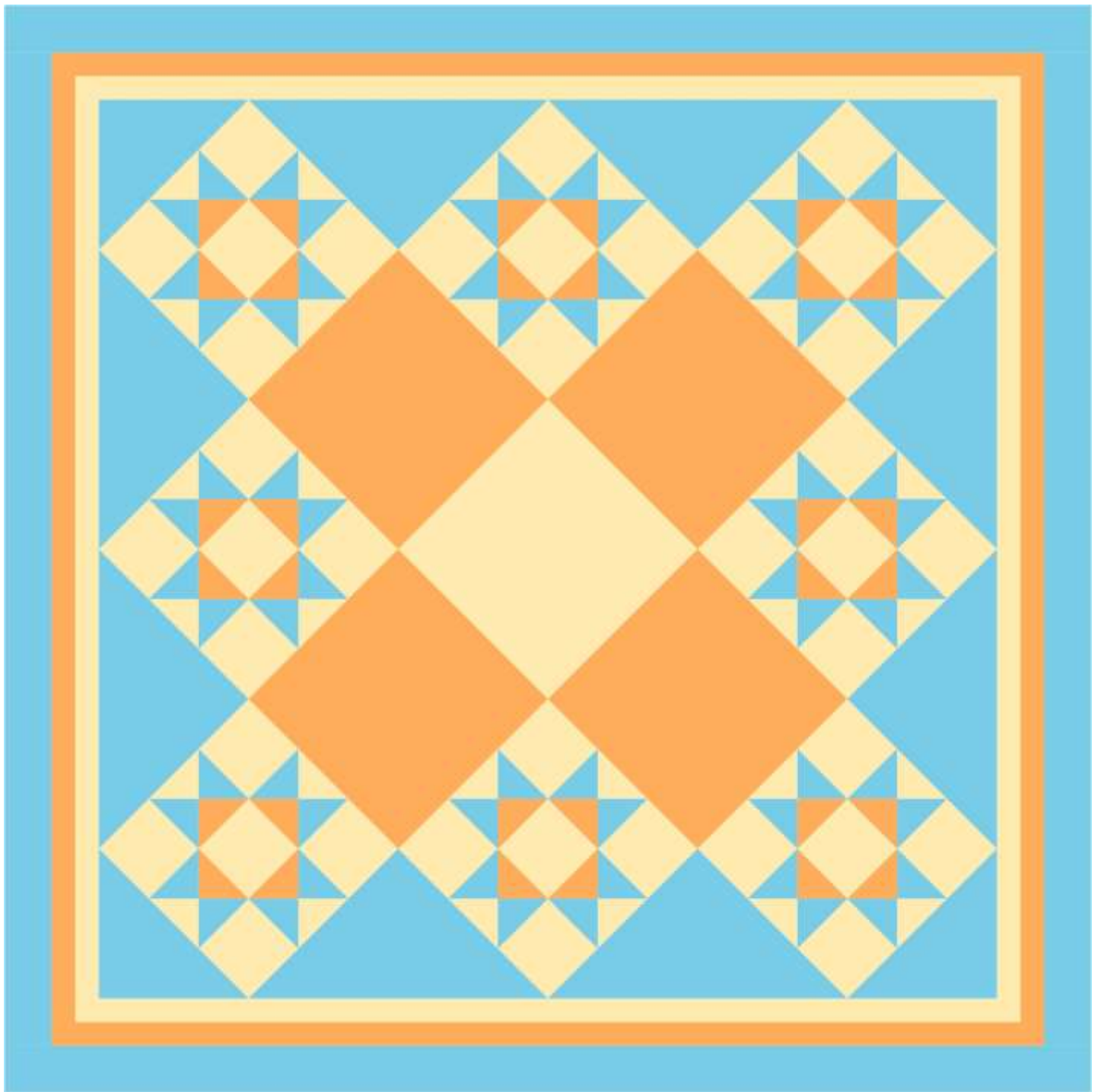
A simple layout but with the fabric choices it can be a stunning plaid inspired quilt!



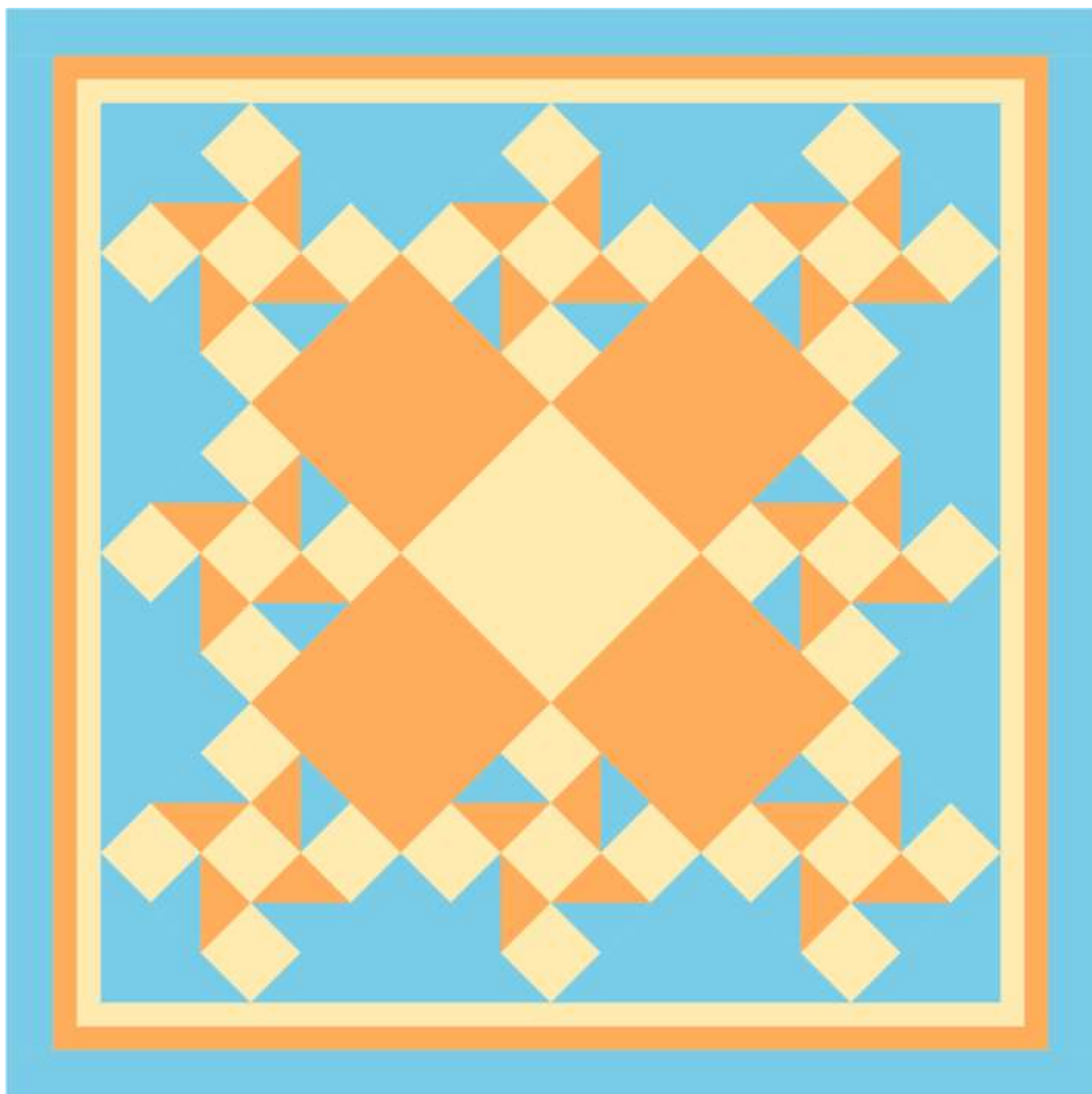
So many ways to set the seven orphan blocks amongst feature fabric filler quilt blocks!



Eight Orphan Blocks



Eight Simple Stars
One delightful Quilt!

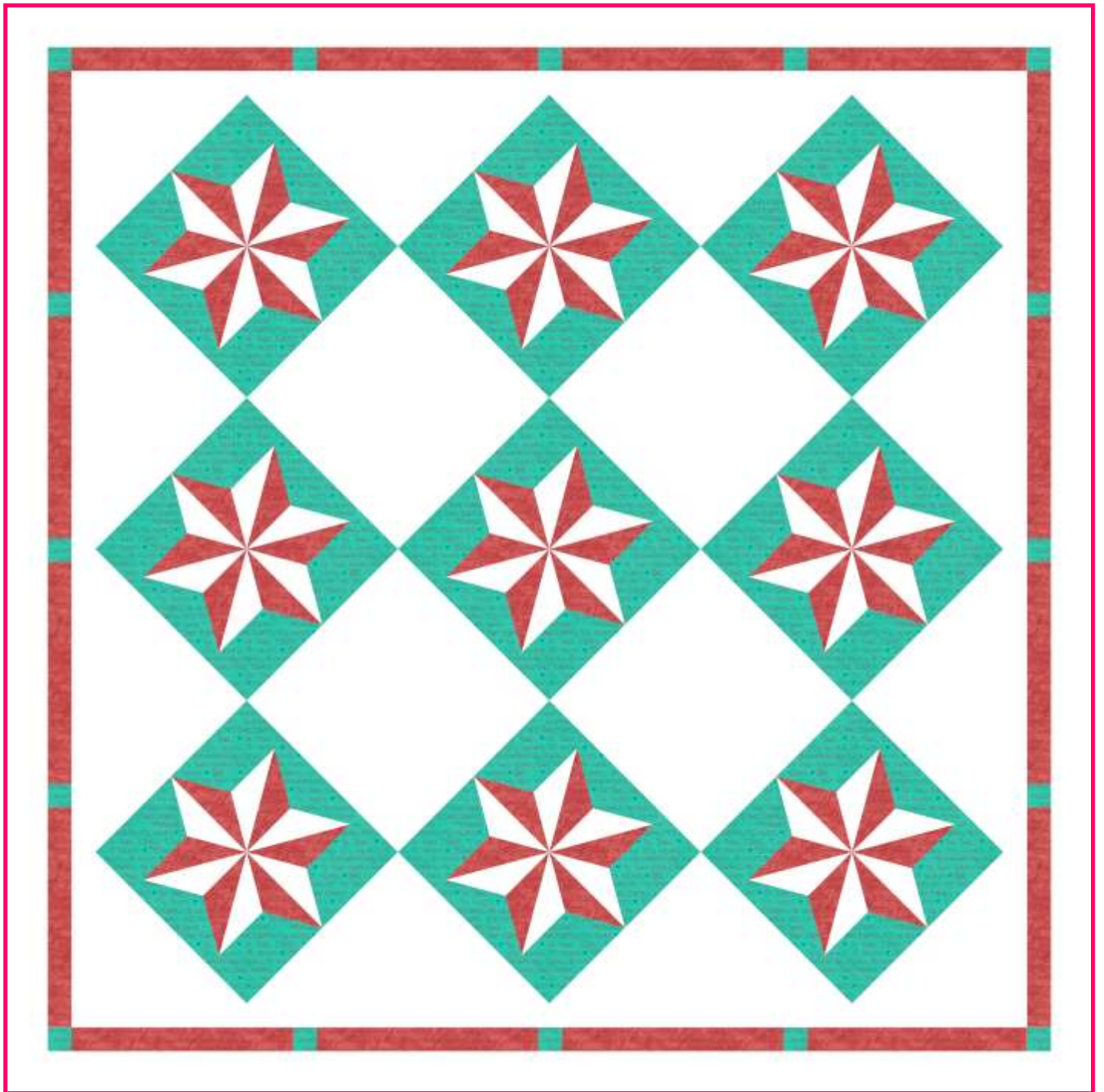


**Swap the stars for another
delightful quilt in the
same cute pastel palette!**

Nine Orphan Blocks



These HST blocks really look terrific!

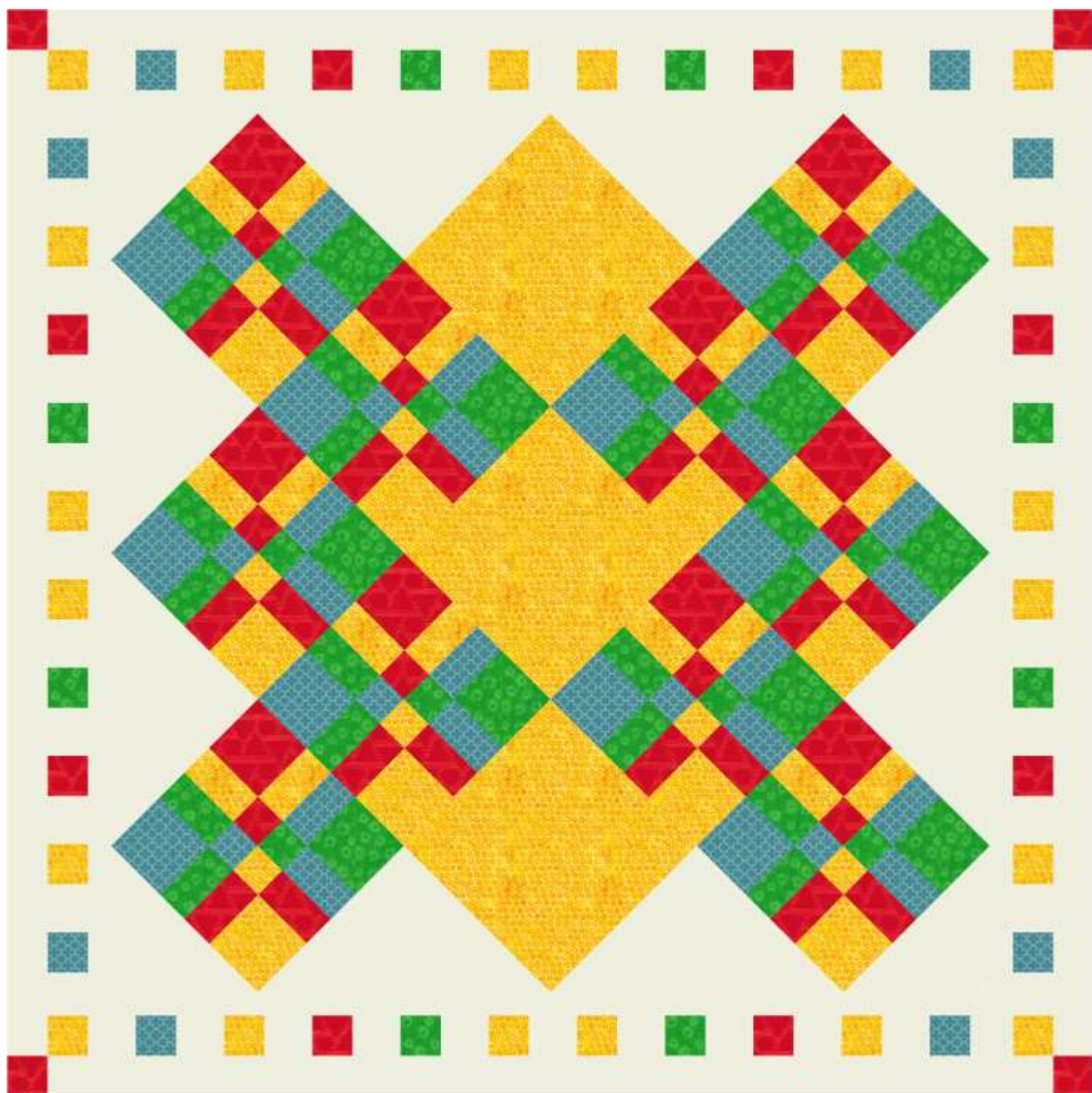


Cute Christmassy Stars

Ten Orphan Blocks

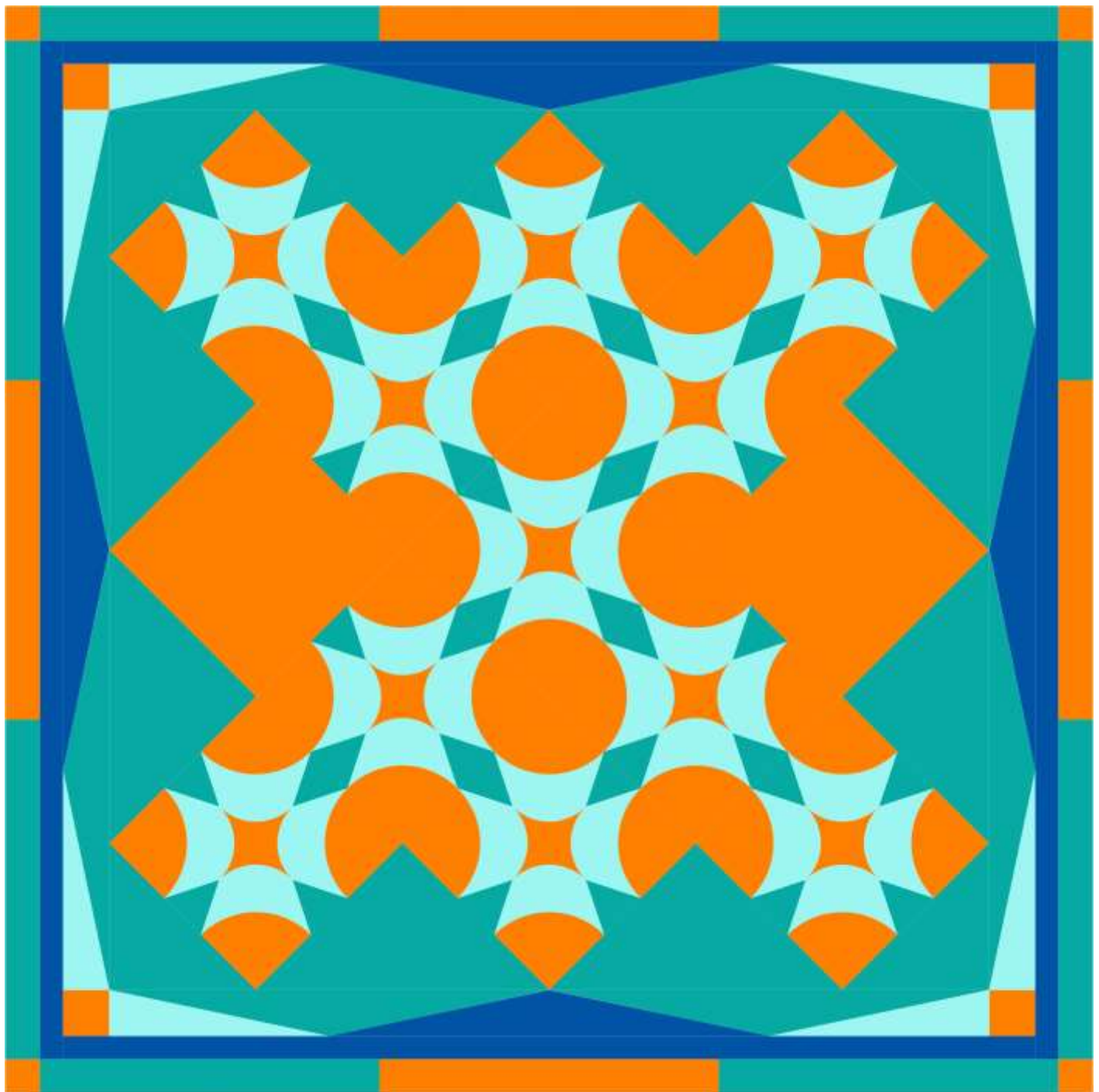


Five on each side with a feature fabric down the centre!



**A vast array of block designs
can work with these layouts!**

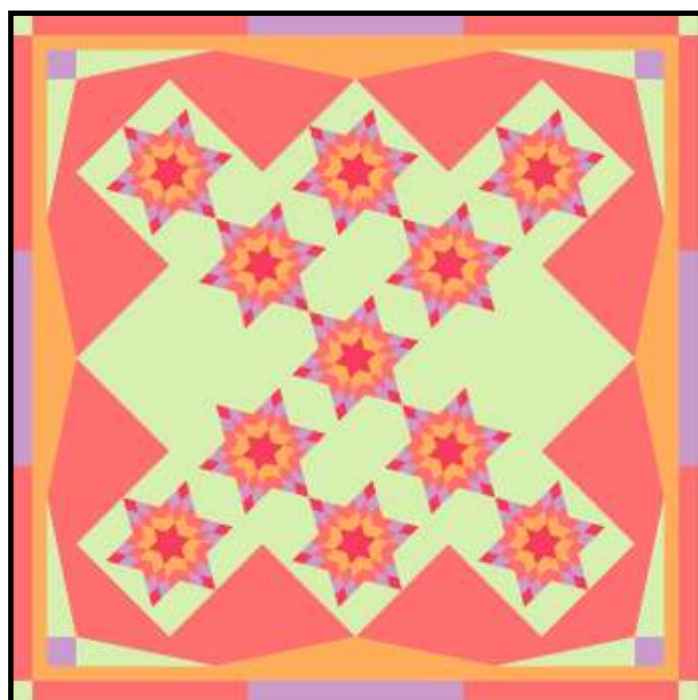
Eleven Orphan Blocks



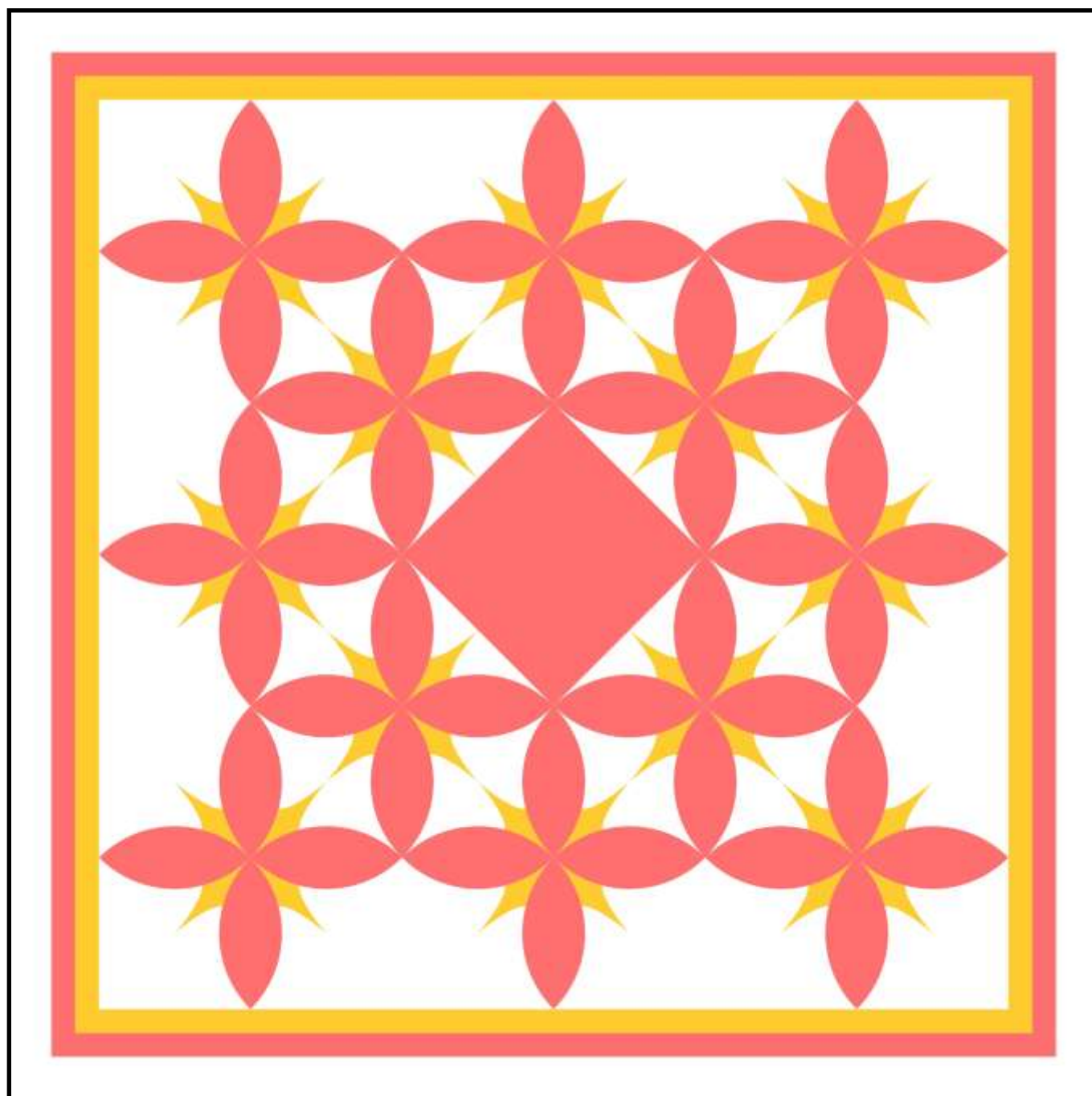
**Add some fun borders to really
give your quilts pizzazz!**



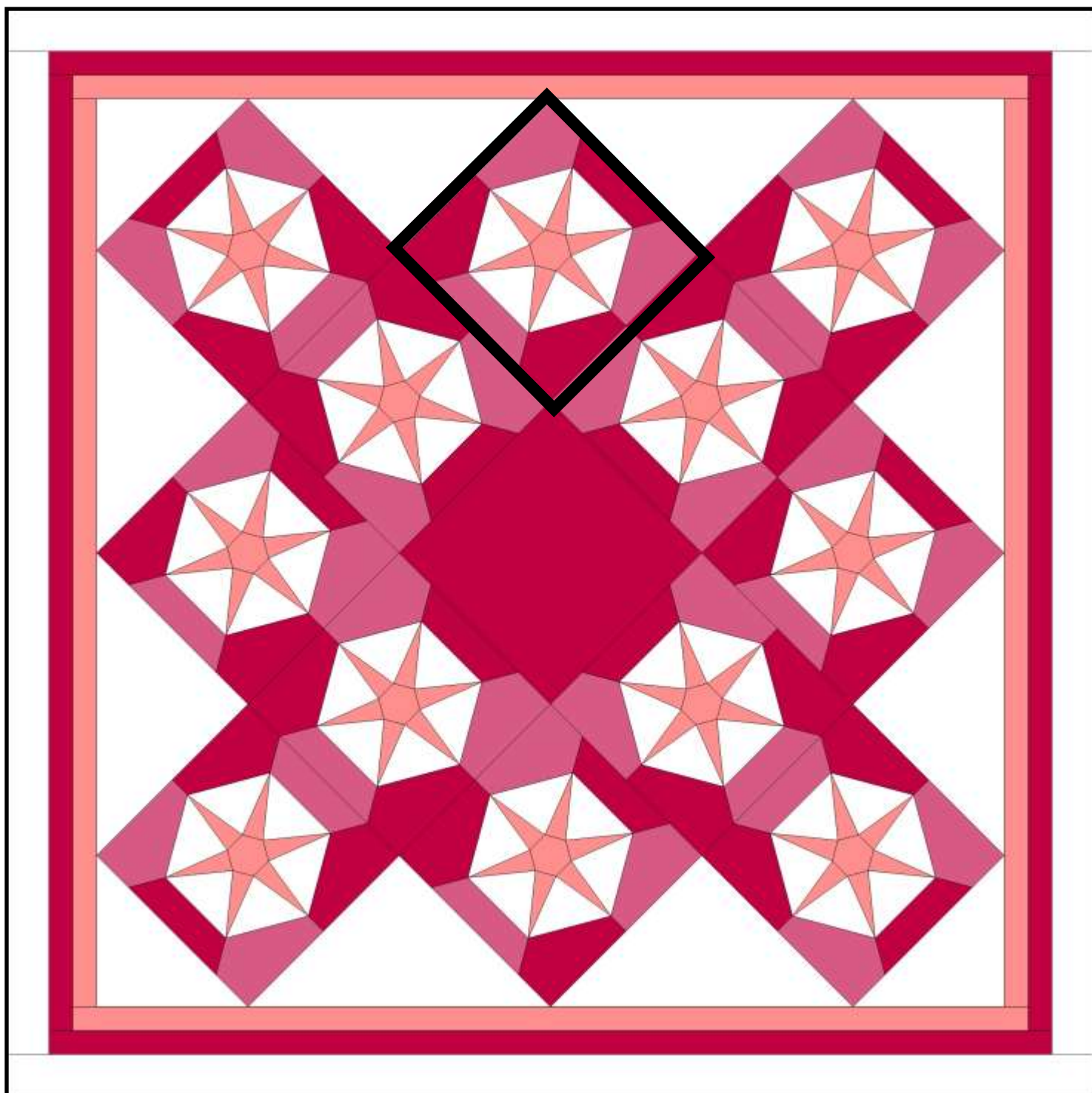
Lots of blocks & colorways look great with this layout!



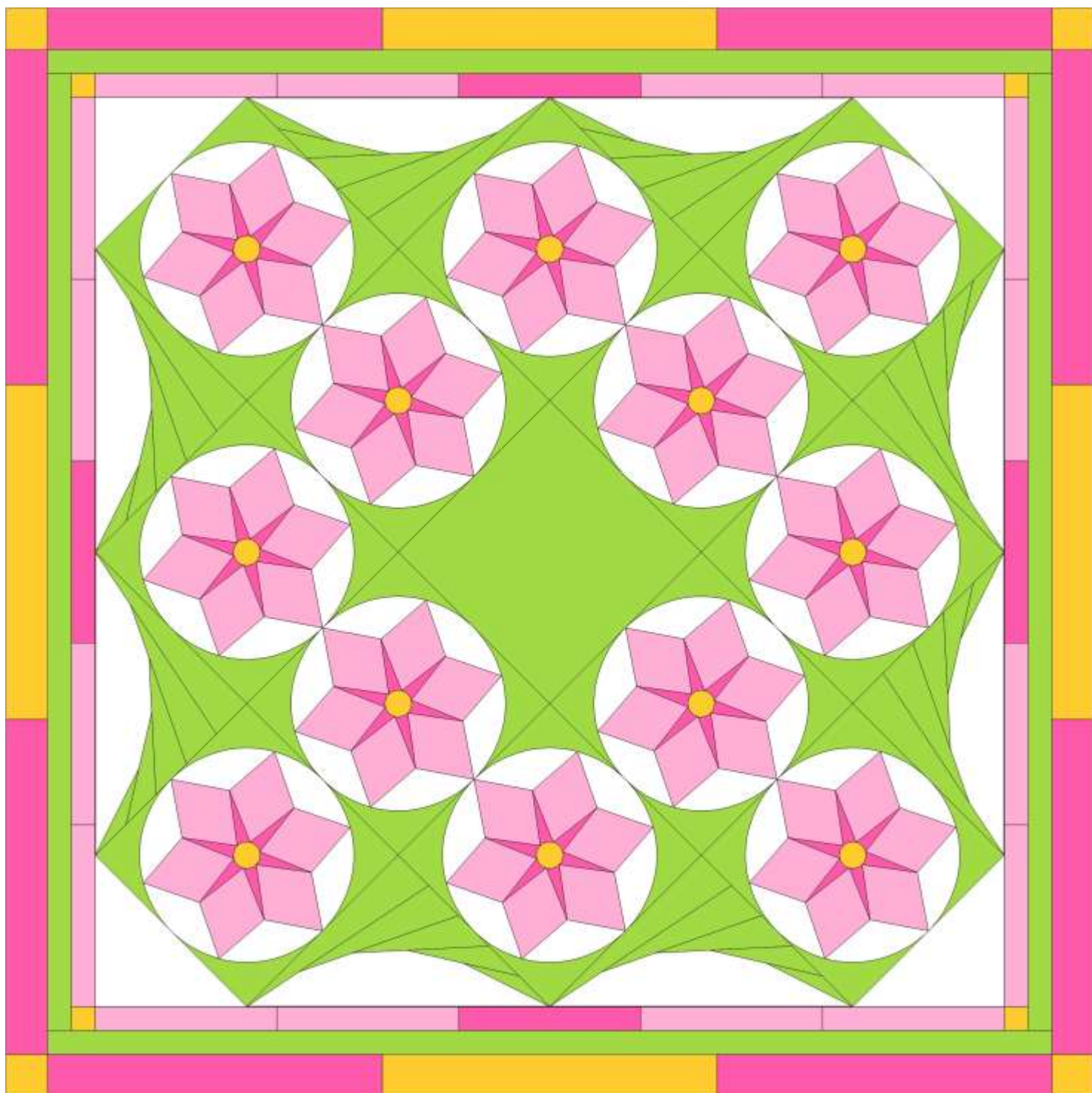
Twelve Orphan Blocks



**Feature fabric in the centre
is perfect for this one!**

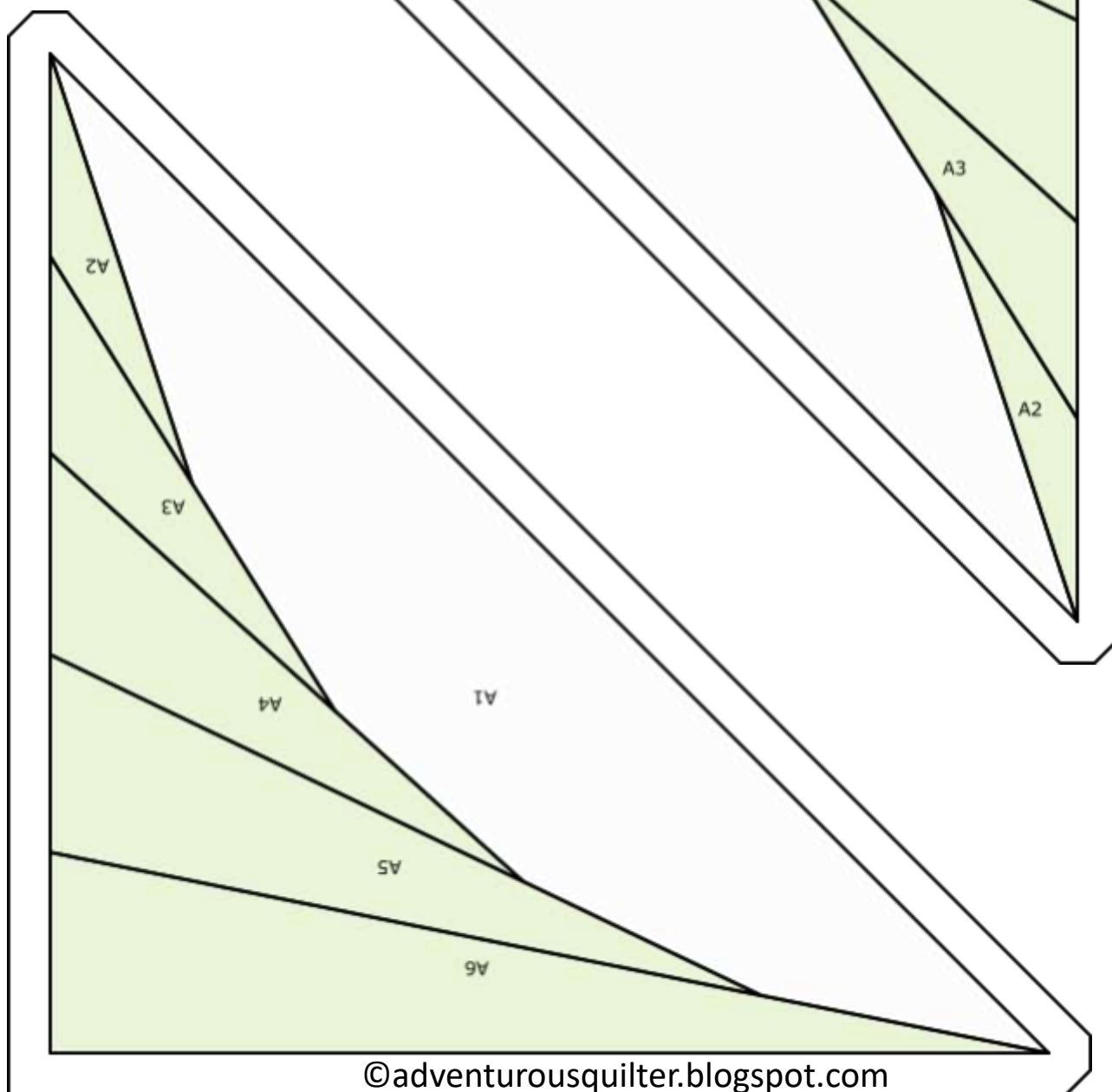


This design still works even when there are two background fabrics!



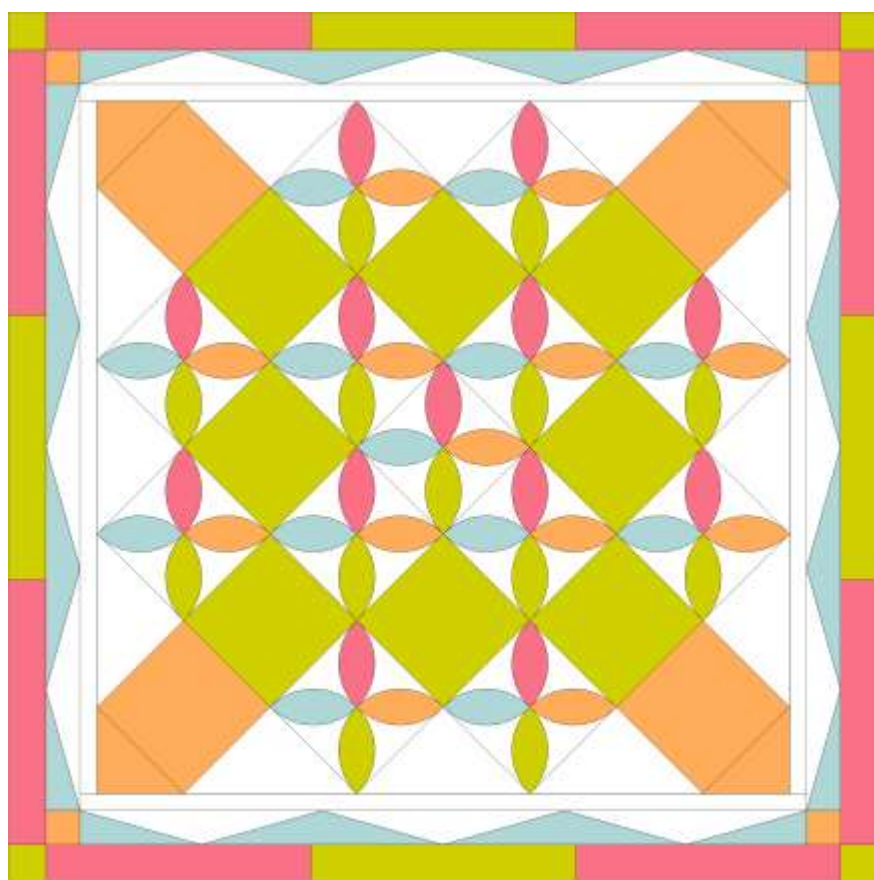
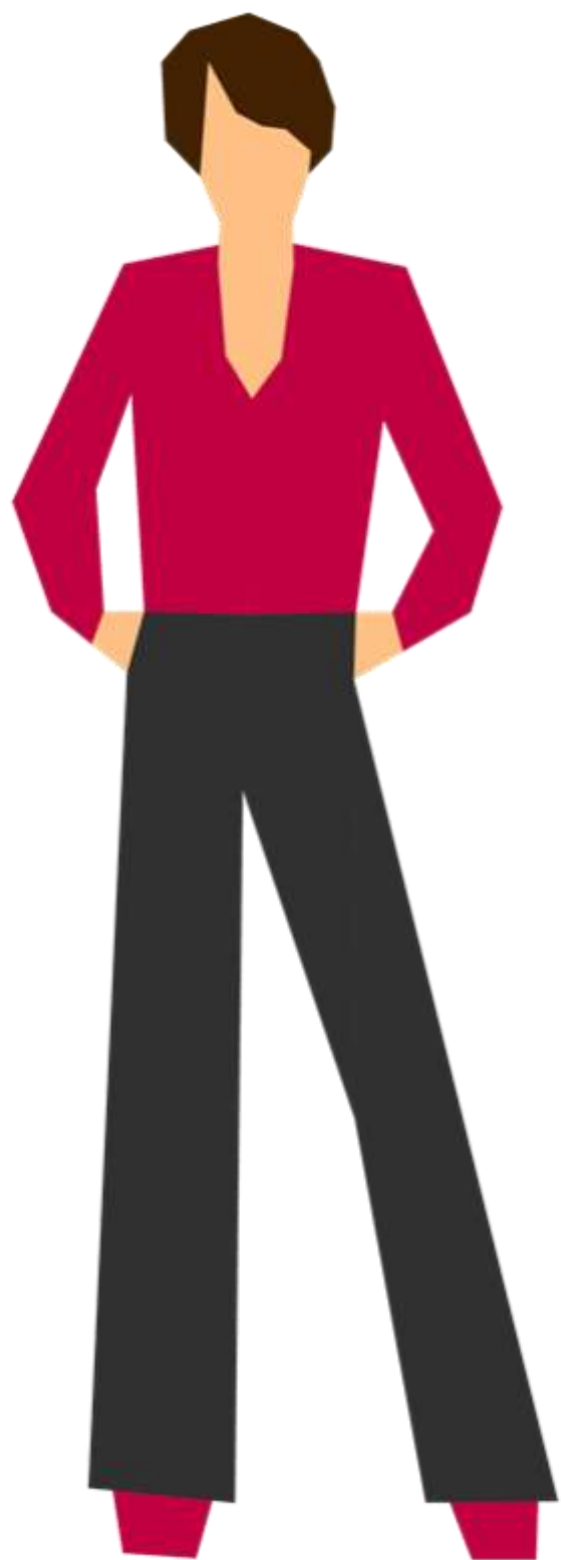
**Curved effect 6" FPP triangle
block provided over page.**

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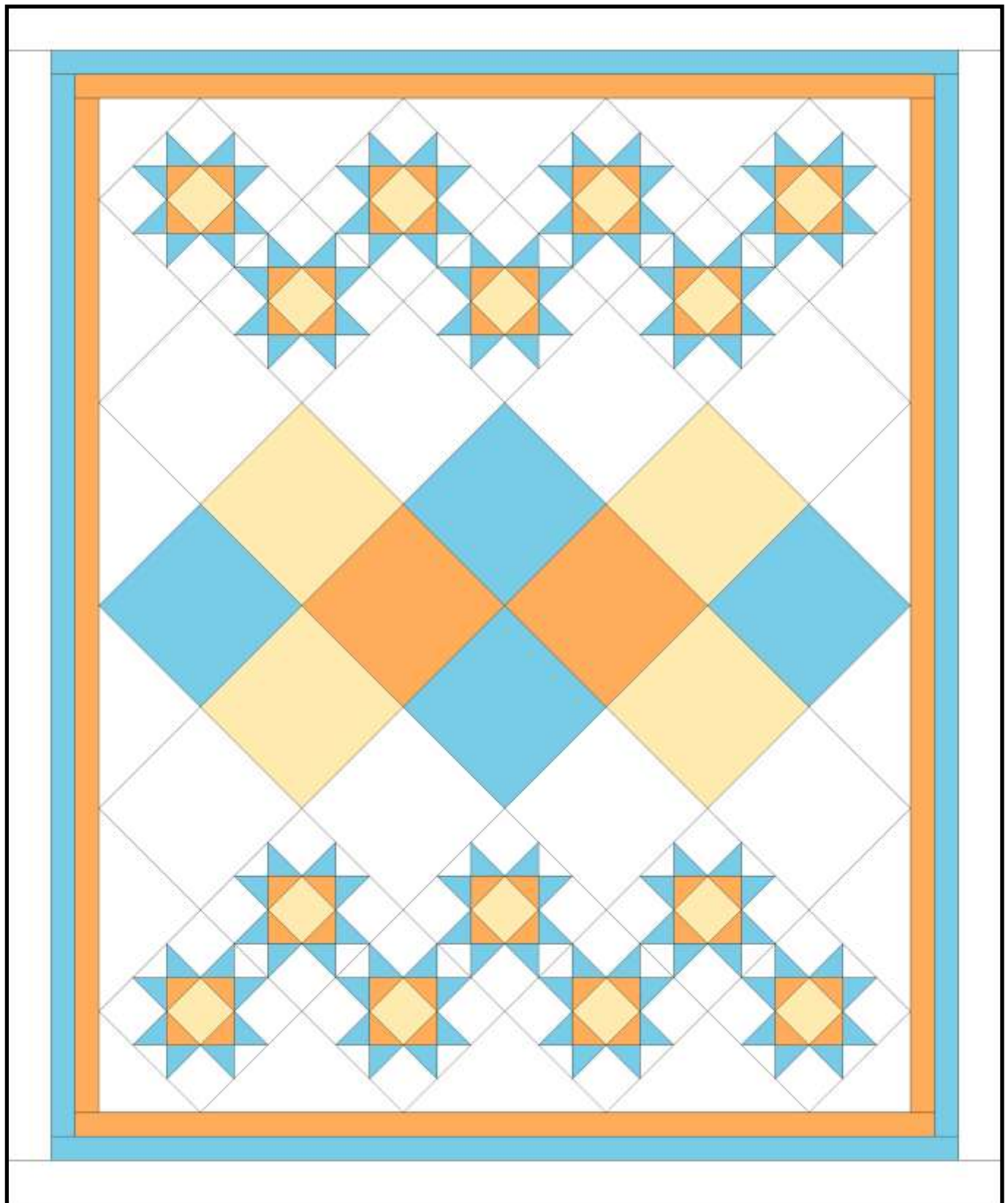


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Thirteen Orphan Blocks



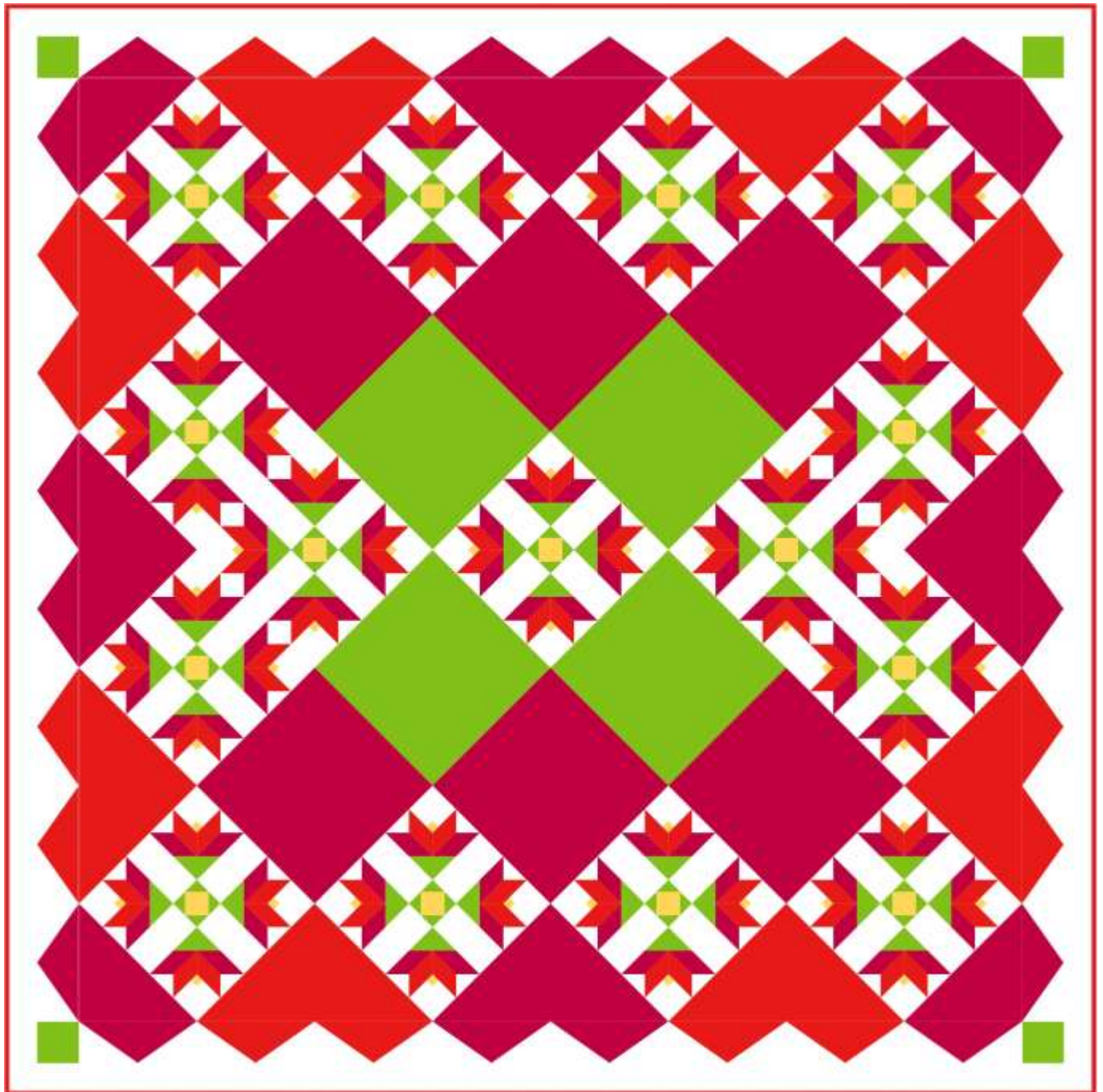
Fourteen Orphan Blocks



Fifteen Orphan Blocks



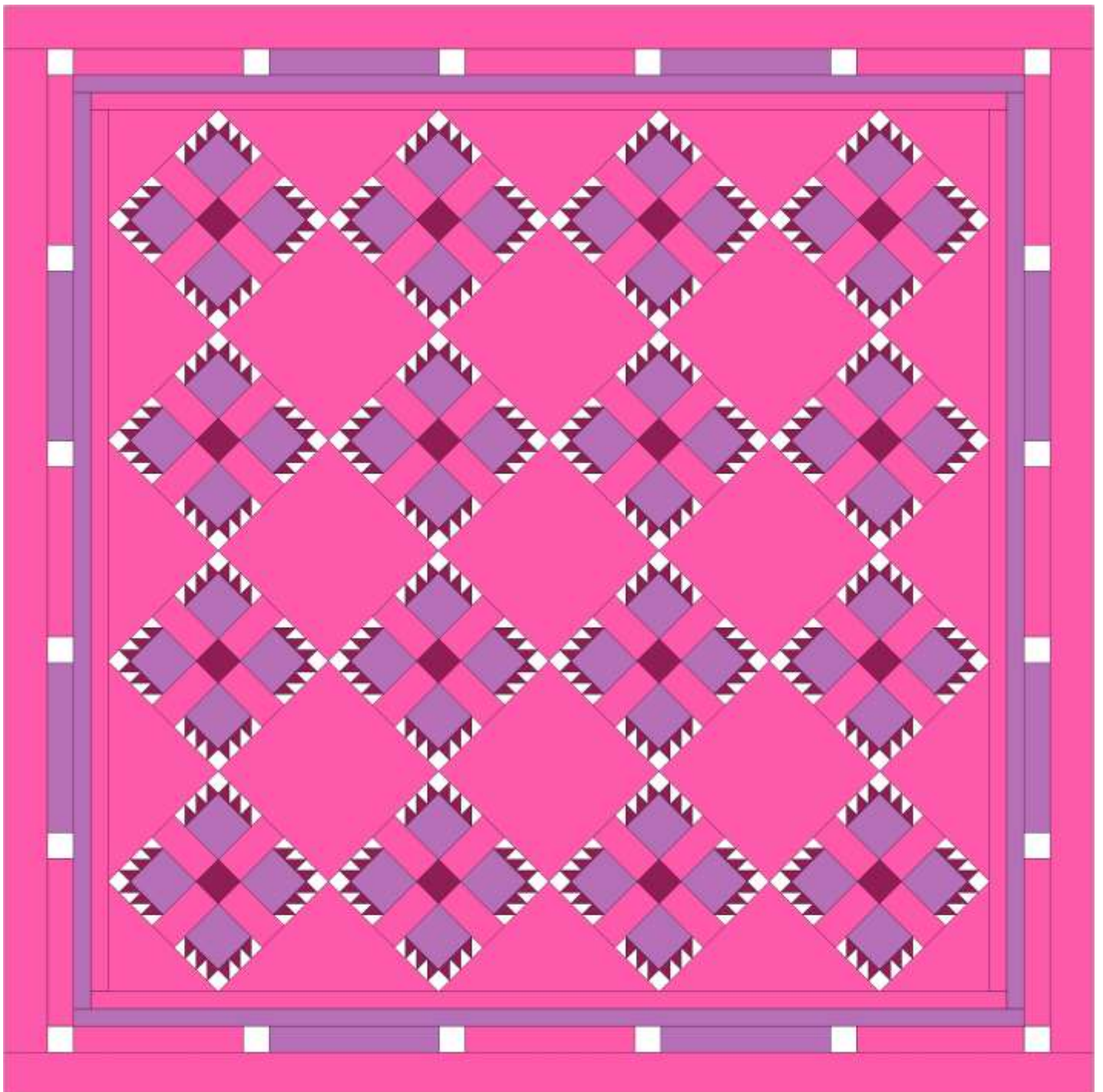
A fun border selection really helps these blocks pop!



Fifteen Orphan Blocks

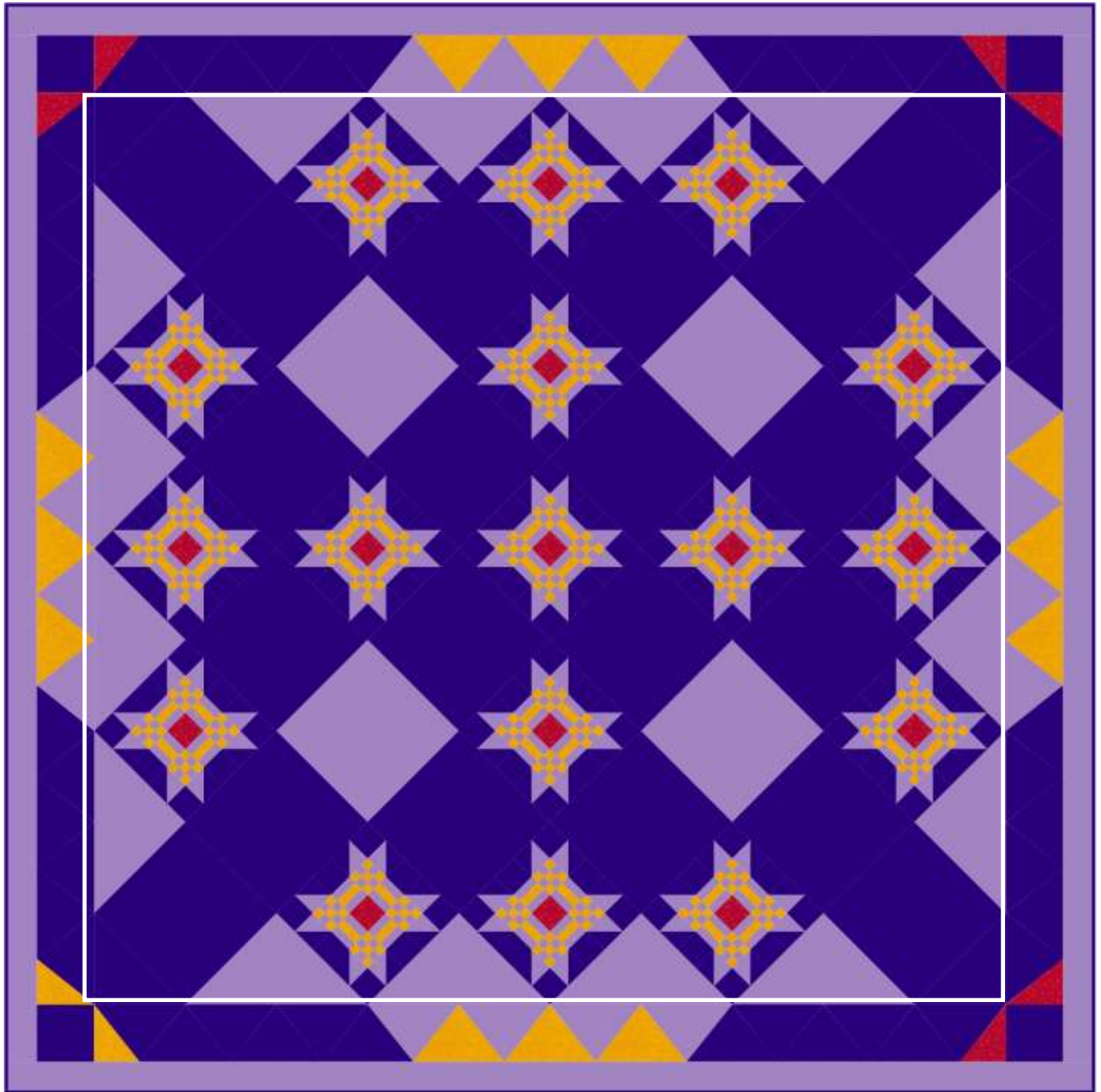
Different block and colorway example!

Sixteen Orphan Blocks

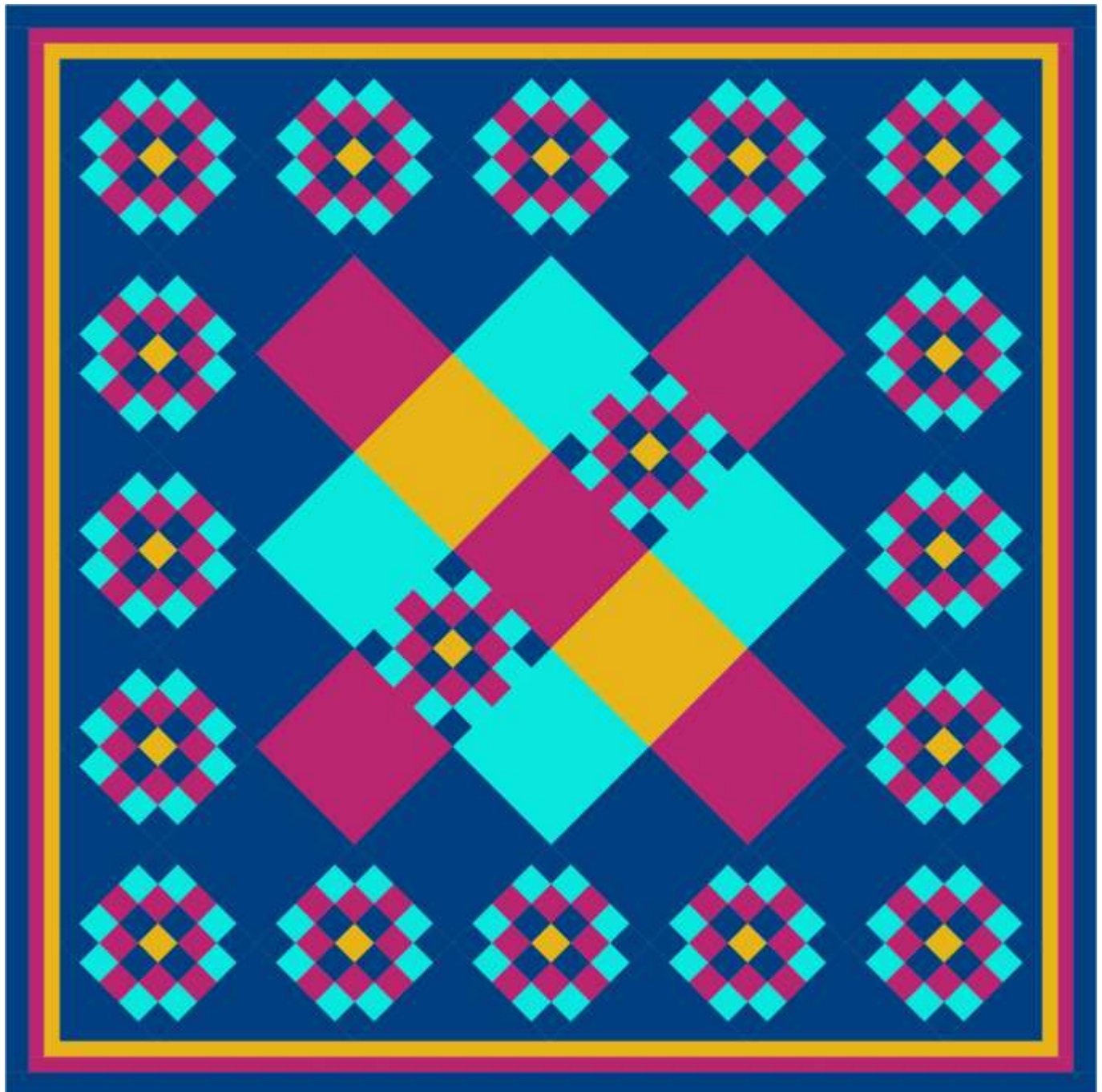


**The negative space is great
with a busy quilt block!**

Seventeen Orphan Blocks

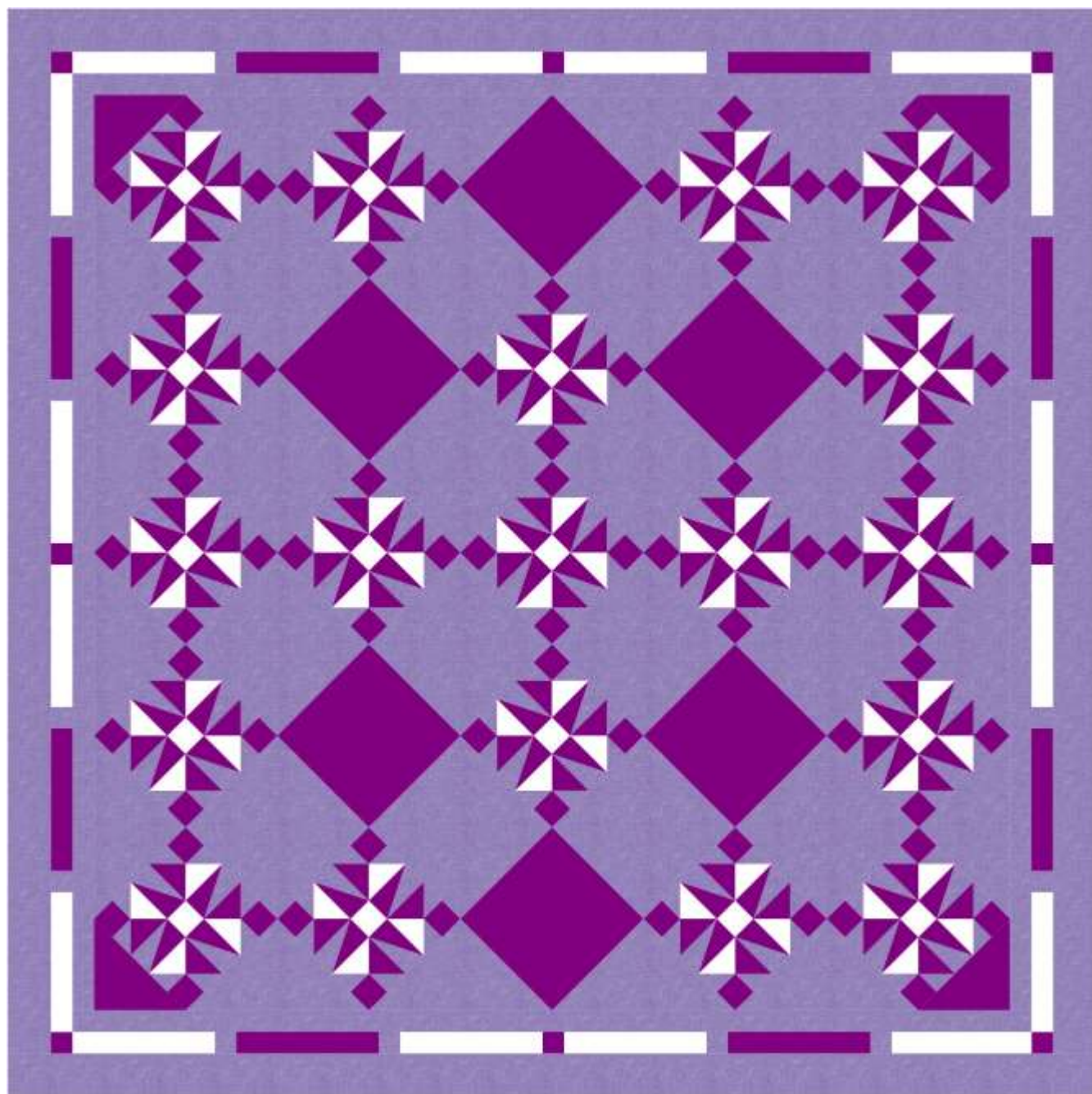


Eighteen Orphan Blocks

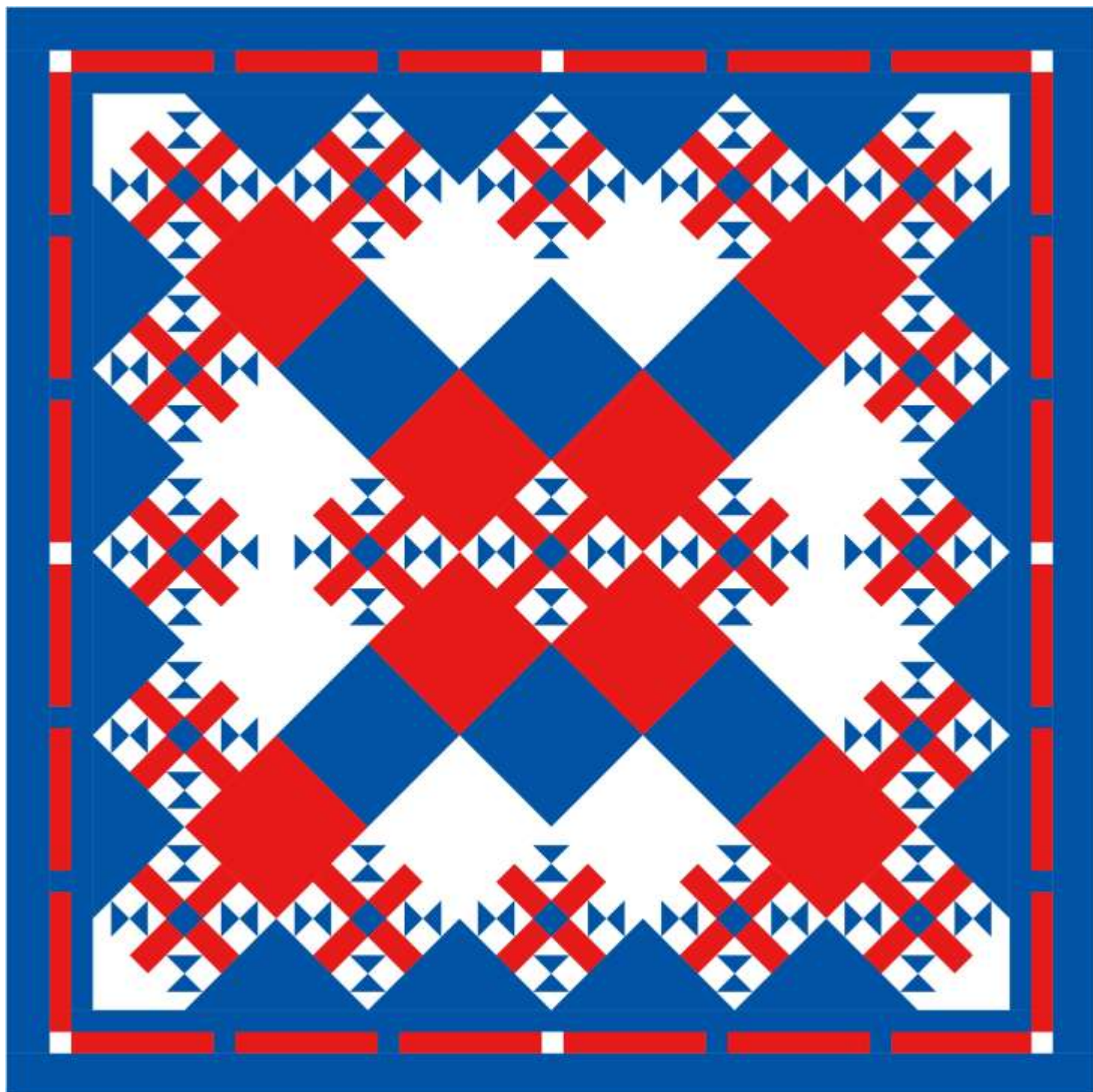


A tricky number but I made it work!

Nineteen Orphan Blocks

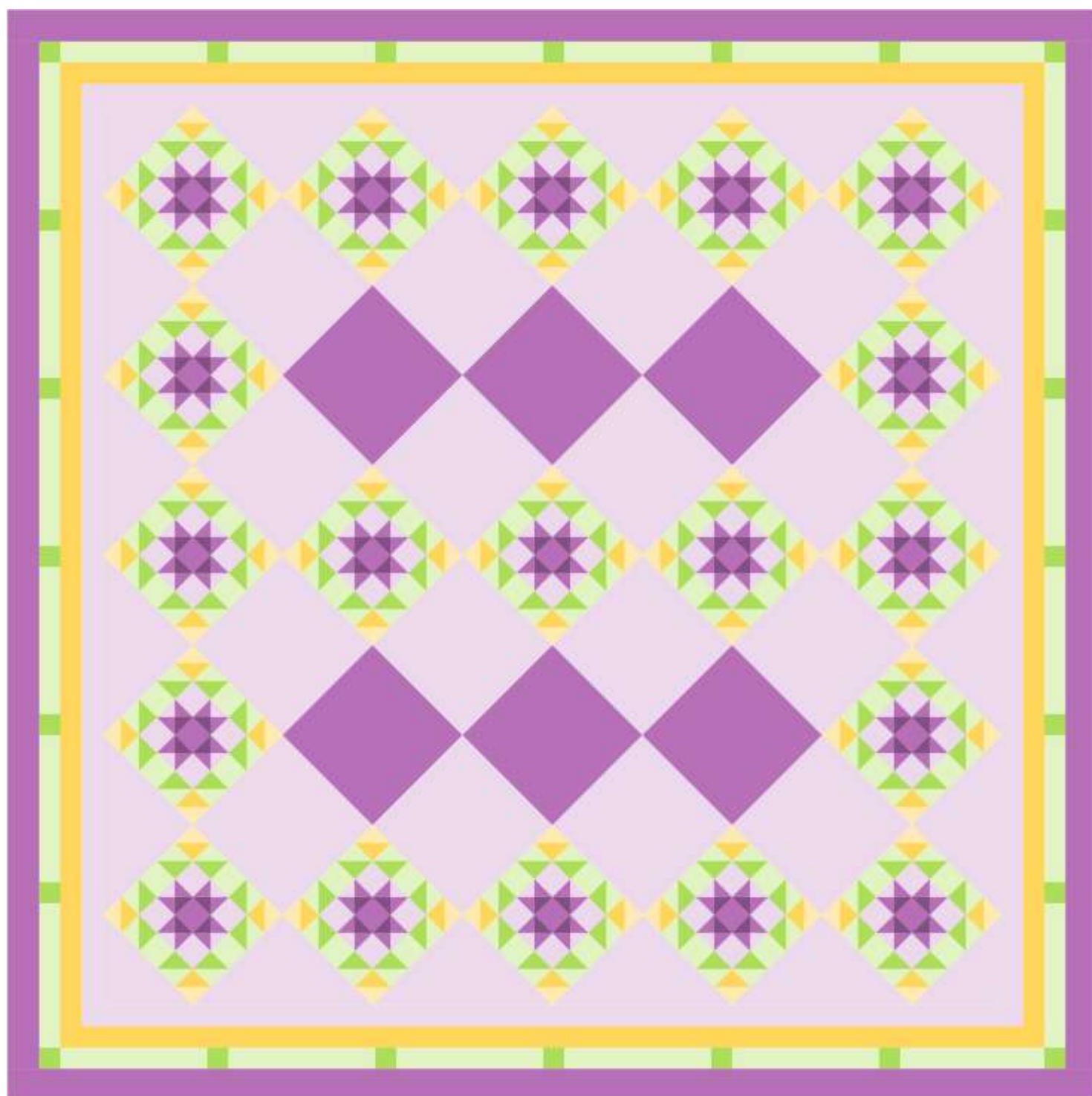


Pinwheel Delight!

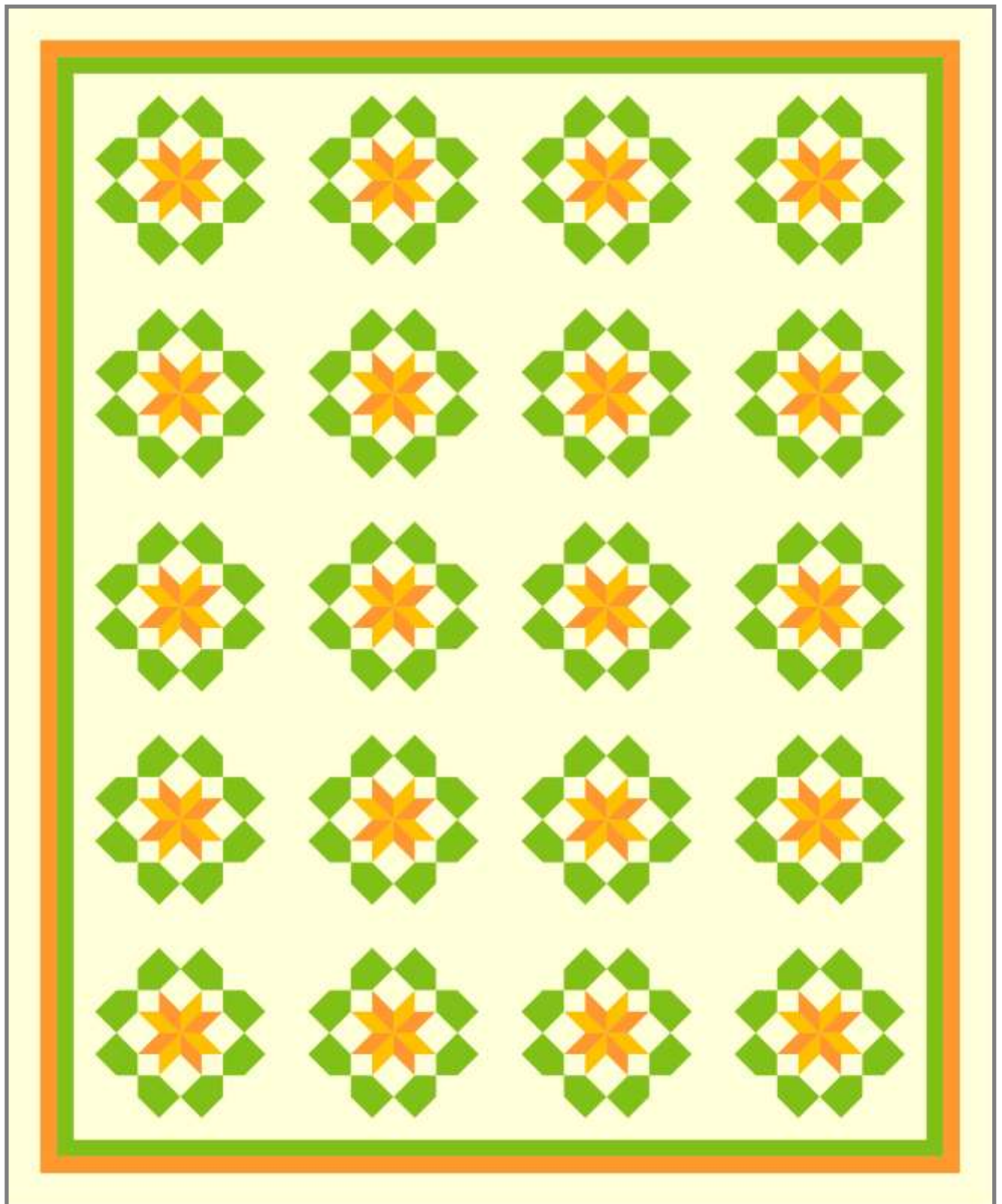


**Another Nineteen Orphan
Blocks Colorway**

Another Nineteen Orphan Blocks Colorway

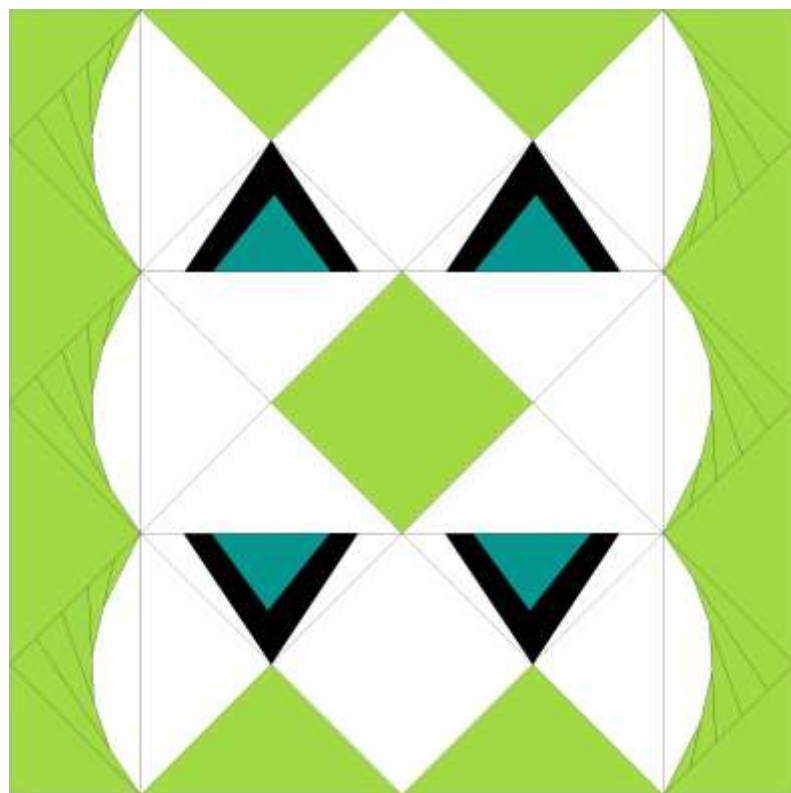


Twenty Orphan Blocks



Twenty blocks aren't even really orphans
are they, so I will stop here :)

Bonus Quilt Design



Use the 6" FP
block provided in
this booklet to
create a fun
quilt centre!

Design yourself
some fun quilt
borders using
what you have
learned about
creating easy
and spectacular
DIY FPP border
patterns!

