Tilda®

Creating Memories
SUMMER

Blue Whale Quilt



Blue Whale Quilt

A petrol blue background is the perfect shade to highlight this delightful pod of blue whales. The quilt is made up of a single whale block, with two partial blocks to complete an edge-to-edge design. Fifteen prints from the Creating Memories fabric collection provide plenty of visual interest, with vertical and horizontal sashing pieces used to separate the blocks, so the whales are swimming in a wide sea. There are also two whale pillows that you could make to accompany the quilt – see tildasworld.com for the instructions.

Difficulty Rating **

Materials

- Fabric 1: 4¼yds (4m) – Chambray petrol (160005) (background)
- Fabric 2: ¼yd (25cm) – Avery blue (130126)
- Fabric 3: ¼yd (25cm) – Berrytangle prussian (130127)
- Fabric 4: ¼yd (25cm) – Harper blue (130128)
- Fabric 5: ¼yd (25cm) – Gracie blue (130129)
- Fabric 6: ¼yd (25cm) – Lulu blue (130130)
- Fabric 7: ¼yd (25cm) – Brie blue (130131)
- Fabric 8: ¼yd (25cm) – Frida blue (130132)
- Fabric 9: ¼yd (25cm) – Evie blue (130133)
- Fabric 10: ¼yd (25cm) – Carla blue (130134)
- Fabric 11: ¼yd (25cm) – Stripe blue (160068)
- Fabric 12: ¼yd (25cm) – Seamstripe blue (160069)
- Fabric 13: 13in (35cm) square – Tiny Stripe blue (160070)
- Fabric 14: ¼yd (25cm) – Polka Dot blue (160071)
- Fabric 15: ¼yd (25cm) – Plaid blue (160072)
- Fabric 16: ¼yd (25cm) – Gingham blue (160073)
- Wadding (batting): 70in x 84in (178cm x 213cm)
- Backing fabric: 4¾yds (4.5m) – Gingham blue (160073)
- Binding fabric: ½yd (50cm) – Tiny Dot blue (160067)
- Piecing and quilting threads
- Black stranded cotton (floss) for the eye embroidery
- Quilter's ruler, rotary cutter and mat
- Removeable fabric marker

Finished Size

62in x 76in (157.5cm x 193cm)

Fabric Notes

Where a long quarter of a yard is given in the Materials list a fat quarter could be used instead. A fat quarter is assumed to be approximately 21in x 18in (53.3cm x 45.7cm).

General Notes

- Fabric quantities are based on a usable width of 42in (107cm), unless otherwise stated.
- Measurements are in imperial inches with metric conversions in brackets – use only *one* system throughout (preferably inches). Width measurements are generally given first.
- Press fabric before cutting and trim as needed to square up the fabric pattern/weave, using a quilting ruler to cut the top raw edge at 90 degrees to the selvedges.

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- Use ¼in (6mm) seams unless otherwise instructed.
- Read all the instructions through before you start.
- Always make one complete block as a test before going on to make the remaining blocks.

Quilt Layout

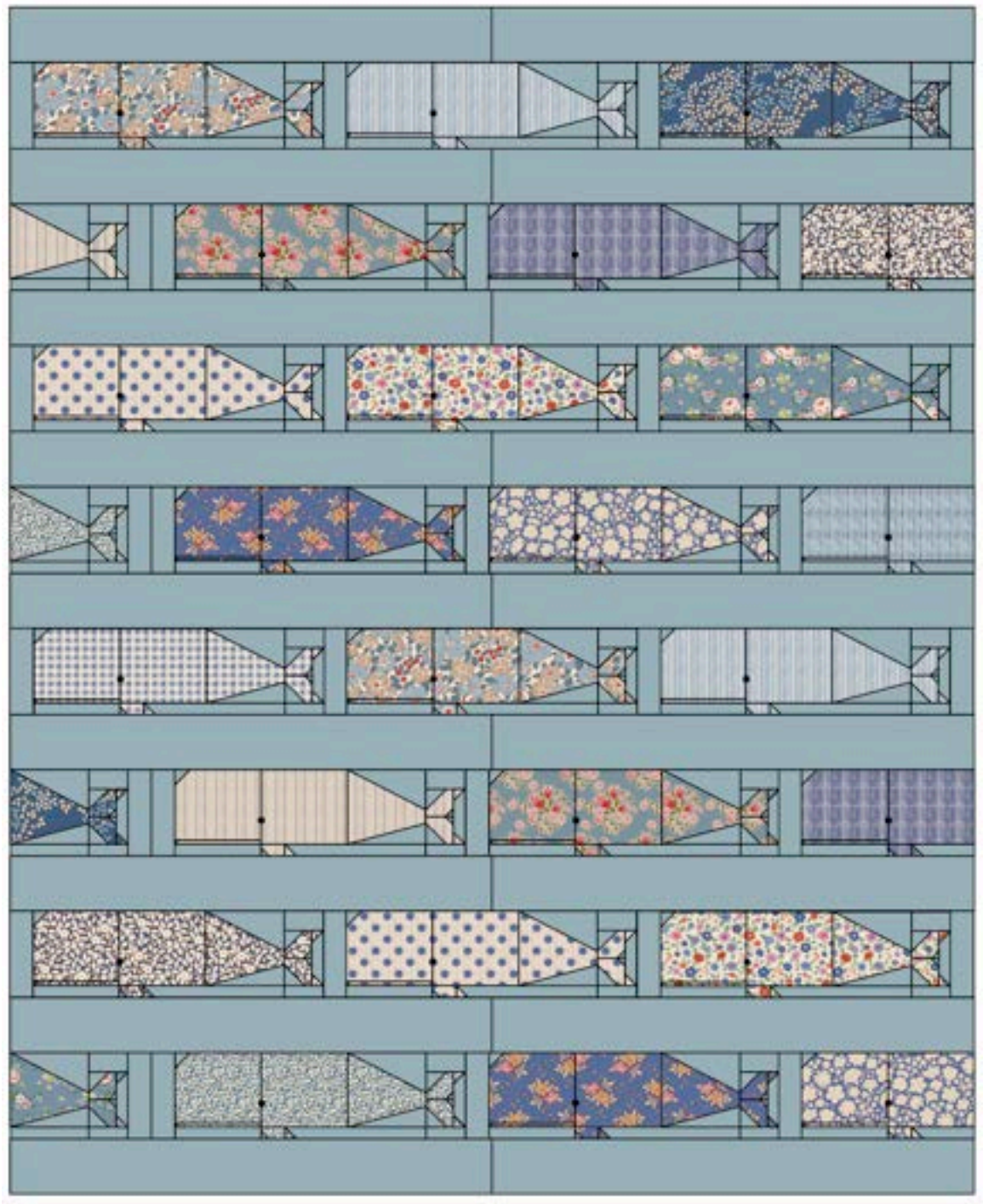
1 The quilt is made up of twenty whole whale blocks, four partial (head) blocks and four partial (tail) blocks. Fifteen different prints are used for the whales, with a single Chambray fabric for the background. The blocks are separated by strips of vertical and horizontal sashing. See **Fig A** for the fabrics used and **Fig B** for the quilt layout.

Fig A Fabric swatches (Blue Whale Quilt)



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Fig B Quilt layout (Blue Whale Quilt)



Cutting Out

2 From Fabric 1 cut the sashing strips first, cutting the following pieces (see also **Fig C** for the sizes and suggested cutting layout).

- Sashing A – eighteen strips 31¼in x 4in (79.4cm x 10.2cm). Using a ¼in (6mm) seam, join the strips together into pairs, pressing the seam open. Check each of the nine long strips measure 62in (157.5cm) long.
- Sashing B – thirty-two pieces 2in x 6in (5.1cm x 15.2cm).

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Fig C Cut measurements for the sashing
Sizes include ¼in (6mm) seam allowances

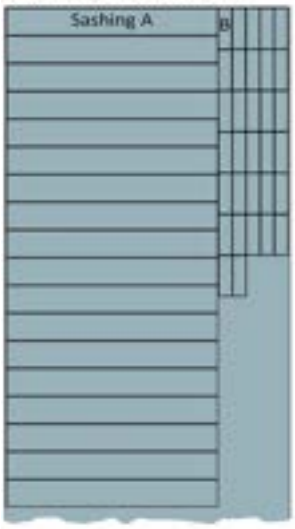
Sashing A
31¼in x 4in (79.4cm x 10.2cm) – cut 18



Sashing B
2in x 6in (5.1cm x 15.2cm) – cut 32



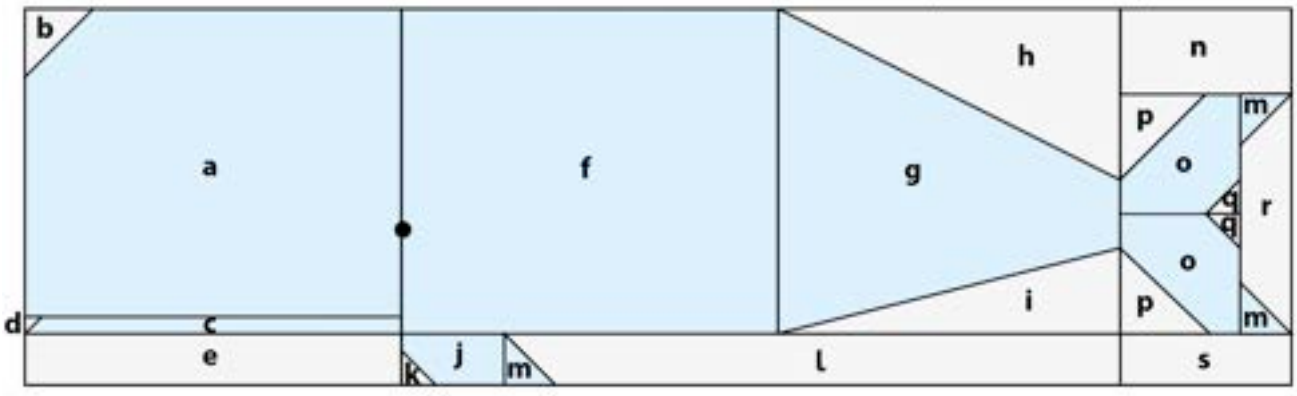
Suggested cutting layout for sashing –
about 2⅛yd (2m) required



3 For one whole whale block cut pieces from Fabric 1 following **Fig D**. Now use **Fig D** to cut the print fabric pieces for the block. Each whale uses a single print, so refer to **Fig F** for the actual fabrics to use.

Fig D Cut measurements for a whole whale block
Sizes include ¼in (6mm) seam allowances
All pieces to be initially cut as squares or rectangles

Whole Whale Block: 19in x 6in (48.3cm x 15.2cm) unfinished

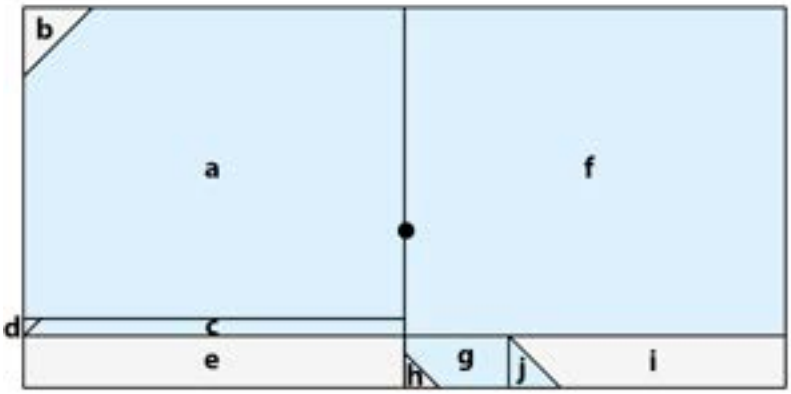


a	6in x 5in (15.2cm x 12.7cm)	**h**	5⅓in x 3in (14cm x 7.6cm)	**o**	2¼in (5.7cm) square
b	1½in (3.8cm) square	**i**	5⅓in x 1¾in (14cm x 4.4cm)	**p**	1¾in (4.4cm) square
c	6in x ¾in (15.2cm x 2cm)	**j**	2in x 1¾in (5.1cm x 3.2cm)	**q**	1in (2.5cm) square
d	¾in (2cm) square	**k**	1in (2.5cm) square	**r**	1¾in x 4in (3.2cm x 10.2cm)
e	6in x 1¼in (15.2cm x 3.2cm)	**l**	9½in x 1¾in (24.1cm x 3.2cm)	**s**	3in x 1¾in (7.6cm x 3.2cm)
f	6in x 5¼in (15.2cm x 13.3cm)	**m**	1¼in (3.2cm) square		
g	5⅓in x 5¼in (14cm x 13.3cm)	**n**	3in x 1¾in (7.6cm x 4.4cm)	**Eye**	French knot (see instructions)

4 For the partial whale blocks, cut pieces from Fabric 1 following **Fig E**. Now use **Fig E** to cut the print fabric pieces for the block. Refer to **Fig G** for the actual fabrics to use.

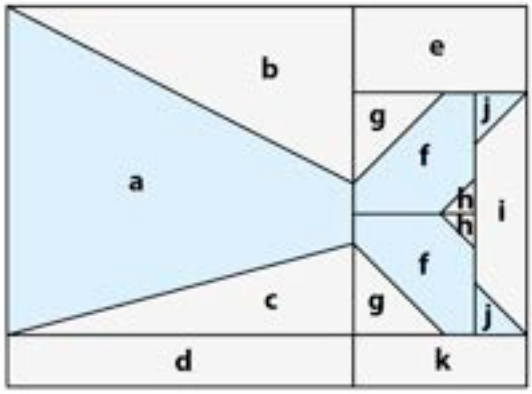
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Fig E Cut measurements for the partial whale blocks
Sizes include ¼in (6mm) seam allowances
All pieces to be initially cut as squares or rectangles



Partial Whale Block (head):
11½in x 6in (29.2cm x 15.2cm) unfinished

a 6in x 5in (15.2cm x 12.7cm)
b 1½in (3.8cm) square
c 6in x ¾in (15.2cm x 2cm)
d ¾in (2cm) square
e 6in x 1¾in (15.2cm x 3.2cm)
f 6in x 5¾in (15.2cm x 13.3cm)
g 2in x 1¼in (5.1cm x 3.2cm)
h 1in (2.5cm) square
i 4½in x 1¼in (11.4cm x 3.2cm)
j 1¼in (3.2cm) square
Eye French knot (see instructions)



Partial Whale Block (tail):
8in x 6in (20.3cm x 15.2cm) unfinished

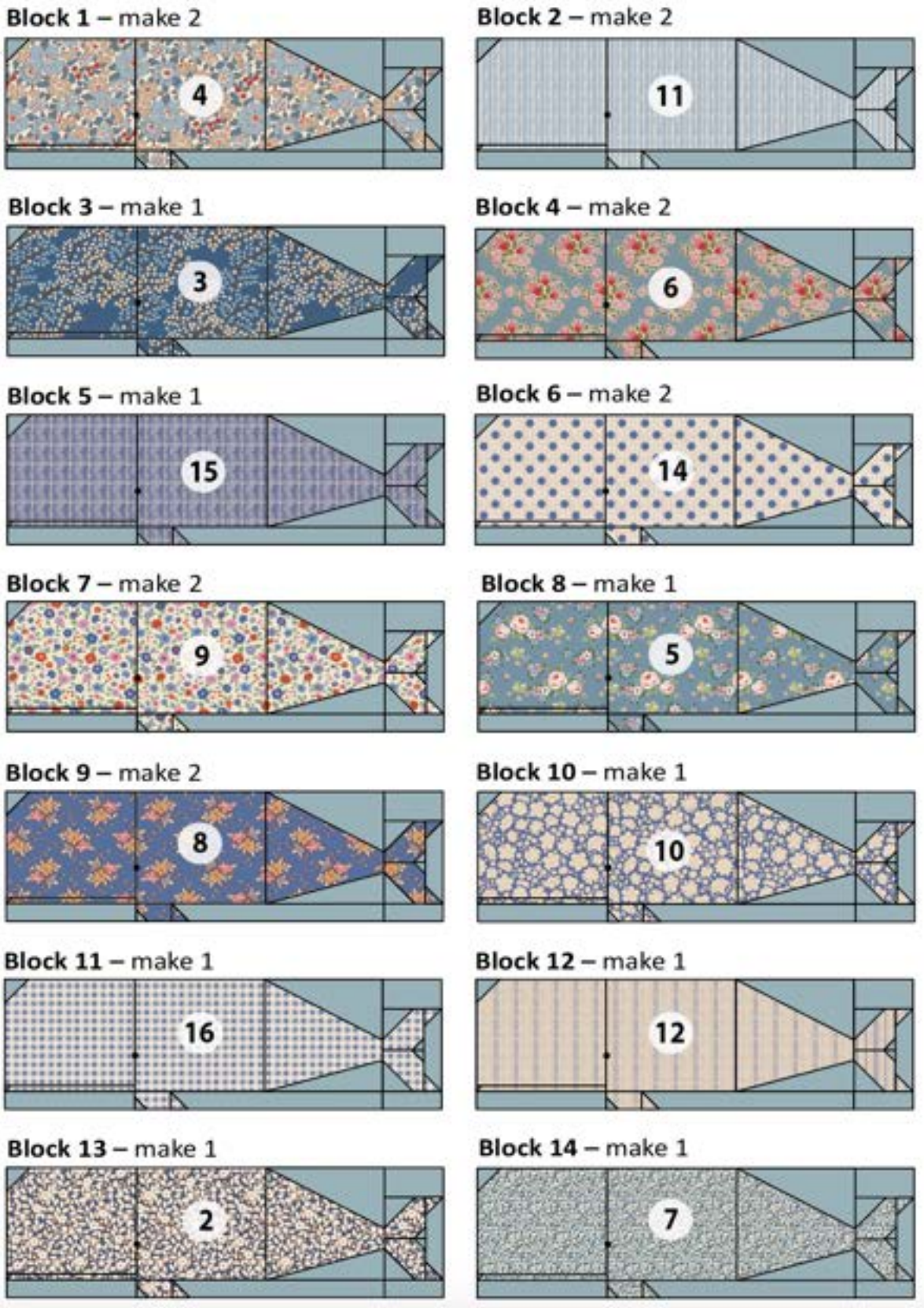
a 5½in x 5¼in (14cm x 13.3cm)
b 5½in x 3in (14cm x 7.6cm)
c 5½in x 1¾in (14cm x 4.4cm)
d 5½in x 1¼in (14cm x 3.2cm)
e 3in x 1¾in (7.6cm x 4.4cm)
f 2¼in (5.7cm) square
g 1¾in (4.4cm) square
h 1in (2.5cm) square
i 1¼in x 4in (3.2cm x 10.2cm)
j 1¼in (3.2cm) square
k 3in x 1¼in (7.6cm x 3.2cm)

5 Cut the backing fabric across the width into two pieces. Using a ¼in (6mm) seam, sew together along the long side and press the seam open. Trim to a piece about 70in x 84in (178cm x 213cm). This is about 4in (10.2cm) larger all round than the quilt top, to allow for quilting and finishing.

6 Cut the binding fabric into seven 2½in (6.4cm) x width of fabric strips. Sew the strips together end to end and press seams open. Press the binding in half along the length, wrong sides together.

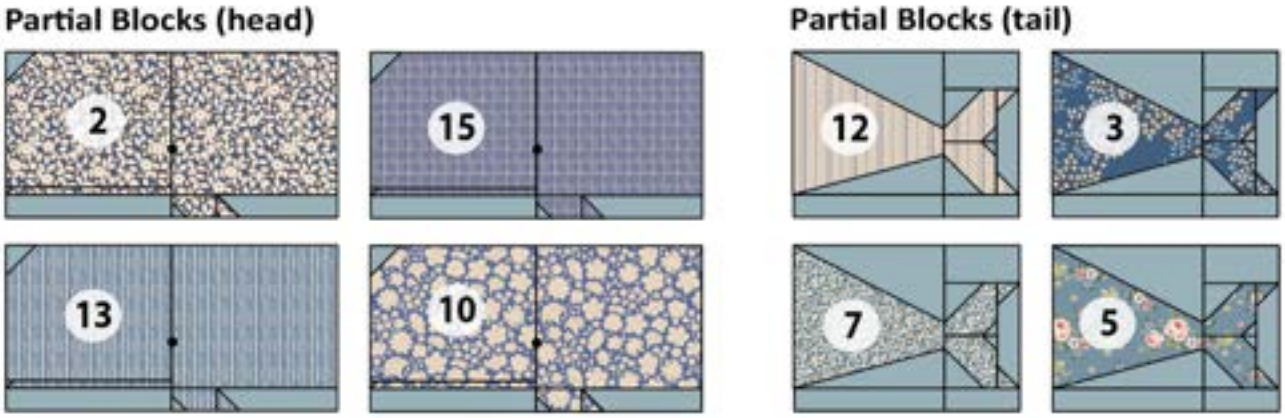
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Fig F Block colourways for the whole whale blocks
Bold numbers in circles indicate fabrics used (see Fig A)
All backgrounds are Fabric 1
Make the number of blocks indicated



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Fig G Block colourways for the partial whale blocks
Bold numbers in circles indicate fabrics used (see Fig A)
All backgrounds are Fabric 1
Make one of each



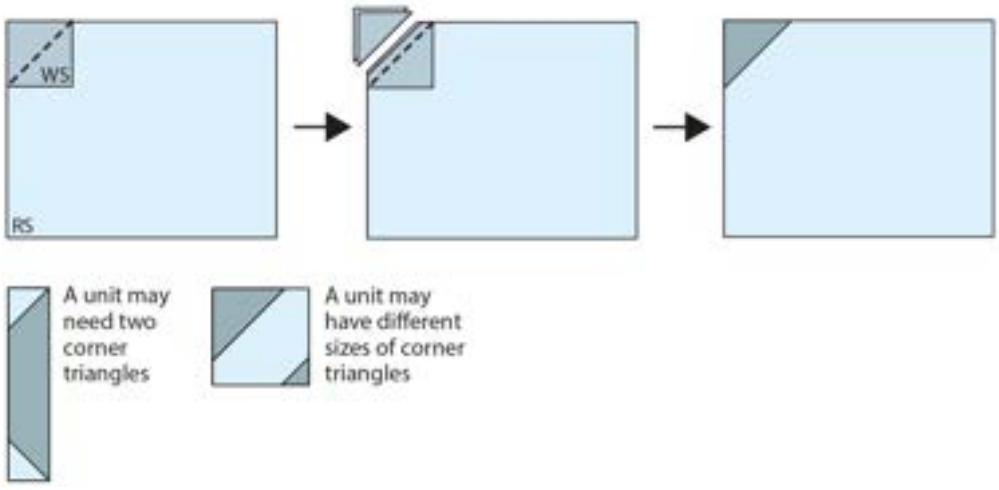
Making a Whole Whale Block

7 There are twenty whole whale blocks, using fourteen different print fabrics. Block 1 is described in detail. The piecing is quite easy, but a special technique is needed to create the triangles in the lower body (described in Step 8). The rest of the piecing uses a corner triangle technique, described as follows.

Corner triangle units: **Fig H** shows the stages of creating corner triangles. Place the larger piece of fabric right side up (RS). Take the square and pencil mark a diagonal line on the wrong side. Pin the square right sides together with the larger fabric piece, aligning the edges as shown and with the diagonal line in the direction indicated. Sew along the marked line. Trim off excess fabric ¼in (6mm) outside the sewn line and press the triangle outwards.

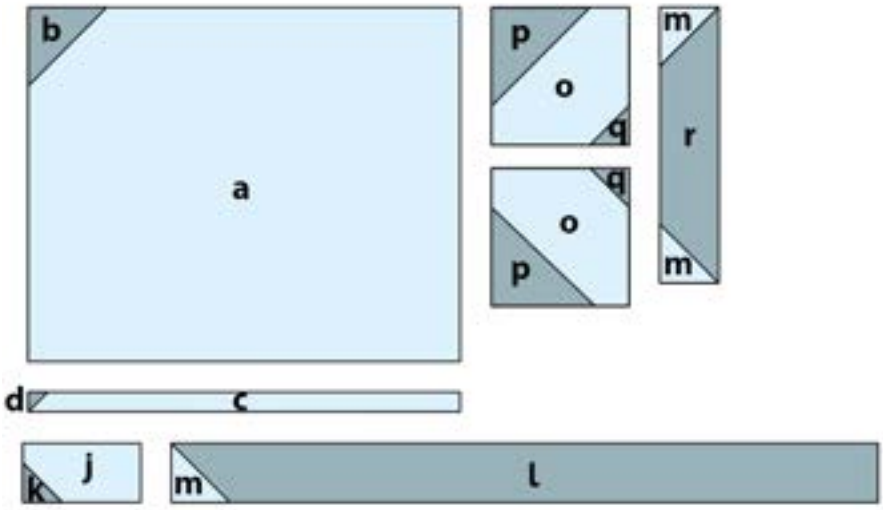
All of the units with corner triangles are made using this basic method. Note that some units have two triangles, while some have different sizes of triangle. The direction of the diagonal line will need to be altered, depending on which corner needs a triangle. **Fig I** shows where in the block corner triangle units are needed. Make all of those needed for a block.

Fig H Making corner triangle units



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Fig I Units in the block with corner triangles



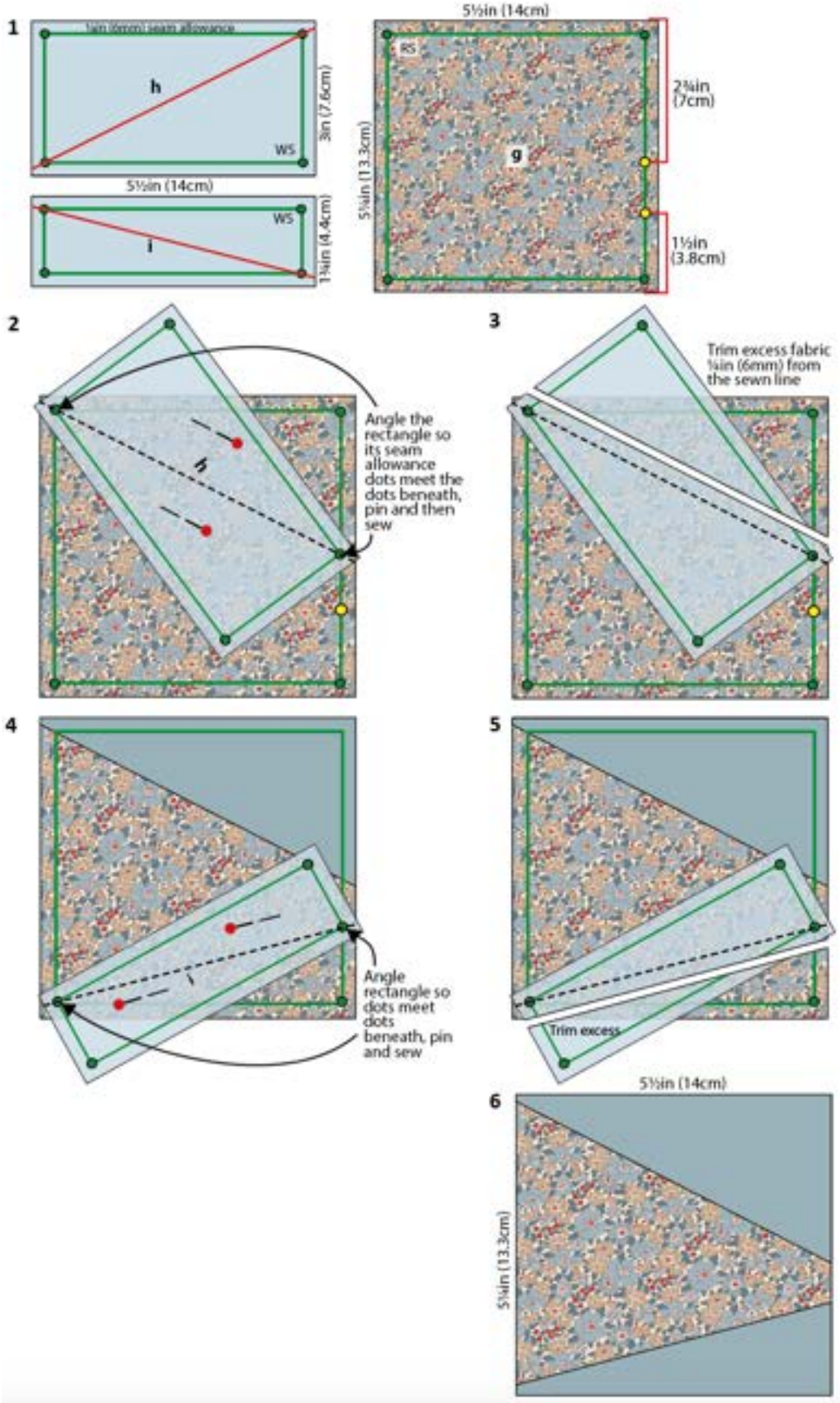
8 ***Lower body unit:*** **Fig J** shows the stages of making the lower body unit **g/h/i**. Begin by taking background pieces **h** and **i** and on the wrong side (WS) mark the ¼in (6mm) seam allowances (these can be pencil lines or just dots at the corners (see **Fig J 1**). Mark the diagonal lines, as shown, making sure the lines go through the seam allowance dots (and *not* the outer corners of the fabric).
On print fabric piece **g**, on the right side (RS), use a removeable marker to mark the ¼in (6mm) seam allowance. On the right-hand edge mark dots on the seam allowance (shown in yellow), one 2¾in (7cm) down from the top edge and one 1½in (3.8cm) up from the bottom edge.

9 Now take background piece **h** and, with right sides together, angle it following **Fig J 2**, so two of its seam allowance dots meet the dots beneath on the print fabric. Note that the alignment of the dots on the right-hand edge is for the 2¾in (7cm) dot. Pin in place and then sew along the marked diagonal line. Using a quilting ruler, trim off excess fabric ¼in (6mm) away from the sewn line, as in **Fig J 3**. Press the triangle outwards and check that its edges are aligned with the print fabric piece.

10 Repeat this process with background piece **i**, angling the piece as shown in **Fig J 4**, so two of its seam allowance dots meet the dots beneath on the print fabric. Note that the alignment on the right-hand edge is now for the 1½in (3.8cm) dot. Pin in place and then sew along the marked diagonal line. Trim off excess fabric ¼in (6mm) away from the sewn line, as in **Fig J 5**. Press the triangle outwards and check that its edges are aligned with the print fabric piece. Check the unit's size – it should be 5½in x 5¼in (14cm x 13.3cm) (**Fig J 6**).
All of the lower body units are made using this technique, changing print fabrics as needed.

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Fig J Making the lower body unit



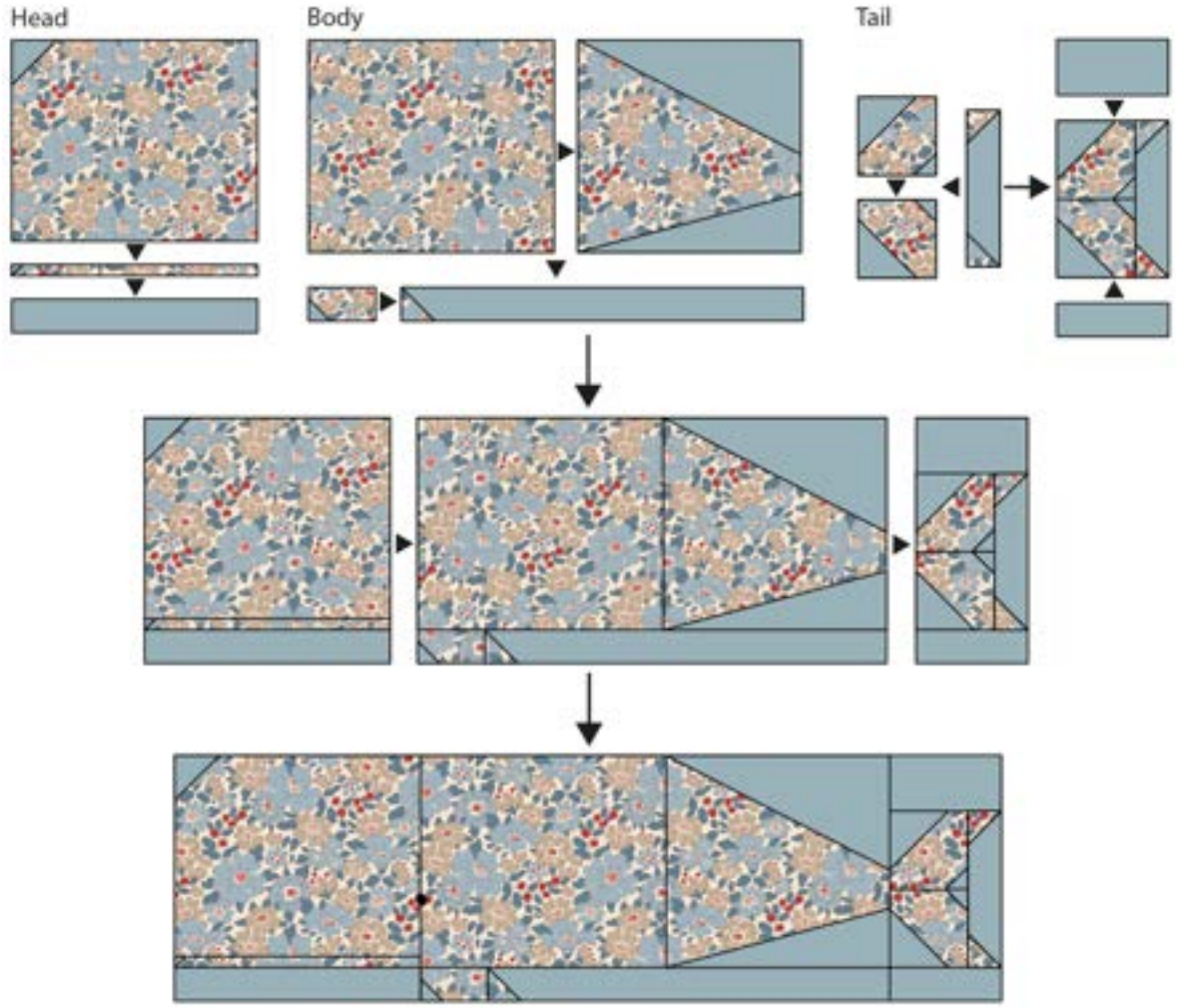
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Assembling the Block

11 When all of the units for a block have been pieced, the block can be assembled. Block 1 is shown in **Fig K**, but all of the whole whale blocks are assembled in the same way. Start by sewing the sub-units together as in **Fig K**, pressing seams open or to one side. Now sew these larger sections together and press. Check the block is 19in x 6in (48.3cm x 15.2cm).

12 Make the rest of the whole whale blocks in the same way, changing print fabrics as in **Fig F** and making two of Blocks 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 9, and one each of Blocks 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

Fig K Assembling a whole whale block

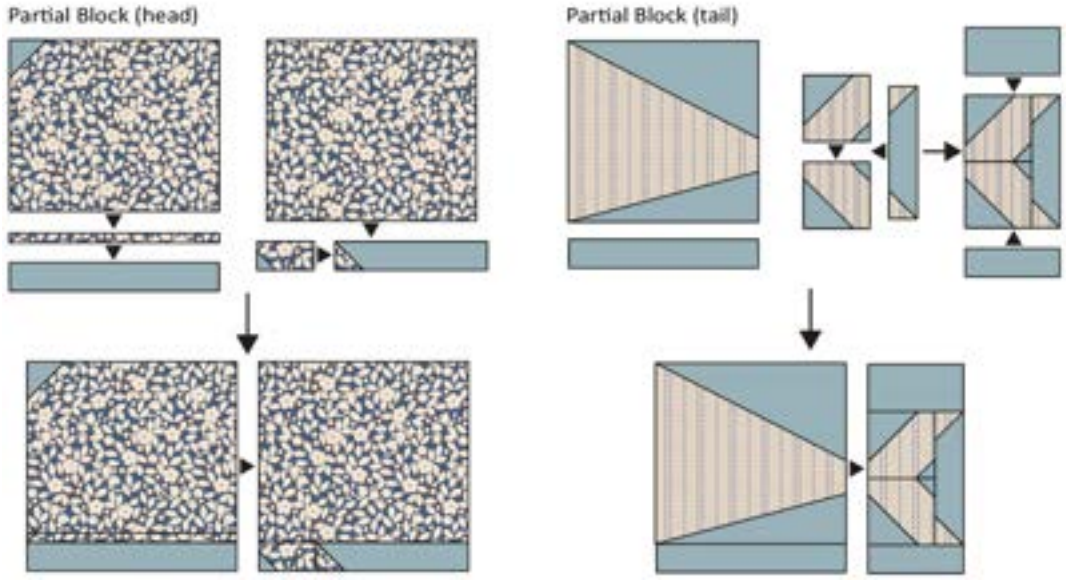


Making the Partial Blocks

13 The partial blocks are made in the same way as the whole blocks, using the same techniques. Follow **Fig G** for the print fabrics to use and **Fig L** for the assembly. Check the assembled partial block for the head is 11½in x 6in (29.2cm x 15.2cm) and the partial block for the tail is 8in x 6in (20.3cm x 15.2cm). Make the eight partial blocks needed.

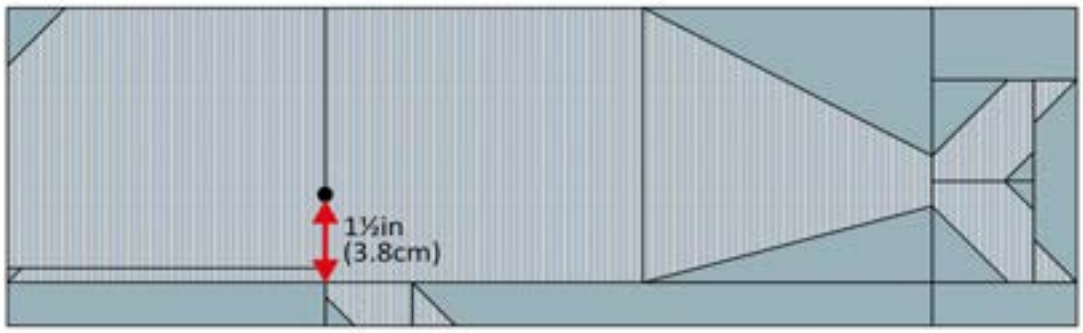
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Fig L Assembling the partial blocks



14 When the blocks are made, sew the eyes on the whales using French knots with six strands of black stranded cotton wrapped twice around the needle. An eye is positioned on the seam between the head and the body, about 1½in (3.8cm) up from the fin seam, as shown in **Fig M**.

Fig M Adding the eyes



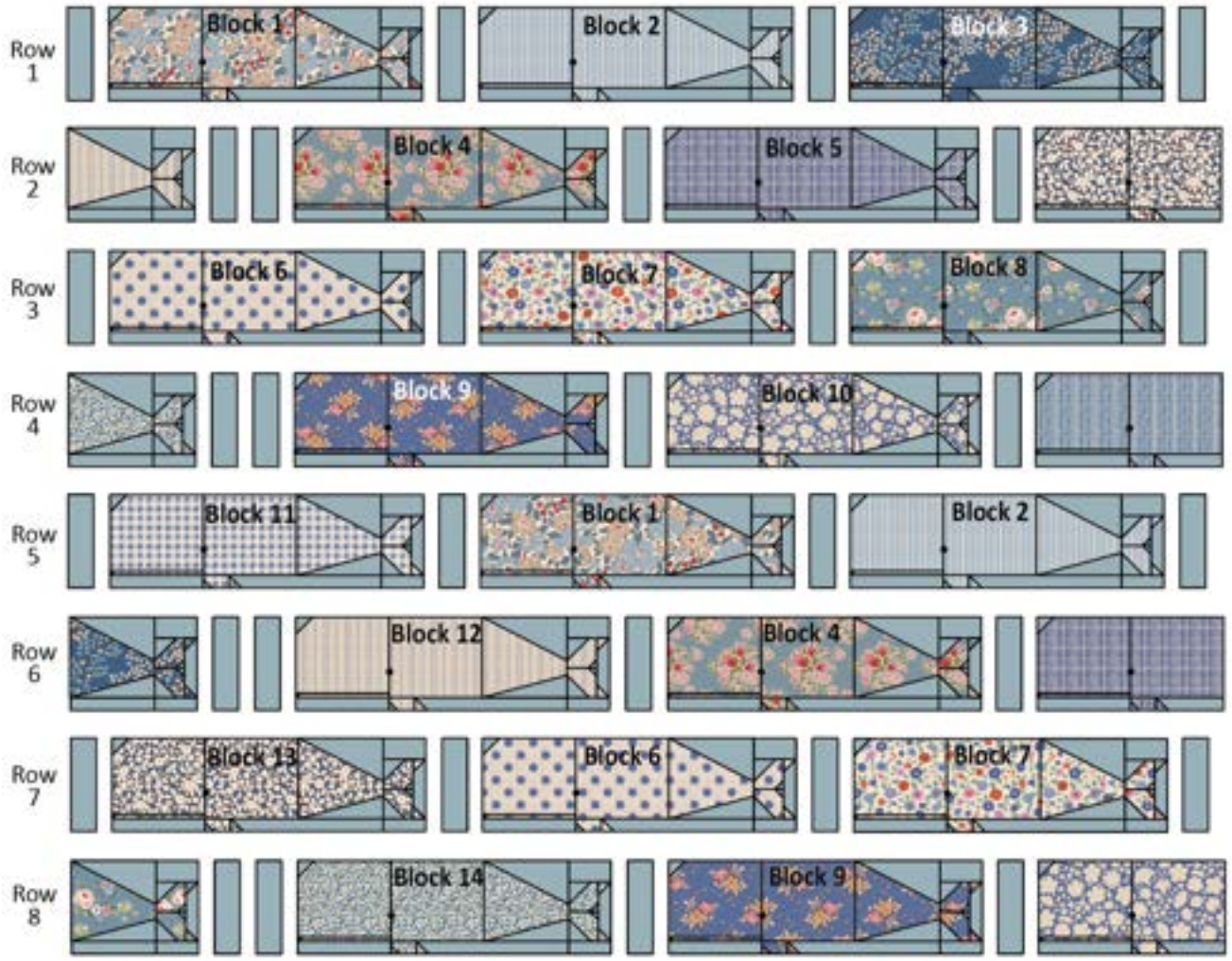
Assembling the Quilt

15 The quilt is assembled in rows first, so follow **Fig N** for the positions of the blocks and the vertical sashing pieces. (Note that in Rows 2, 4, 6 and 8, there are two Sashing B pieces that occur side by side.) Sew each row together and press seams towards the sashing. Each row should measure 62in (157.5cm) long.

16 Once all the quilt rows are sewn, position the horizontal Sashing A strips between each block row and at the top and bottom of the quilt, as shown in **Fig O**. Pin together and then sew. Press seams towards the sashing. Your quilt top is now finished.

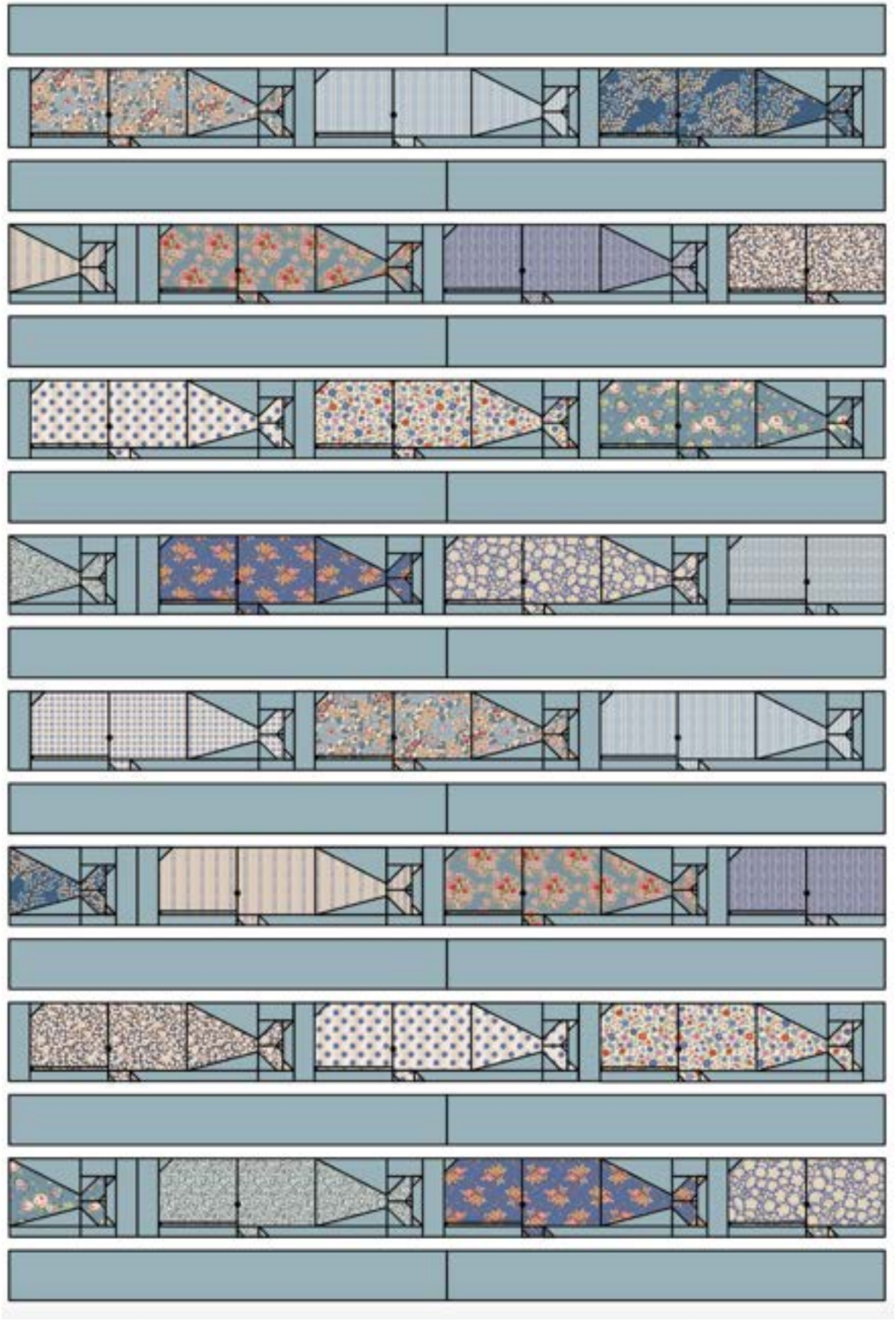
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Fig N Assembling the quilt rows



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Fig O Assembling the quilt



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Quilting and Finishing

17 If you are quilting the quilt yourself you now need to make a quilt sandwich – you can do this in various ways, as follows.

- Use large stitches to tack a grid through the layers of the quilt in both directions, with lines about 4in (10cm) apart.
- Use pins or safety pins to fix the layers together.
- Use fabric glue, sprayed onto the wadding to fix the layers together.

If you are sending the quilt off to be commercially long-arm quilted you won't need to make a sandwich, as this is done when the quilt is mounted on the machine. When the layers of the quilt are secured you can quilt as desired.

18 Use the prepared double-fold binding strip to bind your quilt. Sew the binding to the quilt by pinning the raw edge of the folded binding against the raw edge of the quilt. Don't start at a corner. Using a ¼in (6mm) seam, sew the binding in place, starting at least 6in (15.2cm) away from the end of the binding. Sew to within a ¼in (6mm) of a corner and stop. Take the quilt off the machine and fold the binding upwards, creating a mitred corner. Hold this in place, fold the binding back down and pin it in place. Begin sewing the ¼in (6mm) seam again from the top of the folded binding to within ¼in (6mm) of the next corner and then repeat the folding process. Do this on all corners. Leave a 6in (15.2cm) 'tail' of unsewn binding at the end.

19 To join the two ends of the binding, open up the beginning and end of the binding tails, lay them flat and fold the ends back so the two ends touch. Mark these folds by creasing or with pins – this is where your seam needs to be. Open out the binding and sew the pieces together at these creases. Trim off excess fabric and press the seam. Re-fold the binding and finish stitching it in place on the front of the quilt.

20 With the quilt right side up, use a medium-hot iron to press the binding outwards all round. Now begin to turn the binding over to the back of the quilt, pinning it in place. Use matching sewing thread and tiny stitches to slipstitch the binding in place all round, creating neat mitres at each corner. Press the binding and your wonderful whale quilt is finished.

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