

Quilt-Along-With-Me! 'Geo Dreams' Quilt

Pattern & Series by Amanda from 3and3quarters.net



FINAL QUILT SIZE

145cm x 145cm

(57" x 57")

The 'Geo Dreams' quilt is a generously sized lap quilt made up of four large Father's Choice blocks. The pattern and video series linked to this quilt has been created for those who are new to quilting in mind. Every step you'll need to take to make a quilt is in this pattern! (That's why there are so many pages!!) You'll find written next to each step, the corresponding video from my QAWM YouTube series.

Total Fabric Quantities: Width of fabric (WOF) is 112cm (44")

Of the white fabric you will need:

- 2.4 metres (2.2 yards)

Of the print fabric you will need:

- 1.2 metres (1.1 yards) *if only using one fabric*

OR

- x2 Fat Quarters (or 0.5m/0.7yd) *per block of each fabric*

For the quilt back you will need:

- 3.2 metres (3.1 yards)

Of batting you will need:

- 1.7m (1.3 yards) of cotton or polyester batting with a width of 228cm (90")

For the binding you will need:

- 0.5 metres (20") of fabric

STEP ONE: Making the blocks: (QAWM: Part One Video)

To piece just one block you will need to cut:

From the print fabric –

- x9: 5" squares

- x4: 5½" squares

From the white fabric –

- x8: 5" squares

- x4: 5½" squares

If you are using two fabrics for all four blocks you will need to cut:

From the print fabric –

- x5: 5" strips across the WOF and then crosscut into 36 5" squares.

- x3: 5½" strips across the WOF and then crosscut into 16 5½" squares.

From the white fabric –

- x4: 5" strips across the WOF and then crosscut into 32 5" squares.

- x3: 5½" strips across the WOF and then crosscut into 16 5½" squares.

How to make the Half-Square Triangles (HST):

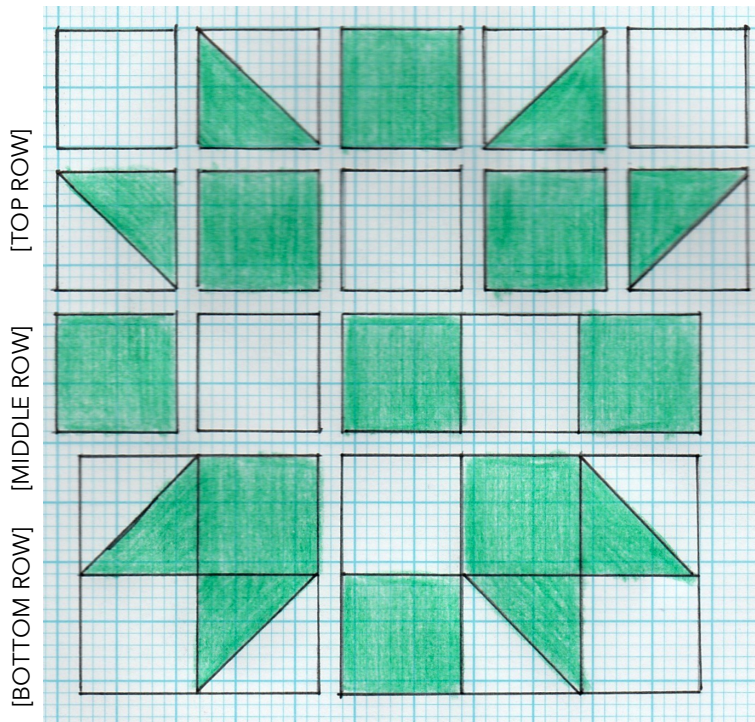
- Using a lead pencil and ruler, mark a line down the centre of each of the white 5½" squares. Pair each of these with a printed 5½" square, right-sides together (RST) and pin in place.

- At the sewing machine, sew a ¼" seam to the left of the pencil line. Chain-stitch each pair through until you come to the last one. Remove the stitched squares from the machine, turn them around and sew a ¼" seam along the other side of the line until you reach the end. Remove the chained squares from the machine and snip the threads that join them.

- Next, with a ruler and rotary blade, cut the squares in half along the pencil line, resulting in 32 HST units (or 8 HST units if you're only making one block).

- With a medium-to-hot steamy iron, open out the HSTs, pressing the centre seam to the darker side of fabric.

- Use a set-square to trim each HST down to a perfect 5" square.



Layout:

- Use the diagram on the left as a reference when laying out the units.
- Each block consists of - x9: 5" print squares, x8: 5" white squares and x8: HST units.

Piecing the block together:

The method you use to piece this block together is completely up to you. If you feel comfortable piecing it row by row or pair by pair I encourage you to do that way!

The way I like to piece this block is by dividing it up into manageable sections where I piece them together

separately and then bring them all together to finish the block. I find by doing it this way, I have more control on placing the seams the right way, resulting in beautifully nested seams and joins that sit nice and tight to each other. * All seams are a 1/4".*

- To begin, take a corner section (which is made of two HST units, one print square and one white square) and piece them together into a four-patch unit (use the diagram as a guide for the correct layout). Repeat for the other three corner sections.
- TIP: Press the first centre seams away from the HST units to eliminate any excess bulk. Press all other seams to the darker side of fabric.
- Next, sew together the two squares that separate the corner sections in the top and bottom rows. Press the seam towards the darker side of fabric.
- Piece together each row. Press the centre seams in the top and bottom rows inwards and the seams in the middle row outwards from the centre.
- Lastly sew each of the rows together, pressing the seams towards the middle row.
- If you need to, trim the block so that it measures 23" (58.5cm) squared. (This is an approximate measurement. If your block measures a little under, it'll be okay.)
- Make four blocks in total.

STEP TWO: Attaching the sashing and borders: (QAWM: Part Two Video)

For the sashing you will need to cut:

From the white fabric –

- x2: 3.5" strips across the WOF and then crosscut each into two 23" long strips.
- x2: 3.5" strips across the WOF and then crosscut each into two 23 1/4" long strips.

From the print fabric –

- x1: 3.5" square

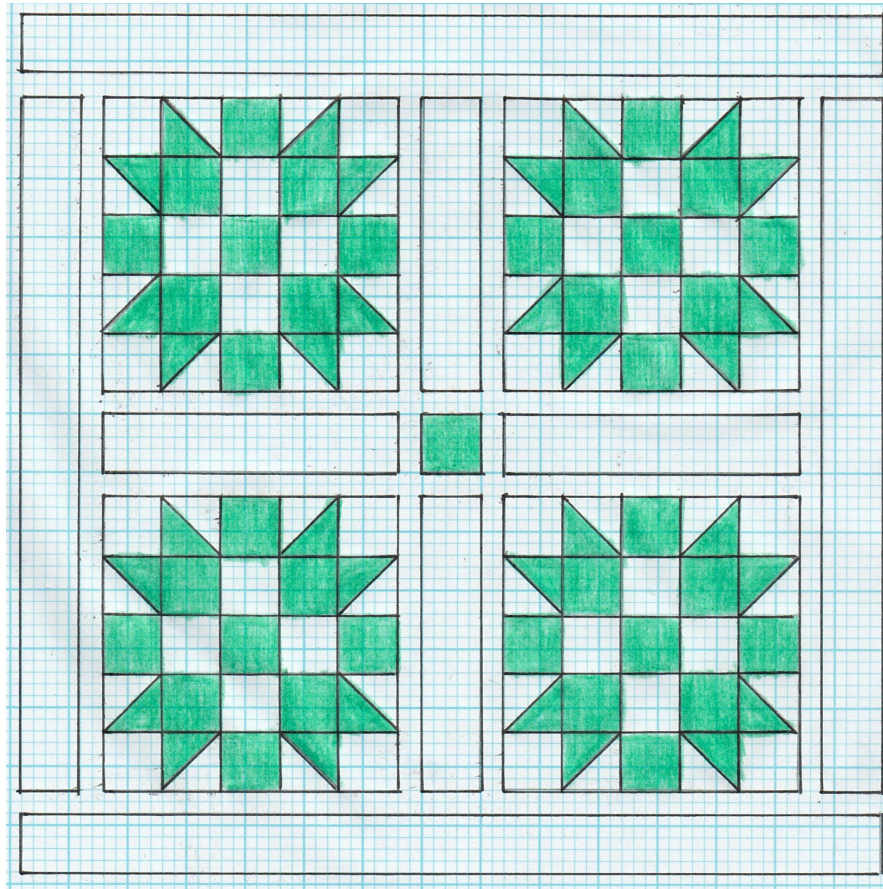
For the borders you will need to cut:

From the white fabric –

- x6: 5" strips across the WOF.

Sewing on the sashing: *All seams are ¼"

Each row is made up of two blocks and one sashing strip. The middle row sashing is made up of two sashing strips and one central setting square. Refer to the diagram below for placement of the rows.



- To make the top and bottom rows, pin and sew a 23"x3.5" sashing strip along one edge of a block. Press the seam inwards towards the sashing.
- Pin and sew another block to the other side of the sashing strip and press the seam inwards towards the sashing.
- Repeat, sewing on the other 23"x3.5" sashing strip to the other two blocks.
- To make the middle row sashing, piece the two 23¼"x3.5" strips to either side of the 3.5" print square. Press the seams outwards towards the sashing strips.
- Pin and sew the middle row sashing to the top and bottom rows, ensuring to nest the seams in the centre. Press the seams inwards towards the sashing.

Sewing on the borders:

Due to the length of the quilt, each border strip will need to be pieced to create four long strips that measure about 64". The next few steps will guide you in how to do this.

- From the six 5" strips, set aside four and cut the other two in half resulting in four 20"x5" strips.
- Sew each of the shorter strips to the ends of the four long strips about a ¼" in from the selvedge edge. With a ruler and rotary blade, trim the seam to a ¼" then press the seam open and flat.

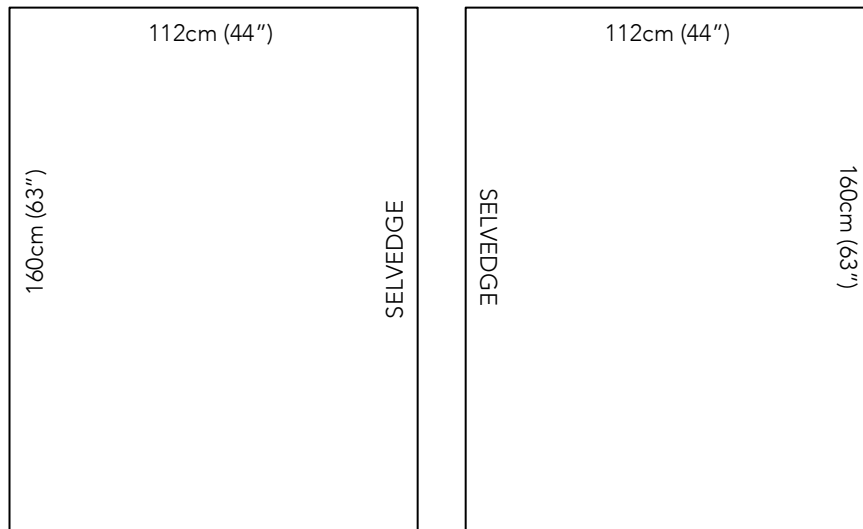
Refer to the diagram for placement of each border strip.

- Sew two border strips to either end of the quilt, trimming off any excess fabric before pressing the seam outwards.

- Sew on the other two border strips to the left over sides. Tidy the ¼" seam edge of any excess fabric before pressing the seam outwards.
- Give the quilt top a good steamy press, before hanging it up to avoid any excess wrinkles.

STEP THREE: Making the pieced backing: (QAWM: Part Three Video)

- Fold the backing fabric in half lengthways. Cut the fabric along the halfway fold with fabric scissors, resulting in two lengths of fabric measuring 160cmx112cm or 63"x44".



- Sew the two lengths together (RST if using a print fabric) along the selvedge edge, ensuring the seam is about a ¼" in from the selvedge so that you can trim it back as well as not have it be seen on the other side. Trim off the selvedge edge with a ruler and blade to a ¼" seam allowance.
- Open out the backing and press the seam flat open with a hot steamy iron. Then press the rest of the backing so that it's as wrinkle-free and flat as possible.
- Lay down the quilt backing in the area where you will be basting to avoid any unnecessary wrinkles. It should now measure approx. 200cmx160cm or 79"x 63".

STEP FOUR: Batting and basting: (QAWM: Part Three Video)

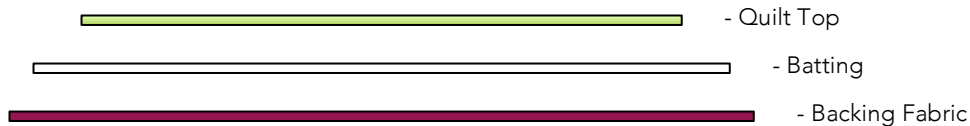
The type of batting you choose to work with is completely up to you. Personally, I've always loved using a cotton batting due to it's natural qualities, the handle and loft, the ease that it has when feeding it through the machine as well as the warmth and coolness it brings to the end result.

For this quilt I've chosen to use a bleached cotton fibre batting called Warm & White due to the heavy use of white fabric in my quilt top. By using a white batting, the white fabric will look fresh, bright and crisp over the top of it. In comparison to using an all natural cotton batting (I like to use one called Cosy Cotton), which is a creamy type colour, the white fabric will look dull when placed on top of it.

Bringing all three layers together:

- First, lay out the quilt top on top of the backing fabric, centering its seam line with the centre sashing on the quilt.
- Using fabric scissors cut off the excess backing fabric from the top and bottom, leaving about 10-20cm (4-8") out from the quilt top edges.
- Place both layers to one side and lay out the batting. Make it as smooth and taut as possible.

- Lay the backing fabric on top as close to the bottom edge of the batting as possible and then smooth it out. Cut off any excess batting from the top getting as close as you can to the backing fabric.
- Flip the two layers over so that the backing fabric is on the bottom and the batting is now facing up. Make sure both layers are smooth once again.
- Carefully lay the quilt top over the batting ensuring that it's centred evenly with the backing fabric as you smooth out the wrinkles.



Basting the quilt:

The following steps are how to baste your quilt using the basting spray method.

- Carefully roll back the quilt top stopping once you reach the middle. Do the same with the batting layer.
- After shaking the can well, evenly spray a generous amount of basting spray all over the exposed backing fabric about 20cm (8") away from the surface.
- Gently roll the batting layer back into place and smooth it out, starting from the centre and out to the edges.
- Evenly spray a generous amount of basting spray over the batting layer and roll the quilt top back into place, smoothing it down in the same way as the batting layer: from the centre and outwards.
- Gently turn the quilt around and repeat the same set of steps to baste the other half of the quilt.
- As an extra option, give the basted quilt a good press with a medium-to-hot steamy iron to ensure all layers are as smooth and flat as humanly possible. Having smooth flat layers will help make the quilting process a lot easier and will help prevent the fabrics from puckering.
- TIP: When using basting spray, *always* make sure your space is well ventilated!

STEP FIVE: Quilting: (QAWM: Part Four Video)

The way you choose to quilt your quilt is completely up to you! For mine, I decided to do vertical straight-line quilting across the width of the quilt.

You can [find more ideas and tips to quilting](#) on my blog.

STEP SIX: Binding: (QAWM: Part Five Video)

Before preparing the binding, square up the edges of the quilt as best as you can using a long quilting ruler (I used a 60" ruler) and a rotary blade. This step allows you to trim off the excess batting and backing fabric as well as any thread tails left over from quilting. It also helps to make the edges and corners of the quilt as straight as possible, making it easier to sew on the binding.

Calculating how much binding you'll need:

This is how I work out how much binding I'll need to cut and make to fit around the whole edge of my quilt. (Calculated using metric measurement.)

- First, I roughly add up the lengths of each side of the quilt. In this case, the quilt we've made measures close to 1.5m squared. So if I multiply 1.5 by 4 it equals 6, meaning that the perimeter of the quilt is close to 6m.

- Secondly, I look at the width of the fabric I've chosen for the binding. As it measures a little over 1m wide, I know that if I cut x6 strips from across the width or straight-grain of the fabric, I'll end up with binding that will be over 6m long after I piece the strips together, end-to-end. And then just to be safe, I always cut one more strip than what is necessary to ensure I won't run out!

Making the binding:

- From the fabric you've set aside for the binding, you will need to cut x7 2.5" strips from along the width of the fabric.
- At the sewing machine, place the ends of two strips together, RST, with one lying vertically and the other horizontal across it creating a right angle. Pin them together if you feel you need to.
- Sew a 45-degree line from corner to corner so that when you open them out, you will have created one long strip.
- Continue to sew on the strips in this way until you are left with one long strip of binding.
- Either using a ruler and blade or fabric scissors, trim down the excess fabric and selvedge edges from the back of the binding to a ¼" seam.
- At the ironing board, cut the selvedge edge off from one end, fold it over about a ½" and press into place. Then press the entire length of the binding in half, pressing the joining seams flat open as you come to them.

Sewing on the binding – Part One

When sewing on the binding, I find that using my walking foot will help to feed the quilt and the binding through the machine a lot easier than if using a standard sewing foot.

- Begin by placing the folded end of the binding along side one edge of the quilt, leaving the first 2" behind the walking foot. *Make sure to place the raw edge of the binding along side the raw edge of the quilt.*
- With the edge of the walking foot in line with the edge of the quilt and binding, patiently sew on the binding.
- When you come to corner, stop and make a small back-stitch about a ¼" before reaching the end of the quilt. Remove the quilt from the machine and turn it around to the next edge to be sewn.
- On a flat surface and with the binding trailing over your right hand, fold it back onto it's self, creating a 45-degree angle. Ensure that the tip of the fold matches with the corner of the quilt and that the raw edge of the binding aligns perfectly with the raw edge of the quilt. Fold the binding back over, leaving a straight fold along the top edge.
- Place the quilt back under the foot and make small back-stitch at the beginning edge. Then continue to sew on the binding ensuring that the edge of the walking foot is in line with the edge of the quilt and binding.
- When you make your way back to where you began, stop sewing about 4" away from the start. Cut off the excess binding, leaving enough that can be tucked into the beginning end.
- Tuck the cut end of the binding into the beginning end and sew over them, making a small back-stitch when you reach the start of the stitching you began with. Remove the quilt from the sewing machine.

Sewing on the binding – Part Two

- Fold the binding over to the back and clip into place along all four sides using binding clips or safety pins.
- At the corners, trim off the excess threads then bring the binding up over the corner. Place a binding clip onto the nearest edge to hold it into place and then fold the corner edges over, one on top of the other, creating a mitered corner. Clip into place.

- With a sharp needle and a thread that matches closely to either the backing fabric or binding, slip-stitch the binding to the back of the quilt.

STEP SEVEN: Label your quilt: (QAWM: Part Six Video)

Ensure that you label your finished quilt with a label stating the date it was completed, the name of the quilt (optional), by whom the quilt was made by and if it's a gift for someone, place their name on it too.

To view the complete set of videos in my Quilt-Along-With-Me series, [click here](#) to be taken to the playlist on my YouTube channel!

If you have any questions, feedback, completed blocks/quilts or ideas to share with me, feel free to send me an email to the following address: 3and3quarters@gmail.com

Happy Sewing, Friends!

Amanda.

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