# STACKING AND CUTTING THE FABRIC

Stacking your Fat Quarters: Nine **(9)** Dark and nine **(9)** light fat-quarters are stacked and cut to make **(36)** Unit S. The remaining fat-quarters are set aside into Bag #3, then cut later. The **(9)** Dark and Light fat-quarters are stacked and paired up into **(9)** *Color Groups (i.e. Color Group 1 is a dark and light pair, labeled D1 and L1. Color Group 2 is D2 and L2, and so forth)*. Reference Page 7 for a Swatch Chart where you can paste a small swatch of each fabric to keep track of your pairs. When choosing fabrics, the greater contrast between the dark and light fabrics in each block is more appealing. However, don't be afraid to choose varying degrees of dark and light contrast when selecting your pairs. This will add interest and dimension to the quilt.

Stack the **(9)** dark fabrics *right-side-up* into one pile. Number the fabrics D1-D9, with D9 at the bottom and D1 on top. Then, stack the **(9)** light fabrics *right-side-up*. The first piece in your stack is the one you paired with D9. Label it L9 to complete Color Group 9. The second piece is paired up with D8 and labeled as L8 to complete Color Group 8. Continue stacking the light fabrics ending with L1 on top.


Color Group 1
Fabric #1 (D1)

Color Group 1
Fabric #1 (L1)
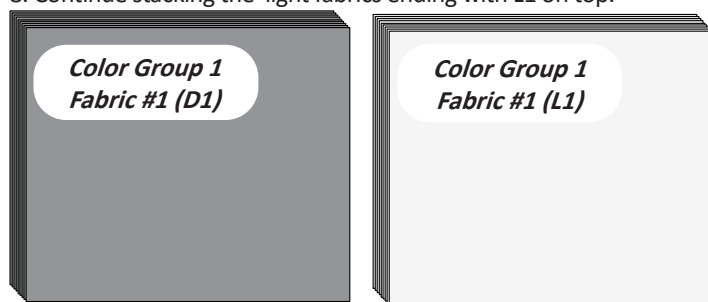
NOTE - We've Done the Work For You!: On the back of the pattern, we have already paired your fabrics (dark and light) to match the cover quilt. If you are intending to make the cover sample, use the pairing guide on the back page. If you are doing your own sample, you will need to pair these according to your own desires.

Step 1: Trim off the selvage edge on each stack (as appropriate).

Step 2: Remove the Fat Quarter Layout Sheet from Bag #1 and place this on the Dark Fat Quarter Stack. Remove the Fat Quarter Layout Sheet from Bag #2 and place it on the Light Fat Quarter Stack.

Step 3: Use the Fat Quarter Layout Sheets as a guide to cut your fabric pieces, beginning with cutting the fat-quarters into two strips. Cut the first strip about **9-1/4" by 21",** leaving the second strip about **8-1/4" by 21"**.

18" by 21" Fat Quarter Layout

9-1/4" by 21"

8-1/4" by 21"

1-3/4" by 7"

7" x 5"
Cut Size
(Optional)
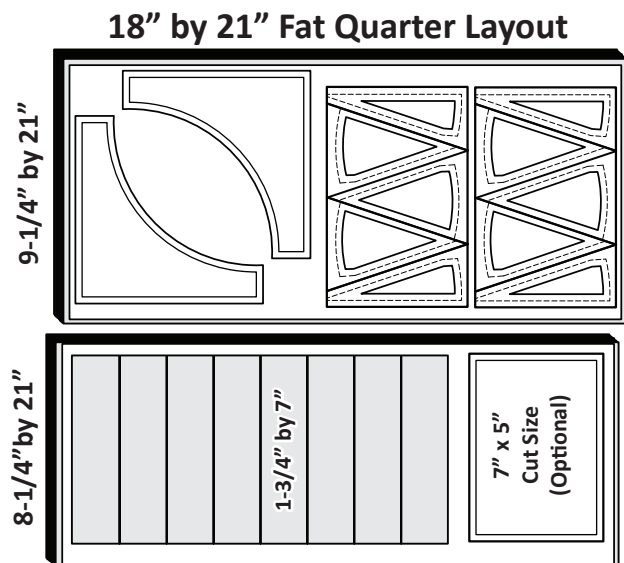
▶ 9-1/4" x 21" Strip Cutting, Backgrounds

Step 4: Begin with the Dark Fabrics and cut around the **(2)** *Center Background T-Templates* and the **(2)** *Unit S Background Template Layout Sheets* (reserve for Step 5) on the 9-1/4" x 21" strips. Clip the Center Background T-Template pieces together, maintaining the order, then place these into Bag #1.
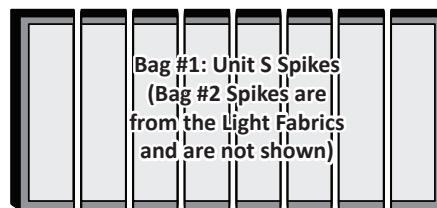

Bag #1: Center Background T-Templates

Bag #2: Unit S Background TLS
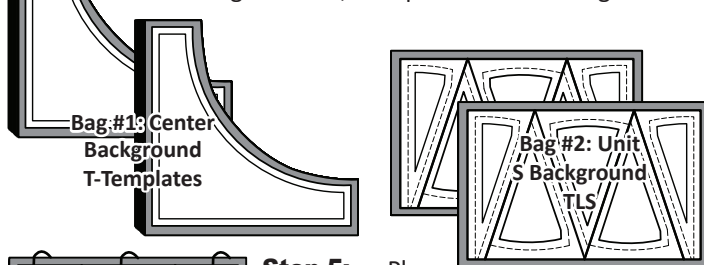
Step 5: Place paper clips around the perimeter of the *Unit S Background TLS* stacks with a paper clip on each section, to hold the Templates to the fabrics beneath.

Step 6: Then, start cutting on the Cut Lines, slicing through the paper and fabric at the same time. Begin with Cut Line 1, then cut in numerical order and finish on Cut Line 4. Place the individually cut background Templates with fabrics beneath into Bag #2, taking care not to mess up the order.

Step 7: Repeat these steps, but for the 9-1/4" x 21" strips that were cut from the Light Fat Quarters (Detailed Graphics are not shown as they are the same, just the fabrics are different). Place the Center Backgrounds in Bag #2 and the Unit S Background Templates in Bag #1.

▶ 8-1/4" x 21" Strip Cutting, Accent Spikes

Step 8: Cut **(8)** 1-3/4" by 7" pieces from both stacks of the (8-1/4" by 21") strips. A total of **(144)** pieces are needed. Clip these together, maintaining the Fabric Order. Place the dark strips into Bag #1 and the Light Strips into Bag #2.

Bag #1: Unit S Spikes
(Bag #2 Spikes are
from the Light Fabrics
and are not shown)

Border
T-Template
7" by 5"
(Optional)

Step 9: OPTIONAL: If you want your border fabrics to match the fabrics used in the center of the quilt, use the leftover area to cut **(1)** 7" by 5" rectangle from each fat quarter color you want to use in the border. We used new fabrics for the border that were not repeated in the middle of the quilt to create contrast. It is up to you. If you use the leftover fat quarter fabrics for the border, you can probably save yourself a few Fat Quarters. Simply cut around the exterior solid line of the *Border T-Template* and place the pieces you've cut into Bag #3 with the Template. If not, discard the leftover fabrics and place the *Border T-Template* into Bag #3 to be cut later. Instructions for cutting the Border and Background Fabrics for the Quilt are on Page 6.
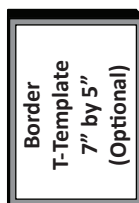
DESIGNING YOUR COLOR LAYOUT

The quilt blocks are now arranged onto a design wall. To recreate the cover quilt, all of the light backgrounds (Bag #2) will go on the outside and all of the dark background pieces (Bag #1) will go on the inside See Illustration 1 Shading). A diagram showing you exactly where each color group goes is shown in Illustration 1. Note that CG = Color Group and refers to how you paired your fabrics up in the start. An (L) is for a block that has a Light Background, a (D) is for a block that has a dark background. Feel free to choose your own approach as well.

Border and Background Cutting, Bag #3: Use the Background and Border cutting diagrams to the right for Fabrics BB1 to BB6 in Bag #3 to cut the solid background squares and border pieces. If you chose to cut some or all of the border squares from the fabrics used in the center of the quilt, you may not need to cut all of these rectangles. Just make sure you have a total of **(26)** 7" x 5" rectangles, **(4)** corners, and **(6)** full squares for the additional blocks needed in the center of the quilt.

When you are satisfied with the color layout, complete the curved piecing.

CURVED PIECING

NOTE - Machine Settings: Set your machine to sew a 1/4" seam allowance before you begin curve piecing.

Step 1: Place the center fabric on top of the S-Unit with right-sides together. Pin the end of the center fabric onto the S-Unit as shown. Weave the pin along the edge as if you were sewing a basting stitch. This will hold the edges secure along the first edge of the S-Unit so they will not pull apart.
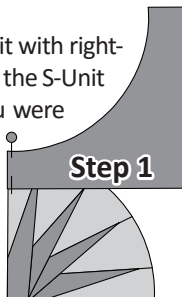
Step 2: Pin the opposite end onto the other side of the S-Unit. Secure the end with one **(1)** pin to keep the edges from pulling apart. Shape the Center Fabric onto the S-Unit by pleating the center fabric as shown in the graphic. This will force the curve on the center fabric to spread open and match up with the curve on the S-Unit. A glue pen or pins can be used to secure the edge.
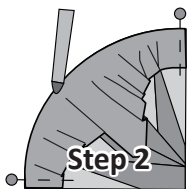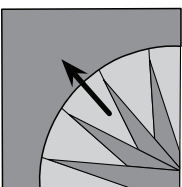
Step 3: Position the two **(2)** pieces at your machine. The S-Unit will be next to the feed dogs and the center piece will be on top.

Step 4: Sew the two **(2)** pieces together. Start at the first edge where you placed the first pin. Sew a few stitches, stopping occasionally to reposition your fabrics to avoid sewing over any puckers.
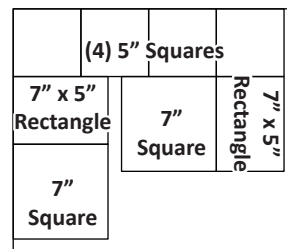
NOTE - The Purple Thang: The Purple Thang works great as a third finger to help hold and smooth the pieces when sewing the curves.

Step 5: Now is the time to remove the foundation papers from the S-Units that have been sewn onto the center fabric pieces. Refer to the General Piecing Instructions for more details on removing the foundation papers and what to do if you've used too much glue. Press the curved seams toward the center pieces as shown by the arrow.
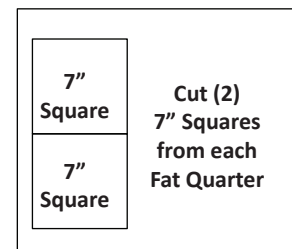
► BACKGROUND AND BORDER FAT QUARTER CUTTING GRAPHICS
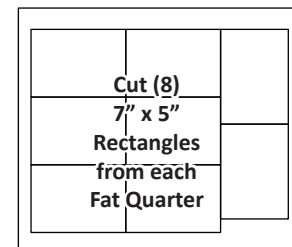
Border Bkgnd #1 (BB1)

(4) 5" Squares	
7" x 5" Rectangle	7" Square / 7" x 5" Rectangle
7" Square	

BB2 & BB3

7" Square	Cut (2) 7" Squares from each Fat Quarter
7" Square	

Step 6: When you are completed with the curved piecing on each block, it should be returned to the design wall layout.

BB4, BB5, & BB6

Cut (8) 7" x 5" Rectangles from each Fat Quarter

SEWING BLOCKS AND PRESSING SEAMS

Step 1: When you are satisfied with the color arrangement, sew the blocks together into rows. The dashed lines in Illustration 2 show the direction the seams should be pressed.

Step 2: Join the horizontal rows of the quilt to complete the quilt top. The recommended pressing is shown using dashed lines in Illustration 2. You can press this any way you like, but the pressing shown reduces bulk and makes it easier to press where the spikes come together for each unit.

Step 3: Join the horizontal rows to complete the quilt. Pressing is shown in Illustration 3 by the dashed lines. Pick back a few stitches at the intersection of each block and tweak the fabrics as shown in the Intersection Graphic in Illustration 3.

QUILTING DESIGNS

Quiltworx.com has completed a variety of simple quilt designs that will fit the blocks completed for Desert Sky. To find them, visit the pattern page and check the Related Products. To find that page quickly, scan the QR Code for the pattern on the back page. Quiltworx.com recommends Hobbs 80/20 batting or similar to get a nice, thin, but flexible finish to the quilt.

DOUBLE FOLDED BINDING INFORMATION

After the quilt top has been quilted, you can add the binding. Quiltworx.com recommends a 2-1/2" strip, ironed in half, lengthwise, then sewn to the front of the quilt and hand-stitched down to the backside.

EXPANDING THE QUILT

Calclate yardage to expand your quilt by subtracting 9" for the border from the size quilt you want to make. Divide each dimension by 6-1/2" (the finished size of each block), then multiply the two numbers together to determine the number of blocks for the center. Decide the number of solid squares you want to use. Subtract this from the total. (1) Light and (1) Dark Fat Quarter makes (4) Unit S. (1) Fat Quarter Yields (6) 7" Squares or (8) Border Rectangles. Using this formula, to determine the number of blocks and yardage for any quilt size! Extra foundations are available that include (80) Unit S papers per package.