

SKILL LEVEL ◆◆◆



# Almost a Flower Garden



Designed by  
**DARLENE ZIMMERMAN**

**Finished Quilt Size**  
64½" x 75¼"  
(including prairie points)

**Number of Blocks  
& Finished Size**  
30 Almost a Flower Garden Blocks  
8½" x 8½"

## Darlene's quilt is pure gardening joy . . .

*without the dirt! Make your flowers bloom from 1930s reproduction fabrics, but keep it clean and crisp with a solid background.*

Darlene's method for piecing, measuring, and adding the pieced border will lead to a successful fit. Follow the instructions (Steps 3, 6-8) for this special method carefully.

If you wish to try the special cutting tools that Darlene uses, refer to Special Cutting Tools, on page 30.

## Cutting Instructions

Light yellow solid  
\*2 strips 2" x 62", cut on lengthwise grain  
\*2 strips 2" x 54", cut on lengthwise grain  
\*4 strips 4" x 68", cut on lengthwise grain  
143 squares 3¾" x 3¾", cut in half diagonally twice to make 572 quarter-square triangles  
68 squares 2⅝" x 2⅝", cut in half diagonally to make 136 half-square triangles  
49 strips 2" x 9"

Assorted prints  
**cut 30 matching sets of:**

2 squares 2" x 2"  
2 rectangles 2" x 5"  
6 rectangles 2" x 3½"

## cut a total of:

130 squares 2" x 2" (border)  
138 squares 3" x 3" (prairie points)  
49 strips 2" x 9"

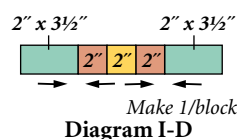
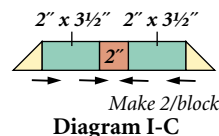
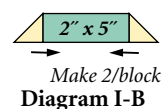
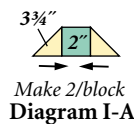
Assorted solids

## cut 30 sets of:

4 matching squares 2" x 2"  
Dark yellow solid  
30 squares 2" x 2"  
\*Cut first.

## Piecing the Blocks

**1** Refer to Diagrams I-A through I-D to make block rows, using light yellow 3¾" quarter-square triangles, matching set of assorted print fabrics: 2" squares, 2" x 5" rectangles,



## Fabric Requirements

Light yellow solid	4⅞ yds.
Assorted prints	2¼-3 yds.
	<b>total</b>
Assorted solids	½-1 yd.
	<b>total</b>
Dark yellow solid (block center square)	¼ yd.
Backing (piece widthwise)	4 yds.
Batting	Twin size

## Other Materials

Sewing thread  
Hand quilting thread  
Machine quilting thread

## Planning, Cutting, and Marking

Following Darlene's lead, we instruct you to cut the yellow solid triangles (for the block edges and corners) slightly oversized. The yellow triangles in the pieced border are also cut oversized. Follow the instructions carefully to trim the block and border edges.

## Special Cutting Tools used by Darlene

To cut the triangles for her quilt, Darlene used the Easy Angle and the Companion Angle, special cutting tools from EZ Quilting by Wrights. **Different cutting sizes** are required with these tools. Use the **Easy Angle** to cut triangles for the block corners and the border end triangles from **2" strips**. Use the **Companion Angle** to cut triangles for the block edges and pieced border edges from **1 3/4" strips**.

Look for EZ Quilting by Wrights products in your local quilt shop. To order by phone, call 1-800-660-0415 or visit online, [www.ezquilt.com](http://www.ezquilt.com).

and 2" x 3 1/2" rectangles, plus matching solid 2" squares and dark gold 2" square. Make row quantities indicated. Press seams in direction of arrows.

**2** To make Almost a Flower Garden Block, sew rows together (see Diagrams II-A through II-C). Press row seams in direction of arrows (II-B). Sew light yellow 2 3/8" half-square triangles to corners. **Trim** block **evenly** on all 4 sides to measure 9" square, leaving at least 1/4" from corners of print fabrics. Make 30 total.

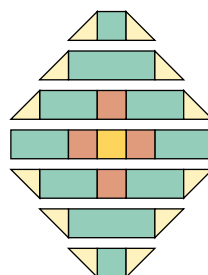


Diagram II-A

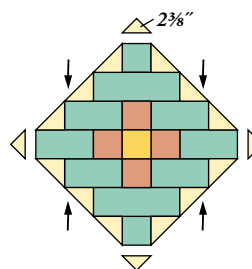
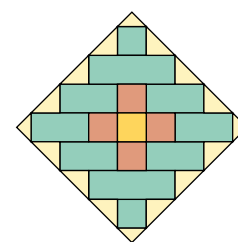


Diagram II-B



Make 30 total  
Trim to 9" x 9"

### Making the Pieced Borders

**3** Referring to Diagram III-A, sew assorted print 2" squares together with light yellow 3 3/4" quarter-square triangles. Add light yellow 2 3/8" half-square triangles to ends. Make 2 strips with 24 squares each. Make 2 strips with 29 squares each for quilt sides.

**Note:** Two additional segments will be inserted into the 24-square top/bottom border strips **after** the borders are measured (see Steps 6-8 and Diagram III-B). This will lead to a perfect fit! **Trim** both sides and ends of pieced border strips straight, leaving 1/4" seam allowance from corners of squares.

### Quilt Top Assembly

**Note:** Refer to Assembly Diagram for following steps.

**4** Sew 6 block rows, alternating 5 blocks with 4 light yellow 2" x 9" sashing strips each. Make 5 sashing strips, alternating 5 light yellow 2" x 9" strips with 4 assorted print 2" squares each. Alternately sew block and sashing rows together.

**5** Stitch light yellow 2" x 62" strips to sides; trim even with top and bottom. Stitch light yellow 2" x 54" strips to top/bottom; trim even with sides.

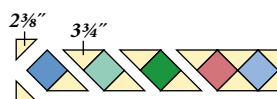


Diagram III-A

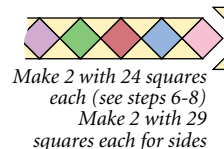


Diagram III-B

**6** Measure exact **width** of quilt and measure exact **length** of **24-square** pieced border strip. If quilt width is greater than pieced border, trim **sides** of quilt **evenly** to equal measurement of pieced border. **Do not add** pieced borders to quilt yet.

**7** Measure exact **length** of quilt and measure exact **length** of **29-square** pieced border strip. If quilt is longer than pieced border, trim **top and bottom** of quilt **evenly** to equal measurement of pieced border. Sew 29-square pieced strips to sides of quilt.

**8** Before adding top/bottom pieced strips to quilt, open a seam in 24-square pieced border strip and add 2 additional segments to each strip (Diagram III-B). Sew 26-square pieced strips to top/bottom of quilt.

**9** Sew light yellow solid 4" x 68" strips to sides; trim even. Sew remaining yellow strips to top/bottom; trim even.

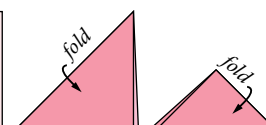
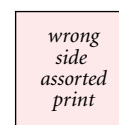
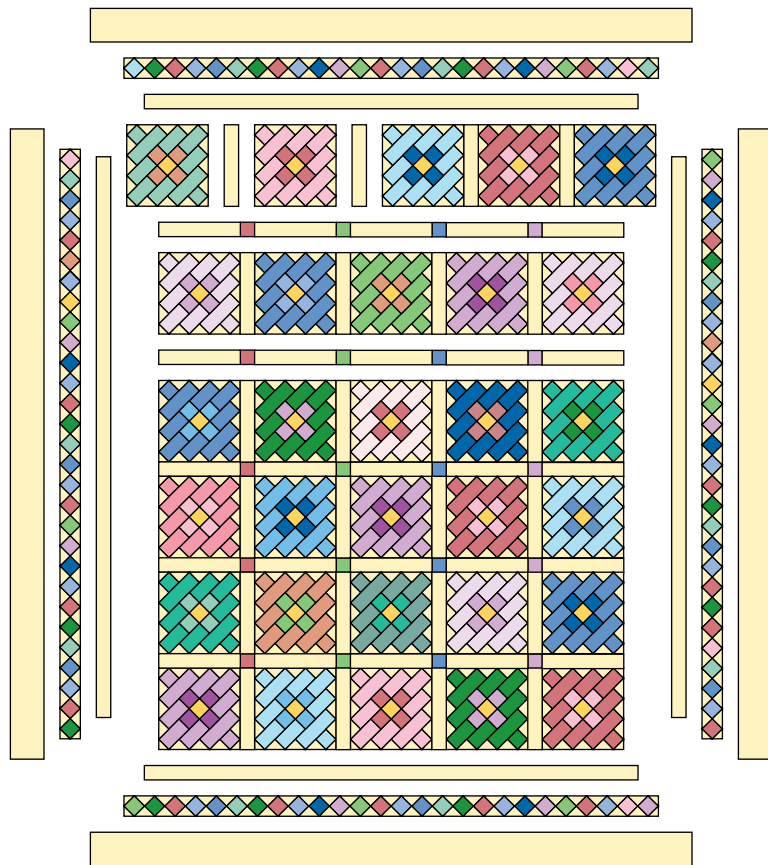


Diagram IV-A

**10** To make prairie points for quilt edge, refer to Diagram IV. Fold assorted print 3" square in half diagonally (IV-A); press. Fold again and press. Make 138 total. Pin points along top and bottom of quilt, aligning raw edges and tucking end inside previous point to make a continuous border. **Note:** Align first and last prairie points with quilt corner raw edges. Adjust as needed to fit 32 per top/bottom edge. Stitch prairie points to quilt using 1/4" seam allowance, with points facing quilt center (IV-B). Repeat procedure to add 37 prairie points to each side of quilt.



Assembly Diagram

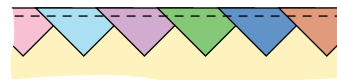


Diagram IV-B

### Quilting and Finishing

**11** Layer and baste quilt top for quilting method of your choice (see Basic Quiltmaking Instructions). Darlene used Fairfield's Soft Touch Cotton® batting. She hand quilted  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the "flower" seam lines. The yellow background was machine quilted with an allover meander. After quilting, trim batting slightly smaller than quilt top. Trim backing  $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger than quilt top. Turn backing raw edge under  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and, covering stitching line on back of quilt, hand stitch backing to back side of quilt.