Painted Desert

Choose luscious multicolor prints and stripes for this striking lap quilt. Photos show fussy-cutting ideas.

Designed by
SHERRI BAIN DRIVER

Machine Quilted by
KAREN DOVALA

SKILL LEVEL
INTERMEDIATE

Finished Quilt Size
51¼” x 64½”

Number of Blocks & Finished Sizes
20 Large God’s Eye Blocks 9” x 9”
12 Medium God’s Eye Blocks 6” x 6”
36 Small God’s Eye Blocks 3” x 3”

Fabric Requirements
12 assorted multicolor stripes (blocks) ½ yd. each
Purple/rust leaf print (small squares) ¾ yd.*
Multicolor leaf print (setting triangles) 1 yd.
Brown/orange dotted floral (binding) ½ yd.
Backing (piece widthwise) 3½ yds.
Batting size 60” x 74”
See-through template plastic
*Based on fabric with at least 42” of usable width.

Planning & Cutting
This dazzling quilt features woven multicolor stripes and luscious leaf prints, all designed by Kaffe Fassett for Rowan Fabrics. For help cutting triangles for the God’s Eye Blocks, plus sewing tips, see Stripe Savvy on the next page.

To make templates, Refer to Cutting Diagram, right. Mark an accurate 5¼” x 10¼” rectangle on see-through template plastic. Cut out directly on lines. Make a mark at midpoint (5¼”) on 1 long side. Mark lines connecting the midpoint with opposite corners of the rectangle. Cut directly on the 2 angled lines to make Template A. In similar manner, make plastic Templates B and C. Position template on fabric, trace around template and cut out on drawn line; you’ll need 4 identical fussy-cut triangles (A, B, or C) for each block.
Cutting Instructions
(cut in order listed)
= cut in half twice diagonally
= cut in half diagonally
12 assorted multicolor stripes
  cut 20 sets of:
    4 matching Template A, fussy-cut
  cut 12 sets of:
    4 matching Template B, fussy-cut
  cut 36 sets of:
    4 matching Template C, fussy-cut
Purple/rust leaf print
  24 squares 3½” x 3½”
Multicolor leaf print
  4 squares 15” x 15” 
  2 squares 8” x 8”
Brown/orange dotted floral
  7 strips 2½” x width of fabric (binding)

Stripe Savvy
Fabric with stripes of different widths and/or a profusion of colors, can yield multiple blocks with various looks. All of the stripes in this quilt are uneven stripes (Photo A), which march across the fabric in a simple repeating order, such as red, blue, green, red, blue green, red, and so on.

Photos B through E show 2 different ways to position templates on stripes and the resulting sewn blocks.

Piecing the Blocks and Units
Hint: When pinning patches for sewing, pin parallel to the stripes and check that stripes are aligned on both patches. Handle all bias edges carefully to avoid stretching.
1 Referring to Diagram I-A, sew together 4 matching multicolor stripe A triangles to make Large God’s Eye Block. Make 20 total. In similar manner, make 12 Medium and 36 small God’s Eye Blocks (Diagrams I-B and I-C).
2 Stitch together 3 small blocks, 2 purple/rust leaf print 3½” squares, and 1 medium block to make pieced unit, as shown in Diagram II. Make 12 total.
Assembling the Quilt Top
Note: Refer to Assembly Diagram for following step, rotating pieced units as desired. Setting triangles on all edges and corners are cut oversized for subsequent trimming.

Arrange and sew 8 diagonal rows using multicolor leaf print 15” quarter-square triangles, Large God’s Eye Blocks, and pieced units. You will have 2 quarter-square triangles left over. Sew rows together. Sew multicolor 8” half-square triangles to corners. Trim edges even, at least ¼” outside block corners.

Quilting and Finishing
Layer, baste, and quilt. Karen machine quilted an allover design of swirls and spirals. Bind with brown/orange dotted floral.

Meet Kaffe Fassett

Extrovert, romantic, painterly; this is how Kaffe Fassett describes his design style. He gleans inspiration from adventures in travel, visits to decorative arts museums around the world, his extensive library about ethnic cultures, and the serendipity of life.

Born in San Francisco, Kaffe settled in England in 1964 and made it his home. He first became interested in designing fabrics while noticing stylish furnishings in English houses; Kaffe wanted to recreate the same effect. He began designing fabrics for Designers Guild, a famous London furnishing house, whetting his appetite for more.

In 1981 Kaffe began working closely with Rowan Yarns in Yorkshire, whose insight into fashion and color perfectly complements Kaffe’s skill. In 1996 he expanded his work with Rowan to include the rich line of patchwork and quilting fabrics, as well as Indian stripe and shot cotton fabrics, that we know today. This year he celebrates 20 years of textile design with Rowan.

Today, he studies vintage quilts and fabrics from the past for design ideas and color selection while keeping in mind designs for fabrics that cut well into small pieces. “Color is an ongoing education based on what has worked and what excites me in the environment at the moment,” he says.

Never using a computer for his designs, Kaffe shared some sound advice for anyone wanting to become a fabric designer: “Try to paint by hand. Ideas will flow much better than on the computer. Make the sketch and cut into small units to understand how it will work when cut up. Beware of too much contrast if [the fabric] is for the patchwork world.”