

Tilda®

Creating Memories
AUTUMN

Squirrel Quilt



Squirrel Quilt

Celebrate the season with this charming autumnal quilt, filled with busy squirrels storing nuts for the winter. The quilt is easy to make and would be perfect to celebrate autumn events such as Thanksgiving and Halloween. Chambray fabrics in mellow shades work beautifully with the warm saffron, rust and copper prints of fabrics from the Creating Memories fabric collection. There are also two pillow designs to match the quilt – see tildasworld.com for the free patterns.

Difficulty Rating **

Materials

- Fabric 1: 4¼yds (4m) – Chambray olive (160012) (background)
- Fabric 2: ⅛yd (15cm) – Chambray petrol (160005)
- Fabric 3: 9in (23cm) square – Chambray brown (160035)
- Fabric 4: 9in (23cm) square – Chambray ginger (160041)
- Fabric 5: 9in (23cm) square – Chambray mustard (160042)
- Fabric 6: ¼yd (25cm) – Avery ginger (130135)
- Fabric 7: 9in (23cm) square – Gracie ginger (130136)
- Fabric 8: ¼yd (25cm) – Brie brown (130137)
- Fabric 9: 9in (23cm) square – Evie rust (130138)
- Fabric 10: 9in (23cm) square – Lulu saffron (130139)
- Fabric 11: ¼yd (25cm) – Berrytangle copper (130140)
- Fabric 12: ¼yd (25cm) – Carla saffron (130141)
- Fabric 13: ¼yd (25cm) – Harper saffron (130142)
- Fabric 14: ¼yd (25cm) – Frida brown (130143)
- Fabric 15: ⅛yd (15cm) – Seamstripe ginger (160074)
- Fabric 16: ⅛yd (15cm) – Stripe toffee (160076)
- Fabric 17: 9in (23cm) square – Tiny Stripe ginger (160077)
- Fabric 18: ⅛yd (15cm) – Polka Dot ginger (160078)
- Fabric 19: ⅛yd (15cm) – Plaid stone (160079)
- Fabric 20: ⅛yd (15cm) – Tiny Stripe cream (160080)
- Wadding (batting): 67in x 79in (170cm x 200.5cm)
- Backing fabric: 4½yds (4.2m) – Plaid stone (160079)
- Binding fabric: ½yd (50cm) – Tiny Dot khaki (160075)
- Piecing and quilting threads
- Black stranded cotton (floss) for eye embroidery
- Quilter's ruler, rotary cutter and mat

Finished Size

58¾in x 71½in (149.2cm x 181.5cm)

Fabric Notes

Where a long eighth or long quarter of a yard is given in the Materials list you could use fat eighths or fat quarters instead. A fat eighth is assumed to be approximately 10½in x 18in (26.7cm x 45.7cm) and a fat quarter approximately 21in x 18in (53.3cm x 45.7cm). The Chambray fabrics can be cut in any direction for the most economical use of the fabric.

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 selvages.
- 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 has eighteen Squirrel blocks and eighteen Acorn blocks, each in six different colourways. The Squirrel blocks are reversed for half of the blocks, so those squirrels face in the opposite direction. The blocks are separated by strips of vertical sashing, with horizontal sashing between the quilt rows and also at the top and bottom of the quilt to act as a border. See **Fig A** for the fabrics used and **Fig B** for the quilt layout.

Fig A Fabric swatches (Squirrel Quilt)

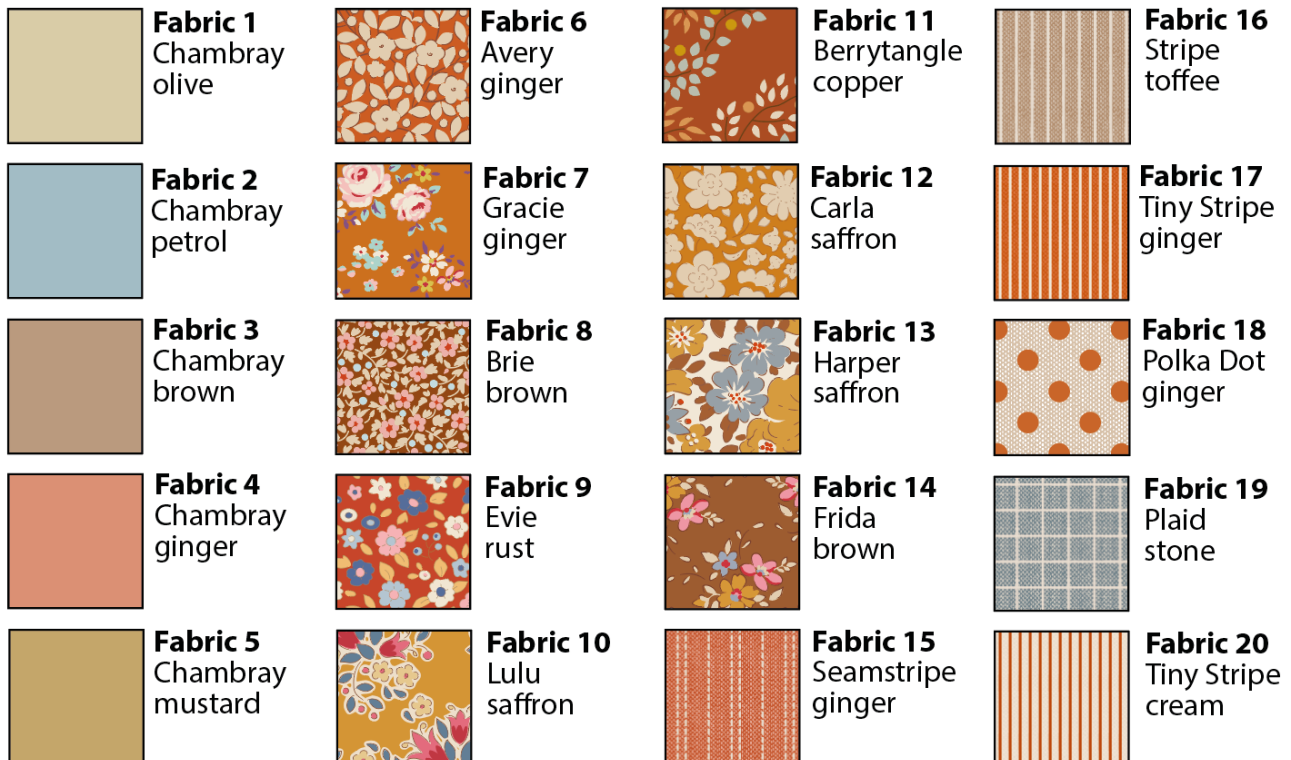
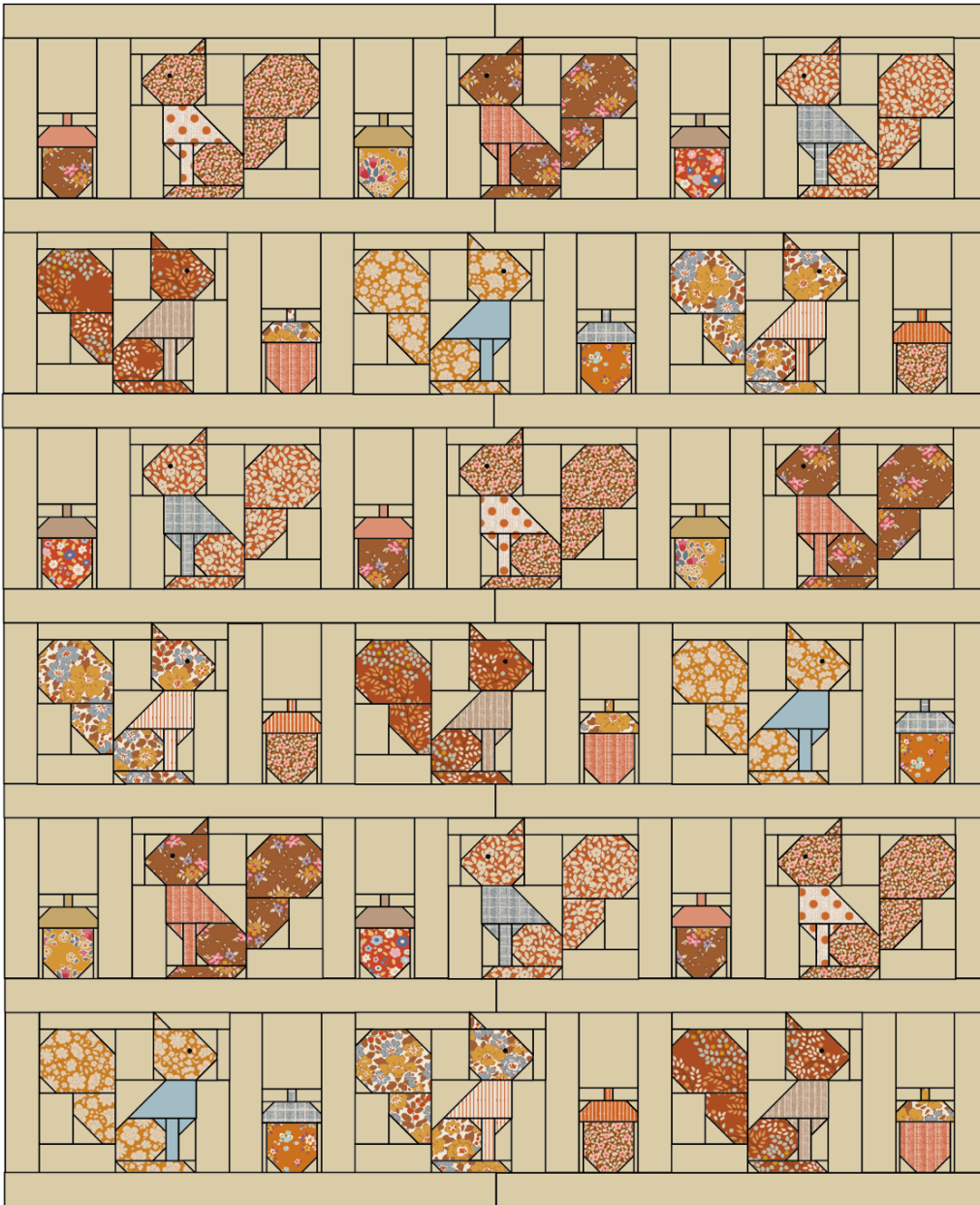


Fig B Quilt layout (Squirrel Quilt)

Cutting Out

2 From Fabric 1 cut the sashing pieces first, cutting the following pieces. You will need about $1\frac{5}{8}$ yd (1.5m) of fabric for these pieces.

- Vertical sashing – forty-two strips $2\frac{1}{2}$ in x 10in (6.4cm x 25.4cm). The strips can be cut horizontally across the width of the fabric for best use of the fabric.
- Horizontal sashing – fourteen strips $29\frac{5}{8}$ in x $2\frac{1}{2}$ in (75.2cm x 6.4cm). Join the strips together in pairs using $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seams, to make seven pairs each $58\frac{3}{4}$ in (149.2cm) long.

3 The Fabric 1 background pieces for the blocks are best cut across the width of the fabric for economical use of the fabric. It is more efficient to cut the same size shapes at once. The cut measurements are shown in **Fig C** and **Fig D**. Note that although **Fig C** also shows the reverse squirrel block, the shapes cut will be the same. Refer also to **Fig E** and **Fig F** for the exact fabric positions in the blocks.

4 For the print and Chambray fabrics, follow the cut measurements shown in **Fig C** (Squirrel) and **Fig D** (Acorn). See also **Fig E** and **Fig F** for the exact fabric positions in the blocks.

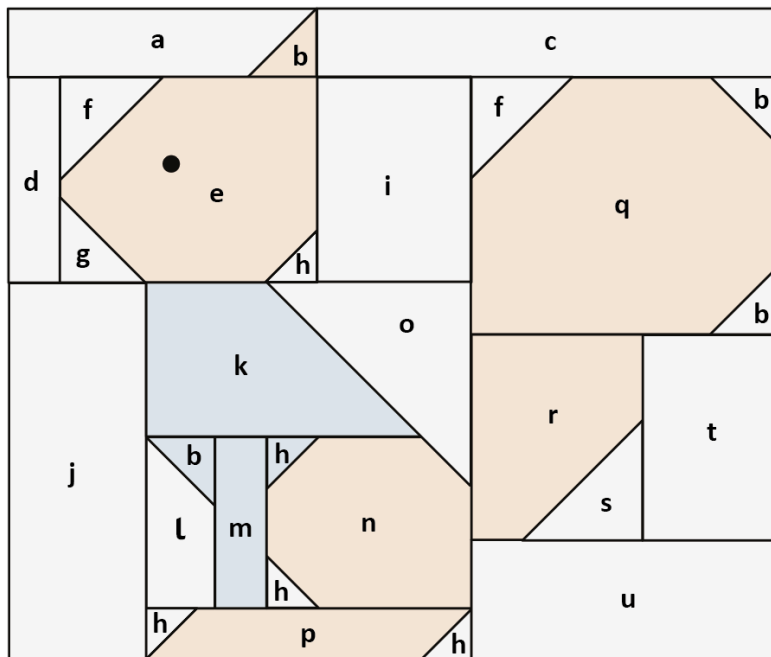
5 Cut the backing fabric across the width into two pieces. Using a $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam, sew together along the long side and press the seam open. Trim to a piece about 67in x 79in (170cm x 201cm). This is about 4in (10.2cm) larger all round than the quilt top, to allow for quilting and finishing.

6 Cut the binding fabric into seven $2\frac{1}{2}$ in (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.

Fig C Cut measurements for the Squirrel block

Sizes include $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam allowances. All pieces to be cut initially as squares or rectangles

Squirrel Block: $11\frac{3}{4}$ in x 10in (29.8cm x 25.4cm) unfinished



Squirrel

- a 5in x $1\frac{1}{2}$ in (12.7cm x 3.8cm)
 - b $1\frac{1}{2}$ in (3.8cm) square
 - c $7\frac{1}{4}$ in x $1\frac{1}{2}$ in (18.4cm x 3.8cm)
 - d $1\frac{1}{4}$ in x $3\frac{1}{2}$ in (3.2cm x 9cm)
 - e $4\frac{1}{4}$ in x $3\frac{1}{2}$ in (10.8cm x 9cm)
 - f 2in (5.1cm) square
 - g $1\frac{3}{4}$ in (4.4cm) square
 - h $1\frac{1}{4}$ in (3.2cm) square
 - i $2\frac{3}{4}$ in x $3\frac{1}{2}$ in (7cm x 9cm)
 - j $2\frac{1}{2}$ in x 6in (6.4cm x 15.2cm)
 - k $5\frac{1}{4}$ in x $2\frac{3}{4}$ in (13.3cm x 7cm)
 - l $1\frac{1}{2}$ in x 3in (3.8cm x 7.6cm)
 - m $1\frac{1}{4}$ in x 3in (3.2cm x 7.6cm)
 - n $3\frac{1}{2}$ in x 3in (9cm x 7.6cm)
 - o $3\frac{1}{2}$ in (9cm) square
 - p $5\frac{1}{4}$ in x $1\frac{1}{4}$ in (13.3cm x 3.2cm)
 - q 5in x $4\frac{1}{4}$ in (12.7cm x 10.8cm)
 - r 3in x $3\frac{1}{2}$ in (7.6cm x 9cm)
 - s $2\frac{1}{4}$ in (5.7cm) square
 - t $2\frac{1}{2}$ in x $3\frac{1}{2}$ in (6.4cm x 9cm)
 - u 5in x $2\frac{1}{4}$ in (12.7cm x 5.7cm)
- French knot eye – see instructions

Reverse Squirrel

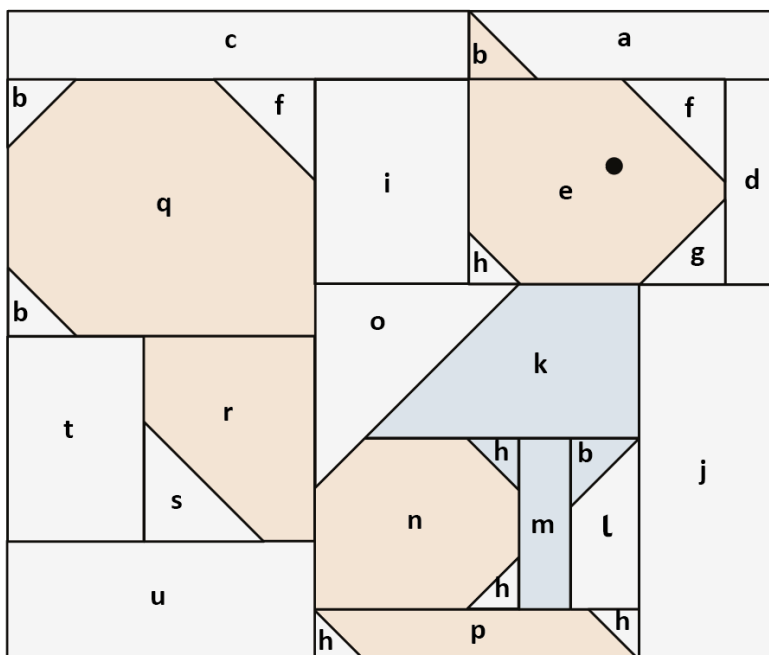
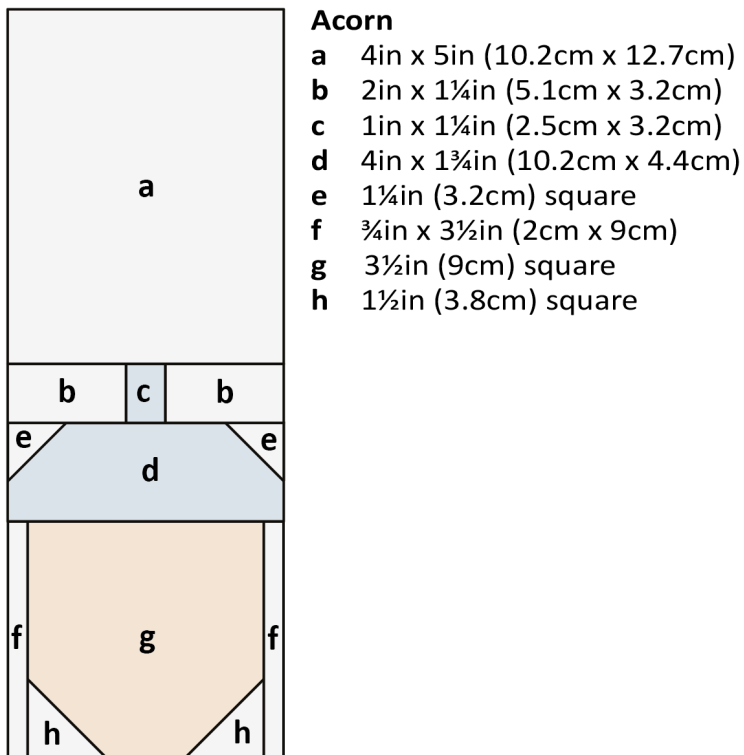


Fig D Cut measurements for the Acorn block

Sizes include $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seam allowances

All pieces to be cut initially as squares or rectangles

Acorn Block: 4in x 10in (10.2cm x 25.4cm) unfinished

**Fig E** Block colourways for the Squirrel blocks

Bold numbers indicate fabrics used (see Fig A). All background is Fabric 1. Make three of each block

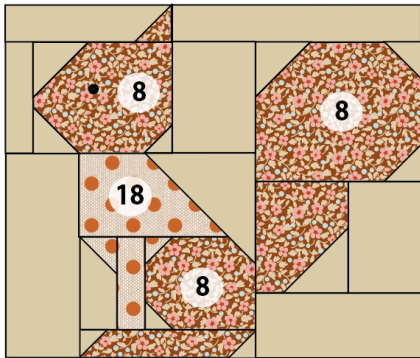
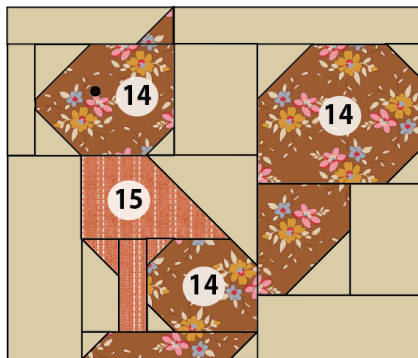
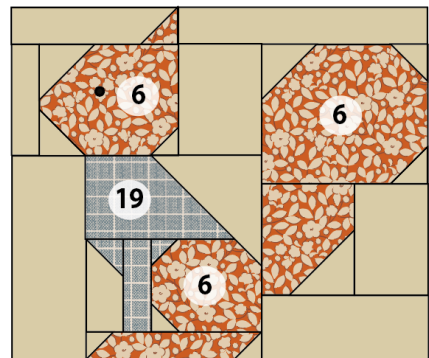
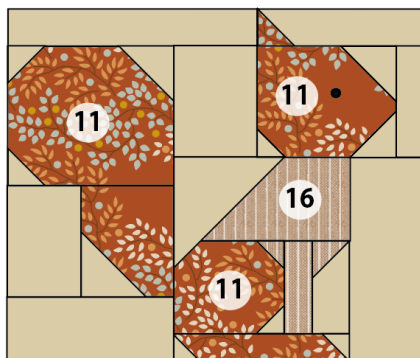
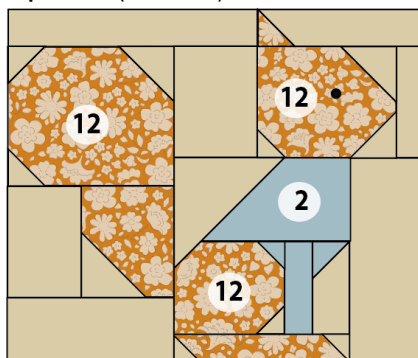
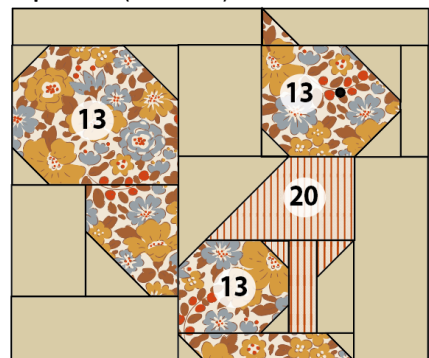
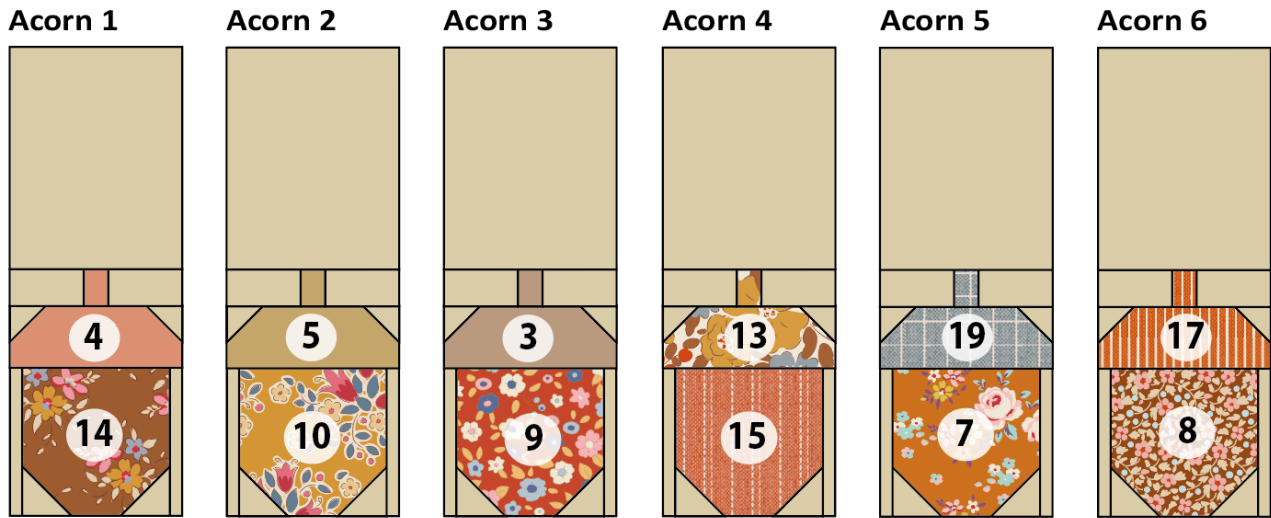
Squirrel 1**Squirrel 2****Squirrel 3****Squirrel 4 (reversed)****Squirrel 5 (reversed)****Squirrel 6 (reversed)**

Fig F Block colourways for the Acorn blocks

Bold numbers indicate fabrics used (see Fig A)

All background is Fabric 1

Make three of each block



Making the Blocks

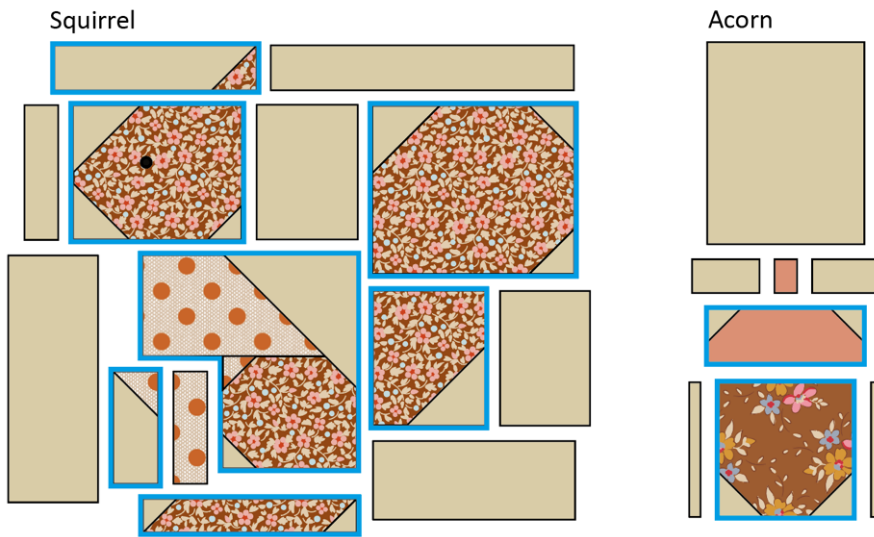
7 Apart from the block assembly, most of the piecing is to make corner triangle units and the blocks use corner triangle units in various places. The basic technique is the same regardless of the size of the pieces being sewn. **Fig G** shows the stages of creating a corner triangle. **Fig H** shows where these units occur in the blocks (outlined in blue). It is best to make all the units needed for a block, so the block can then be assembled without delay.

The basic process of sewing a corner triangle is as follows. Place the larger piece of fabric right side up (RS). Take the small square and pencil mark a diagonal line on the wrong side (WS) of the square. Pin the square right sides together with the larger fabric piece, aligning the edges as shown and with the diagonal line in the direction needed. Sew along the marked line. Trim off excess fabric $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) outside the sewn line and gently press the triangle outwards. Check the unit is the same size as the original larger piece of fabric, with no distortion.

Fig G Making a corner triangle unit



Fig H Units in the blocks needing corner triangles (Outlined in blue). Block 1 shown



Making the Squirrel Blocks

8 When the pieced units have been made a Squirrel block can be sewn together. Follow the stages shown in **Fig I**, pressing seams after each stage, pressing open or to one side. Note that in **Fig I 3**, a corner triangle needs to be created across the back of the squirrel, forming a triangle of Fabric 1 over the edges of piece **k** and piece **n**. When the assembly is finished, check the sewn block is 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ in x 10in (29.8cm x 24.5cm).

Repeat this process to make three of Squirrel block 1 in total.

Repeat the block-making process to make three of Squirrel block 2 and three of Squirrel block 3.

9 Repeat the block-making process again to make three each of reverse Squirrel blocks 4, 5 and 6.

Fig J shows the final stages of assembling a reverse block.

10 When all of the Squirrel blocks are made, use a French knot to sew an eye onto each squirrel, using six strands of black stranded cotton, with the thread wrapped twice around the needle.

Fig I Assembling a Squirrel block
(Block 1 shown)

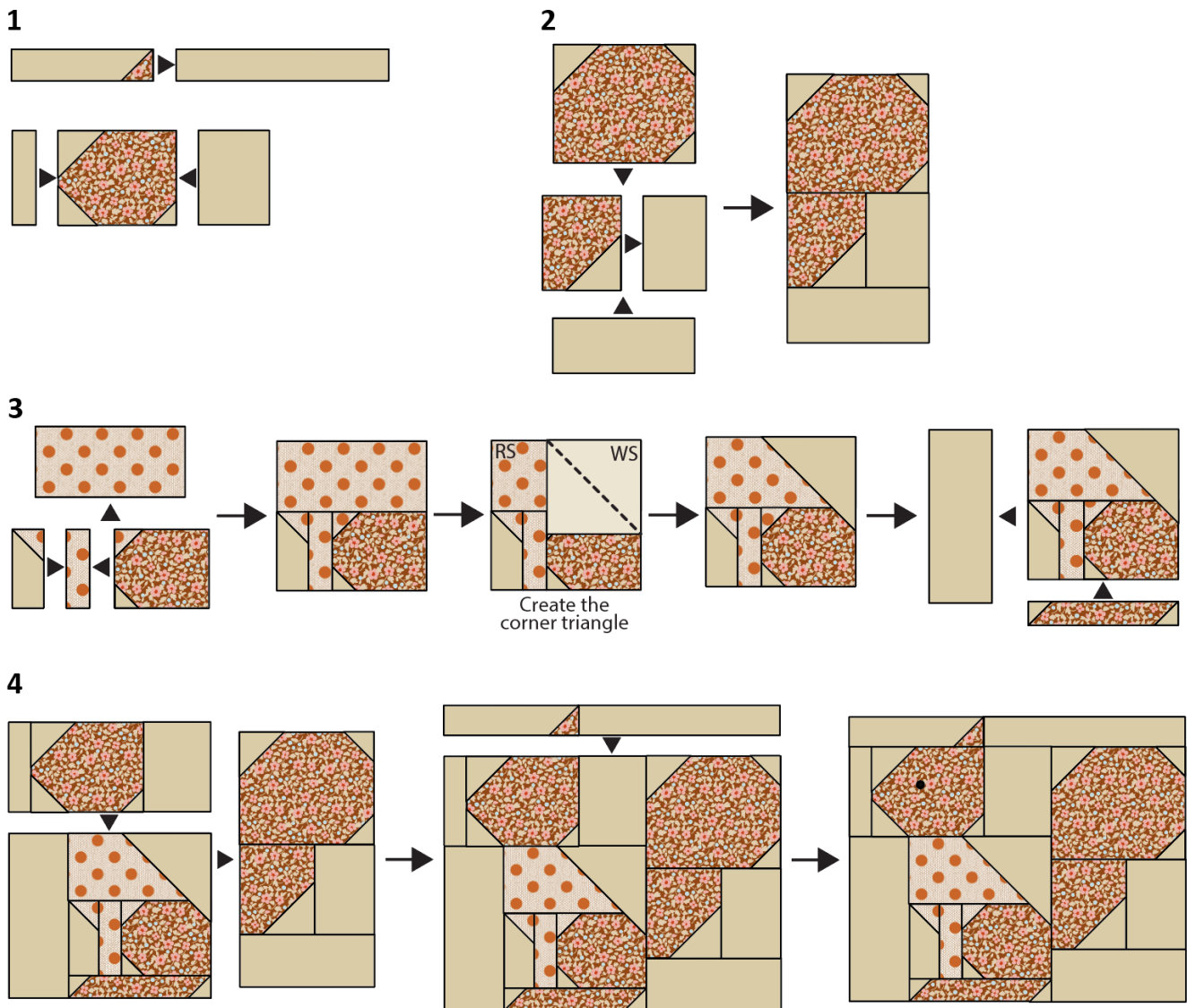
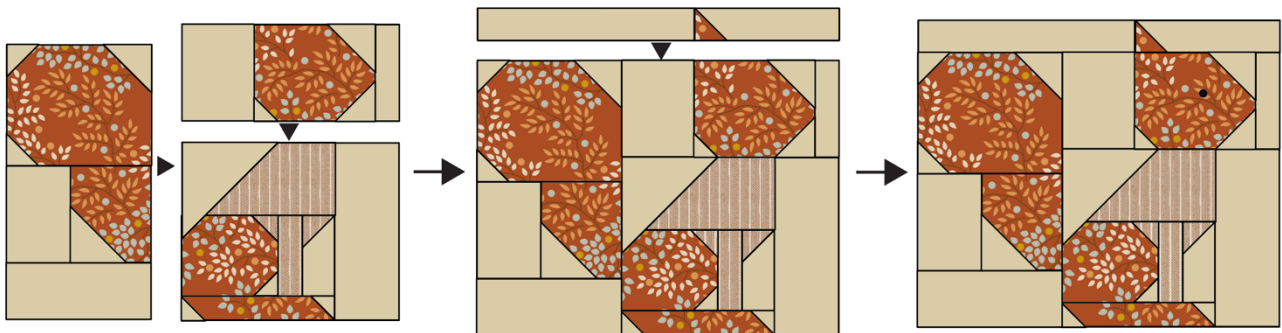


Fig J Assembling a reverse Squirrel block
(Block 4 shown)



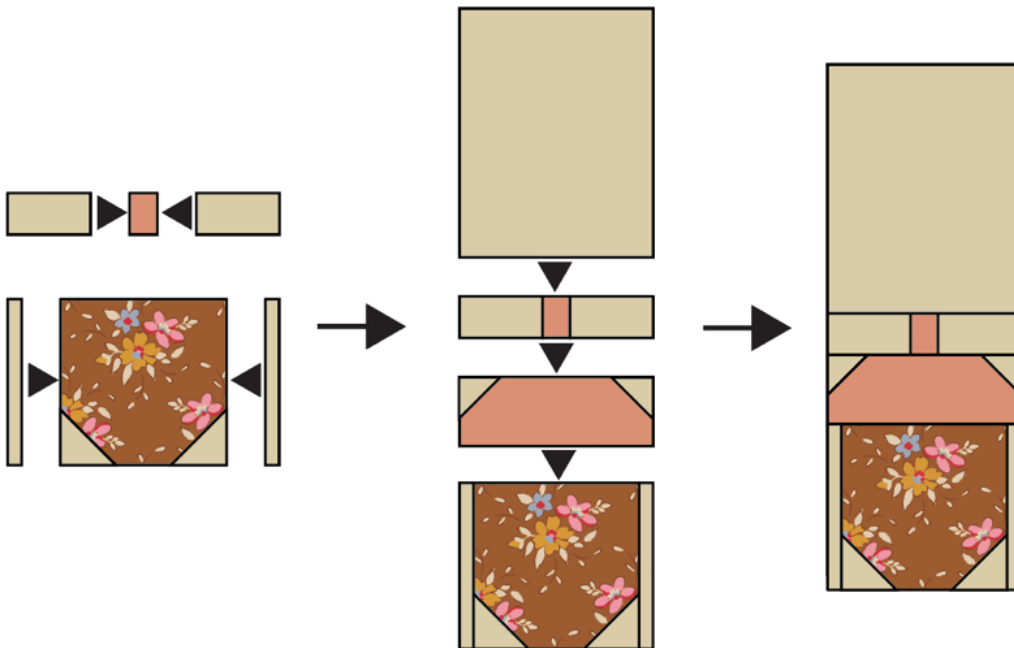
Making the Acorn Blocks

11 For the Acorn blocks, make the units that need corner triangles, as described before and then follow **Fig K** to sew the block together. Once sewn, check it is 4in x 10in (10.2cm x 25.4cm).

Repeat this process to make three of Acorn block 1 in total.

Repeat the block-making process to make three of Acorn block 2, block 3, block 4, block 5 and block 6.

Fig K Assembling an Acorn block
(Block 4 shown)



Assembling the Quilt

12 When all of the blocks are made the quilt can be assembled. The quilt rows are sewn first and the layout of the six rows is shown in **Fig L**. The blocks are identified by number in the diagram, so follow this to select the correct order, placing the shorter sashing strips between each block and at the end of each row. Note that the squirrels face in one direction in rows 1, 3 and 5 and the opposite direction in rows 2, 4 and 6. Sew the rows together using $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) seams, pressing the seams towards the sashing. Once sewn, check each row measures $58\frac{3}{4}$ in (149.2cm).

13 Now sew the long sashing strips between each quilt row and at the top and bottom of the quilt (**Fig M**). Press seams towards the sashing. Your quilt top is now finished.

Fig L Sewing the quilt rows together
 (A=Acorn, S=Squirrel)

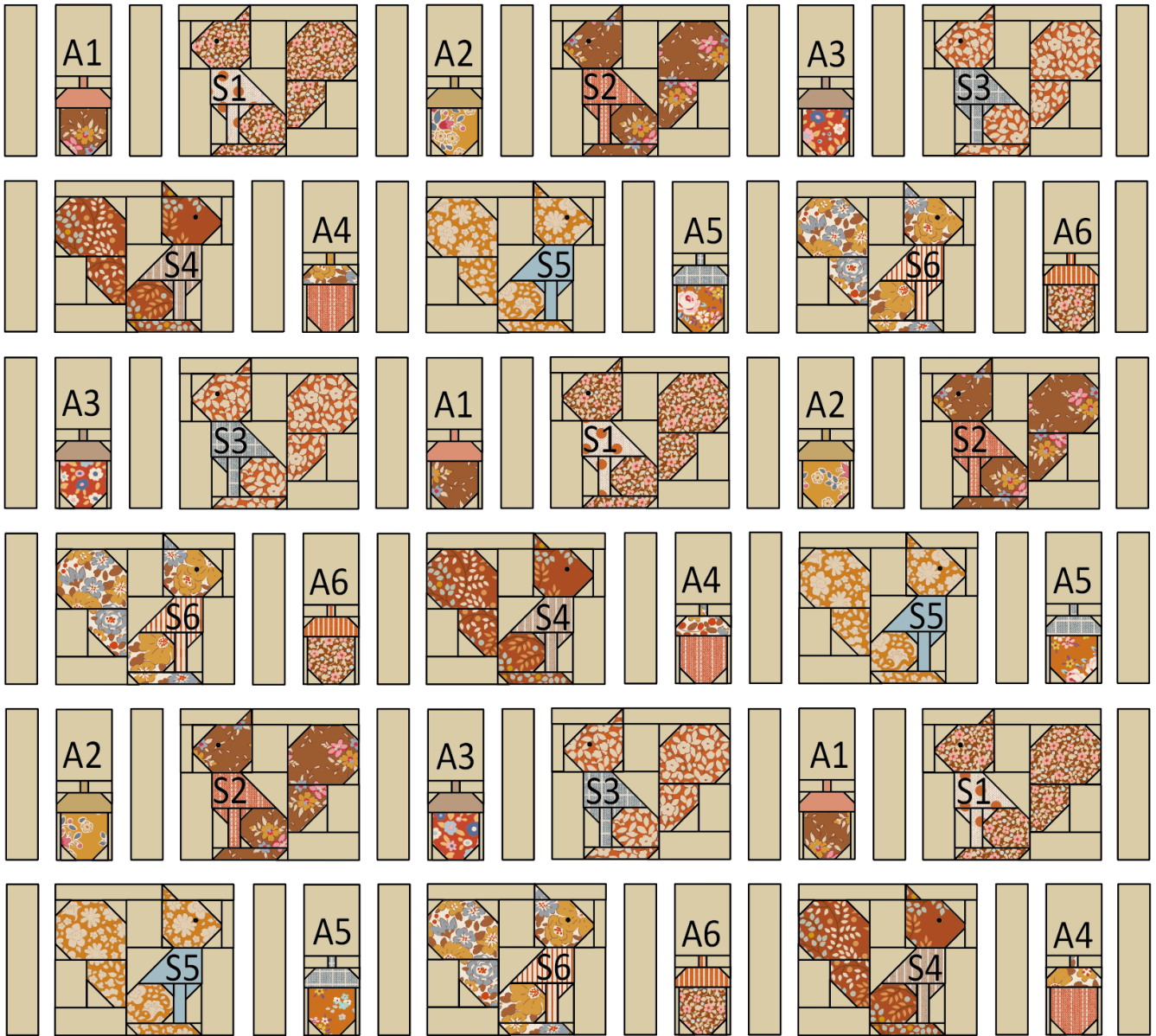
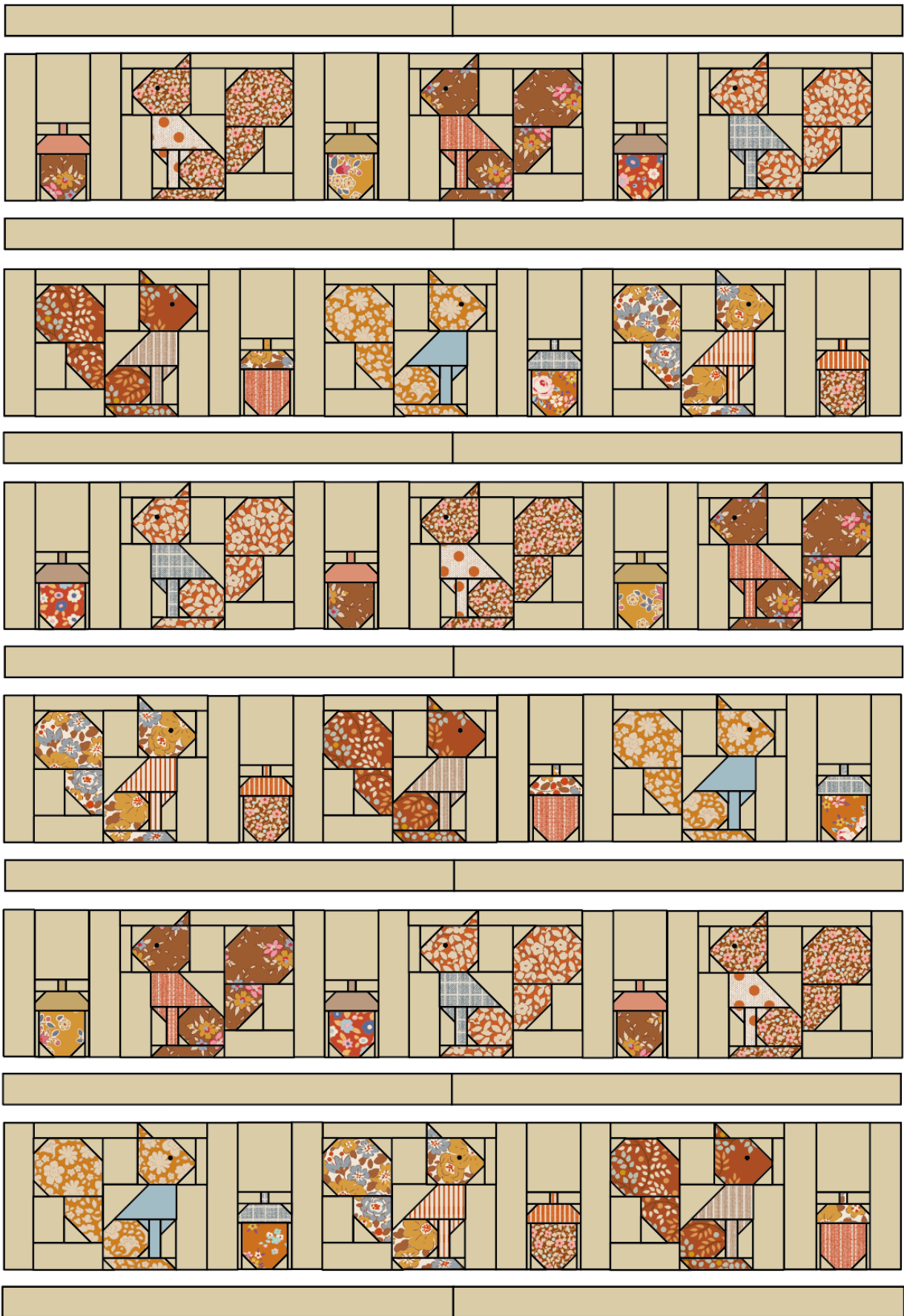


Fig M Sewing the quilt together



Quilting and Finishing

14 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.

15 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.

16 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.

17 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 autumnal comforter quilt is finished.

Tilda®

FABRICS