

YOUR
GIFT

TQ

ECONOMY SQUARE RULER

Use your ruler to trim your blocks and get perfect
1in-5in Economy Squares every time!



Our special gift is sure to become a much-used addition to your sewing box. Making finished Economy Squares in 1in, 2in, 3in, 4in and 5in sizes, your Economy Square Ruler can be used in a multitude of ways. Whether you want to just frame a feature fabric, create units to build blocks like Stars, Snail's Trail or create pretty pieced borders, the Economy Square offers a whole range of possibilities to choose from. Our Technical Editor, Paula Hope's take on Economy Squares is the perfect project for your

new ruler's first outing though. Her pattern below incorporates three of the sizes in a strikingly bold quilt. So, gather up your favourite fabrics because, as Paula says, the joy of this gift is that you can just use pieces from your stash and use the ruler to trim to suit!

WHAT WILL YOU MAKE?

We'd love to see what you make using your Economy Square Ruler. Drop us a line – by email, post or on Facebook – letting us know all about your latest finished quilting project and share your top quilting tips.

WRITE TO US *Today's Quilter*, Our Media, Eagle House, Bristol, BS1 4ST. EMAIL: todaysquilter@ourmedia.co.uk



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ECONOMY SQUARE PROJECT

FAIR AND SQUARE

Your bonus gift can be used in a multitude of ways and this gorgeous quilt is the perfect first project for your handy new ruler.

Designed and made by **PAULA HOPE**
Quilted by **MAIRI BURNS OF @LISMOREQUILTING**





FAIR AND SQUARE



You will need

- Dark navy fabric (5in ES) – 1yd
- Red fabric 1 (5in ES) – One (1) fat quarter
- Pink fabric (5in ES) – One (1) fat eighth
- Medium blue A (4in ES) – $\frac{2}{3}$ yd
- Medium blue B (4in ES) – $\frac{2}{3}$ yd
- Red fabric 2 (4in ES) – One (1) fat quarter
- Medium blue C (3in ES) – One (1) fat quarter
- Medium blue D (3in ES) – One (1) fat quarter
- Red fabric 3 (3in ES) – One (1) fat eighth
- Pink fabric (HSTs) – $1\frac{1}{6}$ yds
- Cream background (BKG) fabric – $2\frac{1}{4}$ yds
- Backing – $4\frac{1}{2}$ yds
- Batting – 80in square
- Binding – $\frac{1}{2}$ yd

Cutting out

Keep each block set of pieces together, i.e. block 1 centre square, triangle corner and frames. Block 2 centre square, triangle corners etc.

1 From the dark navy fabric, cut four (4) $8\frac{1}{2}$ in x WOF strips. Subcut into seventy-two (72) 2in x $8\frac{1}{2}$ in pieces for block 1.

2 From red fabric 1, cut three (3) $4\frac{1}{8}$ in x WOFQ strips. Subcut into twelve (12) $4\frac{1}{8}$ in squares for block 1.

3 From pink fabric 1, cut two (2) $4\frac{1}{8}$ in x WOF $\frac{1}{8}$ th strips. Subcut into six (6) $4\frac{1}{8}$ in squares for block 1.

4 From the medium blue fabric A, cut ten (10) $2\frac{1}{2}$ in x WOF strips. Subcut into forty-eight (48) $2\frac{1}{2}$ in x $8\frac{1}{2}$ in pieces for block 2.

5 From the medium blue fabric B, cut ten (10) $2\frac{1}{2}$ in x WOFQ strips. Subcut into forty-eight (48) $2\frac{1}{2}$ in x $8\frac{1}{2}$ in pieces for block 2.

6 From red fabric 2, cut four (4) $3\frac{3}{8}$ in x WOFQ strips. Subcut into twenty-four (24) $3\frac{3}{8}$ in squares for block 2.

BEHIND THE QUILT

A FOREVER FRIEND

“Sometimes our gifts are just plain old perfect companions for your sewing box and with this issue, our Economy Square ruler is no exception! Whether you just want to make the centres of Star blocks, create units to build other larger blocks or add an interesting border, this ruler offers a range of possibilities, making finished Economy Squares in 1in, 2in, 3in, 4in and 5in sizes.

“I’ve created a bold quilt in red, white and blue incorporating three of the sizes. In this pattern I have listed sizes of squares to cut twice on the diagonal for the cream triangle corners but the joy of this ruler is that you could just use pieces from your stash that roughly fit the bill and use your ruler to trim to suit! This would also be a fun quilt using a pretty colourwash scrappy effect. You could of course frame your Economy Square blocks in simpler borders, but I chose to add mitres to each one. This can really make blocks pop and play with their neighbour. Whatever you choose to do, unwrap your ruler and keep it safe as it’s sure to be a well-used new friend.”

– Paula Hope

Finished size

- Quilt: 70in square
- Economy blocks without frames: 5in, 4in and 3in square
- Economy blocks with frames: 8in square
- HST blocks: 7in

Notes

- Label all fabrics before you begin and keep them in their groups, i.e. ES 5in, ES 4in, etc.
- ES = Economy Square.
- CTOD = cut twice on the diagonal.
- WOF = width of fabric, approx. 42in.
- WOFQ = width of fat quarter, approx. 21in.
- A fat eighth (F¹/₈th) is approx. 9in x 21in
- HST = half-square triangle.
- RS = right side.
- WS = wrong side.

7 From the medium blue fabric C, cut two (2) 8¹/₂in x WOFQ strips. Subcut into fourteen (14) 3in x 8¹/₂in pieces for block 3.

8 From the medium blue fabric D, cut two (2) 8¹/₂in x WOFQ strips. Subcut into fourteen (14) 3in x 8¹/₂in pieces for block 3.

9 From red fabric 3, cut one (1) 2⁵/₈in x WOF¹/₈th strips. Subcut into seven (7) 2⁵/₈in squares for block 3.

10 From pink fabric 2, cut five (5) 9in x WOF strips, subcut into eighteen (18) 9in squares for HST border.

11 From the cream fabric, cut the following:

- Three (3) 5¹/₂in x WOF strips, subcut into eighteen (18) 5¹/₂in squares. Cut each square on both diagonals to yield seventy-two (72) triangles for block 1.
- Three (3) 4¹/₂in x WOF strips, subcut into twenty-four (24) 4¹/₂in squares. Cut each square on both diagonals to yield ninety-six (96) triangles for block 2.

Cut sizes used for Economy Square ruler

- 1in ES block – One (1) 1¹/₈in square and one (1) 1¹/₂in square, CTOD.
- 2in ES block – One (1) 1³/₈in square and one (1) 2¹/₂in square, CTOD.
- 3in ES block – One (1) 2⁵/₈in square and one (1) 3¹/₂in square, CTOD.
- 4in ES block – One (1) 3³/₈in square and one (1) 4¹/₂in square, CTOD.
- 5in ES block – One (1) 4¹/₈in square and one (1) 5¹/₂in square, CTOD.

■ One (1) 3¹/₂in x WOF strip, subcut into seven (7) 3¹/₂in squares. Cut each square on both diagonals to yield twenty-eight (28) triangles for block 3.

■ Five (5) 9in x WOF strips, subcut into eighteen (18) 9in squares for HST border.

Making the HSTs

12 Place 9in pink fabric 2 and cream squares RS together. On the back of the lightest square draw a diagonal line from corner to

corner. Sew a ¹/₄in seam either side of the line. Cut on the line and press the HST open with seams to the pink. Trim the HST to 7¹/₂in square. Repeat to make thirty-six (36) pink/cream HSTs and set them aside (**Figs 1A-1D**).

Making Economy Square blocks

13 Starting with the largest ES blocks in this pattern, take one (1) 4¹/₈in red fabric 1 centre square. Fold it in half horizontally

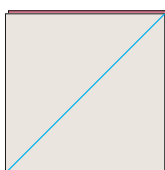


Fig 1A

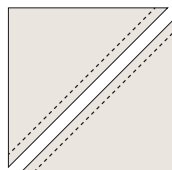


Fig 1B

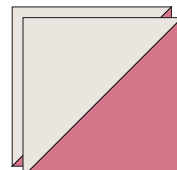


Fig 1C

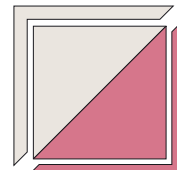


Fig 1D Make 36

and vertically to find the centre point on all four (4) sides. Make a mark within the seam allowance on the RS of the fabric or use a pin (Fig 2).

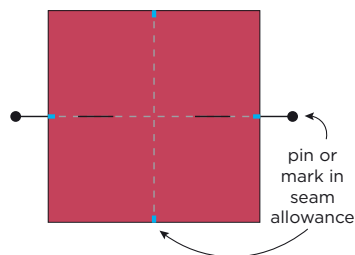


Fig 2

14 Take one (1) set of four (4) $5\frac{1}{2}$ in cream triangles and fold in half to find the centre of the long side, mark within the seam allowance on the WS of the fabric or use a pin (Fig 3).

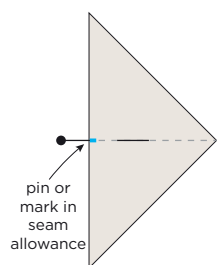


Fig 3

15 Place a $5\frac{1}{2}$ in triangle RS together with the $4\frac{1}{8}$ in red square, lining up the centre marks and pin and sew together. Repeat for the opposite side of the square. Press the seams to the centre (Fig 4).

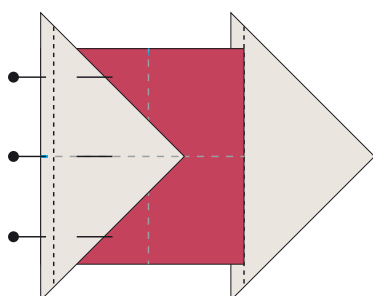


Fig 4

16 Repeat step 15 with the remaining two (2) triangles and the remaining sides of the square, this time press seams to the triangles.

TO

TECHNICAL TIP

This pressing of seams inwards and outwards stops the centre square “sinking” in the block, helping to create a flat quilt for quilting.

17 Place block 1 RS up on your cutting mat and lay the Economy Square ruler on top, centring the on-point red square with the dashed on-point square in the centre of the ruler (Fig 5A). Trim away excess on two (2) sides of the ruler. Rotate the block and repeat, trimming the remaining sides (Fig 5B). Block 1 should now measure $5\frac{1}{2}$ in square. Repeat to make twelve (12) red centred blocks and six (6) pink fabric 1 blocks (Fig 5C). Set aside.

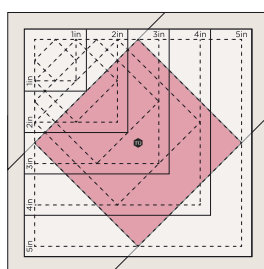


Fig 5A

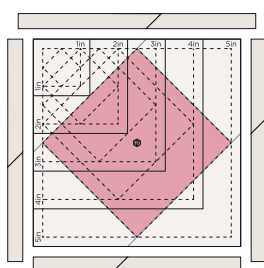
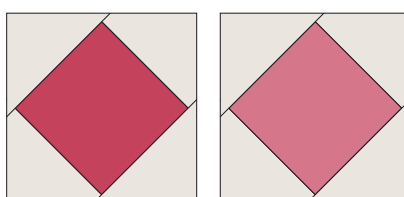


Fig 5B



Make 12

Make 6

Fig 5C



18 Repeat steps 13-16 with the $3\frac{3}{8}$ in red fabric 2 squares and $4\frac{1}{2}$ in cream triangles to make twenty-four (24) ES block 2.

19 Place a block 2 RS up on your cutting mat and lay the Economy Square ruler on top, this time centring the on-point red square with the dashed on-point square in the centre of the 4in ES marked on the ruler. Notice the seam allowance position, this will help keep your eye on the markings you are using on the ruler. Rotate the block to trim the remaining sides. Block 2 should now measure $4\frac{1}{2}$ in square (Figs 6A-B).

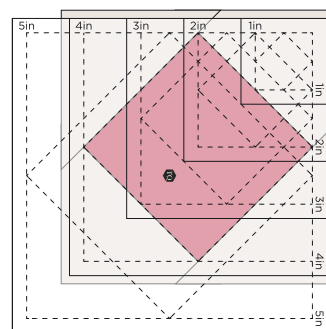


Fig 6A



the same side of block 1. Take a set of four (4) navy 2in x 8½in pieces. Fold each one (1) in half to find the centre point (Figs 8A-B).

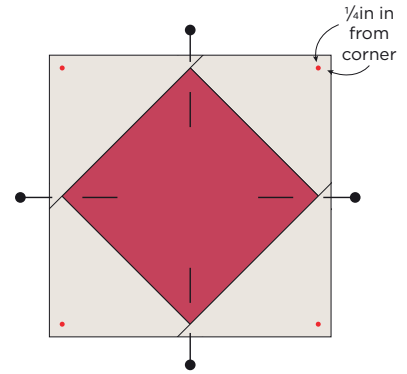


Fig 8A

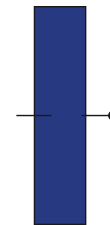


Fig 8B Make 4

23 With RS together, place the navy strip on top, lining up the centre points. To begin with, it is

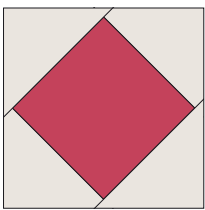


Fig 6B Make 24

20 Repeat steps 13-17 with the 2½in red fabric 3 squares and 3½in cream triangles to make seven (7) ES block 3. Block 3 should be trimmed to measure 3½in square using your ES ruler (Figs 7A-B).

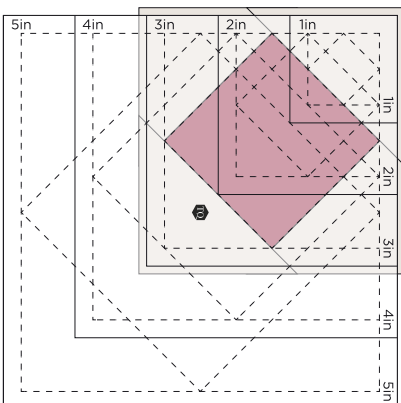


Fig 7A

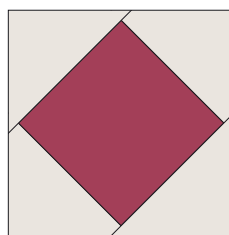


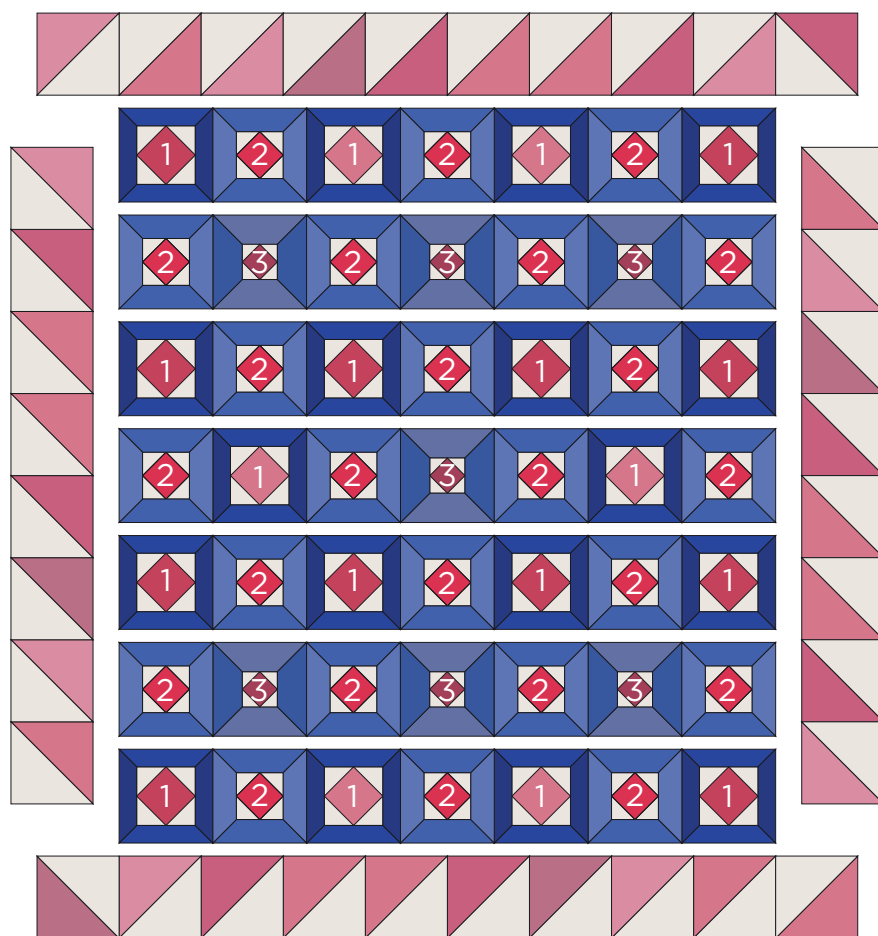
Fig 7B Make 7

Adding mitred frames

21 Each block will measure 8½in square once the frames have all been sewn in place. Paula added two (2) different blues to each block 2 and block 3 to create a three-dimensional Attic Window effect. As the blocks are symmetrical you don't have to worry about which side the darker and lighter blue fabrics are attached to – unless you have used a directional fabric as your centre on-point square. In which case check the **Quilt Layout Diagram** below for positioning of the frames.

22 Starting with the largest ES blocks, a block 1, place a pin in each side of block 1 to mark the tips of the on-point square. Mark ¼in in from the top and bottom of





Quilt Layout Diagram

also helpful to place a pin at the $\frac{1}{4}$ in marks at the top and bottom of this side. These will be the points to stop and start sewing.

24 Start sewing at the top $\frac{1}{4}$ in mark with a little backstitch. Do not sew above the mark. Stop sewing at the lower mark, again ending with a little backstitch and not sewing over the marked point (Fig 9).

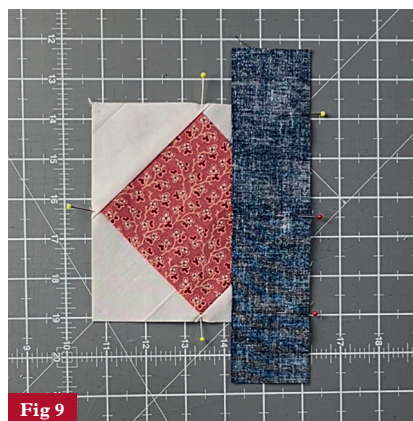


Fig 9

25 Repeat adding the navy strips to all four (4) sides, gently moving the unattached ends out of the way to sew. At this point, you only need to finger press the navy strips away from the centre.

26 To create a mitred corner, fold the block in half on the diagonal, lining up the square corner of the navy strips, place a couple of pins to hold them together. Make sure the seams marked X in Fig 10 are pinned away from the navy fabric for sewing the mitre.



Fig 10

27 With the block lying flat, you should be able to draw a line from the fold to what will be the corner of the block (Fig 11).



Fig 11

28 Sew on this line starting at point Y in Fig 12 with a little backstitch. Sew off the end. Repeat with all four (4) corners. Finger press these seams open (Fig 13).





Fig 12

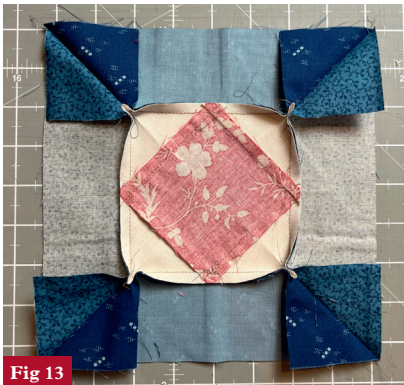


Fig 13

29 Check the mitres from the front. If you are happy, press with an iron (**Fig 14**). Trim the excess fabric from the corners to $\frac{1}{4}$ in from the stitched seam.



Fig 14

30 Repeat steps 22-29 adding mitred frames to each block. In blocks 2 and 3 make sure to add the frames in the correct position. If you are using a directional or fussy-cut fabric, the centres should lie the right way up after adding the frames. Make twelve (12) red centred block 1, six (6) pink centred block 1, twenty-four (24) red centred block 2, and seven (7) red centred block 3.

Putting the quilt together

31 Following the **Quilt Layout Diagram** lay out the forty-nine (49) blocks. Sew seven (7) rows of seven (7) together, pressing seams in alternate directions per row. This allows seams to nest.

32 Sew the rows together. These seams may lie flatter if pressed open.

33 Sew two (2) rows of eight (8) and two (2) rows of ten (10) HSTs blocks as per the **Quilt Layout Diagram**. Check the corner block placement. Sew the short rows to the sides of the quilt and the long rows to the top and bottom of the quilt.

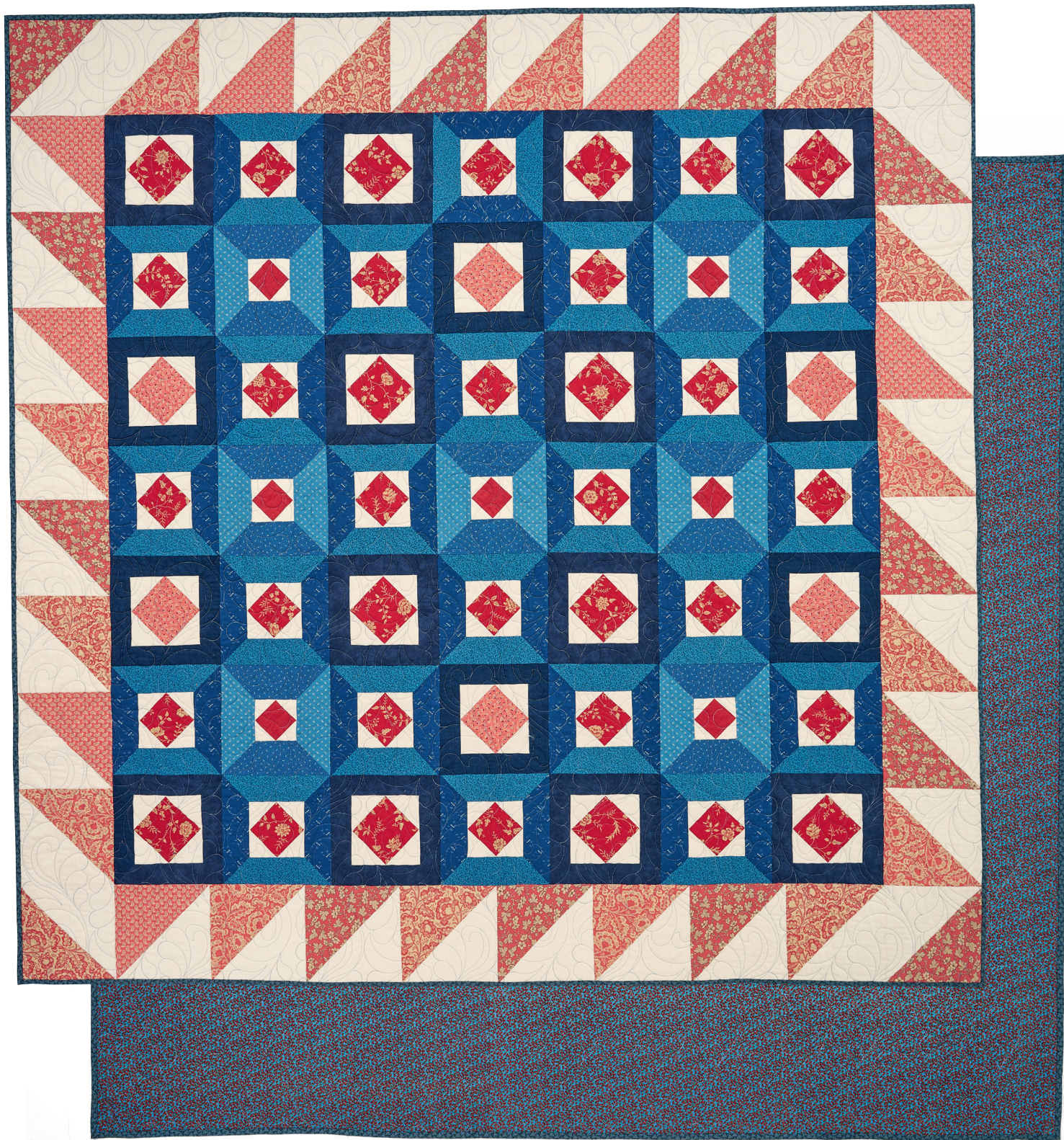
34 Remove the selvedge from the backing fabric pieces and sew together along the long length using a $\frac{1}{2}$ in seam allowance. Press the



seam open.

35 Layer up and quilt. Paula's quilt was long arm quilted by Mairi at Lismore Quilting. Mairi used an all over swirl and feather design. You could also quilt simple diagonal lines across the quilt cutting through the squares. The more lines you add, the more texture can build up in the quilt.

36 Join the binding strips together end to end, press in half along the length and use to bind the quilt. 10



Meet the designer

Paula Hope has been sewing since childhood. She studied Silversmithing and Jewellery at Glasgow School of Art and went on to teach Art and Design in secondary schools. She finished her first quilt in 1997 and has never looked back. In 2003, Paula started teaching Patchwork and Quilting and subsequently started writing her own patterns for classes and workshops. She became Technical Editor on *Today's Quilter* in 2021.

 @pollystitches

Use your handy
Economy Square
ruler to create this
bold quilt