

Diamonds are a Quilter's Best Friend

2018 Mystery Quilt

By Ann McNew

Layer Cake? Do you, like me, have a few layer cakes in your stash? Do you take them out and pet them every so often? Well, it's time to dig one out! This year's Mystery Quilt is based on a Layer Cake. It's time to stop saving them and start using them to create works of art!

Don't worry, if you don't have a layer cake, just can't turn loose of one or prefer to make a scrappy quilt. In the Mystery Quilt, I will also be providing the information you need to create a Scrappy Quilt.

This Quilt is the perfect size for Quilts of Valor. The finished size, without any borders is 60"x70". Borders will be up to you. Although I will be give some suggestions with the final directions.

Layer Cake Mystery Quilt Fabric:

1 Layer Cake you love

2 3/4 yds (I bought 3 yds) of contrasting solid fabric, nothing too blendy-blendy. You need to have some contrast.

Scrappy Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt Fabric:

White/cream Background fabric-about 2 3/4 yards

Reds-about 1 3/4 yds

Blues- about 1 1/2 yds AND 6 squares at 9"x9" (focus fabrics)

Note: it is scrappy, so you can add fabrics as needed.

The smallest piece will be 3 1/4" x 3 1/4"

Both: The above does NOT include fabric for a border. The border design is up to you (although I will give suggestions)! I cannot wait to see your border variations!

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2018 Mystery Quilt—Clue 1

By Ann McNew

This month we're going to be sorting, cutting and bagging. There are 2 sets of directions, so choose the set for your quilt, either Layer Cake Mystery Quilt or Scrappy Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt.

Layer Cake Mystery Quilt

Put aside the 8 squares you like the least, that have the least amount of contrast between them and your background fabric.

Bag 1, marked "FOCUS"

Pick out the 6 squares from your layer cake that you like the best.

Bag 2, marked "A and B"

12 squares from your layer cake

From your background fabric cut:

60 squares 3 1/4" x 3 1/4"

24 pieces 3 1/4" x 6"

Bag 3, marked "C and D"

10 squares from your layer cake

10 Squares from your background fabric cut 10" x 10"

Bag 4, marked "E and F"

6 squares from your layer cake

6 Squares from you background fabric cut 10" x 10"

Cutting hint—I cut my larger background pieces for bags 3 and 4 BEFORE I cut my fabric for bag 2. I was able to cut some of the smaller pieces from the leftover pieces of the 10" strips I cut for bags 3 and 4.

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2018 Mystery Quilt—Clue 1

By Ann McNew

Scrappy Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt

Bag 1, marked “FOCUS”

Cut 6 squares from your BLUE fabrics 9” x 9”

Bag 2, marked “A and B”

From your BLUE fabrics

60 squares 3 1/4” x 3 1/4”

24 pieces 3 1/4” x 6”

From your background fabric cut:

60 squares 3 1/4” x 3 1/4”

24 pieces 3 1/4” x 6”

Bag 3, marked “C and D”

From your RED fabric

90 pieces 3 1/4” x 3 1/4”

From your background fabric

90 pieces 3 1/4” x 3 1/4”

Bag 4, marked “E and F”

From your RED fabric

18 pieces 3 1/4” x 10”

From your background fabric

18 pieces 3 1/4” x 10”

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2018 Mystery Quilt—Clue 2

By Ann McNew

This month we're going to be cutting and sewing. There are 2 sets of directions, so choose the set for your quilt, either Layer Cake Mystery Quilt or Scrappy Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt.

Layer Cake Mystery Quilt

This month we are going to use Bag 2, marked "A and B"

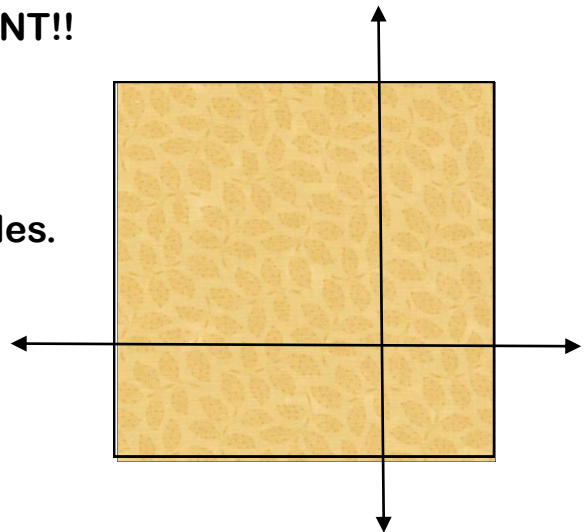
12 squares from your layer cake

Background fabric 60 squares $3\frac{1}{4}" \times 3\frac{1}{4}"$ 24 pieces $3\frac{1}{4}" \times 6"$

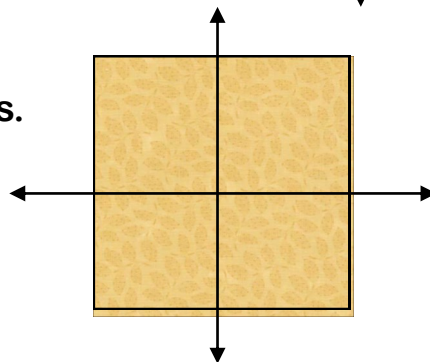
Let's start cutting up those 12 squares from your layer cake.

REMEMBER $3\frac{1}{4}"$ IS OUR MEASUREMENT!!

Make the first 2 cuts **WITHOUT MOVING THE FABRIC**. Cut $3\frac{1}{4}"$ strips from 2 sides.
Put the $3\frac{1}{4}"$ squares in a pile.
Trim the longer rectangles to $3\frac{1}{4}" \times 6"$
Put the rectangles in a pile.



Make the next 2 cuts **WITHOUT MOVING THE FABRIC**. Cut $3\frac{1}{4}"$ strips from 2 sides.
Trim all the squares to $3\frac{1}{4}" \times 3\frac{1}{4}"$.
Put the $3\frac{1}{4}"$ squares in the pile.



Shuffle the pieces in each pile for a more Scrappy look.

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2018 Mystery Quilt—Clue 2

By Ann McNew

Layer Cake Quilt **AND** Scrappy Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt

Both quilts will follow the same piecing directions!

My only rule for myself? No pieces of the same fabric in a block!

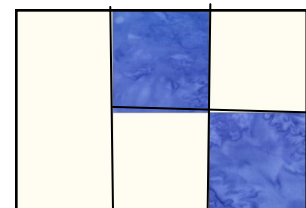
We're going to start with 4 patches. You will be making 24. Easy peasy chain piecing!

Start with 48 background $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x $3\frac{1}{4}$ " squares and 48 layer cake (blue) $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x $3\frac{1}{4}$ " squares. Sew a Background square to a layer cake (blue) square, press to the background fabric. Sew 2 of these together, making a 4 patch. Press. You will have 24 of these blocks. Set aside.

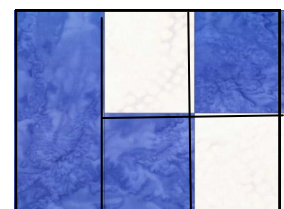
Sew the remaining $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x $3\frac{1}{4}$ " background squares to a layer cake (blue) $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x 6" strip. Press to the 6" strip. Put aside for now.

Sew the remaining $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x $3\frac{1}{4}$ " layer cake (blue) squares to a background $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x 6" strip. Press to the 6" strip. Put aside for now.

Block A—Paying close attention to the 4 patch orientation, sew a remaining $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x 6" background strip to a 4 patch. Make 12 of these.



Block B—Paying close attention to the 4 patch orientation, sew a remaining $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x 6" layer cake (blue) strip to a 4 patch. Make 12 of these.



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2018 Mystery Quilt—Clue 2

By Ann McNew

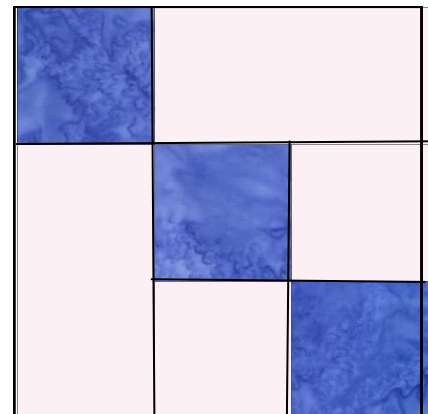
Layer Cake Quilt **AND** Scrappy Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt

Both quilts will follow the same piecing directions!

Use the sections set aside earlier to complete your blocks.

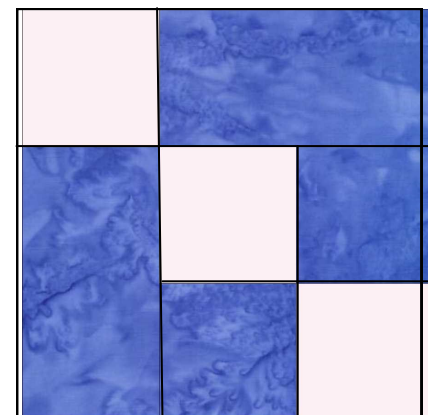
Block A

Using a section with a Background 6" strip and the 4 patch section with the added background 6" strip, sew 12 of these blocks.



Block B

Using a section with a layer cake (blue) 6" strip and the 4 patch section with the added layer cake (blue) 6" strip, sew 12 of these blocks.



Put these 24 blocks back in the bag marked A & B

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2018 Mystery Quilt—Clue 3

By Ann McNew

This month we're going to be cutting and sewing, making more blocks. There are 2 sets of directions, so choose the set for your quilt, either Layer Cake Mystery Quilt or Scrappy Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt.

Layer Cake Mystery Quilt

This month we are going to use **Bag 4**, marked "E and F"

**** Make sure you have Bag 4, we're a little out of order!**

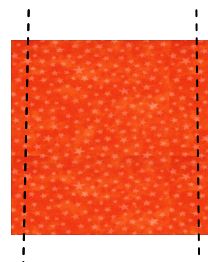
6 squares from your layer cake

6 Squares from your background fabric cut 10" x 10"

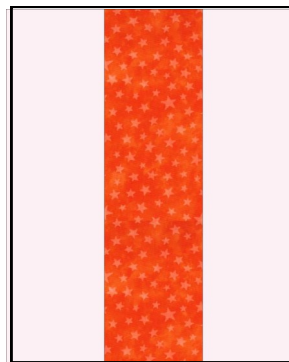
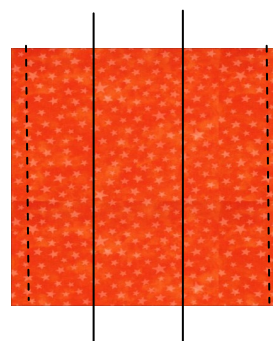
Start sewing, you can strip piece thru this quite quickly!

Place a layer cake square right sides together with a background square. Sew 1/4" up 2 opposite sides.

Repeat for all 6 layer cake squares.



Cut 3 1/4" from each stitched side. Press to the layer cake Piece. Trim the center pieces to 3 1/4" wide. Mix up the Pieces for a scrappier look, Sew a center piece to one Side of each stitched pair, Make 6 of each of these blocks,



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2018 Mystery Quilt—Clue 3

By Ann McNew

This month we're going to be cutting and sewing, making more blocks. There are 2 sets of directions, so choose the set for your quilt, either Layer Cake Mystery Quilt or Scrappy Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt.

Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt

This month we are going to use **Bag 4**, marked "E and F"

**** Make sure you have Bag 4, we're a little out of order!**

From your RED fabric

18 pieces 3 1/4" x 10"

From your background fabric

18 pieces 3 1/4" x 10"

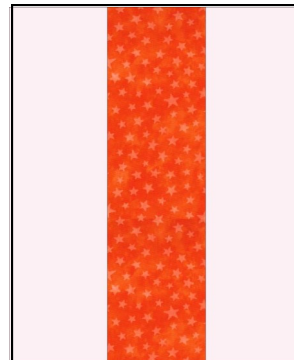
Start sewing, you can strip piece thru this quite quickly!

Sew a Red strip to a background strip. Make 12 of these pairs. Press to the red fabric.

Sew a remaining red strip to the background strip of a stitched pair. Press to the red fabric.

Sew a remaining background strip to the red strip of a stitched pair. Press to the red fabric.

Make 6 of each of these blocks,



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2018 Mystery Quilt—Clue 4

By Ann McNew

This month we're going to be cutting and sewing, making more blocks. There are 2 sets of directions, so choose the set for your quilt, either Layer Cake Mystery Quilt or Scrappy Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt.

Layer Cake Mystery Quilt—Step 1

This month we are going to use **Bag 3**, marked “C and D”

**** Make sure you have Bag 3, we're a little out of order!**

10 squares from your layer cake

10 Squares from your background fabric cut 10" x 10"

Start sewing, you can strip piece thru this quite quickly!

Place a layer cake square right sides together with a background square. Sew 1/4" up 2 opposite sides.

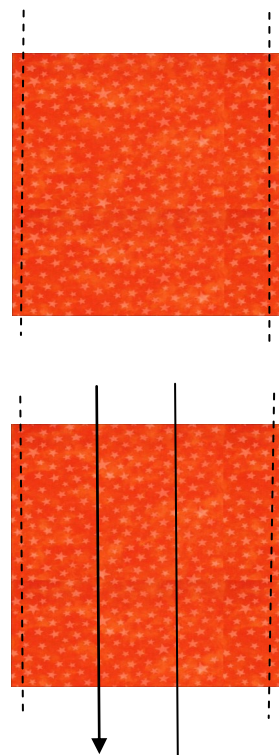
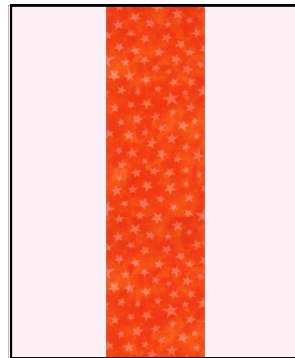
Repeat for all 10 layer cake squares.

Cut 3 1/4" from each stitched side. Press to the layer cake Piece. Trim the center pieces to 3 1/4" wide. Mix up the Pieces for a scrappier look, Sew a center piece to one Side of each stitched pair, Make 10 of each of these blocks,

Block 1



Block 2



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2018 Mystery Quilt—Clue 4

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This month we're going to be cutting and sewing, making more blocks. There are 2 sets of directions, so choose the set for your quilt, either Layer Cake Mystery Quilt or Scrappy Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt.

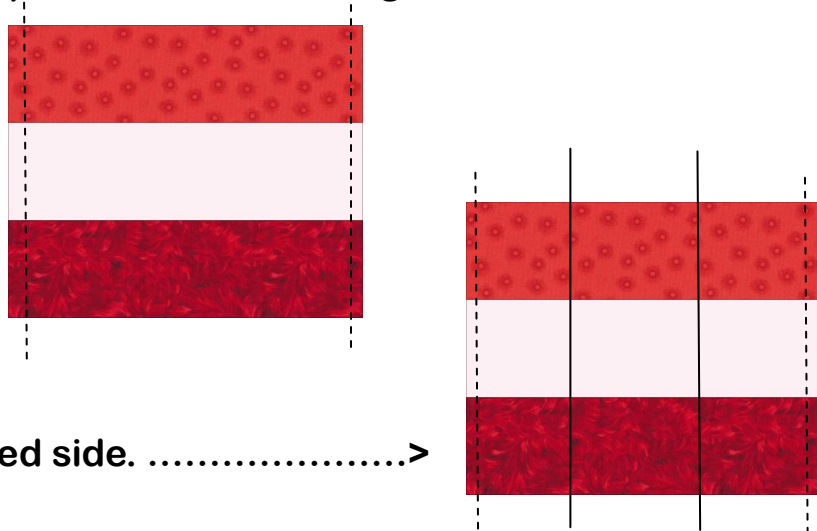
Layer Cake Mystery Quilt—Step 2

Remember, this month we are using **Bag 3**, marked “C and D”

**** Make sure you have Bag 3, we're a little out of order!**

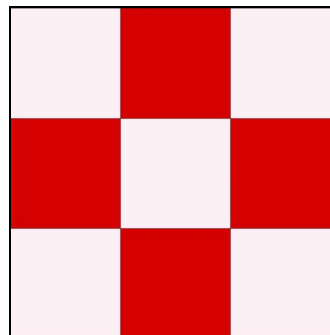
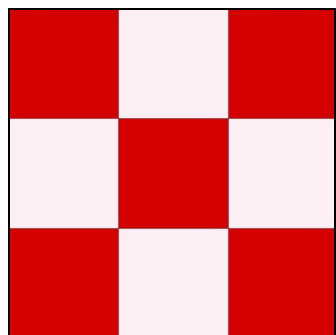
Place a Block 1 right sides together with a Block 2. The seams should lock Together. Sew 1/4" up 2 opposite sides, stitching **ACROSS** the seams.

Repeat for all 10 Block 1s.



Cut 3 1/4" from each stitched side.>

Trim the center pieces to 3 1/4" wide. Mix up the Pieces for a scrappier look, Sew a center piece to one side of each stitched pair, Make 10 of each of these blocks,



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2018 Mystery Quilt—Clue 4

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This month we're going to be cutting and sewing, making more blocks. There are 2 sets of directions, so choose the set for your quilt, either Layer Cake Mystery Quilt or Scrappy Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt.

Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt

This month we are going to use **Bag 3**, marked “C and D”

**** Make sure you have Bag 3, we're a little out of order!**

From your RED fabric

90 pieces 3 1/4" x 3 1/4"

From your background fabric

90 pieces 3 1/4" x 3 1/4"

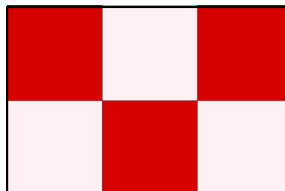
Start sewing, you can strip piece thru this quite quickly!

Piece 30 of each section.....

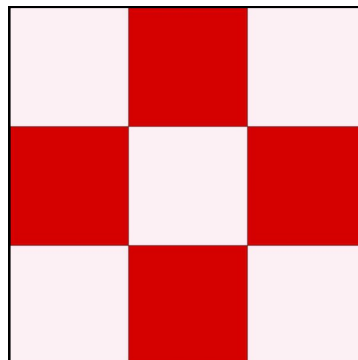
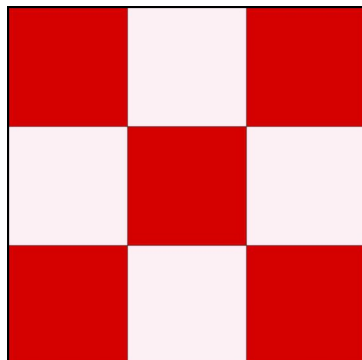


Using 20 of each section,

Make 20 of these.,.....



Sew on the remaining sections to make 10 of each block!



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2018 Mystery Quilt—Final Clue

By Ann McNew

This month we're going to be cutting and sewing all those blocks into a quilt top. There is 1 set of directions for both tops, Layer Cake Mystery Quilt or Scrappy Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt.

Last time cutting, I promise!

This month we are going to start with **Bag 4**, marked "E and F"

We need to cut these blocks before we put the top together.

I recommend that you starch and press these blocks first. We will be cutting on the bias and this will help to keep them from stretching.

Take all 6 of the E blocks out of the bag.

Place 2 E blocks **right sides together**,

Make a mark $\frac{3}{4}$ " down from the **UPPER LEFT CORNER**

Of the long side,

Make a mark $\frac{3}{4}$ " up from the **LOWER RIGHT CORNER**

Of the long side

Cut on the diagonal from mark to mark.

Repeat for the remaining 4 E blocks.

Place back in the E/F bag.

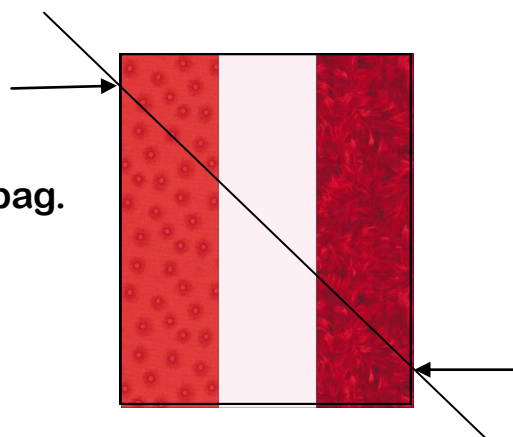
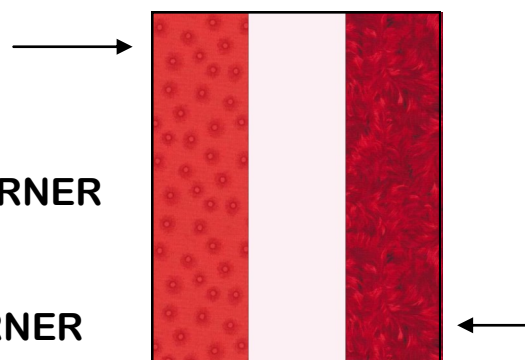
Take all 6 of the remaining F blocks out of the bag.

Place 2 F blocks right sides together.

Repeat the above cutting technique.

Repeat for the remaining 4 F blocks.

Place back in the E/F bag.



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2018 Mystery Quilt—Final Clue

By Ann McNew

There is 1 set of directions for both tops, Layer Cake Mystery Quilt or Scrappy Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt. This quilt is on point, so I recommend that you lay out your blocks BEFORE sewing the top together. Pay close attention to the orientation of the blocks.

*******Sew all the rows together first, leaving off the 4 outer corner triangles.**

After all the rows have been sewn, and the rows sewn together into the top, then you will be sewing on the 4 last corner blocks! *****

Quilts of Valor:

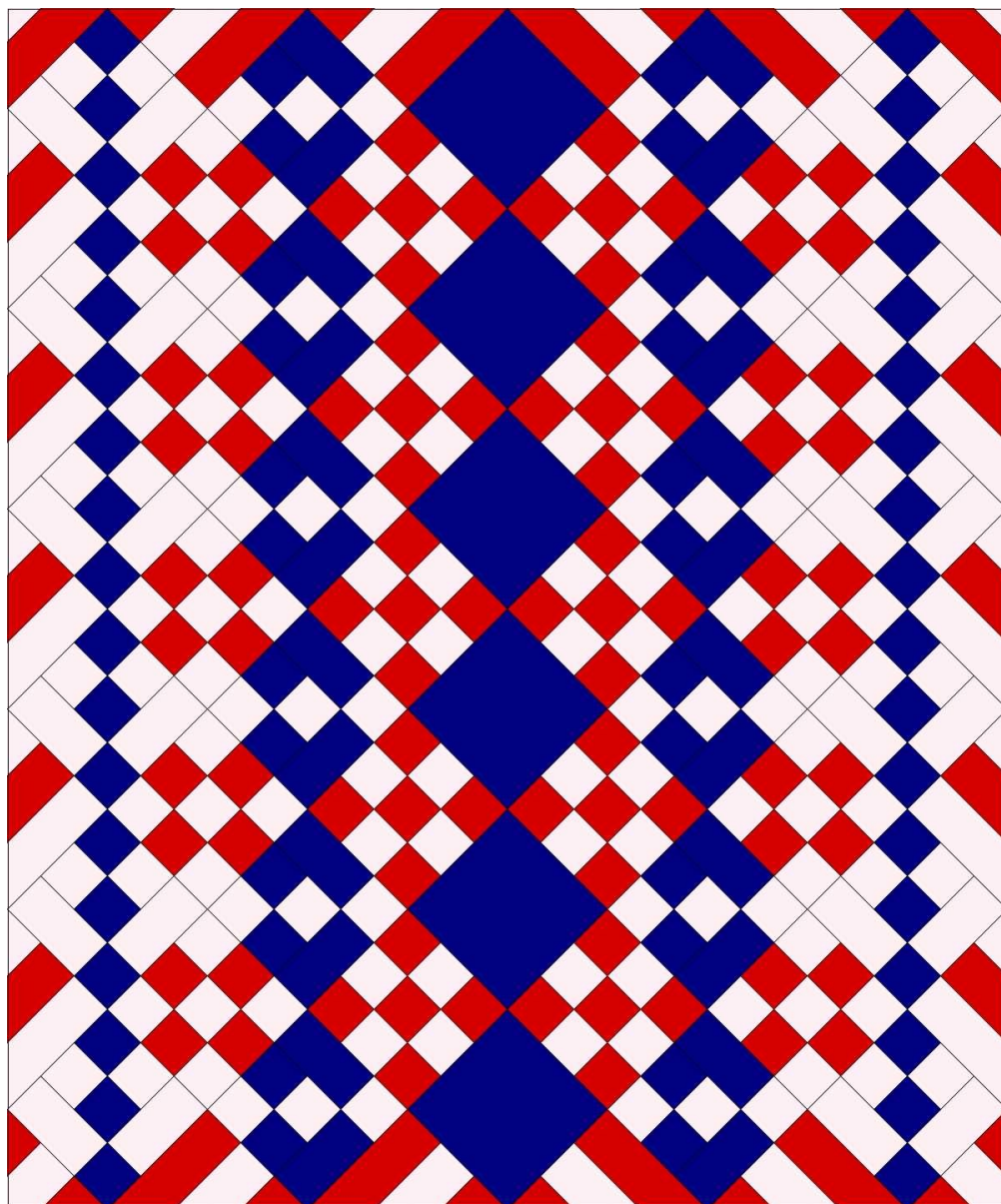
Darkest squares

Are blue

Medium squares

Are red

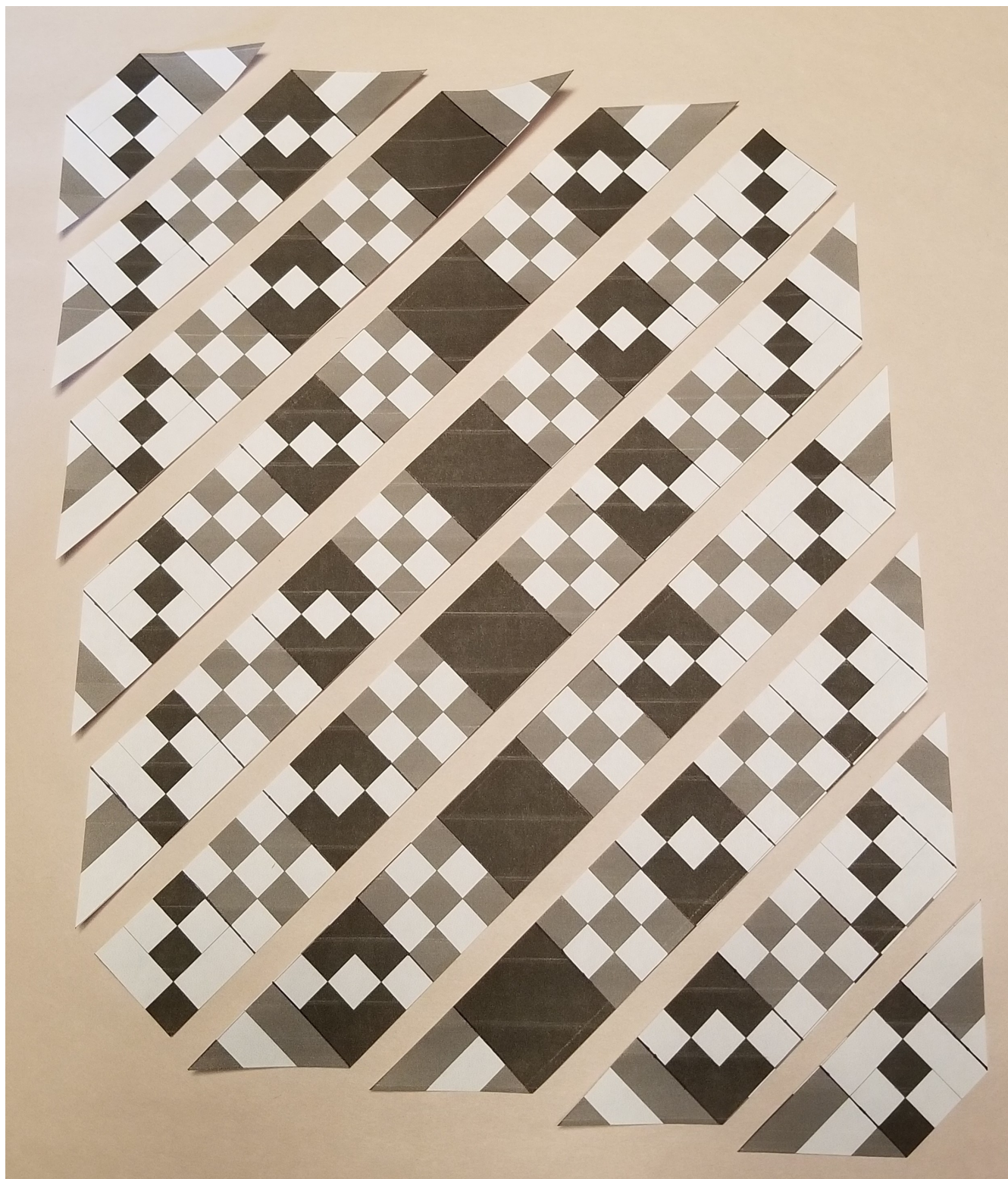
This picture does not include borders. I am leaving borders up to you. Because the edges are on the bias, pin your border on and then **SEW THE BORDERS ON WITH THE BORDER FABRIC ON THE BOTTOM!** This will allow your feed dogs to pull in any extra bias fabric. It will also help to keep you from stretching the bias edges.



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2018 Mystery Quilt—Final Clue

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After all the rows are sewn together, sew on the corner triangles. The block pieces will extend beyond the quilt. After sewing a corner on, square it up. Pay close attention to the orientation of the blocks.



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2018 Mystery Quilt—Final Clue

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