

DENYSE
SCHMIDT
QUILTS

SQUARE DANCE QUILT

FEATURING 10-INCH CHARMS OF

SHELburnE FALLS



BY DENYSE SCHMIDT

SQUARE DANCE QUILT

TWIN SIZE, APPROXIMATELY 68 INCHES X 88 INCHES

The swirling skirts, foot tapping rhythms, and joyful movement of New England contra dancing inspire Shelburne Falls. At once nostalgic and thoroughly new, Shelburne Falls embodies the old-fashioned decorum and small town charm of American Folk dance. Denyse designed the Square Dance Quilt pattern to cleverly showcase all thirty prints from the collection on the front and back of the quilt. The quilt is fast and easy to make—especially with FreeSpirit’s pre-cut ten-inch Charm Squares of Shelburne Falls—and cuts a rug with plenty of modern appeal.

FABRIC REQUIREMENTS

For the charms:

One Shelburne Falls Charm Pack (thirty 10-inch squares). If you’re cutting from yardage, you’ll need $\frac{1}{3}$ yard each of thirty Shelburne Falls prints to create thirty different 10-inch squares.

TIP: On a budget and the Shelburne Falls Charm Pack isn’t available? A third of a yard of fabric will yield four 10-inch squares, so purchase $\frac{1}{3}$ yard of at least eight different Shelburne Falls prints, and you’ll have enough fabric for the thirty charm squares needed for the quilt. Each print will repeat throughout the quilt instead of each block being a different fabric.

For the front-side background and binding:

4- $\frac{1}{2}$ yards Designer Solids in Cream (S25) from FreeSpirit Fabric (3- $\frac{3}{4}$ yards for the background, $\frac{3}{4}$ yards for the binding).

For the reverse-side background:

4- $\frac{1}{8}$ yards of Designer Solids in Cosmic Blue (S76) from FreeSpirit Fabric.

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

For the quilt background on both sides, you’ll cut corner triangles and side (or setting) triangles. These triangles are either quarter-square triangles or half-square triangles. Fabric stretches when cut on the bias, and using these different triangles ensures that the outside edges of the quilt will be on the straight grain.

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Cutting instructions for the Quilt Front

1. From the front-side background fabric, cut one selvage-to-selvage strip 68 inches long. Trim selvage edges. Trim strip to $34\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide. Set aside until it's time to assemble the quilt top.
2. From the front-side background fabric, cut three selvage-to-selvage strips 10 inches wide. Trim selvage edges. Cut each strip into four 10-inch squares. You'll need 12 background squares and 20 charm squares for the quilt front.
3. From the fabric leftover from step 1, cut two $7\frac{7}{8}$ -inch squares for the corner triangles. Cut the squares in half to make 2 half-square triangles. (DIAGRAM 1) You'll need 4 corner triangles for the quilt front.
4. From the front-side background fabric, cut two selvage-to-selvage strips $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide for the setting triangles. Cut each strip into four $14\frac{3}{4}$ -inch squares. Cut the squares with an X to make 4 quarter-square triangles. (DIAGRAM 2) You'll need 14 setting triangles for the quilt front.

Cutting Instructions for the Quilt Back

1. From the reverse-side background fabric, cut two selvage-to-selvage strips 68 inches long. Trim selvage edges. Trim one strip to 42 inches wide, and the second strip to $19\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide. Set these strips aside until it's time to assemble the quilt top.
2. Cut one selvage-to-selvage strip 10 inches long. Cut the strip into four 10-inch squares. You'll need 4 background squares and 10 charm squares for the quilt back.
3. From the fabric leftover from step one, cut two $7\frac{7}{8}$ -inch squares for the corner triangles. Cut the squares in half to make 2 half-square triangles. You'll need 4 corner triangles for the quilt back.
4. From the fabric leftover from step one, cut three $14\frac{3}{4}$ inch squares for the setting triangles. Cut the squares with an X to make 4 quarter-square triangles. You'll need 10 setting triangles for the quilt back.

SEWING INSTRUCTIONS

At first glance the pre-cut charm squares may appear smaller than the background squares, since they measure 10-inch square from the tips of the pinked edges. Line the tips up with the edge of the background square. Any slight inconsistencies in size will be hidden in the seam allowances. All seam allowances are $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, except for the outside edge. We calculated the setting and corner triangles sizes to allow for a $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch seam allowance on the outside edge of the quilt, so that you can retain the tips of the charm squares when you sew on your binding.

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Assemble the Quilt Front

1. With right sides together, pin and sew the blocks and setting triangles together in rows, alternating charm squares and background squares, as shown in **DIAGRAM 3**. When attaching the setting triangles, line up the right angle of the triangle with the bottom corner of the charm block. (**DIAGRAM 4**) Continue until all eight rows are assembled. Press the seam allowances toward the charm squares.

2. With right sides together, pin and sew the eight rows together as shown in **DIAGRAM 5**. Alternate the sewing direction with each row to keep the quilt top from distorting. Sew the corner triangles to the quilt top. Press the seam allowances to one side.

TIP: When sewing the rows of blocks together, be careful to align the squares and pin before stitching.

3. With right sides together, pin and sew the background piece to one side of the quilt top. Press the seam allowance to one side.

Assemble the Quilt Back

Typically the quilt back and batting are cut slightly larger than the quilt front to account for shifting and "shrinkage" during the quilting process, and to make it easier to handle all the layers. If your method of quilting and binding needs a larger quilt back, add 2¼" wide strips of fabric along the sides, top, and bottom, so that your quilt back measure about 72 inches x 92 inches.

1. With right sides together, pin and sew the blocks and setting triangles together in rows, alternating charm squares and background squares, as you did for the quilt front. Continue until all six rows are assembled. Press the seam allowances toward the charm squares.

2. With right sides together, pin and sew the six rows together and sew the corner triangles to the quilt top (**DIAGRAM 6**). Press the seam allowances to one side.

3. With right sides together, pin and sew the background pieces to one side of the quilt top. Press the seam allowances to one side.

FINISHING

1. Sandwich and then quilt or tie your quilt using your favorite method, and bind the edges. I had mine machine-quilted with a long-arm quilting machine, in a figure-eight pattern.

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DIAGRAM 1

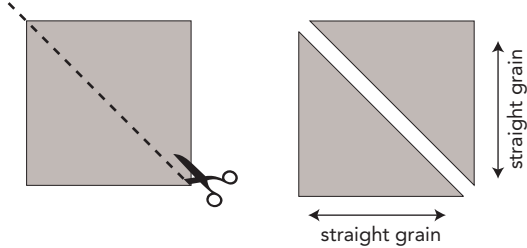


DIAGRAM 2

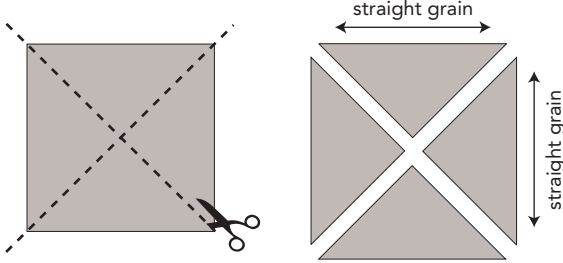
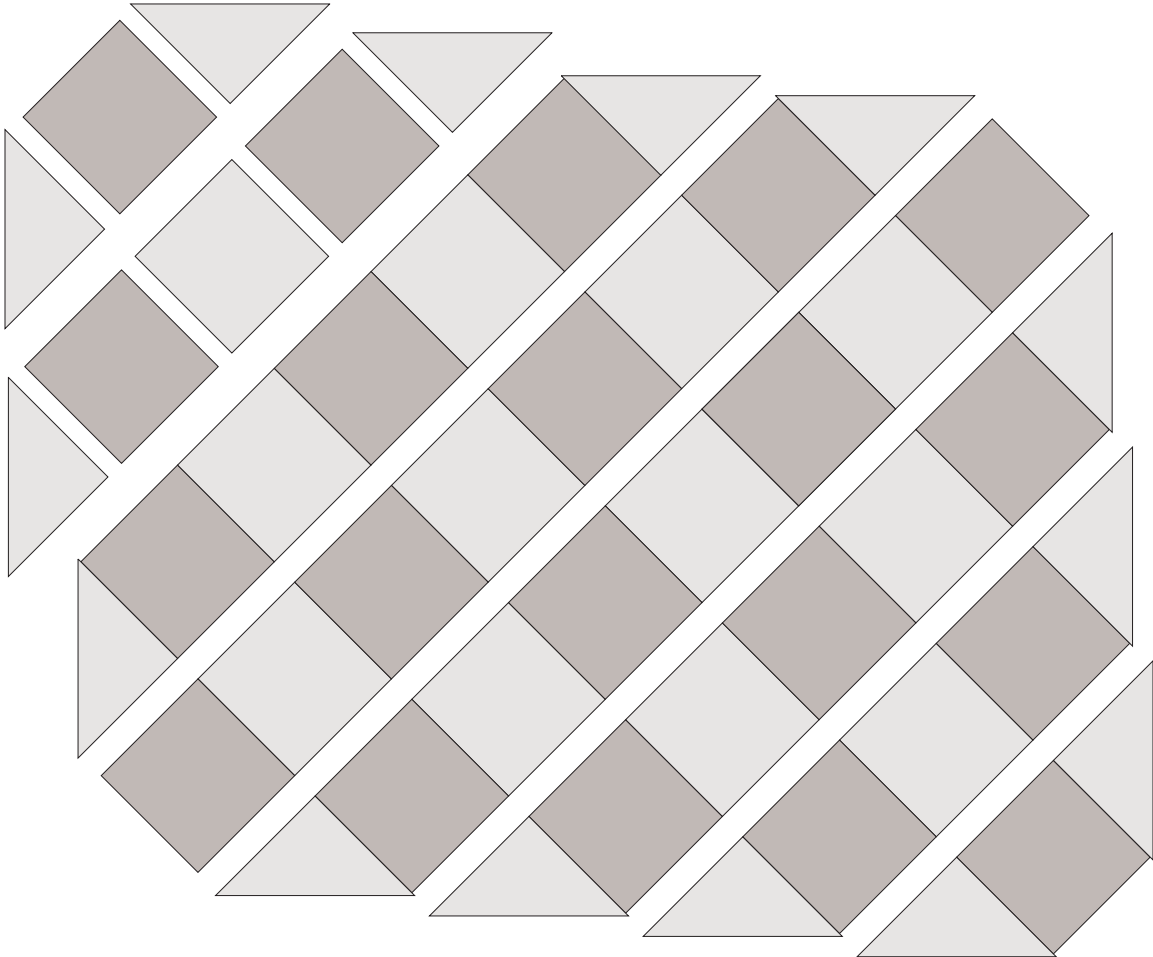


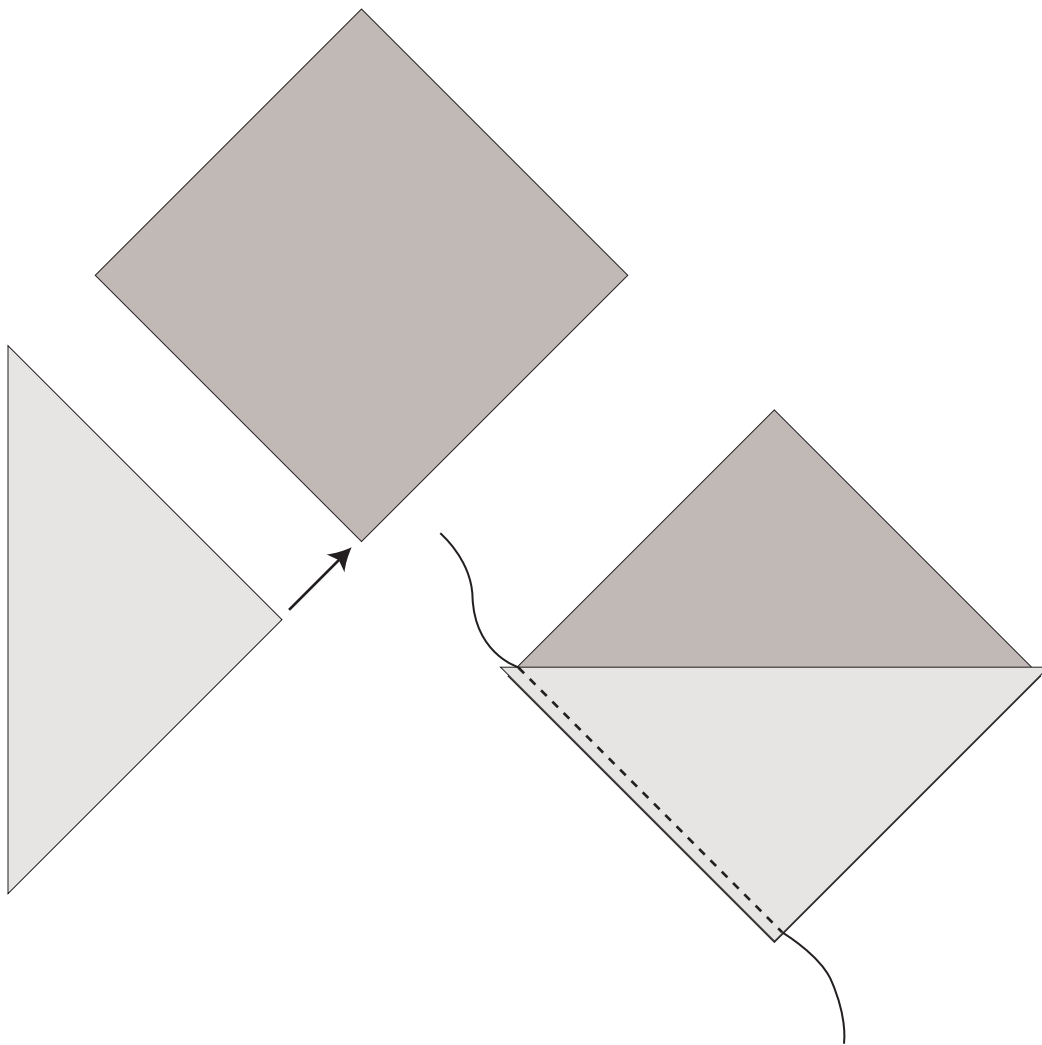
DIAGRAM 3



SQUARE DANCE QUILT

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DIAGRAM 4



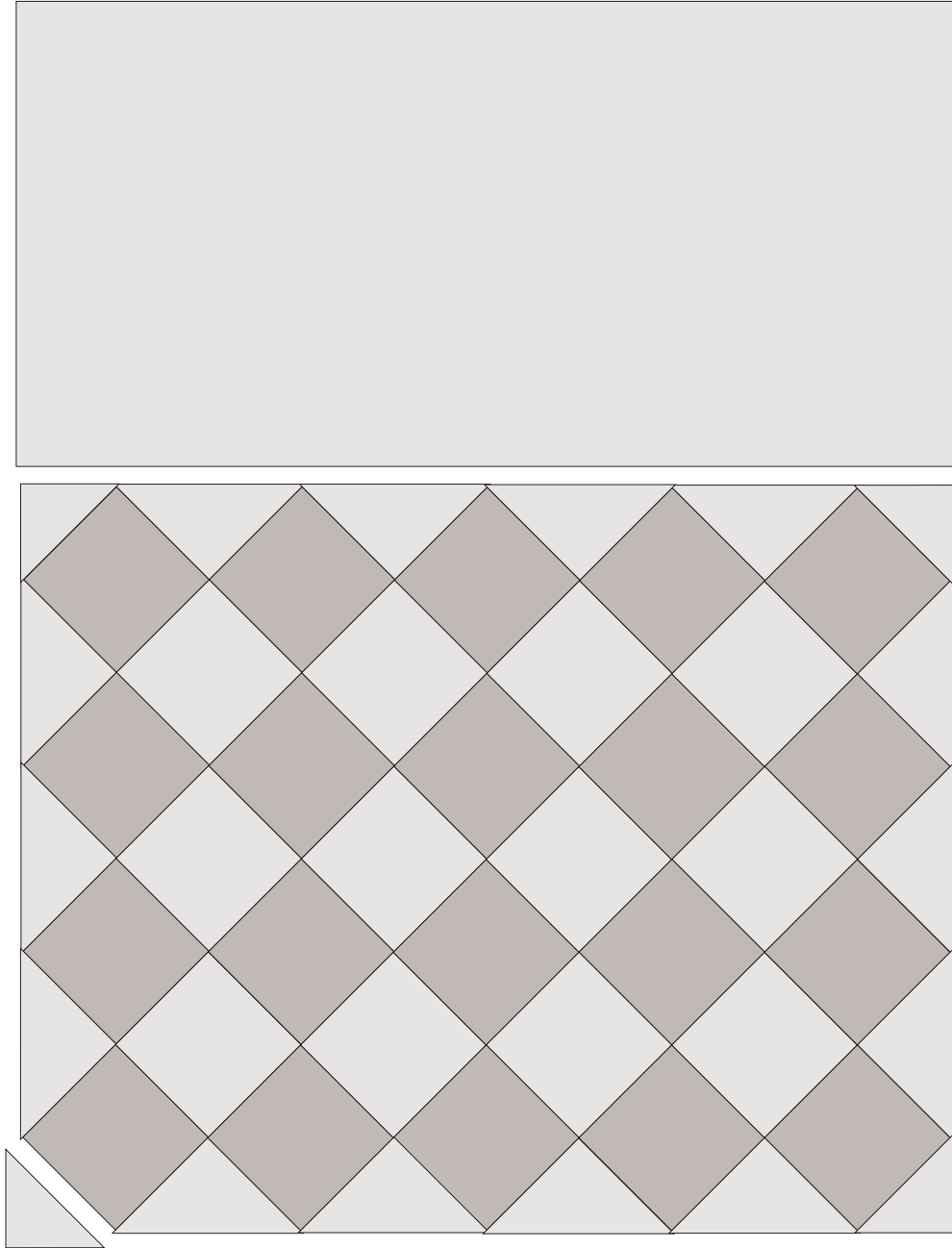
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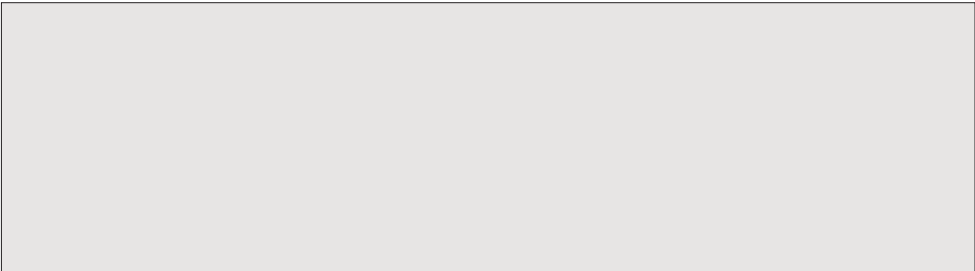
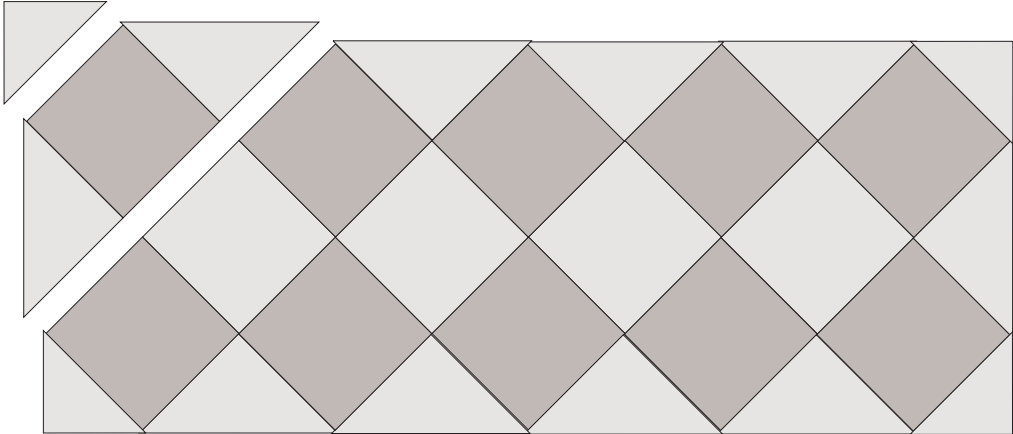
DIAGRAM 5



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DIAGRAM 6



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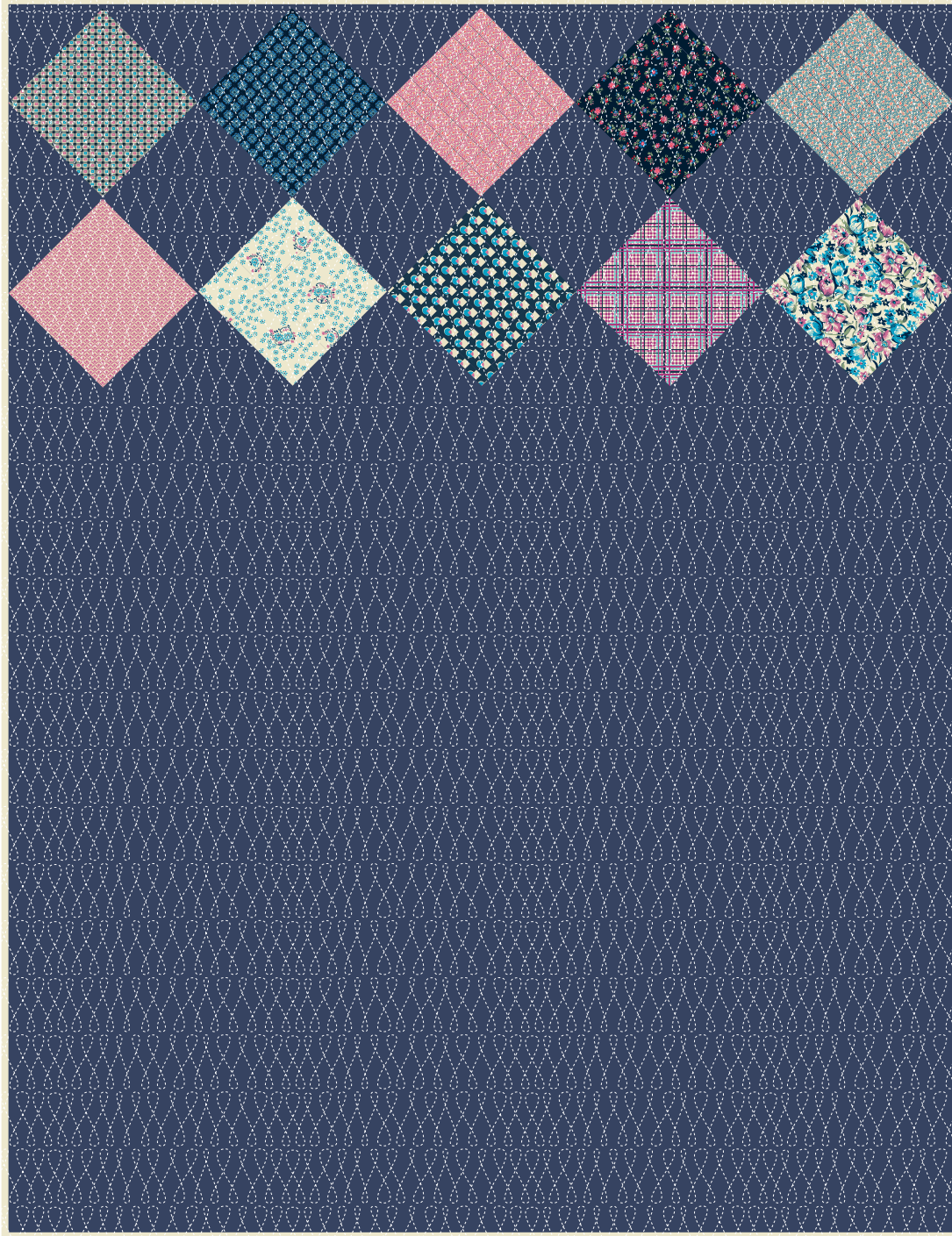
FINISHED QUILT - FRONT



SHELBURNE FALLS

BY DENYSE SCHMIDT

FINISHED QUILT - BACK



CREDITS

Pattern designed by Denyse Schmidt, Instructions by Marjorie Galen, Quilt sewn by Barbara Bergranz, Pattern layout by inchmark, Fabric provided by FreeSpirit Fabrics