

Frame Quilts

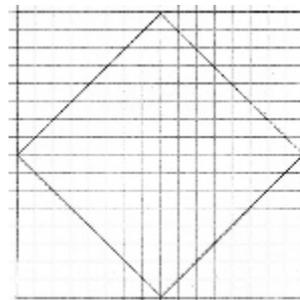
These are a great idea for trying out new techniques as each part is different so you can incorporate appliqué and piecing. Think of basing your design on a 2" square grid.

The centre square is usually 16" (finished size) and this can be surrounded by 20 4" squares – 4 on each side and 4 in the corners.

Other borders can be built up using different patchwork blocks or plain strips or strips with appliqué on them, until the quilt top is big enough. It is then layered and quilted in the usual way.

Centre ideas:

- You can have a big patchwork block – stars are often used or blocks like the Carpenters Wheel that we used in the Harriet Tubman Quilt.
- You can have an appliqué block – a vase of flowers is often used
- If a 16" block seems rather daunting you can work on a 12" square and set it with corner triangles to make it the right size
Something like this:



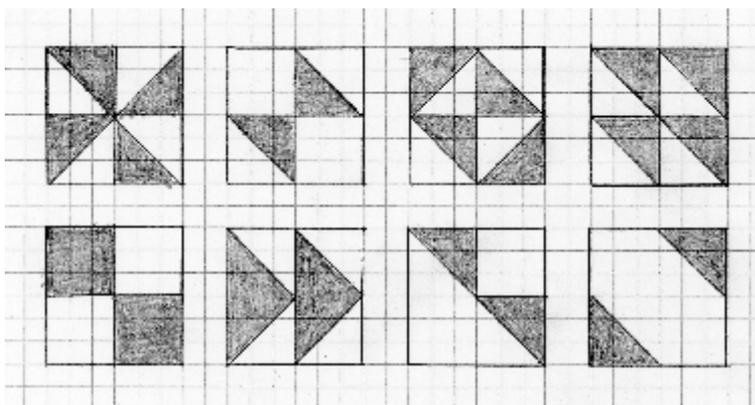
First Border.

When you have an idea about your centre you can think about the kind of block you would like to make for the first border (4" finished).

Some ideas:

- 4-patch made from four 2½" cut squares – this makes a chequerboard effect
- Pinwheel made from four half square triangles made from two dark and two light 3" squares trimmed to 2½" then joined
- Broken Dishes – made from the same units as pinwheel but arranged differently
- Flying Geese – two make a 4" finished square so you would need 8 on each side and 8 more for two in each corner.

It is a good idea to sketch out several blocks to see how they look when joined together. Several of these including the last one (above) looks good if turned to make a zigzag. Also consider whether you should have a different one, or a plain square, in the corners.



Think about what colours you would like to use, or you can make a true scrap quilt and use up lots of odds and ends. Try not to include Poly cottons as they are more difficult to use in quilts as they have less stretch and a different handle to pure cotton fabrics.

It would be nice if we all worked on our own version of a frame quilt so I am including some pictures and a downloadable pattern to give you more ideas.

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