

Cape May Flower Garden Quilt

by Debby Kratovil



Block Size: 10" x 12-3/4"
Quilt Size: 82" x 88"

The Grandmother's Flower Garden has long been a favorite pattern for quiltmakers. It has been pieced by hand in the American patchwork style, in the English style over papers, and more recently on the sewing machine. The "flowers" are made from a series of hexagons sewn in rows around a center hexagon which is traditionally cut from yellow, the usual color for the center of a flower.

My discovery of a packet of forty-two blocks in an antique shop in Cape May, New Jersey last summer was a true find! These pastel blocks were pieced by hand. To save myself from any hand piecing, I set about trimming the edges, sewing them into long rows of seven blocks. I then machine appliqued them onto light green background strips which were then joined vertically to create my quilt.

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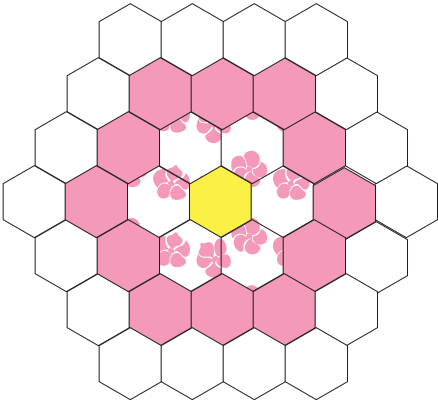
Materials

1/4 yard yellow
3-1/2 yards white
1-1/2 yards assorted floral scraps
3 yards assorted solid pastel fabrics
1/2 yard floral print for first border
2-1/2 yards purple for outer border and binding
6 yards light green fabric
6 yards backing fabric
Queen sized batting

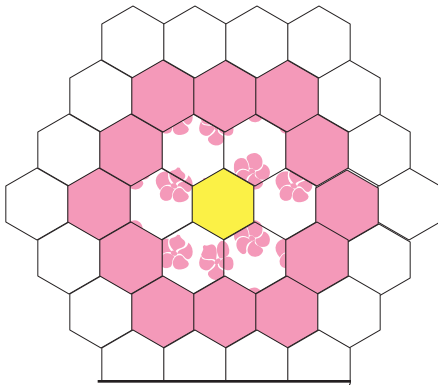
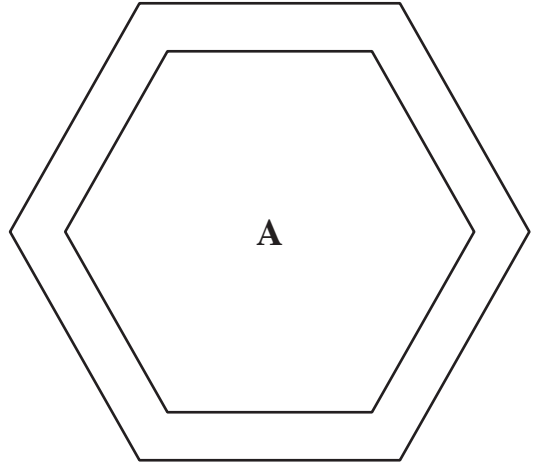
Method

1. Pre-wash and iron all fabrics. Press all seams as you sew.
 2. For machine piecing, leave seam allowances on pattern pieces and use sewing machine guide for 1/4" seam allowance as you sew. For hand piecing, cut seam allowances away and transfer pattern pieces to template material; trace around templates on wrong side of fabric with pencil to mark seam lines and add 1/4" seam allowance to each piece as you cut the fabric.
 3. Cut and stitch a sample block before cutting block pieces for the entire quilt.
 4. Cut for each block: one yellow center hexagon; six matching hexagons from the florals for the first round; twelve matching solid pastel hexagons for the second round; and eighteen white hexagons for the last round.
- Quick Rotary Cutting the Hexagons
5. The height of the hexagon template (A) is 2-3/8" which can be cut from 2-3/8" x 44" strips. Each long strip will yield 15-16 hexagons. See Diagram 1.
 6. Sew together forty-two hexagon blocks following the block diagram. Seam together seven blocks into a long vertical row by using a 1/4" seam allowance. Press. Repeat for the remaining thirty-five blocks (five more rows of seven).
 7. From green cut seven strips 14" x 72". Center each seven block strip on top of long green strips. Pin in place along outside edges of blocks. See Piecing Diagram.
 8. The blocks can be attached by either turning the raw edges under 1/4" all around or by leaving the raw edges as they are. (The machine satin stitch will cover them). Using white thread, machine applique the blocks onto the green background.
 9. Trim the green strips along the long edges so that they are even with the outermost white hexagon.
 10. Sew the seven-block strips together into rows. Press seams.

11. From floral border fabric cut eight 2-1/2" x 44" strips. Seam together into four long rows. Sew each long strip to each of the sides of the quilt top. Press and trim excess.
12. From purple border fabric cut four long strips from the length of the fabric (not from the 44" width). These are to be 4-1/2" wide. Sew to all four sides of quilt top. Press and trim excess.
13. Layer the quilt top, batting and backing and pin or baste together. Quilt the layers together.
14. Trim away the excess batting and backing. Cut binding from remaining purple fabric and bind the edges of the quilt.



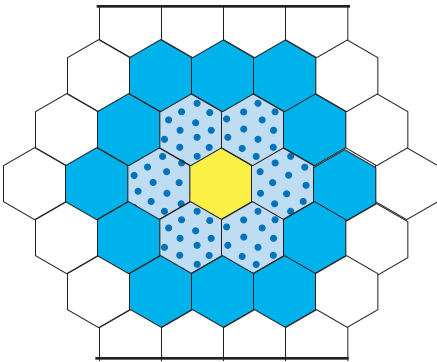
Cape May Garden Block



Join with 1/4" seam

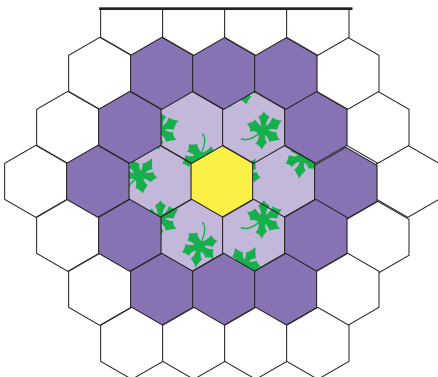


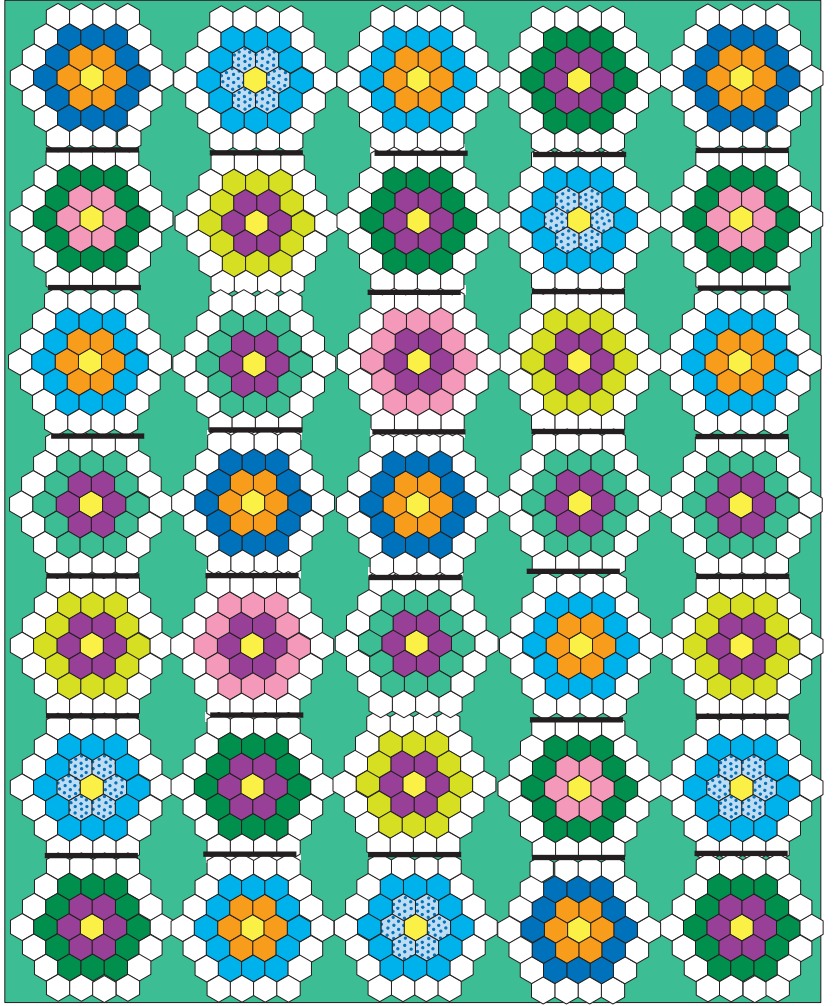
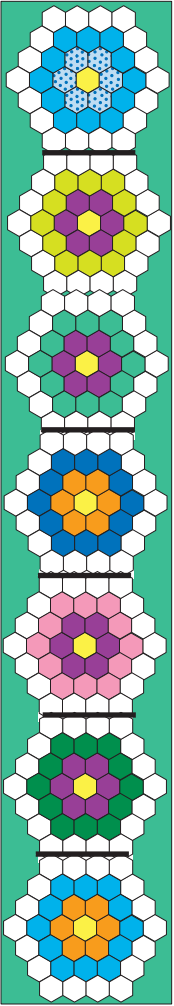
Diagram 1



Join with 1/4" seam

Diagram 2





Piecing The Rows