

## Apron Strings Quilt

Introducing Andover Fabrics new collection: Apron Strings by Karen Stephens of Speckled Hen Quilts Quilt designed by Karen Stephens

## Planning

Follow the quilting tradition of your mother or grandmother when you make this two-block design with Depression Era reproduction fabrics. Snowball and Nine Patch blocks combine in this pleasing wall quilt or bed topper. A fast corner piecing technique makes quick and easy work of the construction.

Quilt finishes 67" x 67"
16 Snowball Blocks: 9" x 9"
9 Snowball Blocks: 9" x 9"
4 Nine Patch Blocks: 6" x 6"

## Fabric Requirements \& Cutting Directions

Note: A fat $1 / 4$ th is an 18 " x $20^{\prime \prime}-22^{\prime \prime}$ cut. Borders are cut the exact lengths required plus $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ seam allowances.

Fat $1 / 4$ yard of each of the following fabrics (Snowball blocks, binding)
From each, cut a $9^{1 / 2}$ " square and $2 \frac{1}{2}$ "-wide strips for binding
4325-B Red Dots on Blue
4325-K Purple Dots on Black
*4326-B Blue Posies
4326-G Green Posies
4326-O Orange Posies
4327-B Big Flowers on Blue
4327-P Big Flowers on Purple
4329-G Green Boxed Flowers
4329-R Red Boxed Flowers
4330-N Yellow Flowers \& Red Lilacs
4330-P Pink Flowers \& Purple Lilacs
4330-R Blue Flowers \& Red Lilacs
4328-B 15/8 yards Blue Leaves (Snowball blocks, Nine Patch blocks, outer border)
Cut (4) borders $61 / 2$ " $\times 55^{1 / 2 "}$ ", cut lengthwise
Cut (1) $\quad 9^{1 / 2}$ " square
Cut (10) 3½" squares
Cut (20) $\quad 21 / 22^{\prime \prime}$ squares
4328-O Fat $1 / 4$ yard Orange Leaves (Snowball blocks, Nine Patch blocks)
Cut (1) $\quad 9^{1 / 2}$ " square
Cut (10) $3^{1 / 2} 2^{\prime \prime}$ squares

4328-P Fat $1 / 4$ yard Purple Leaves(Snowball blocks, Nine Patch blocks)
Cut (1) $\quad 91 / 2{ }^{1}$ square
Cut (10) $3^{1 / 2} 2^{\prime \prime}$ squares
4328-R Fat $1 / 4$ yard Red Leaves (Snowball blocks, Nine Patch blocks)
Cut (1) $\quad 91 / 2$ " square
Cut (15) 3½" squares
1867-B9 $\quad 1 / 2$ yard Blue Dimples (inner border)
Cut (6) $\quad 2^{1 / 2} 2^{\prime \prime} x$ width of fabric strips, pieced to make the following:
(2) borders $21 / 2$ " $x 55 \frac{1}{2}{ }^{\prime \prime}$
(2) borders $21 / 22^{\prime \prime} \times 51 \frac{1}{2}{ }^{\prime \prime}$

1867-WW $11 / 2$ yards White Dimples ( 6 " and $9 "$ Nine Patch blocks, Snowball blocks, setting triangles)
Cut (3) 14 " squares, cut in half twice diagonally to make 12 quarter-square triangles
Cut (2) $\quad 71 / 4$ " squares, cut in half diagonally to make 4 half-square triangles
Cut (100) $\quad 31 / 2$ " squares
Cut (16) $21 / 2$ " squares
*Additional fabric required for backing.
4326-B $\quad 41 / 4$ yards Blue Posies (backing)
Cut and piece to fit quilt top with 4 " overlap on all sides.

## Making and Assembling the Quilt

1. Fast-45 Snowball Blocks. Lightly draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of 64 white Dimples $31 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ squares. Align the square on the corner of a $91 / 2$ " square, right sides together. Stitch just outside the diagonal line (Diagram 1). Press the square up to be certain that the little triangle matches the corner of the square. If it doesn't match exactly, restitch. Once it matches, trim the excess fabric from behind. Repeat on all 4 corners of the square. Make 16 Snowball Blocks like this.
2. Nine Patch Blocks. Refer to the Nine Patch Block Diagram. Join 5 leaf print $3^{1 / 2 "}$ squares and 4 white Dimples $31 / 2$ squares to make a block. Measure to be sure that the block is $9^{1 / 2}$ " from raw edge to raw edge. If it is not, adjust stitching. Make 2 yellow blocks, 2 blue blocks, 2 purple blocks, and 3 red blocks. Likewise, join 5 blue leaf print $2^{1 / 2}$ " squares and 4 white Dimples $2 \frac{1}{2}$ " squares to make 4 Nine Patch Blocks that should measure $6^{1 / 2}$ " from raw edge to raw edge.
3. Refer to the Quilt Diagram throughout the assembly. Join the large Nine Patch Blocks, Snowball Blocks, and the white Dimples small corner triangles and large side triangles in diagonal rows. Join the rows.
4. Sew short blue Dimples border strips to sides. Sew long blue borders to top and bottom.
5. Sew blue leaf print borders to sides of quilt. Sew a $6 "$ Nine Patch Block to each end of remaining borders. Sew to the top and bottom of the quilt.

## Finishing the Quilt

6. Layer quilt with batting and backing. Quilt in the ditch around borders and block patches. Quilt around the printed motifs inside the Snowball Blocks. Quilt the wide border with a motif of your choice.
7. Join $21 / 2^{\prime \prime}$-wide strips cut from leftover fabrics to make a continuous binding that is approximately $71 / 2$ yards long. Bind with pieced binding to finish the quilt.


## Apron Strings

by Karen Stephens


4327-B



4327-P


