

# spot on

If you're the type who just can't decide on one fabric, you'll enjoy this project that puts a happy dozen in the spotlight. Circular designs, spiraling surface stitches, and an easy grid pattern bring everything together.



DESIGNER  
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## WHAT YOU NEED

Basic sewing tools

12 fabric scraps of print cotton, none less than 4 inches (10.2 cm) square

$\frac{3}{8}$  yard (34.3 cm) of print cotton for the pillow back

4-inch (10.2 cm) fabric squares for the appliques: 5 of unbleached muslin, 4 of bleached cotton, 2 in ecru cotton, 1 in pale blue cotton

14-inch (35.6 cm) square of muslin for quilting

14-inch (35.6 cm) square of cotton batting

2 strips of print cotton,  $1\frac{1}{4} \times 28$  inches (3.2 x 71.1 cm) for the binding

2 pieces of muslin, each  $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$  inches (24.1 x 31.8 cm) for the pillow form

Safety pins

12-inch (30.5 cm) zipper

Darning foot

Zipper foot

Polyester fiberfill

## SEAM ALLOWANCE

$\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) unless otherwise noted

## FINISHED SIZE

13 x 10 inches (33 x 25.4 cm)

## WHAT YOU DO

1 Copy the template on page 303 and cut it out. Use it to trace 12 circles, one on each of the different fabric scraps.

Cut them out. Cut two pieces for the pillow back from the print cotton, each 14 x 12 inches (35.6 x 30.5 cm) and set aside.

2 Machine-stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) in from the edge around each circle cut in step 1. Clip the seam, spacing the cuts approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) apart. Be careful to avoid cutting the stitching. On the wrong side, press the clipped edge toward the middle of the circle (figure 1).

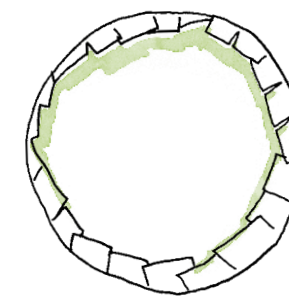


figure 1

3 Center, and then pin a circle right side up on each of the 4-inch (10.2 cm) fabric squares. Edgestitch each circle to its square.

4 Arrange the squares in a pleasing manner to make a rectangle with three squares down and four across. Pin the first line of three squares to each other making a strip. Sew, and press the seams either to the right or left. Repeat to make another strip. Pin and sew the two strips together along their long edges and press.

5 Repeat step 4 to make another set of sewn strips. Sew the two sets together to complete the pieced top.

6 Lay the 14-inch (35.6 cm) square of muslin on your work surface. Lay the 14-inch (35.6 cm) square of batting on top of it. Lay the pieced top right side up on both layers of fabric and pin with safety pins thorough all layers.

**7** With white thread, and using the darning foot on your sewing machine, sew through all layers to quilt. Use free-motion quilting to make concentric circles on each of the appliquéd circles. Trim the edges of the layers flush.

**8** On one of the long edges of one piece of fabric cut for the back, turn under  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) and press. Turn under again  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches (3.8 cm) and press. On one of the long edges of the other back piece, turn under  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) and press. Stitch the zipper to the pressed edges.

**9** Sew the strips for the binding together to make one long strip as for making bias tape.

**10** Bind the edges and miter the corners using your favorite method as you stitch the front to the back with wrong sides facing. Before you begin sewing the binding to the raw edge, leave a 4-inch (10.2 cm) tail for overlapping. Once you turn the binding over the raw edge, use a zigzag stitch to hold it down.



**11** Using the two pieces of muslin, make a pillow form by stitching together with the right sides facing. Leave an opening to turn and stuff; stitch closed. Insert the form into the pillow.

#### WHY CUT?

Save time by using the precut squares of cotton favored by quilters. They're sold in blocks and grouped by fabric type and/or colorways. But be careful. They're so cute you may be tempted to buy way more than you need.

