

# DESERT TRAILS

Mix earthy tones and dreamy prints with a classic Sawtooth Star block to make a quilt with timeless style

BY LOU ORTH



**YOU WILL NEED**

- Six (6) print fat quarters (A–F)
- Background fabric: 1½yds
- Backing fabric: 1¼yds
- Binding fabric: ½yd
- Batting: 48in square

**FINISHED SIZE**

- 40in square

**NOTES**

- Seam allowances are ¼in, unless otherwise noted.
- Press seams to one side, unless otherwise instructed.
- RST = right sides together.
- WOF = width of fabric.
- Press all fabrics well before cutting.
- Batting is Vlieseline Cotton mix 80/20 available from ladysewandsew.co.uk and empressmills.co.uk
- Fabrics provided by Paintbrush Studio Fabrics (pbsfabrics.com)

**FABRICS USED**

All print fabrics are from the Desert Horses collection by Carrie Shryock for Paintbrush Studio Fabrics.

**CUTTING OUT**

- 1** From each of Fabrics A, B, C and D (star blocks) cut:
  - Eight (8) 3¼in squares.
  - Sixteen (16) 2½in squares.
  - One (1) 5in x 11½in for backing.
- 2** From Fabrics E and F (square blocks) cut:
  - Sixteen (16) 3¼in squares.
  - Sixteen (16) 2½in squares.
- 3** From the background fabric cut:
  - Sixty four (64) 3¼in squares.
  - One hundred and seventy six (176) 2½in squares.
- 4** From the binding fabric cut:
  - Five (5) 2½in x WOF.

**MAKING THE HSTS**

**5** Place a Fabric A 3¼in square and background 3¼in square RST. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of one square. Sew ¼in from either side of this line.



**USE A MIX OF LARGE AND SMALL-SCALE PRINTS TO GIVE YOUR QUILT MOVEMENT**

Cut along the drawn line to make two HST units. Press each HST unit open, and trim to measure 2½in square.

**6** Repeat step 5, pairing each of the print 3¼in squares with a background square. You will have sixteen each of Fabric A/background, Fabric B/background and Fabric C/background HSTs. You will have thirty two each of Fabric E/background and Fabric F/background HSTs.

**ASSEMBLING THE QUILT TOP**

**7** Arrange your HST blocks and 2½in squares into four blocks, as shown in Figs 1–4. Pay particular attention to where the Fabric E and F pieces are arranged, as they are slightly different for each block.

**8** Sew each block together one at a time. Sew the squares together in rows, then join the rows together, carefully matching seams as you work.



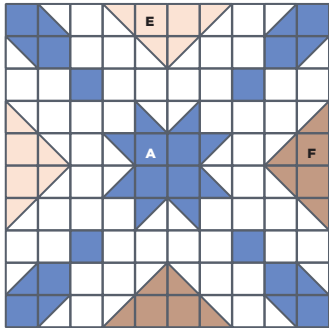


Fig 1

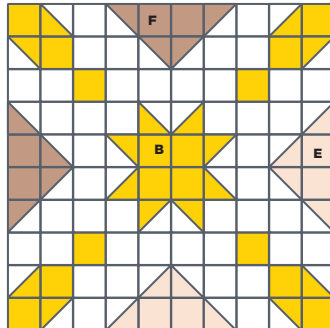


Fig 2

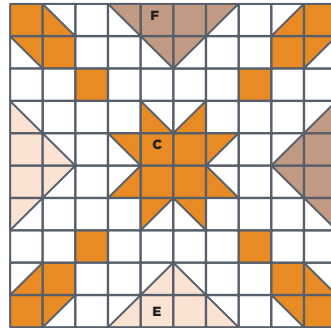


Fig 3

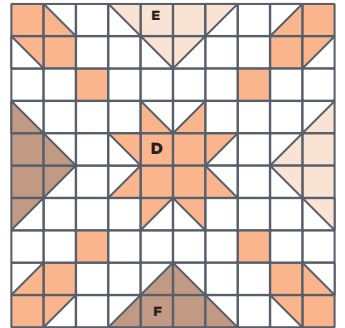
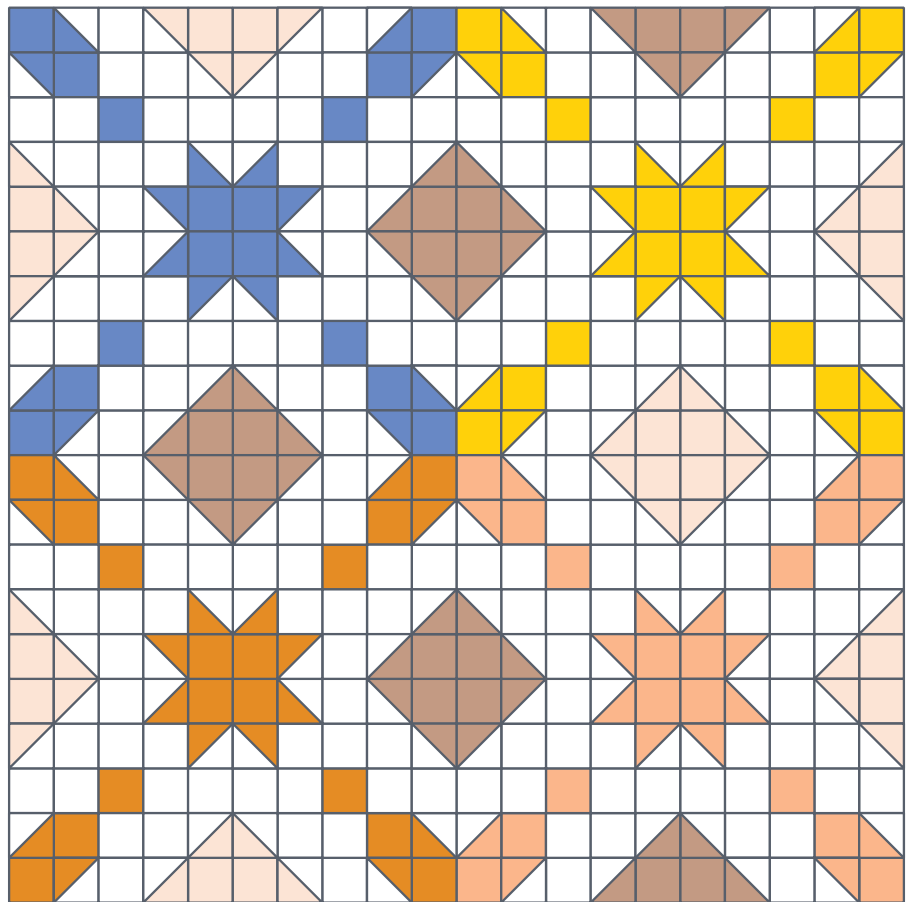


Fig 4



Layout Diagram

**9** Arrange the blocks in two rows of two, referring to the Layout Diagram for block placement. Sew the blocks together in pairs, pressing seams open or to one side. Then sew the pairs together to complete the quilt top.

**QUILTING AND FINISHING**

**10** Join the four 5in x 11½in print strips along the short ends, to make a strip measuring 5in x 44½in. Cut the backing in half along the length to make two approx 22in x 45in pieces. Sew your pieced print strip between the two backing pieces, along the long edges, using a ½in seam allowance. Your backing should measure approx 44in x 47in.

**11** Press the quilt top and backing well. Make a quilt sandwich by placing the backing fabric right side down, the batting on top, then place the quilt top centrally

and right side up. Baste the layers together using your preferred method.

**12** Quilt as desired. Lou quilted wavy lines across the quilt using a light coloured thread. Trim off the excess batting and backing fabric and square up the quilt.

**13** Sew the binding strips together end-to-end using diagonal seams. Press the seams open. Fold in half lengthways, wrong sides together, and press.

**14** Sew the binding to the right side of the quilt, creating a neat mitre at each corner. Fold the binding over to the back of the quilt and hand stitch in place to finish.



**Lou Orth**  
Fabric addict Lou loves playing with colours and is constantly coming up with fun new quilt designs  
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