Appliquéing the Dahlia

1. Cut and piece fabric as required to make a single large piece of background fabric, 81\(\frac{3}{8}\) inches by 81\(\frac{3}{8}\) inches (206.7 cm x 206.7 cm). Although you may be tempted to round up the size of the background, the measurements have been carefully calculated so that the pieced border will fit without adjustments.

2. Place the pressed background fabric, right side up, on a flat surface. Determine the vertical center. Position the Dahlia so that it is 9 inches (22.95 cm) from the lower end of the background fabric and centered approximately 14 inches (35.5 cm) from each side of the fabric, and pin in place. This centers the design below the pillows and allows an ample pillow tuck. Most centers look best when the points of piece g are on the vertical center of the background fabric.

3. Appliqué; use the stay-stitched lines as a guide for turning the edge under as you stitch. Use a tiny invisible stitch, or machine appliqué.

4. After completing the appliqué, you may carefully trim away the background fabric under the Dahlia or wait until you are ready to quilt.

Adding the Borders

The cover quilt was finished with two 1-inch spacer strips, a pieced 5\(\frac{3}{4}\)-inch border, a 2-inch outside border, and a \(\frac{1}{2}\)-inch French-fold binding. For King size you will want 3-4 inches for the outside border. The measurements provided are all mathematically correct, but slight variations in measuring, cutting and sewing can lead to fitting problems when adding the pieced border. The width of the second narrow spacer strip can easily be adjusted if required.

Cutting Fabric for the Pieced Border

The classic pieced border echoes the shapes and fabrics used in the Dahlia, Diagram 13. After cutting strips as directed, take advantage of time-saving techniques by stacking the strips four or five layers high, all right sides facing the same direction, then rotary cut the required shapes.

Giant Dahlia King Size Quilt
Pieced Border Cutting Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Square #8</th>
<th>Square #12</th>
<th>Triangle #13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fabric A</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>Cut 18 strips 1(\frac{3}{8}) x 18&quot; cut 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fabric B</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>Cut 13 strips 2(\frac{1}{2}) x 13(\frac{3}{4}&quot; cut 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fabric C</td>
<td>Cut 9 strips 4(\frac{1}{2}&quot; x 36&quot; cut 64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fabric D</td>
<td>Illustrated with 2 fabrics</td>
<td>Cut 13 strips 2(\frac{1}{2}&quot; x 13(\frac{3}{4}&quot; cut 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fabric E*</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>Cut 19 strips 1(\frac{3}{8}) x 18&quot; cut 128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Additionally, cut four of Triangle #11, with the legs on the straight grain, from fabric E.
If you own Perfect Patchwork Template Set B, use the appropriate shapes to make quick work of cutting the pieced border fabric. Refer to the instructions in the Giant Dahlia Template Set for paper patterns. The diagrams and instructions are keyed numerically for the appropriate template/pattern, and by letter for the appropriate fabric.

So, #13A in Diagram 13 (page 1) means use template or pattern #13 and the fabric you have chosen for A. Also, please note the grainline arrow on pattern 13. It should override the suggested grainline on the template for this quilt.

Making and Adding the Pieced Border

1. These steps are illustrated with the optional version of two alternating D fabrics. Make pieced triangle units by combining matching pairs of #13 triangles A or E with a #12 square of fabric B, D-1 or D-2, Diagram 14. Be careful not to stretch the bias edges as you sew.

Pair the remaining squares #12B and triangles #13A as shown in Diagram 15.

2. Combine the components made in step 1 with the remaining pieces to make the border sub-units shown in Diagrams 16a, 16b, 16c, and 16d. Pay careful attention to the positions of the accent fabrics as you work.

3. Refer to Diagram 17 and the cover illustration to assemble the sub-units into the border sections.

4. Sew the side border sections in place, then the end sections. Stop 1/4 inch (6mm) from the end of the quilt on each corner. Fold the quilt at a 45-degree angle so that sub-units x and x-reversed are lying directly on top of each other. Starting 1/4 inch (6mm) in at the corner of the quilt, make the short seam that connects the small squares.

5. Sew a sub-unit z to each corner to complete the pieced border, Diagram 17.

Finishing the Quilt

1. Add a final border, at least three inches wide.
2. Quilt as desired and bind.