

Goldwake Constellations

Eight-point stars that shine bright from a cream sky



1. Finished size

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Finished quilt	56 × 56 in, before washing
Blocks	8 × 8 in finished; 8½ × 8½ in unfinished
Layout	5 columns × 5 rows: 13 star blocks and 12 plain cream blocks
Framing	1 in finished navy sashing, 1 in gold cornerstones, and a 5 in finished cream floral border on all four sides
Construction	Rotary-cut, square-centered eight-point stars made with stitch-and-flip flying geese. Straight-pieced sashing and borders. No appliqué, inset seams, or templates.
Seam allowance	¼ in throughout; sew right sides together unless directed otherwise.

The star blocks alternate with uninterrupted cream squares. Eight triangular points surround each square star center; the corner squares remain cream. The flower shapes in the plain blocks are **quilting stitches, not patchwork seams**. Plain blocks have square corners, with no snowball corner patches.

Size check: $5 \times 8 + 6 \times 1 = 46$ in for the framed block field; $46 + 2 \times 5 = 56$ in for the quilt.

2. Materials and yardage

Yardages assume **42 in usable width of fabric (WOF)**, after removing selvages. Buy the amounts below after allowing for any prewashing shrinkage. Choose small-scale prints so the star points remain distinct.

Fabric ID and color	Placement	Purchase
 A — Warm cream Plain or very quiet cream	Background of all 13 stars	$\frac{3}{4}$ yd
 B — Cream tonal Fine beige sprig or lace print	12 plain alternating blocks	$\frac{7}{8}$ yd
 C — Butter yellow floral Tiny navy and cream flowers	4 yellow stars	$\frac{3}{8}$ yd
 D — Honey gold Small cream floral print	5 gold stars and all 36 cornerstones	$\frac{3}{8}$ yd
 E — Midnight navy Small gold and cream sprig print	4 navy stars, all sashing, and binding	$1\frac{1}{8}$ yd
 F — Cream floral Scattered navy flowers and golden leaves	Wide outer border	$1\frac{1}{8}$ yd
Backing — coordinating cream print	Two 42 × 64 in panels	4 yd of 42 in usable-width fabric
Batting	Low-loft cotton or cotton blend	At least 64 × 64 in

The cutting plans below include every assigned piece. Purchase amounts include at least 10% cutting reserve, rounded upward to $\frac{1}{8}$ -yard increments; the small yellow allocation and border allocation round to the next available increment.

Also needed: cream piecing thread, cream quilting thread, a fresh 80/12 needle, rotary cutter, mat, 6 × 24 in ruler, square ruler at least 8½ in, washable fine marking pencil, pins, iron, and basting supplies. A walking foot and free-motion foot are useful.

Print orientation: use nondirectional small prints for C, D, and E. Keep B's print upright throughout the layout. F is a scattered floral; border seams do not require print matching.

3. Cutting

Cut size includes the seam allowance. **Finished** means the size visible after the piece is sewn into its next assembly. Label each group with its permanent Piece ID.

Fabric	Piece ID / shape	Qty	Cut size	Finished role	Grain / mirror
A	P1 — Rectangle	52	2½ × 4½ in	2 × 4 in flying-geese background; 4 per star	Long edge along WOF; no mirrors
A	P2 — Square	52	2½ × 2½ in	2 in corner square; 4 per star	Straight grain
C	P3 — Square	4	4½ × 4½ in	4 in yellow star center	Straight grain
D	P3 — Square	5	4½ × 4½ in	4 in gold star center	Straight grain
E	P3 — Square	4	4½ × 4½ in	4 in navy star center	Straight grain
C	P4 — Square	32	2½ × 2½ in	Yellow triangle after stitch-and-flip; 8 per yellow star	Mark one diagonal; no mirrors
D	P4 — Square	40	2½ × 2½ in	Gold triangle after stitch-and-flip; 8 per gold star	Mark one diagonal; no mirrors
E	P4 — Square	32	2½ × 2½ in	Navy triangle after stitch-and-flip; 8 per navy star	Mark one diagonal; no mirrors
B	P5 — Square	12	8½ × 8½ in	8 in plain block	Print upright
E	P6 — Rectangle	60	1½ × 8½ in	1 × 8 in sashing; 30 vertical and 30 horizontal	Long edge along WOF
D	P7 — Square	36	1½ × 1½ in	1 in cornerstone	Straight grain
F	P8 — Side border	2	5½ × 46½ in, pieced	5 × 46 in side border	Made from WOF strips
F	P9 — Top/bottom border	2	5½ × 56½ in, pieced	5 × 56 in top/bottom border	Made from WOF strips
E	P10 — Binding strip	7	2½ × 42 in	Double-fold binding, approximately ¼ in visible	WOF; diagonal joins
Backing	P11 — Backing panel	2	42 × 64 in	Pieced backing, trimmed to 64 × 64 in	Length along selvage direction

WOF cutting plans

All strip widths below are measured along the fabric length. Open strips flat for subcutting. Keep useful remnants until their assigned pieces have been cut.

1. **A — 22½ in cutting length.** Cut six 2½ in WOF strips. From the first five, cut nine P1 rectangles each; from the sixth, cut seven P1 rectangles and four P2 squares from its remaining 10½ in. Cut three more 2½ in WOF strips, yielding sixteen P2 squares each. Total: 52 P1 and 52 P2.

2. **B — 25½ in cutting length.** Cut three 8½ in WOF strips; subcut four P5 squares from each.
3. **C — 9½ in cutting length.** Cut one 4½ in WOF strip. Cut four P3 centers using 18 in of its width. From the remaining 24 × 4½ in rectangle, cut nine P4 squares in one row. Cut two 2½ in WOF strips and cut the remaining 23 P4 squares, sixteen from one strip and seven from the other.
4. **D — 12 in cutting length.** Cut one 4½ in WOF strip. Cut five P3 centers, using 22½ in of its width. In the remaining 19½ × 4½ in rectangle, cut seven P4 squares along one 2½ in-high row; from the separate 19½ × 2 in band beneath that row, cut thirteen P7 cornerstones. Cut three 2½ in WOF strips: the first two yield sixteen P4 squares each; the third yields one P4 square. From the 39½ × 2½ in remainder of that third strip, cut twenty-three P7 cornerstones in a single row. Total: 5 P3, 40 P4, and 36 P7.
5. **E — 49½ in cutting length.** Cut one 4½ in WOF strip and cut four P3 centers; from the remaining 24 × 4½ in rectangle cut nine P4 squares in one row. Cut two 2½ in WOF strips for the remaining 23 P4 squares. Cut fifteen 1½ in WOF strips; each yields four P6 rectangles. Finally, cut seven 2½ in WOF strips for P10 binding. Keep these binding strips separate from the star-point strips.
6. **F — 33 in cutting length.** Cut six 5½ in WOF strips. Join all six end-to-end with straight ¼ in seams, pressing seams open. The strip chain is approximately 249½ in long. Cut two 46½ in P8 lengths and two 56½ in P9 lengths from the chain; the required total is 206 in. Label the four lengths immediately.
7. **Backing.** Cut two 64 in lengths of the 42 in usable-width fabric for P11. The required cutting length is 128 in.

Efficient gold cutting: the thirteen cornerstones from the center-strip remnant and twenty-three from the last point-strip remnant are part of the planned yield. Do not discard either remnant or substitute an extra strip.

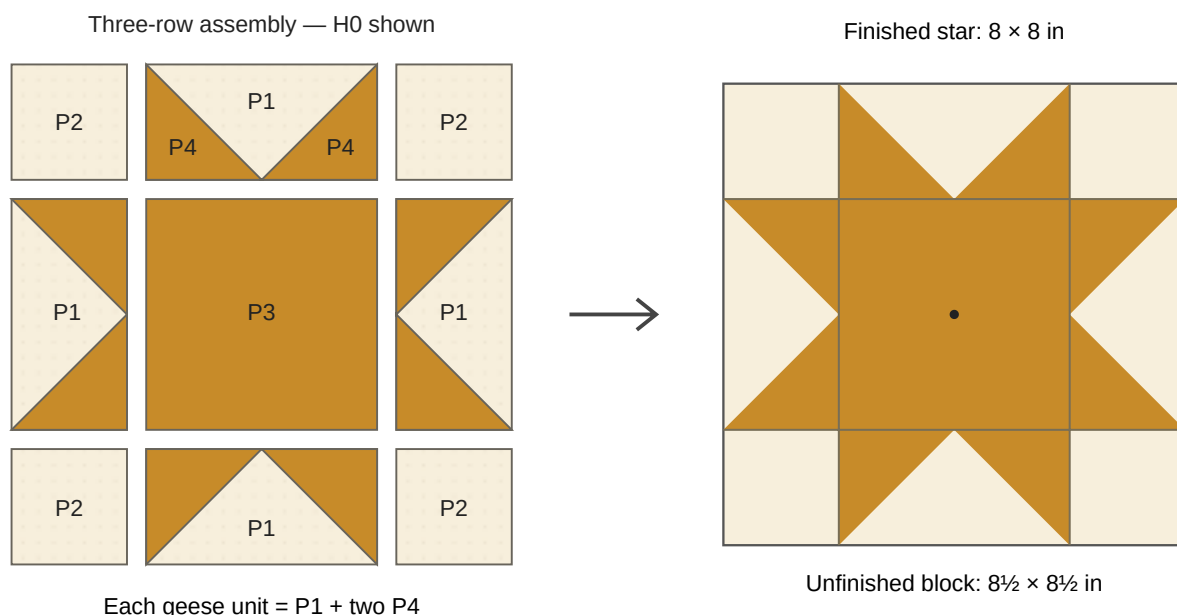
4. Star construction

Block geometry and color variants

Each finished block occupies an 8 × 8 in square. Its center is at (4, 4), measured from its upper-left corner. The central P3 square extends from x = 2 to 6 and y = 2 to 6. Corner P2 squares occupy the four 2 × 2 in corners. The four flying-geese units occupy the spaces between these corners and the central square.

Each colored point is a 45°–45°–90° triangle with 2 in finished legs. Point tips occur at (2, 0), (6, 0), (8, 2), (8, 6), (6, 8), (2, 8), (0, 6), and (0, 2). The star is square-centered, not an eight-diamond inset-seam star.

Variant	Make	Pieces for each block	Orientation
Y0 — Yellow	4	A: four P1 + four P2; C: one P3 + eight P4	0°; center print upright
H0 — Honey	5	A: four P1 + four P2; D: one P3 + eight P4	0°; center print upright
N0 — Navy	4	A: four P1 + four P2; E: one P3 + eight P4	0°; center print upright
P0 — Plain	12	One B P5; no additional seams	0°; print upright

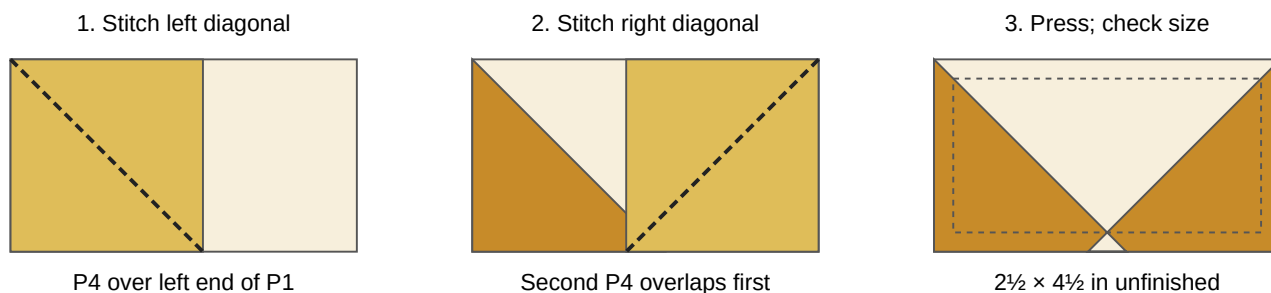


Exploded diagram shows seam-line proportions. Both P4 triangles in every geese unit match the P3 center. Cream geese tips face inward toward P3; colored star points face outward.

A. Make the flying-geese units

1. On the wrong side of every P4 square, draw one corner-to-corner diagonal. For each star, set aside four A P1 rectangles and eight P4 squares of its assigned star color.
2. Place a P1 rectangle horizontally, right side up. Place a P4 square right sides together over its left end. The drawn line runs from the rectangle's **upper-left corner to the lower edge, 2½ in from the left**.
3. Sew on the marked line. Trim the layers toward the upper-left outer corner, leaving a ¼ in seam allowance beyond the stitching. Fold the retained colored triangle toward that upper-left corner and press. The rectangle must still measure 2½ × 4½ in.

- Place a second P4 over the right end. Its diagonal runs from the rectangle's **upper-right corner to the lower edge, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in from the right**. Sew on the line; trim toward the upper-right outer corner, leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ in beyond the stitching. Fold the colored triangle out and press.
- The finished unit has colored triangles at the two upper corners and one large cream triangle between them. The cream triangle's tip is at the center of the lower long edge, $\frac{1}{4}$ in inside that raw edge. Check the unit at **$2\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ in unfinished**; keep that $\frac{1}{4}$ in allowance beyond the tip intact.
- Make four identical units for each star: 16 with C, 20 with D, and 16 with E, for 52 geese units total.



The dashed inner rectangle on the completed unit is the finished seam boundary. The overlaps and tip allowance are intentional; do not trim the completed rectangle smaller.

B. Assemble Y0 — make 4

- Use one C P3 center, four C/A geese units, and four A P2 corners.
- For the top row, sew P2–geese–P2 with the cream geese tip pointing down toward P3. Press seams toward P2. The row measures **$2\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ in unfinished**.
- For the middle row, place one geese unit vertically on each side of P3. The left cream tip points right; the right cream tip points left. Sew to P3 and press toward P3. The row measures **$4\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ in unfinished**.
- For the bottom row, sew P2–geese–P2 with the cream tip pointing up. Press toward P2. The row measures **$2\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ in unfinished**.
- Join the three rows, nesting the seams at the P3 corners. Stitch through the geese-tip intersections without cutting off the colored points. Press the two long seams away from the center row. Check the block at **$8\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ in unfinished**.

C. Assemble H0 — make 5

Use one D P3, four D/A geese units, and four A P2. Assemble the same three rows in the same orientations as Y0. Press top and bottom row seams toward P2, middle row seams toward P3, and the two joining seams away from the center row. Each H0 must measure **$8\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ in unfinished**.

D. Assemble N0 — make 4

Use one E P3, four E/A geese units, and four A P2. Assemble the same three rows in the same orientations as Y0. Use the same pressing sequence. Each N0 must measure **$8\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ in unfinished**.

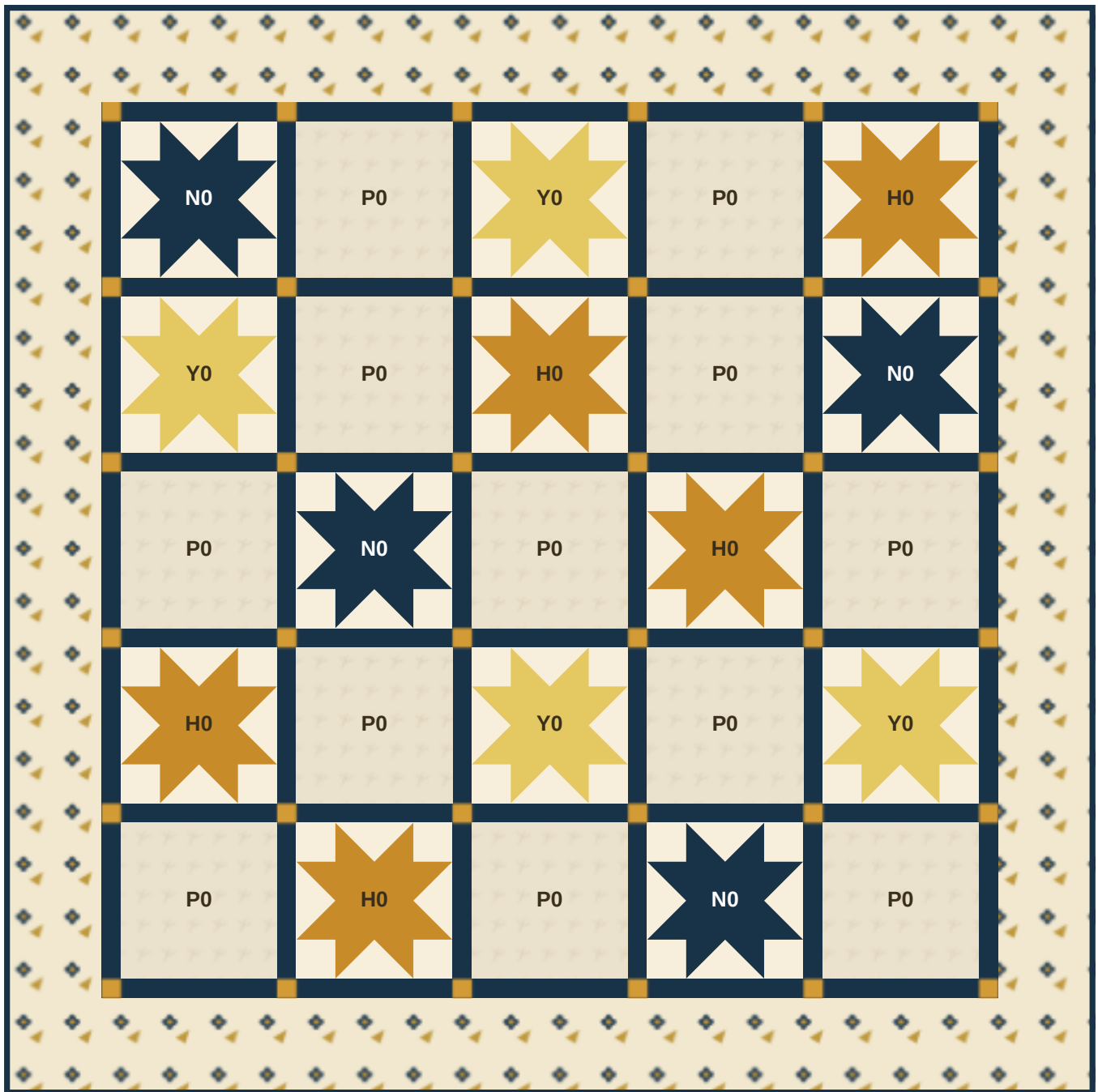
E. Prepare P0 — 12 plain blocks

Check each B P5 at **$8\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ in**. Mark the upper edge on the wrong side with a removable pencil if the print has an upright direction. Do not add corner triangles or cut across the block.

5. Quilt top assembly

Read the layout from the quilt's upper-left corner. All blocks use **0° orientation**; no block is mirrored. Y0 = C yellow star, H0 = D honey star, N0 = E navy star, and P0 = B plain cream square.

Row	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
1	N0	P0	Y0	P0	H0
2	Y0	P0	H0	P0	N0
3	P0	N0	P0	H0	P0
4	H0	P0	Y0	P0	Y0
5	P0	H0	P0	N0	P0



Complete flat layout. Navy rails are P6, all gold intersections are P7, side borders are P8, and the top and bottom borders are P9. The narrow outer navy edge is P10 binding. Print textures are schematic.

The upper row is a complete row of blocks above the four rows displayed most clearly across the front of the draped quilt. Follow the complete five-row map, including the adjoining plain blocks at row 1/row 2, columns 2 and 4; do not substitute a strict checkerboard arrangement.

A. Make five block rows

1. Lay out the five blocks for row 1 according to the table, preserving upright prints.
2. Insert a vertical P6 between neighboring blocks, and add a vertical P6 at each outside end. The sequence is **P6–block–P6–block–P6–block–P6–block–P6**.
3. Join and press seams toward P6. Each row uses six P6 and measures **8½ × 46½ in unfinished**.
4. Repeat for rows 2–5. Label each row on its left edge. These rows consume 30 P6.

B. Make six horizontal sashing rows

For each row, join **P7–P6–P7–P6–P7–P6–P7–P6–P7**, with P6 horizontal. Each sashing row uses five P6 and six P7 and measures **1½ × 46½ in unfinished**. Make six identical rows, using the remaining 30 P6 and all 36 P7. Press these short seams toward P7 so they nest with the block-row seams.

C. Join the framed field

From top to bottom, join: sashing row, block row 1, sashing row, block row 2, sashing row, block row 3, sashing row, block row 4, sashing row, block row 5, sashing row. Pin every cornerstone intersection, keeping the vertical sashing aligned. Press the long joining seams toward the horizontal navy rails. The framed field measures **46½ × 46½ in unfinished**.

D. Add the floral border

1. Mark centers and quarter points on the field's two sides and on both P8 side borders. Pin matching marks, distribute any slight ease, and sew a P8 to each side. Press toward F. The top measures **56½ in wide × 46½ in high unfinished**.
2. Mark centers and quarter points on the top and bottom edges and both P9 borders. Pin and sew P9 to the top and bottom; press toward F.
3. The completed top measures **56½ × 56½ in unfinished**. Its finished dimension after the edge seam allowance is enclosed is 56 × 56 in.

Use the specified border lengths rather than sewing an unmeasured strip around the edge. Keep border joins flat and the field square.

6. Basting, quilting, and binding

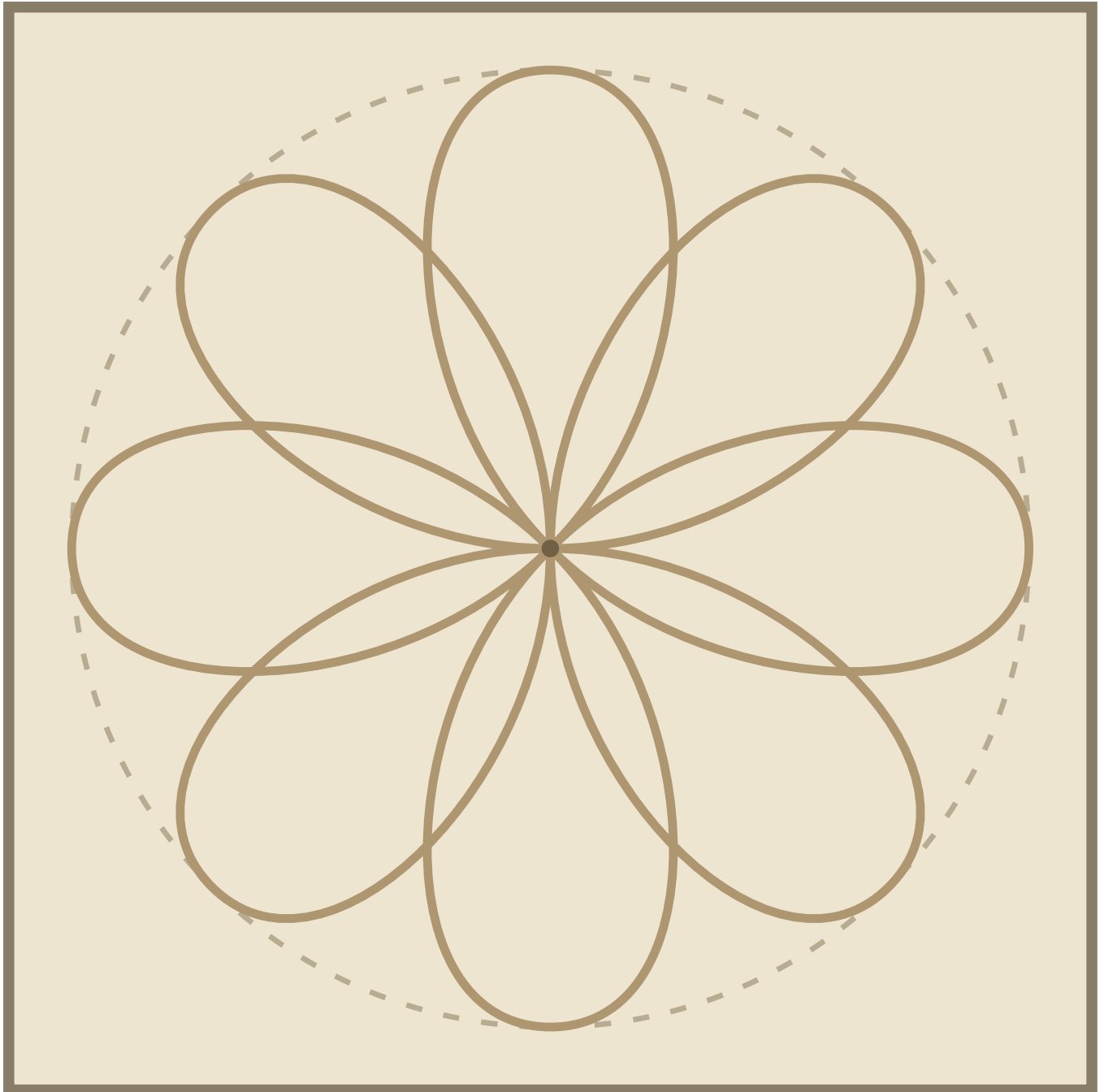
Prepare the backing and sandwich

1. Join the two P11 backing panels along their 64 in edges with a $\frac{1}{4}$ in seam. Press the seam open. The backing measures **$83\frac{1}{2} \times 64$ in.**
2. Trim equal amounts from the two outer sides to make a **64×64 in** backing, keeping the joining seam centered. Check that the batting also measures at least 64×64 in.
3. Press the top and backing. Place backing wrong side up, batting over it, and the quilt top right side up, centered. Smooth from the center outward and baste at approximately 3–4 in intervals. The backing and batting extend about $3\frac{3}{4}$ in beyond each raw top edge.

Quilting plan

Use cream thread and low-loft batting for the softly textured surface. Stabilize the quilt by stitching in the ditch along the framed field and the sashing grid before adding motifs. Keep quilting spacing at or below the batting manufacturer's maximum.

- **Every P0 plain block:** quilt an eight-petal flower centered at (4, 4) within the finished 8 in square. Petal tips sit $3\frac{1}{2}$ in from the center, at 45° intervals; the flower's total diameter is 7 in. Mark the center, a 7 in guide circle, and the eight radial tips. Each narrow teardrop petal travels from the center out to its tip and returns along the other side, touching the center again.
- **Star blocks:** stitch in the ditch around P3 and the triangular points. Quilt one diagonal through each colored triangle, from its outer tip toward the middle of its inner edge. Quilt a small four-loop flower, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in across, in each P3 center. Add a curved echo $\frac{1}{4}$ in inside each cream corner square, following its two sides nearest the star. Keep these stitches subordinate to the pieced star outline.
- **Navy sashing:** quilt a centered zigzag, alternating between points $\frac{1}{4}$ in from opposite long edges at 1 in intervals along each rail. Stop and restart at cornerstones. Quilt one centered diagonal across each P7.
- **Floral border:** quilt a loose continuous vine down the border centerline, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ in from its seam with the field. Alternate $1\frac{1}{2}$ in-long leaves to each side every 2 in along the vine; echo the vine $\frac{3}{4}$ in to either side. Curve smoothly around the four corners. Keep the outermost stitches at least $\frac{1}{2}$ in inside the raw quilt edge.



Quilting diagram only, not a cutting template. The square represents an 8 in finished P0; the dotted 7 in circle is a removable marking guide and is not stitched.

Binding

Binding calculation: $2 \times 56 + 2 \times 56 = 224$ in perimeter. Allow 20 in for corners, end joining, and handling: 244 in required. Seven P10 strips provide approximately **280 in usable length** after diagonal joins.

1. Join the seven E P10 strips with diagonal seams. Trim seam allowances to $\frac{1}{4}$ in and press open. Press the long binding strip in half lengthwise, wrong sides together.
2. After quilting, square the quilt and trim batting and backing even with the top. Preserve the $\frac{1}{4}$ in seam allowance outside the top's finished boundary.
3. Attach binding to the front with raw edges aligned and a $\frac{1}{4}$ in seam. Leave an 8 in starting tail, begin midway along a side, and miter all four corners.
4. Stop before the starting point, leaving room to join the tails. Open the tails, overlap by the $2\frac{1}{2}$ in strip width, and join diagonally. Check that the binding lies flat, trim, refold, and finish sewing it to the front.

5. Turn the folded edge to the back and hand-stitch it just beyond the attachment seam, covering the stitching. Secure corner miters on both sides.

7. Finishing notes

- Inspect the star tips, sashing intersections, border joins, and binding for open seams or missed stitches. Remove basting threads and all temporary markings according to their manufacturer's instructions.
- Check that the binding encloses all raw edges and that the four corners lie flat. Add a label on the back with the quilt name, maker, and completion date.
- Wash gently in cool water with a mild textile detergent and a color-catching sheet. Dry flat or tumble on low until slightly damp, then lay square to finish drying. Cotton fabrics and batting will soften and shrink slightly.
- If blocking is needed, gently align the damp quilt's sides at right angles without stretching the floral border. Store clean and dry, away from direct sunlight; refold along different lines periodically.

Template note: every fabric piece in this pattern is rotary-cut from the dimensions in the cutting table. The illustrations are construction and placement diagrams, not full-size templates; no scale-test page is needed.