Tutorial - Hidden Gems Quilt

Add a splash of colour to your summer, indoors or out! This quilt is full of surprises.
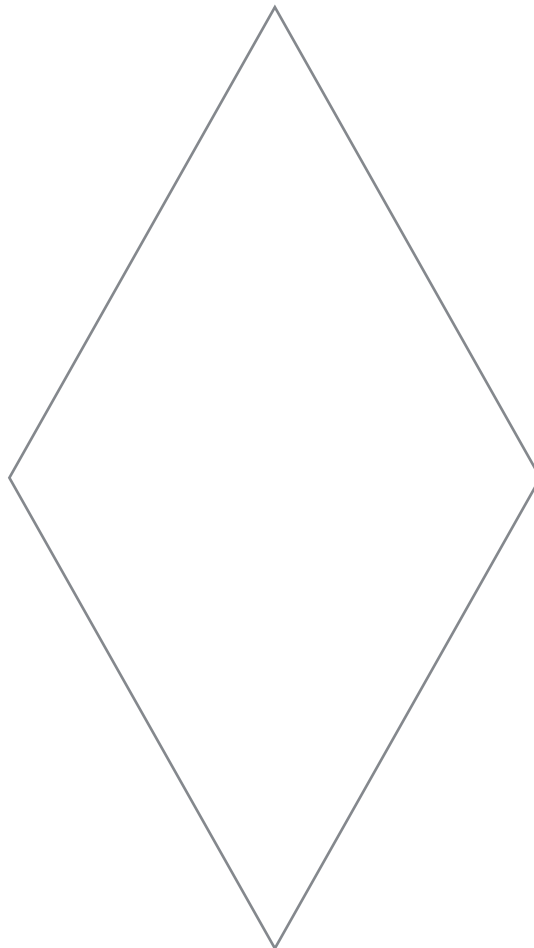
You can make this simple project any size you want. In my case the Finished Quilt measures: approx. 44" x 52"
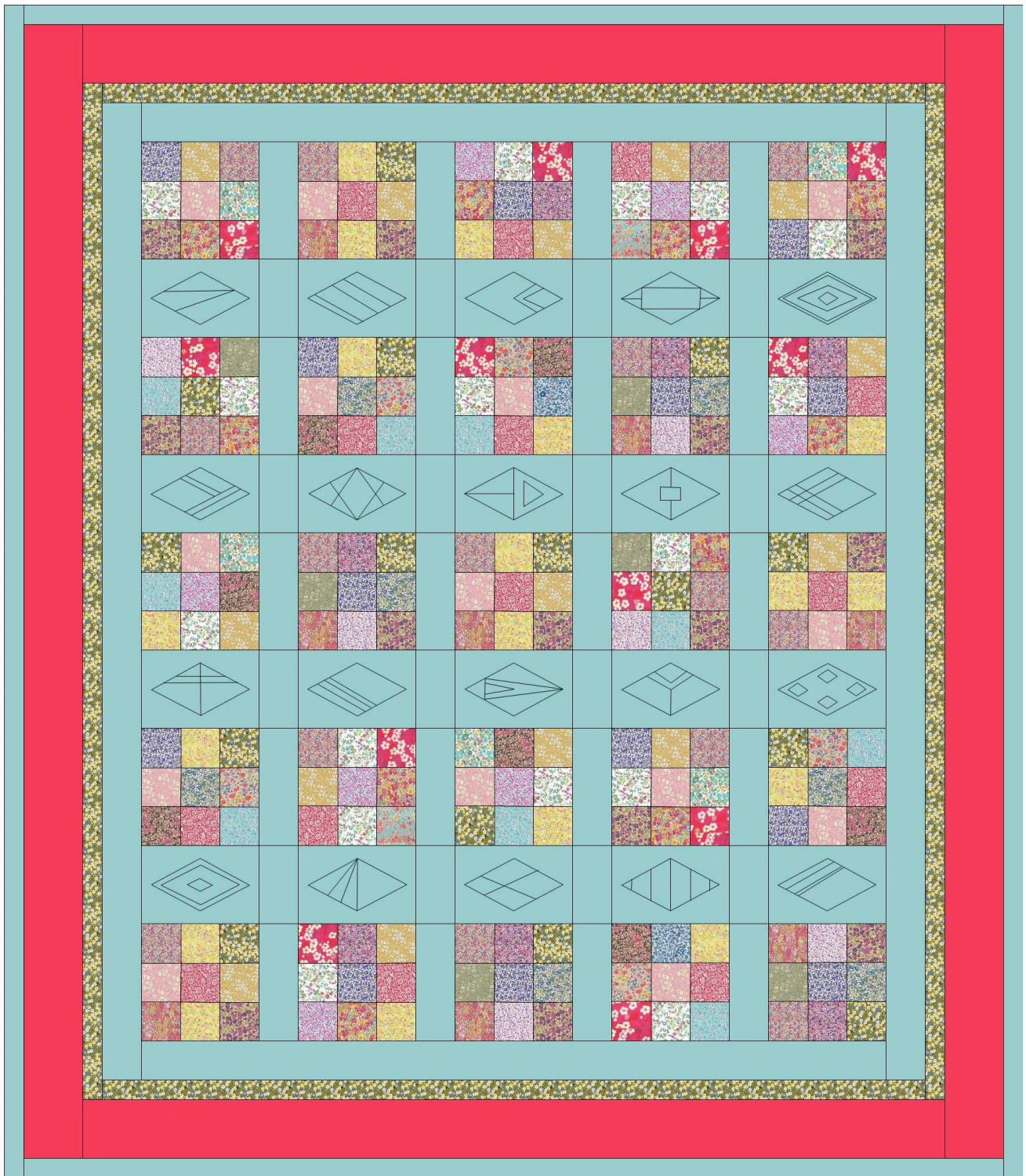
I used:
25 x 9 patch blocks. Make these using 2.5" squares of print fabric and quarter inch seam allowances.

20 : 4" x 6" Rectangles of Plain fabric for embroidering the diamonds.
I used Chambray as it compliments Liberty fabrics especially well. These are quick and easy to do and I used Perle Cotton #8 and a simple running stitch.   Use the outline below to make a cardboard template and then just let your imagination run away with you. Use the Pattern diagram for suggestions on how to embroider. I used a chalk pencil to mark my diamond design on the chambray fabric and then a simple running stitch to make the 'Hidden Gems'.

Simply add your borders: Chambray border - Cut 2" wide
Liberty border - Cut 1.25"wide
Red Chambray border - Cut 3" wide
Binding - Cut 2.5" wide

For the Poetry Band on the back, I cut a 4" wide sash of red chambray.

Here are some tips for using the Machine 'Monograming function' on your sewing machine.

* Always try out the sort of lettering you want to use first. I find that some are much clearer than others and on my Janome I have five different styles to choose from. This one is the largest option and the one I use the most.
* I find it is better to use a high contrasting thread for this, especially if it is going to be quilted afterwards.
* Test out the first line of the verse on some scrap fabric. This will give you an idea of how it will fit across the strip you are working on. Roughly calculate how long each line will be so that you can work out how much space to leave in between lines, both vertically and horizontally.   This avoids it all being bunched up at one end.
* Store the lines in your machine's memory in case you have to do it again and MAKE SURE you have enough thread in your bobbin, because it is very difficult to line it up again accurately if you have to break to wind a new one.
* I prefer to trim away the threads between the words, which only takes a few minutes and gives the poetry lines a clearer image.
* Using the Monograming function on your machine is really useful for quilt labels too!

Happy Stitchin'

Ruby x