

modern
patchwork®

Owl Eyes Quilt

William Morris version

by **JEN CARLTON BAILLY** quilted by **NANCY STOVALL**



AS SEEN IN
MODERN PATCHWORK
MARCH/APRIL 2018

Photography by HornickRivlin.com

Owl Eyes is a quilt design that will stretch your curved piecing muscles. While the shape is simple to sew, the color placement is important. Keep the blocks in order by placing them right next to your machine while sewing and use a design wall for organization.



CUTTING

Measurements include $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances. Trace templates onto template material. Cut out and label the templates. Refer to **Nesting Diagrams** for most efficient use of fabric when cutting templates A + B.

From each red print, cut:

- 2 ($6\frac{1}{2}$ " \times 40") strips. From the strips, cut 9 template A.

From each blue print and ivory print, cut:

- 1 ($6\frac{1}{2}$ " \times 40") strip. From the strip, cut 6 template A.
- 2 ($6\frac{3}{4}$ " \times 40") strips. From the strips, cut 12 template B.

From each 1 blue print and 1 ivory print, cut:

- 1 additional template A.
- 2 additional template B.

From binding, cut:

- 9 ($2\frac{1}{4}$ " \times 40") strips.

ASSEMBLY

1. Following the quilt photo, arrange the pieces on a design wall.

2. Referring to **Modern Basics: Curved Piecing**, sew a template A and template B to create a block. Press the seam allowance toward the center. Trim blocks to $6\frac{1}{2}$ " square so just $\frac{1}{4}$ " of template B remains for seam allowance. Make 49 each of:

- red A/blue B
- red A/ivory B
- ivory A/blue B
- blue A/ivory B blocks.

MATERIALS

Finished Size: 84" \times 84"

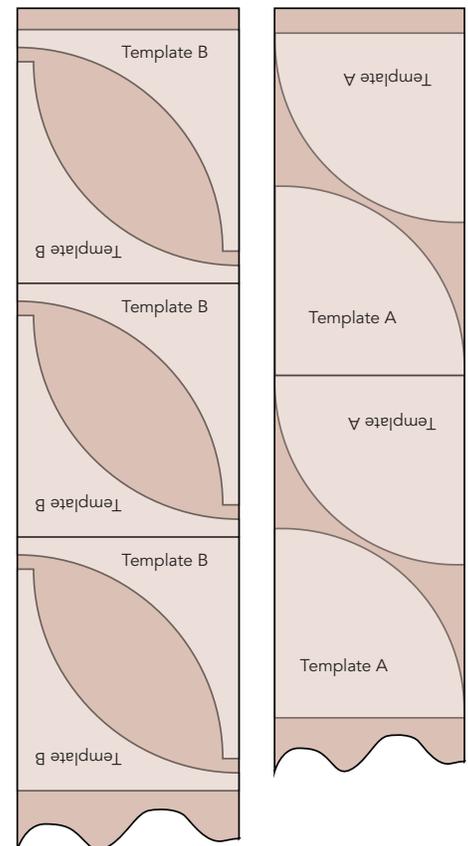
Finished Blocks: 196 (6") blocks

- $\frac{1}{2}$ yard each of 11 red William Morris prints
- $\frac{5}{8}$ yard each of 8 blue and 8 ivory William Morris prints
- Templates A + B
- Template material
- $5\frac{1}{4}$ yards backing
- $\frac{3}{4}$ yard binding
- Queen-size batting

Fabric requirements assume 40" usable width of fabric.

NOTE: Fabrics used in the quilt shown are from the William Morris collection by FreeSpirit Fabrics.

Nesting Diagrams



TIP: Return the sewn blocks to the design wall to stay organized and create the quilt top design. Follow the value changes in the quilt shown.

3. Sew the blocks into pairs, then into Four Patch units, and then into 16 Patch units or 8 Patch half units.

TIP: It's easier to keep track of the blocks and match seams when sewing into units before creating the rows.

4. Sew the larger units in rows; sew the rows to complete the quilt top.

FINISHING

1. Divide the backing into 2 ($2\frac{5}{8}$ -yard) lengths. Sew panels lengthwise.

2. Layer backing, batting, and quilt top; baste. Quilt as desired. Quilt shown was quilted with an all-over motif including vines, leaves, and even strawberries—as homage to one of the most famous prints in the collection called Strawberry Thief.

3. Sew $2\frac{1}{4}$ "-wide binding strips into 1 continuous piece for straight-grain French-fold binding; see **Modern Basics: French-fold Binding**. Bind the quilt.

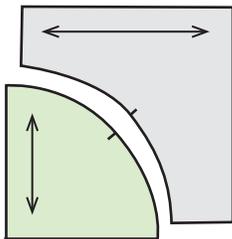


Curved Piecing

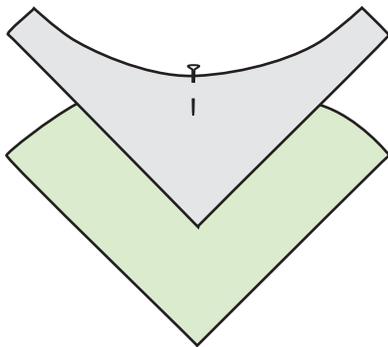
Curved piecing is ubiquitous in modern quilts, but some quilters ignore it because they've avoided learning how to sew curves. Like many things, piecing curves takes a little practice. With these tips, you'll soon be creating smooth curved seams like a pro!

NOTE: These illustrations show the Drunkard's Path block but these tips are true for all blocks with curved pieces.

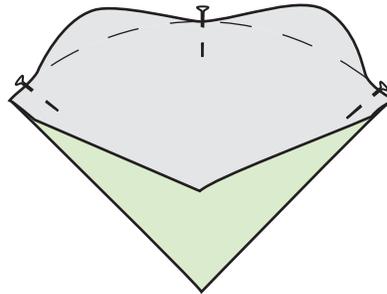
1. Cut a convex quarter circle piece and a concave L-shaped piece from contrasting fabrics. Fold each piece in half. Finger press at the curved centers.



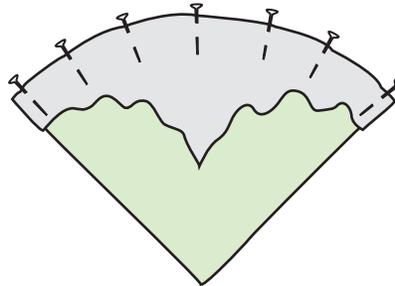
2. With right sides together and the L-shaped piece on top, align press marks and pin in the center of the block.



3. Pin the outside edges together with the straight edges matching.



4. You might find it necessary to add more pins between the 3 original pins, but this step is optional.



5. Sew the curve. Sew slowly and remove the pins as you come to them, easing the top and bottom fabrics together to avoid tucks.

6. Press the seams toward the quarter circle piece to make it pop, or toward the L-shaped piece to make the circles recede. A bit of spray starch helps keep the circles smooth.

ACCURACY MATTERS

Curved blocks precision cutting and sewing will make a difference in piecing success. Here are some tips for troubleshooting them.

Smooth curves: Always sew with the L-shaped piece on top so you can see the fabric as it eases into the curved shape of the quarter circle as you sew.

Off-kilter blocks: If the fabric is pulled when sewing, the block might stretch out of square. Try trimming the block to size, or pick out the stitches, press the pieces with starch, and sew again.

Tucks: Sometimes small tucks may get sewn into the seam. If this happens, pull out the stitches around the tuck, ease the fabrics back together, and re-sew the open portion with a smooth curve.

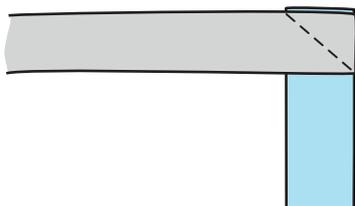
Save time: Making a single block can be time consuming. Batching tasks helps establish a more efficient routine when sewing—cut all the pieces, then move to pinning, sewing, pressing, and finally squaring them all up.

French-fold Binding

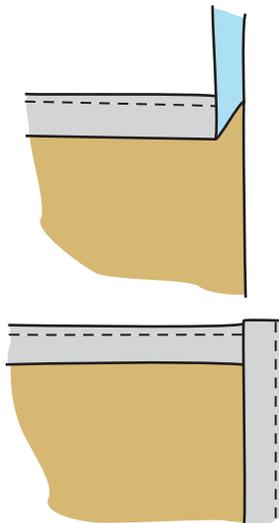
A well-made binding will protect the edges of your quilt, add to the overall design, and make it last longer. The following technique is for creating a French-fold binding, also known as a double-fold binding.

PREPARE THE BINDING

1. Measure the perimeter of your quilt and add approximately 24". The additional length will accommodate the mitered corners and the finished ends of the binding, and give you a few inches to spare.
2. Cut enough 2¼"-wide strips to equal the desired length.
3. Join the strips together using diagonal seams. To do this, place two strips, right sides together at right angles. The area where the strips overlap forms a square. Sew diagonally across the square. Trim the excess fabric ¼" from the seam line and press the seam allowance open.



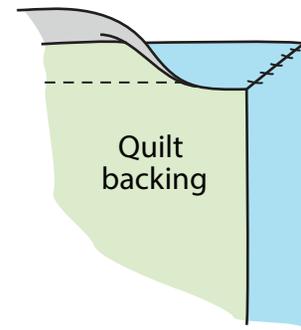
4. Lightly press the binding in half lengthwise, with wrong sides facing.



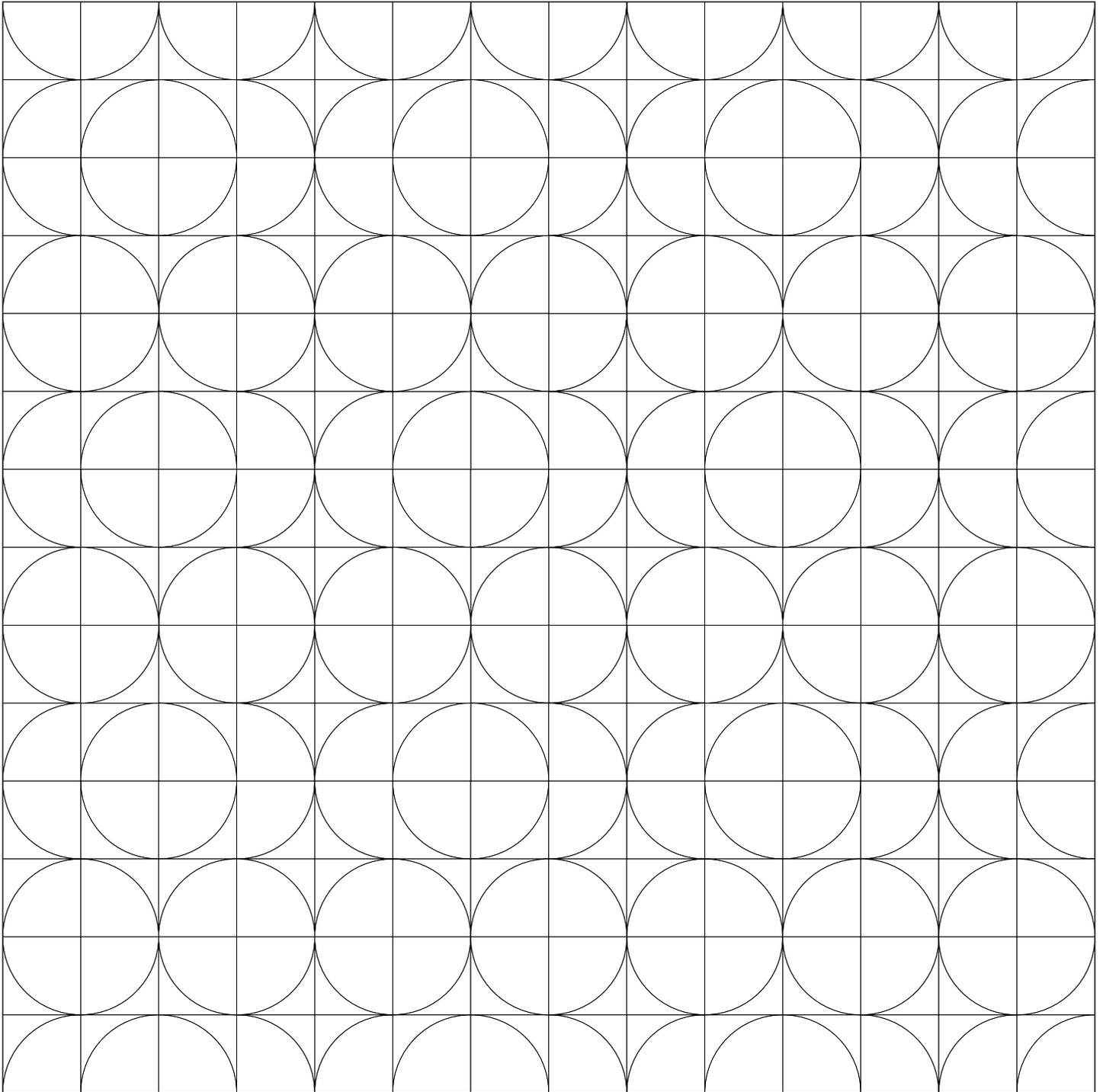
ATTACH THE BINDING

1. Open up the binding and press ½" to the wrong side at one short end. Refold the binding lengthwise. Choose a starting point along one side of the quilt, at least 8" from the corner. Leaving several inches of the folded end of the binding loose at the beginning, align the raw edges of the binding strip to the raw edges of the right side of the quilt top. Pin or clip in place. Begin sewing, using a ¼" seam allowance.
2. Stop sewing ¼" before reaching the corner, backstitch, clip the threads, and remove the quilt from the sewing machine.
3. Rotate the quilt 90° to position it for sewing the next side. Fold the binding fabric up away from the project. Then, fold the binding back down along the project raw edge. This forms a miter at the corner. Stitch the second side beginning at the raw edge and continuing down the second side, ending ¼" from the next corner. Continue to add the binding to the remainder of the quilt.

4. To finish the binding, stop stitching several inches from the starting point. Measure and trim the working edge to fit at least ½" under the folded edge of the beginning end of the binding. Trim the binding at that point.
5. Slide the trimmed end under the folded edge and finish sewing the binding.
6. Fold the binding to the back of the quilt, enclosing the raw edges. The folded edge of the binding strip should just cover the stitches visible on the back of the quilt.
7. Sew the binding in place by hand, tucking in the corners to complete the miters as you go. Slipstitch the folds for a tidy finish.



Color your own version of Jen’s “Owl Eyes” quilt!



TEST SQUARE

2" x 2"

Assembling the Full-Size Pattern

1. Before printing, check that the printer is set to print at 100% with no scaling.
2. Print the page with this Test Square. If the square is 2" x 2", print the remainder of the pattern.
3. The Preview Page shows how the pattern will look when it is assembled. Pages are numbered in rows. The first row of of pages is numbered, 1a, 1b, 1c, and so on.
4. To assemble the pattern: trim, overlap, or fold at the dotted line around each page. Tape the pattern together.

Owl Eyes
TEMPLATE A

