



Grandma's Tea Party

Size of Quilt (as shown): 23"h x 24-3/4" w (approx.)

Individual Block Sizes:

Teapot 6" x 9"
Teacup 3" x 4-1/2"
Broken Dishes 1-3/4" x 1-3/4"

Fabric and Notions Needed:

7/8 yd background
3/4 yd for inner border and binding
fat eighths or scraps in a variety of prints and colors for teapots, cups and border
3/4 yd for outer border
thread, backing fabric, batting

Fabric Color and Print Selection Pointers:

For an old-fashioned, informal garden party look, select a variety of medium value and medium-scale florals in soft, bright colors (think of Grandma's hand-painted china -- many prints designed for watercolor quilts would be perfect) for the teapot body and the teacups. These should contrast well with the light small-scale tone-on-tone print to be chosen for the background. Select one or more small-scale coordinating prints for the teapot lid, handle and spout, and if you choose, for teacup saucers and/or handles. These teacup and teapot fabrics will also be used in the Broken Dishes border.

The plain inner border should be a dark tone-on-tone or low contrast print; the same fabric is used for the binding. For the outer border, select a floral print similar to, or the same as, one of the teacup fabrics.

For a different look and feel, choose a variety of blue and white prints in designs like those found on old willow ware china for the teapot and teacups.

Making the Foundation Patterns:

You have permission to photocopy the foundation patterns for your personal use in making this design. You'll need 1 teapot foundation (4 sections) and 9 teacup foundations (1 teacup foundation may be used as a cutting template). If you chose to foundation piece the Broken Dishes border, you'll need 34 BD-1 foundations and 8 BD-2 foundations. Alternatively, the border can be pieced with rotary cutting techniques.

Cutting Guide:

Teacups: Cut 2-3/4" x 4-1/4" rectangles for teacup bodies, 1" x 5-1/4" strips for saucers, and one 3/4" x 5" strip for the three pieces in each teacup handle.

Cut 8 strips 1" x 5-1/4" from background fabric for Piece 12 of the teacup (above cup). Since the block and its component pieces are so small, it is not critical to align fabric grain precisely, and so you may cut the background fabric for the remaining pieces as you sew each block, making sure to add plenty of extra for seam allowances

Teapot: As with the teacups, cut each piece as you go from your fabrics, making sure to add plenty of extra for seam allowances.

Inner Border: Cut along the length of the fabric (the less stretchy direction) 2 strips 1-1/2" x 17" and 2 strips 1-1/2" x 15".

Binding: As you prefer, cut bias or straight grain binding strips 1-3/4" wide, to make a total length of at least 100".

Broken Dishes Border: For foundation piecing the Broken Dishes border, cut 76 3-1/2" squares of background fabric and a total of 76 3-1/2" squares of the floral prints used in the teacups and teapot. (These pieces will be generously sized for foundation piecing.) Cut each square along both diagonals in an "X", making four triangles with straight of grain along the longest edge.

For quick piecing the Broken Dishes border, cut 76 3" squares of background fabric and a total of 76 3" squares of the floral prints used in the teacups and teapot.

Outer Border: Along the length of the fabric (if possible), cut two fabric strips 3" x 27" and two strips 3" x 25".

Sewing Guide:

Unless otherwise stated, sew all seams with 1/4" seam allowance. Do not remove foundation papers until the entire top is completed, except as necessary on the undersides of sewn and pressed seams that will be crossed by additional seams.

Foundation piece the teapot and 8 tea cups. Add interest to your teacups by making some of the saucers and handles in coordinating small-scale prints. You may wish to even pre-piece the teacup body to make an edging along the top of the cup in another print or solid color. Foundation piece each section of the teapot, and join sections taking care to match endpoints carefully. Trim finished blocks along edge of 1/4" seam allowance (dashed line).

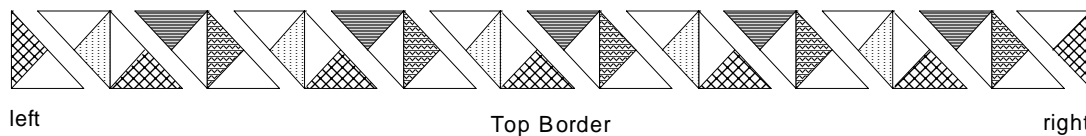
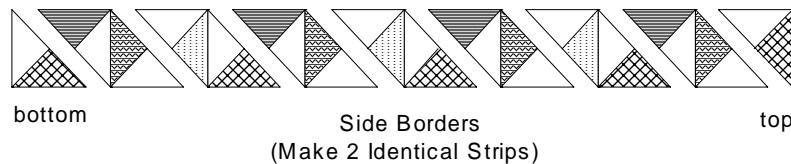
Arrange your teapot and teacup blocks as shown in the drawing. Sew the blocks together. Press seams well. Cut a strip of your background fabric 1" x 8-1/2". Sew it along the right edge of your piece, along the edges of the 4 teacup handles. This spacer strip is necessary to make the quilt the right size for the Broken Dishes border. If you choose to do a plain border instead, you may omit this step. Press the spacer strip open and flat. Trim the long edge of the spacer strip so that the finished width of your central teacup and teapot panel is 14-1/4". Your central panel should measure 14-1/4" w by 12-1/2" h.

Inner plain border: Sew the inner border strips to the four sides of the quilt, mitering the corners. Now your central panel should measure 16-1/4" w x 14-1/2" h.

Broken Dishes border:

Foundation pieced: Foundation piece 34 BD-1 parallelograms, following the fabric placements as noted on the foundations. (Random placement of floral scraps is recommended with this technique.) For your 8 BD-2 triangles, sew 4 triangles with Piece 1 = floral and Piece 2 = background; sew the other 4 triangles with Piece 1 = background and Piece 2 = floral.

Paying careful attention to the placement of light and dark fabrics, arrange the BD-1 parallelograms as shown in the diagram below to form border strips. Square off the strips with a BD-2 triangle at each end, again watching placement of lights and darks. You'll need 10 BD-1 parallelograms for the top and bottom strips, and 7 BD-1 parallelograms for each side strip.



Sew the side strips onto the quilt first, then the top and bottom strips. With the papers still on, sew a line of stay-stitching all around the edge of the quilt well within the 1/4" seam allowance. This helps stabilize the edges and prevent stretching out of shape.

Quick pieced: If you prefer your floral scraps "paired" in each Broken Dish block as shown in the color drawing, use this method instead. Refer to cutting guide for number and size of squares to cut from each fabric. Align 1 square of a floral fabric exactly on top of 1 square of background fabric, with right sides together. Pin in several spots. Using a pencil or fabric marker, draw a diagonal line from corner to corner on the light fabric square (solid line on Fig. 1). This will be the cutting line, but don't cut yet.

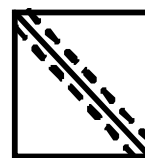


Fig. 1

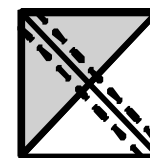


Fig. 2

Sew 1/4" from *each* side of this diagonal line (the dotted lines are sewing lines in Fig. 1); cut along cutting line (the solid line). Open and press seam allowance toward dark fabric; you should have 2 squares, each with a dark and a light half-square triangle. Lay these squares right sides together, matching up seam allowances with one light triangle on top of one dark triangle, and vice versa. Pin in several places. Draw the diagonal line opposite to the seam diagonal as shown in Figure 2.

As before, sew 1/4" from each side of the diagonal line. Cut along cutting line. Open and press -- voila! Repeat with the remaining light and dark squares. Measure your blocks -- are they exactly 2-1/4" square? Trim as needed.

Sew the blocks into 4 strips as follows:

2 strips with 8 blocks (for sides)

2 strips with 11 blocks (for both top and bottom)

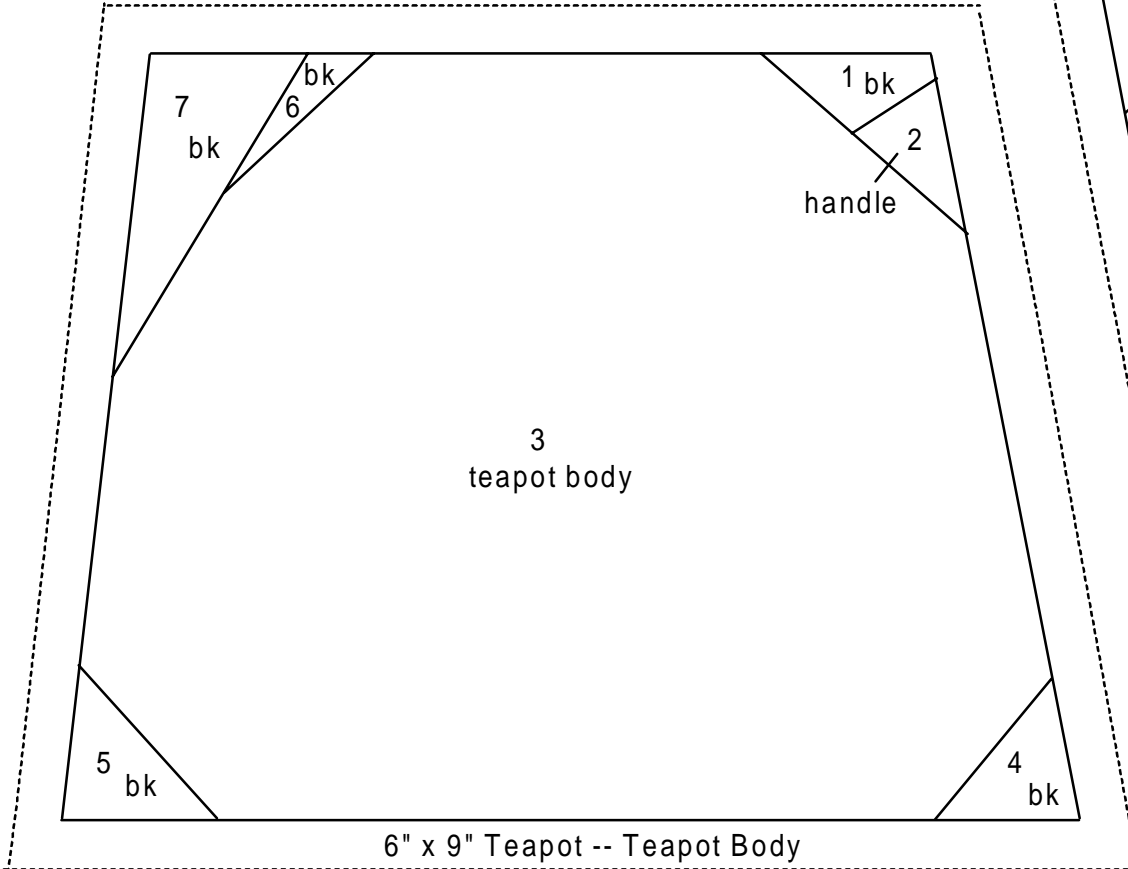
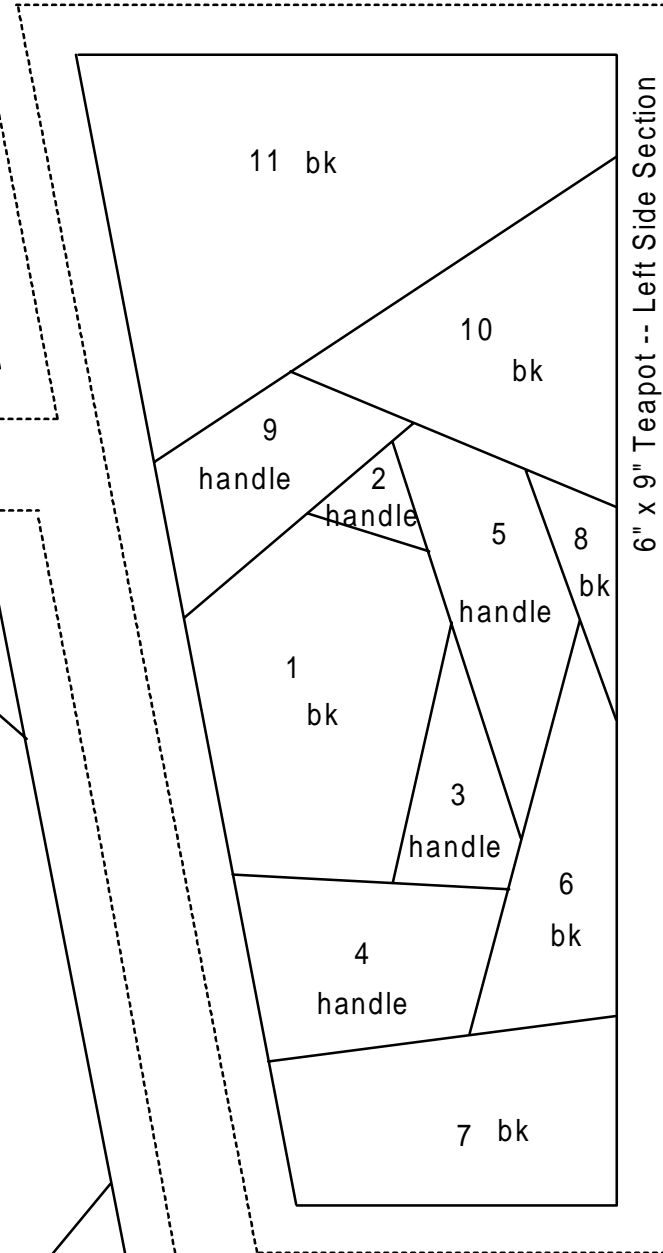
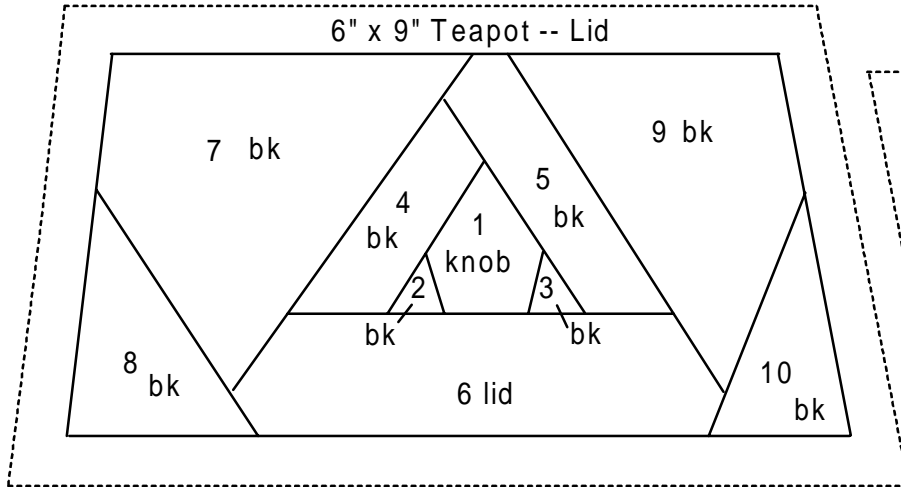
Use the drawing on the front or the diagram above to help you position light and dark fabrics properly.

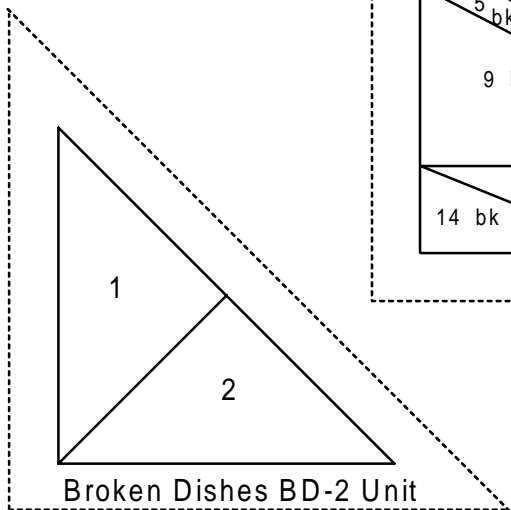
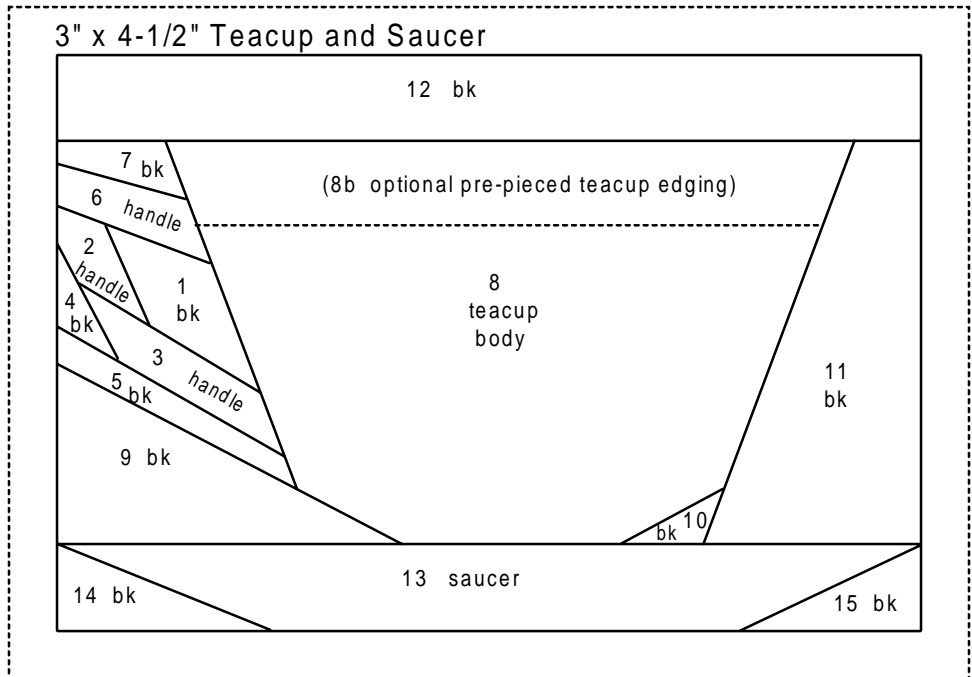
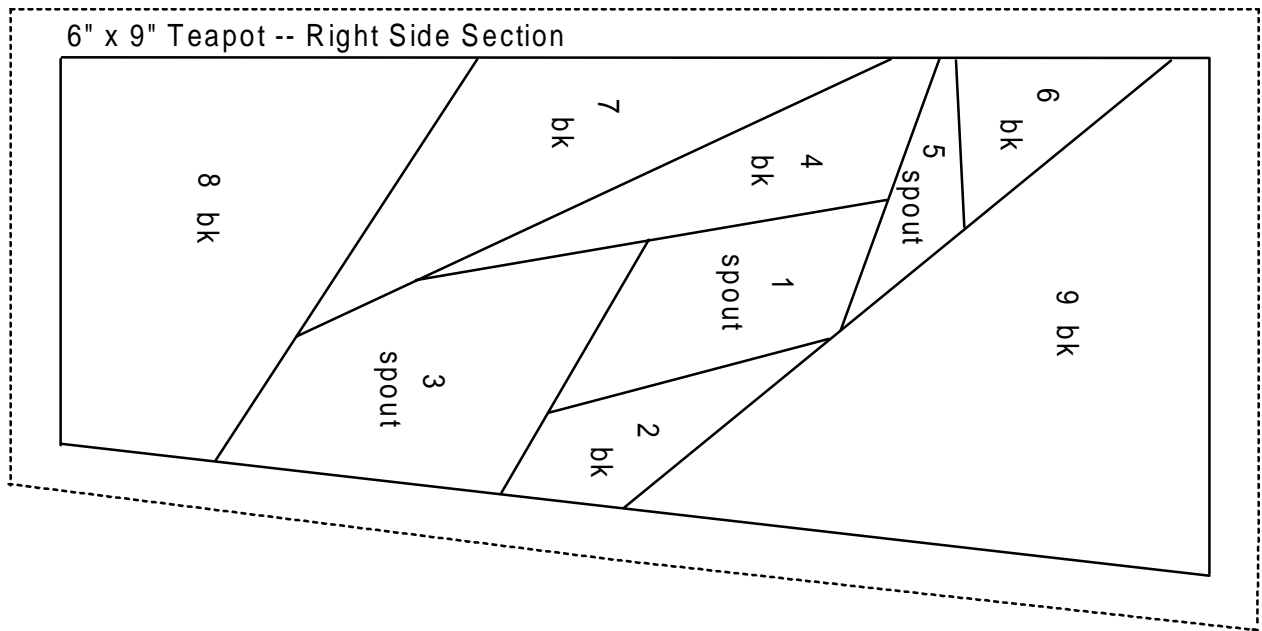
Sew side Broken Dishes strips to central panel first, then top and bottom strips.

Outer plain border: Sew the outer border strips to the four sides of the quilt, mitering the corners.

Finishing: Remove papers, press top nicely. Layer, baste and quilt. As this is such a small quilt, only very simple quilting by machine is recommended. You may choose to quilt in the ditch between the blocks and around both sides of the inner border, or a simple overall pattern such as a diagonal grid or lines (using the diagonal lines of the Broken Dishes border as a spacing guide). In keeping with the teacup theme, you could also use a real teacup as a template for a clam-shell quilting pattern! Sew binding all around quilt edges using your favorite method.

Don't forget to label your quilt, too, with your name and date. I hope you've enjoyed sewing this pattern as much I did creating it.





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