



Sonnenblumen Dresden Sunflowers

by Kimberly Einmo



DRESDEN SUNFLOWERS, 52" x 52" by Kimberly Einmo. Machine quilting by Carolyn Archer.

Before living in Germany, one of my biggest misconceptions was that the German landscape was all pretty much the same. I couldn't have been more wrong!

The scenery changes quickly and dramatically as you drive along the autobahns. Hills are fragrant, green, and manicured to perfection. Quaint villages are tucked neatly away in valleys or perched precariously along steep, craggy hillsides. Castles on top

of rugged cliffs stand as testament to ages past. Vineyards wander for miles past majestic rivers and grow almost vertically up the sides of mountains, which makes me wonder how the villagers harvest those grapes.

I was most surprised with the seemingly endless fields of sunflowers that bloom profusely in late summer. Sunflowers are a staple crop in Germany as well as a popular addition to almost every backyard garden. Sunflowers are

one of my favorite flowers, too, so I just had to make a *sonnenblumen* (German for sunflower) quilt. Because Dresden is a city rich with history and tradition, I chose the traditional Dresden Fan and Dresden Plate blocks for the design.

Making the Petals

To make a petal point, fold a wedge (C or D patch) right sides together (fig. 1). Sew across the top with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, locking the stitches at the beginning and end of the seam with very close stitching. Clip the folded corner at an angle, close to the stitching, and then turn the point right side out. Center the seam in the middle of the wedge and press. Make points on all the wedges.

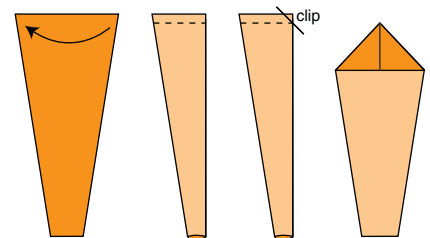


Fig. 1

Making the Blocks

Mark the background squares (A and B) on two adjacent sides $1\frac{3}{4}$ " from the edges for the small A squares and $2\frac{1}{2}$ " for the large B squares (fig. 2). The marks will help you align the wedges on the squares and then align the blocks when they are sewn together.

Lay out 5 large wedges, side by side, in a pleasing color arrangement. Sew the wedges together and press the seam allowances all in the same direction.

Following the alignment marks, place the wedge unit on the back-

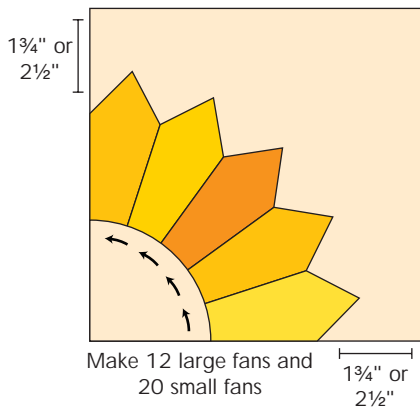
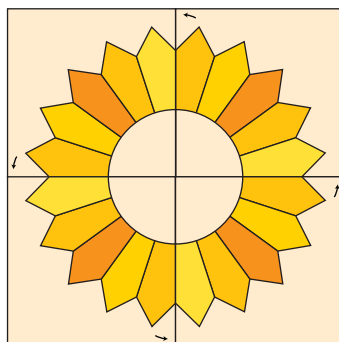


Fig. 2

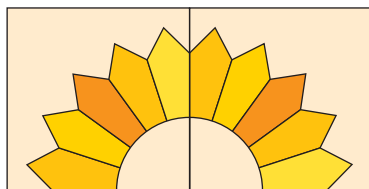
ground square and pin. Using a narrow zigzag stitch with matching or monofilament thread, stitch the petals to the background. Make 12 large and 20 small fan units.

Join 16 small fan units to make 4 small Dresden Plate blocks, and join 4 large fan units to make the center Dresden Plate block (fig. 3). Combine the remaining large fan units to make 4 half Dresden Plate blocks (fig. 4).



Make 4 small blocks and 1 large center block

Fig. 3



Make 4

Fig. 4

Appliquing the Centers

Prepare the E, F, G, and H patches for appliqué, turning under only the curved edges. The straight edges will be sewn into seams when the quilt is assembled. Place the prepared E, F, G, and H patches on the appropriate blocks and appliqué in place using a

FABRIC & CUTTING REQUIREMENTS

Skill level: Easy

Quilt size: 52" x 52"
 Finished block sizes:
 10" x 10", 5" x 5"

- Requirements are based on 40" fabric width.
- Strips are cut from selvage to selvage unless otherwise noted.

Tan – 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ yards

- 20 A, 12 B

Golds, oranges, and yellows – 10 fabrics at $\frac{1}{8}$ yard each

- 10 C, 6 D from each fabric

Brown – $\frac{3}{8}$ yard

- 4 E, 4 F, 4 G, 1 H

Dark green – $\frac{1}{3}$ yard

- inner border, 5 strips 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 40"

Sunflower print – 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ yards

- outer border, 4 strips 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (cut parallel to selvages)

Binding – $\frac{1}{2}$ yard

- 6 strips 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 40" (220" of continuous binding)

Backing – 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards

- 2 panels 31" x 60"
- sleeve, 1 strip 9" x 52" (cut parallel to selvages)

Batting

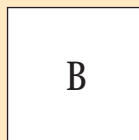
- 60" x 60"

ROTARY CUTTING

Dimensions include seam allowances.



5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "



10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

C – H: Patterns on pages 00 – 00.

narrow zigzag stitch and matching or monofilament thread.

Assembling the Quilt

Lay out the blocks as shown in the quilt assembly diagram, on the next page, rotating them to achieve the desired block placement. Sew the blocks together in horizontal rows, and then sew the rows together.

Join the inner border strips end to end. From this long piece, cut 2 strips 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ " for the sides, and cut 2 strips 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ " for the top and bottom. Matching centers and ends, sew the inner border side strips to the quilt center. Press the seam allowances away from the quilt center. Now add the inner border top and bottom strips and press as before. Matching cen-

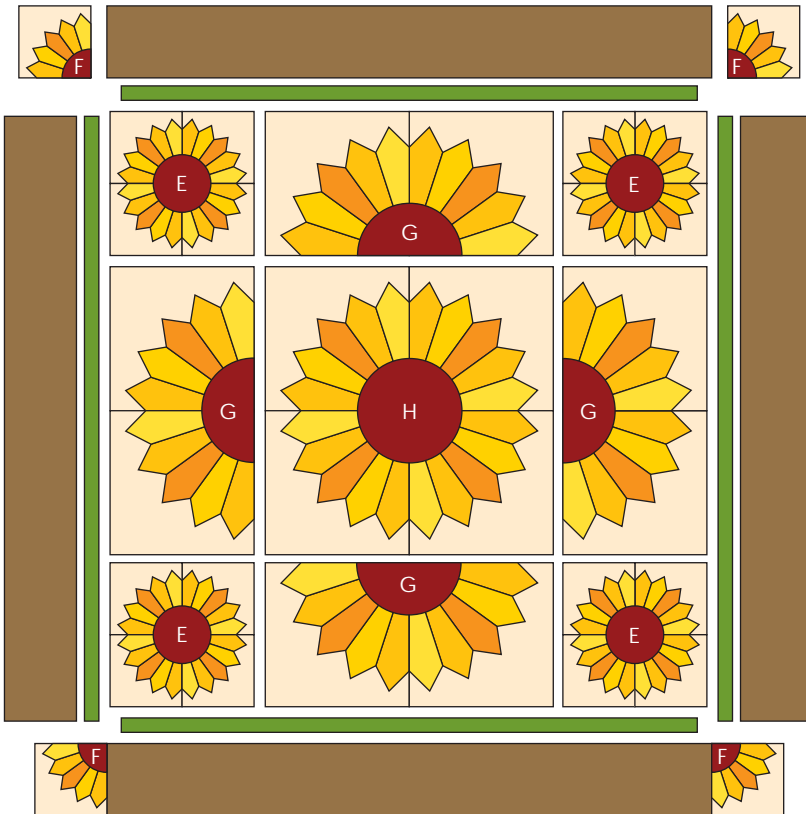
ters and ends, sew two of the outer border strips to the sides of the quilt and press the seam allowances away from the quilt center. Sew the Dresden Fan blocks to the ends of the remaining border strips, orienting the blocks as shown. Press the seam allowances toward the border strips. Add these border strips to the top and bottom of the quilt.

Quilting and Finishing

Layer the backing, batting, and the quilt top. Baste the layers together. Quilt as desired.

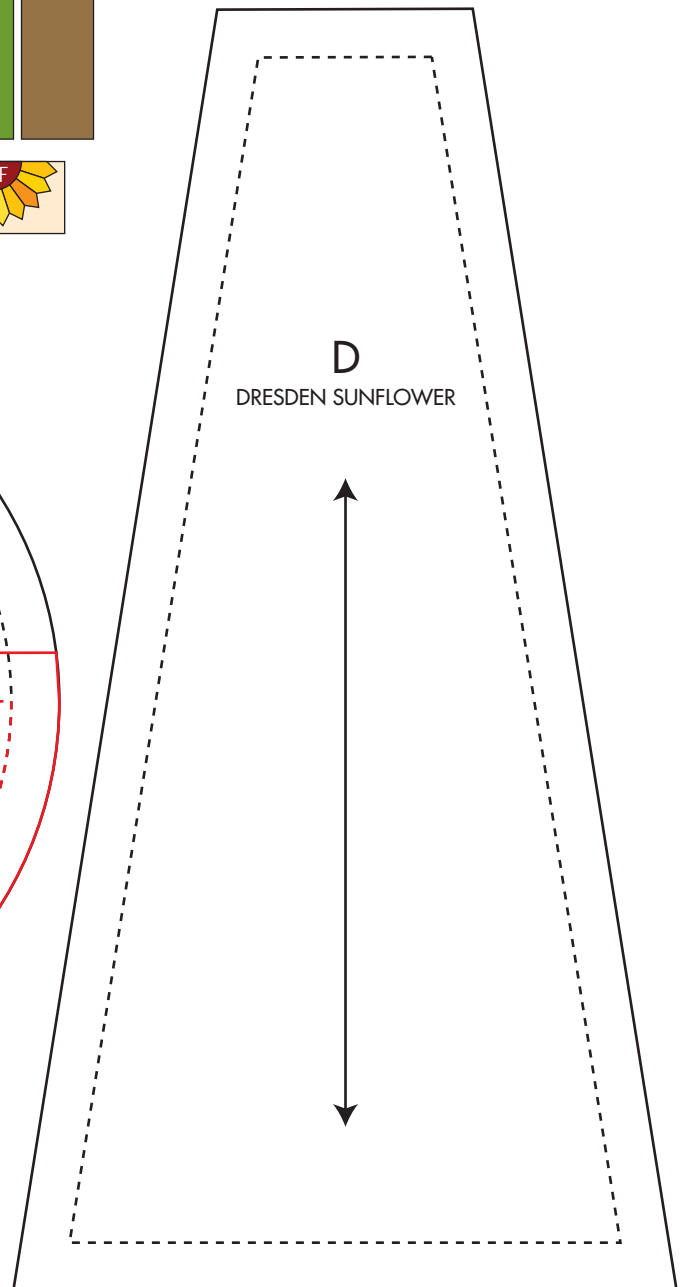
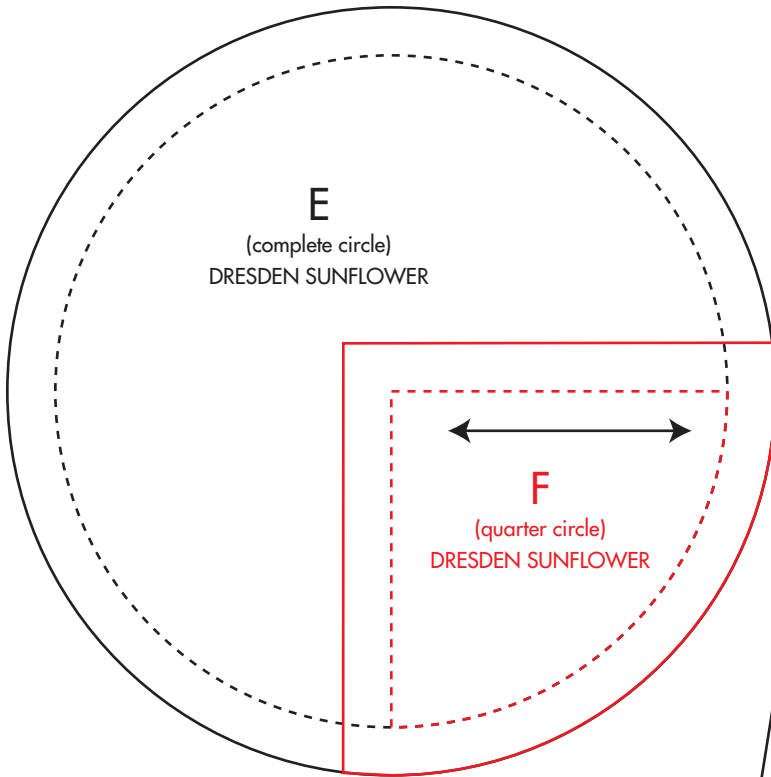
Join the binding strips and finish the quilt edges with double-fold binding.

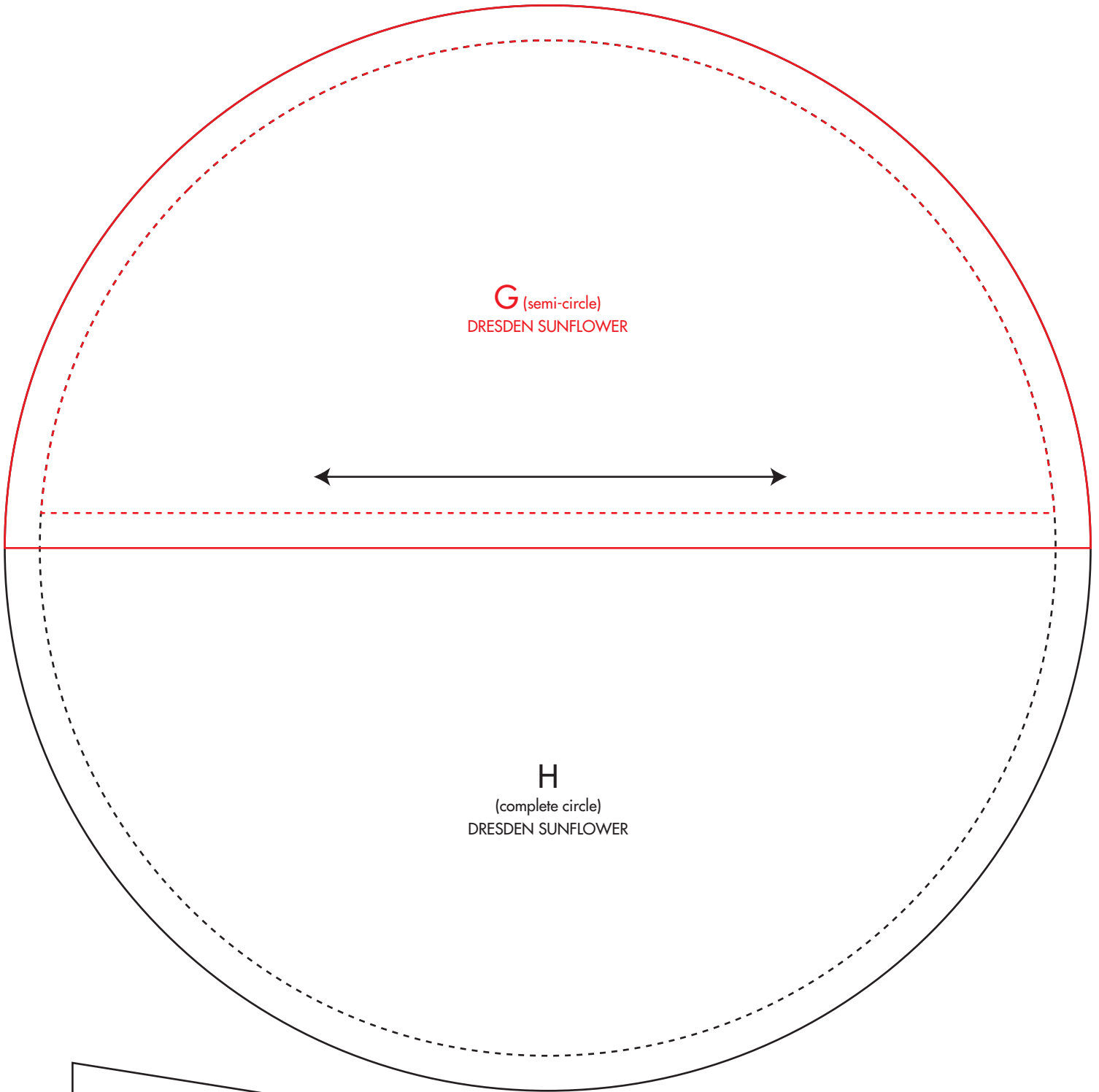
To display your quilt, make a sleeve and sew it to the back.



Quilt assembly

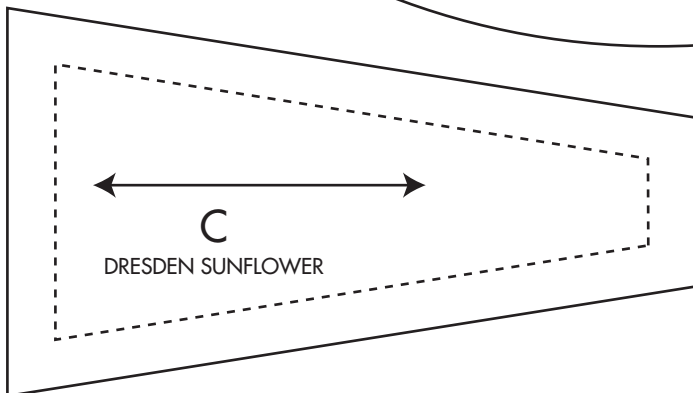
Align arrows with lengthwise or crosswise grain of the fabric.





G (semi-circle)
DRESDEN SUNFLOWER

H
(complete circle)
DRESDEN SUNFLOWER



C
DRESDEN SUNFLOWER