

# Head in the Clouds Pillow

## (Coral colourway)

To accompany the Head in the Clouds quilts, we have created two designs for matching pillows, and the one described here uses a lovely coral background to contrast with the Pie in the Sky print fabrics. A single block makes the perfect size for a pillow. For the dusty teal version of the pillow and the quilt instructions, see tildasworld.com.

Difficulty rating \*\*\*

#### Materials

- Fabric 1: <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>yd (25cm) Solid coral (120016)
- Fabric 2: 5in (13cm) square Confetti blue (100486)
- Fabric 3: 5in (13cm) square Tasselflower mustard (100481)
- Fabric 4: 6in (15cm) square Confetti cerise (100484)
- Fabric 5: 6in (15cm) square Whimsybird blue (100489)
- Fabric 6: 4in (10cm) square Cloudpie blue (110068)
- Fabric 7: 4in (10cm) Topsy Turvy blue (100490)
- Fabric 8: 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in x 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (21.6cm x 6.4cm) Willy Nilly teal (100487)
- Fabric 9: 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in x 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (26.7cm x 6.4cm) Tasselflower blue (100488)
- Fabric 10: 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in x 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (14cm x 6.4cm) Willy Nilly mustard (100485)
- Wadding (batting): 27in x 13in (68.6cm x 33cm)
- Lining fabric (optional): 27in x 13in (68.6cm x 33cm)
- Fabric for back of cover: two pieces each 26in x 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (66cm x 19cm) Cloudpie mustard (110064)
- Binding fabric: <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>yd (50cm) Solid dusty teal (120043)
- Piecing and quilting threads, quilter's ruler, rotary cutter and mat
- Thin card or template plastic for making patterns (templates)
- Five buttons for fastening (optional) Pie in the Sky buttons 16mm diameter (400054)
- Pillow pad to fit cover

#### **Finished Size**

25<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in x 11in (64.8cm x 28cm) approximately

#### **General Notes**

- Fabric quantities are based on a usable width of 42in (107cm), unless otherwise stated.
- Measurements are in imperial inches with metric conversions in brackets use only *one* system throughout (preferably inches).
- Width measurements are generally given first.
- Press all fabrics before cutting.
- Use <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in (6mm) seams unless otherwise instructed.
- Read all the instructions through before you start.
- Make a test unit first from scrap fabrics to practise the curved seam technique.

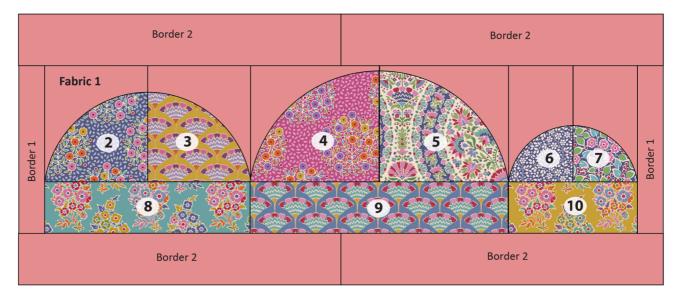
## **Pillow Layout**

1 The pillow is made up of a single cloud block, with the addition of a border. See **Fig A** for the fabrics used and **Fig B** for the pillow layout and positions of the fabrics.

Fig A Fabric swatches



# Fig B Pillow layout and fabric positions

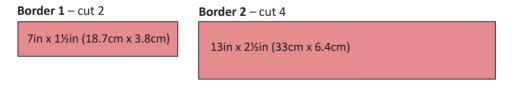


# **Cutting Out**

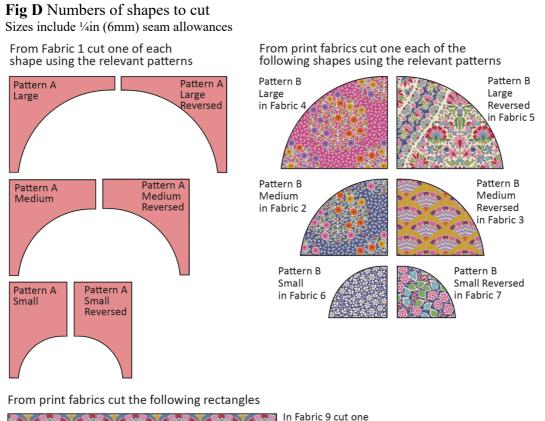
2 For the border, cut the following pieces (see Fig C).

- Border 1 two strips, each  $7 \text{in } x \frac{1}{2} \text{in } (18.7 \text{cm } x 3.8 \text{cm})$ .
- Border 2 four strips, each 13in x 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (33cm x 6.4cm). Sew the strips together in pairs to make two strips 25<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (64.8cm) long, pressing seams open.

**Fig C** Cutting measurements for the borders Sizes include ¼in (6mm) seam allowances



**3** The blocks use patterns to cut the curved fabric shapes and full-size patterns (A and B) are provided for the three different unit sizes (large, medium and small). Patterns include <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in (6mm) seam allowances. Make the patterns out of thin card or template plastic so they have some rigidity. The patterns are *not* symmetrical, so it's best to mark their shapes on the front of the fabric. If the fabric has a directional pattern, you might need to consider this when cutting the B shapes. For the reversed (mirror image) shape, flip the paper pattern over before copying it onto the fabric. Once cut out, check each fabric shape is accurate by placing the pattern back on top. **Fig D** lists how many shapes you will need in total and the fabrics used. The sizes of the rectangles used under the curved units are also given in the diagram.





4 Cut the binding fabric into two strips  $2\frac{1}{2}$ in (6.4cm) x width of fabric. Sew them together end to end and press seams open. Press in half along the length, wrong sides together.

#### **Making the Block**

**5** Before starting to make the actual block, we urge you make a test unit first from any scrap fabrics you have, as sewing curves can be tricky and it's important that the sewn units measure the correct sizes. Follow the cutting and sewing instructions carefully.

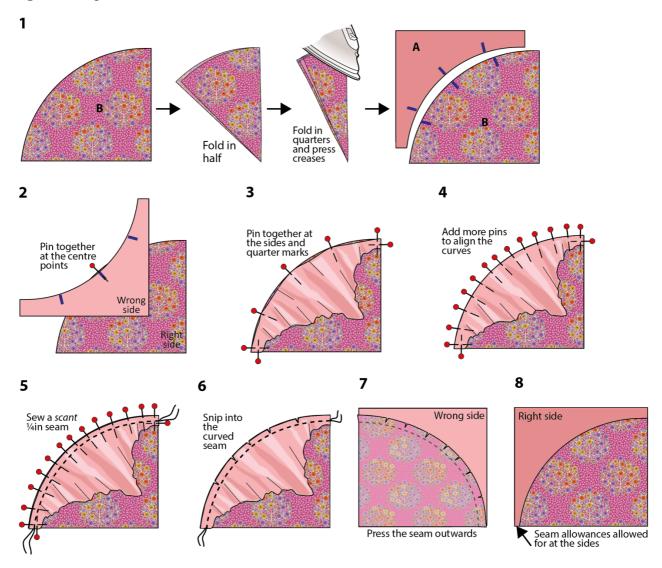
- A large unit should have an unfinished size of 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in x 5in (14cm x 12.7cm).
- A medium unit should have an unfinished size of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in x 5in (11.4cm x 12.7cm).
- A small unit should have an unfinished size of 3in x 5in (7.6cm x 12.7cm).

**6** To make the block, start by selecting the correct pieces and lay them out as in **Fig B** (without the border pieces). Handle the shapes carefully at all stages, as there are bias edges that may stretch. The curved units need to be created first. In the sequence shown in **Fig E** the large pattern sizes are shown but this basic method can be used for all the curved seams.

7 Start by taking a large Pattern A piece of Fabric 1 and Pattern B shape of Fabric 4 and mark or crease the centre and quarter points on the curves of both shapes. The easiest way to do this is to fold each piece into quarters and use an iron to press little creases, which can be seen from the right and wrong side (**Fig E 1**).

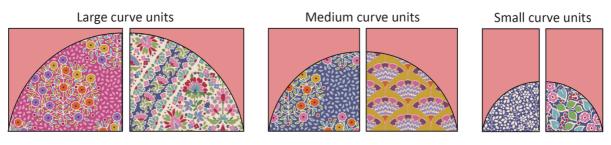
8 Place the pieces right sides together aligning centre marks and pin (Fig E 2). Align the outer edges and the quarter marks and pin at those points too (Fig E 3). Check that the short straight edge of piece A is aligned with the straight edge of piece B, pinning at these places as well. Ease the remaining areas of curved edges together and pin, adding as many pins as needed to ensure that the curves match well (Fig E 4). You may need to pull very slightly to ease the fabric edges into place. Once pinned, check that there are no pleats or tucks formed on the back of the work.

9 Now sew the seam using a *scant*  $\frac{1}{4}$  in (5mm) seam (Fig E 5). A scant seam is one or two needle's width narrower than a normal seam. If you have placed the pins as shown, you should be able to sew over them, leaving them in place until the seam is sewn. Remove the pins and snip into the seam allowance at intervals using sharp-pointed scissors, with cuts about  $\frac{1}{8}$  in (3mm) long (Fig E 6). Press the seam outwards, using the nose of the iron to make sure the seam is pressed fully and smooth (Fig E 7). Take care when pressing not to distort the edges of the unit. The unit is shown from the right side in Fig E 8. Check the unfinished size of the unit is correct. For a large unit this is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in x 5in (14cm x 12.7cm).



10 Make the other curved units for the using the same process. Use the reversed fabric pieces to make the mirror image units. You will need to make six curved units for the block – two large, two medium and two small, as in **Fig F**. Check the unfinished units are the correct sizes. Large = unfinished  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in x 5in (14cm x 12.7cm). Medium = unfinished  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in x 5in (11.4cm x 12.7cm). Small = unfinished 3in x 5in (7.6cm x 12.7cm).

Fig F Sewing the other curved units for the block



11 When the curved units are made, sew the units together into pairs using a normal  $\frac{1}{4}$  in (6mm) seam as shown in **Fig G**. Press the seams open or to one side. Now sew the correct rectangles beneath each pair as shown. Finally, sew the units together in a row, matching seams neatly and press. Check the block is  $23\frac{1}{2}$  in x 7in (59.7cm x 17.8cm) at this stage.

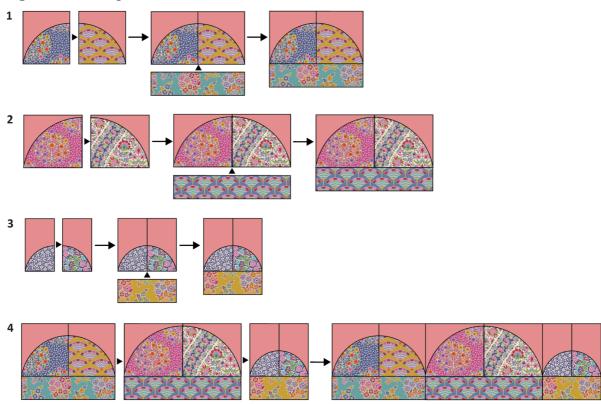
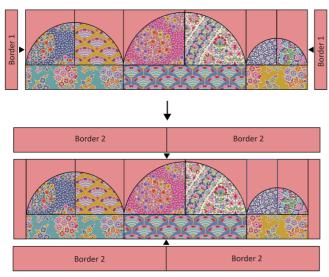


Fig G Assembling the block

## **Adding the Borders**

12 Sew the narrow Border 1 strips to each side of the block and press the seams open or outwards. Sew the longer Border 2 strips to the top and bottom of the block and press the seams open or outwards. The patchwork should now measure  $25\frac{1}{2}$  in x 11in (64.8cm x 28cm).

Fig H Adding the borders



## **Quilting and Finishing**

**13** Make a quilt sandwich of the patchwork, wadding (batting) and lining fabric (if using). Quilt as desired. Trim off excess wadding and lining fabric to match the patchwork size.

14 To make up the pillow cover, take the two pieces of fabric for the pillow back and on one long edge of each piece, create a hem by turning the edge over by 1 in (2.5 cm), twice. Sew the seams with matching thread and press (**Fig K**). The diagram is shown in greys, so you can use the Tilda fabric and buttons suggested in the Materials list, or those of your choice.

**15** For the fastening, using your sewing machine, create five equally spaced buttonholes within the hem of one of the pieces. Sew five buttons onto the other piece, matching their positions to the buttonholes. Note: Instead of making buttonholes, you could use a hook and loop fastening, such as Velcro, to fasten the cover and then sew on the buttons as a decorative feature.

16 The pillow has a bound edge, so the pieces are assembled with right sides out, as follows. Place the quilted patchwork right side down. On the backing, fasten the buttons into the buttonholes and then place the whole piece on top of the patchwork, right side up. Check it is the same size as the patchwork, trimming any raw edges if need be. Make sure the outer edges of all pieces are aligned. Pin or tack (baste) the layers together and then bind as normal. As you sew the binding in place it will fix the other layers together. Press the cover and insert a pillow pad to finish.

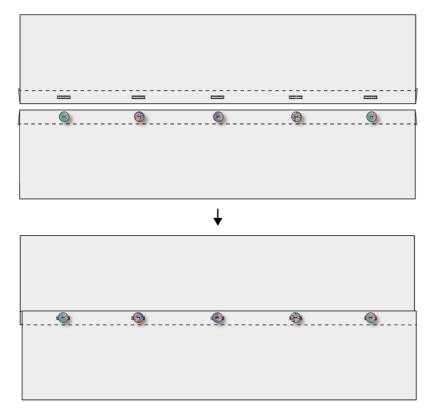


Fig K Making up the cover

# Head in the Clouds Pillow

(Dusty teal colourway)

This pillow has a fresh look thanks to the cool dusty teal background and is a perfect companion for the Head in the Clouds quilts. There is also another version of the pillow using different print fabrics and a warm coral background if you want to make a pair of pillows. For the coral pillow and the quilt instructions, see tildasworld.com.

Difficulty rating \*\*\*

## Materials

- Fabric 1: <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>yd (25cm) Solid dusty teal (120043)
- Fabric 2: 5in (13cm) square Confetti pine (100500)
- Fabric 3: 5in (13cm) square Tasselflower green (100497)
- Fabric 4: 6in (15cm) square Confetti red (100493)
- Fabric 5: 6in (15cm) square Whimsybird pine (100498)
- Fabric 6: 4in (10cm) Cloudpie red (110066)
- Fabric 7: 4in (10cm) Topsy Turvy pine (100499)
- Fabric 8: 8½ in x 2½ in (21.6cm x 6.4cm) Topsy Turvy red (100492)
- Fabric 9: 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in x 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (26.7cm x 6.4cm) Willy Nilly pink (100494)
- Fabric 10: 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in x 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (14cm x 6.4cm) Tasselflower red (100495)
- Wadding (batting): 27in x 13in (68.6cm x 33cm)
- Lining fabric (optional): 27in x 13in (68.6cm x 33cm)
- Fabric for back of cover: two pieces each 26in x 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (66cm x 19cm) Cloudpie green (110070)
- Binding fabric: <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>yd (50cm) Solid coral (120016)
- Piecing and quilting threads, quilter's ruler, rotary cutter and mat
- Thin card or template plastic for making patterns (templates)
- Five buttons for fastening (optional) Pie in the Sky buttons 18mm diameter (400053)
- Pillow pad to fit cover

#### **Finished Size**

25<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in x 11in (64.8cm x 28cm) approximately

#### **General Notes**

- Fabric quantities are based on a usable width of 42in (107cm), unless otherwise stated.
- Measurements are in imperial inches with metric conversions in brackets use only *one* system throughout (preferably inches).
- Width measurements are generally given first.
- Press all fabrics before cutting.
- Use <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in (6mm) seams unless otherwise instructed.
- Read all the instructions through before you start.
- Make a test unit first from scrap fabrics to practise the curved seam technique.

#### **Pillow Layout**

1 The pillow is made up of a single cloud block, with the addition of a border. See **Fig A** for the fabrics used and **Fig B** for the pillow layout and positions of the fabrics.

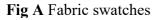
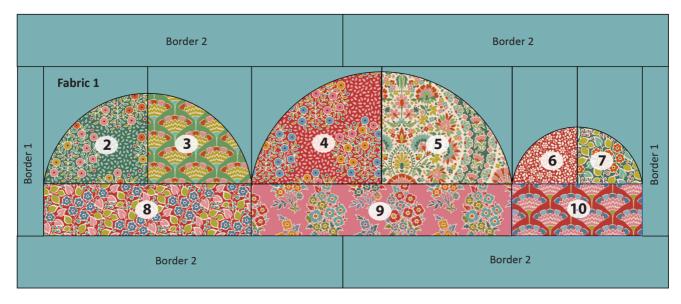




Fig B Pillow layout and fabric positions



# **Cutting Out**

2 For the border, cut the following pieces (see Fig C).

- Border 1 two strips, each 7in x 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (18.7cm x 3.8cm).
- Border 2 four strips, each 13in x 2½in (33cm x 6.4cm). Sew the strips together in pairs to make two strips 25½in (64.8cm) long, pressing seams open.

**Fig C** Cutting measurements for the borders Sizes include <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in (6mm) seam allowances

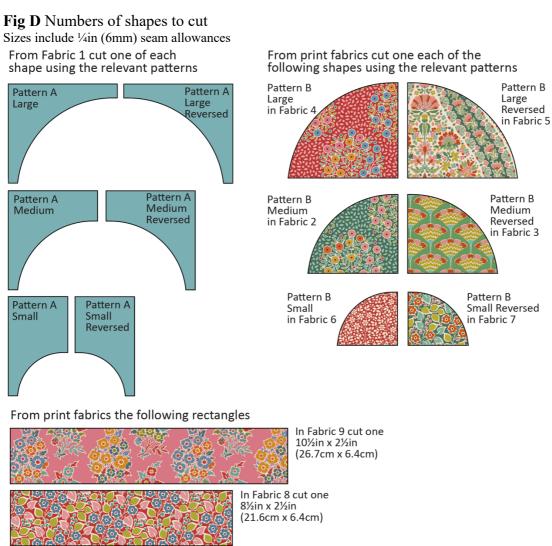
Border 1 – cut 2

7in x 1½in (18.7cm x 3.8cm)

13in x 2½in (33cm x 6.4cm)

Border 2 – cut 4

**3** The blocks use patterns to cut the curved fabric shapes and full-size patterns (A and B) are provided for the three different unit sizes (large, medium and small). Patterns include <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in (6mm) seam allowances. Make the patterns out of thin card or template plastic so they have some rigidity. The patterns are *not* symmetrical, so it's best to mark their shapes on the front of the fabric. If the fabric has a directional pattern, you might need to consider this when cutting the B shapes. For the reversed (mirror image) shape, flip the paper pattern over before copying it onto the fabric. Once cut out, check each fabric shape is accurate by placing the pattern back on top. **Fig D** lists how many shapes you will need in total and the fabrics used. The sizes of the rectangles used under the curved units are also given in the diagram.





In Fabric 10 cut one 5½in x 2½in (14cm x 6.4cm)

4 Cut the binding fabric into two strips  $2\frac{1}{2}$ in (6.4cm) x width of fabric. Sew them together end to end and press seams open. Press in half along the length, wrong sides together.

# Making the Block

**5** Before starting to make the actual block, we urge you make a test unit first from any scrap fabrics you have, as sewing curves can be tricky and it's important that the sewn units measure the correct sizes. Follow the cutting and sewing instructions carefully.

- A large unit should have an unfinished size of 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in x 5in (14cm x 12.7cm).
- A medium unit should have an unfinished size of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in x 5in (11.4cm x 12.7cm).
- A small unit should have an unfinished size of 3in x 5in (7.6cm x 12.7cm).

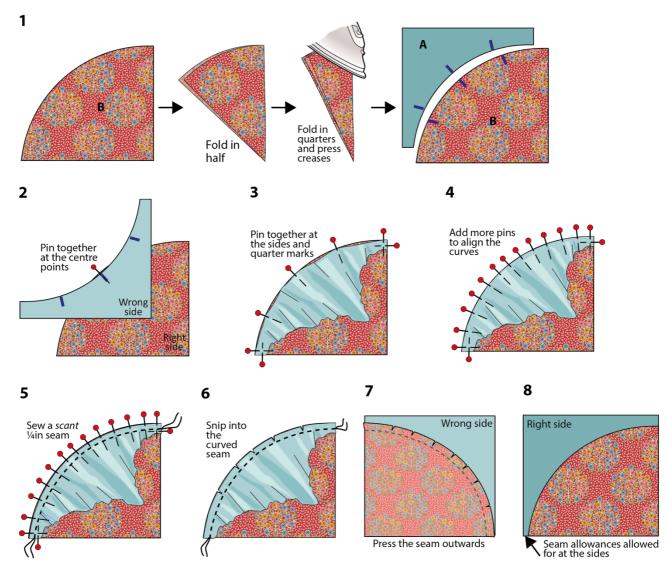
**6** To make the block, start by selecting the correct pieces and lay them out as in **Fig B** (without the border pieces). Handle the shapes carefully at all stages, as there are bias edges that may stretch. The curved units need to be created first. In the sequence shown in **Fig E** the large pattern sizes are shown but this basic method can be used for all the curved seams.

7 Start by taking a large Pattern A piece of Fabric 1 and Pattern B shape of Fabric 4 and mark or crease the centre and quarter points on the curves of both shapes. The easiest way to do this is to fold each piece into quarters and use an iron to press little creases, which can be seen from the right and wrong side (**Fig E 1**).

8 Place the pieces right sides together aligning centre marks and pin (Fig E 2). Align the outer edges and the quarter marks and pin at those points too (Fig E 3). Check that the short straight edge of piece A is aligned with the straight edge of piece B, pinning at these places as well. Ease the remaining areas of curved edges together and pin, adding as many pins as needed to ensure that the curves match well (Fig E 4). You may need to pull very slightly to ease the fabric edges into place. Once pinned, check that there are no pleats or tucks formed on the back of the work.

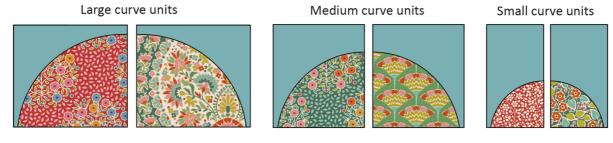
9 Now sew the seam using a *scant*  $\frac{1}{4}$  in (5mm) seam (Fig E 5). A scant seam is one or two needle's width narrower than a normal seam. If you have placed the pins as shown, you should be able to sew over them, leaving them in place until the seam is sewn. Remove the pins and snip into the seam allowance at intervals using sharp-pointed scissors, with cuts about  $\frac{1}{8}$  in (3mm) long (Fig E 6). Press the seam outwards, using the nose of the iron to make sure the seam is pressed fully and smooth (Fig E 7). Take care when pressing not to distort the edges of the unit. The unit is shown from the right side in Fig E 8. Check the unfinished size of the unit is correct. For a large unit this is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in x 5in (14cm x 12.7cm).

#### Fig E Sewing a curved seam



10 Make the other curved units for the using the same process. Use the reversed fabric pieces to make the mirror image units. You will need to make six curved units for the block – two large, two medium and two small, as in **Fig F**. Check the unfinished units are the correct sizes. Large = unfinished  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in x 5in (14cm x 12.7cm). Medium = unfinished  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in x 5in (11.4cm x 12.7cm). Small = unfinished 3in x 5in (7.6cm x 12.7cm).

Fig F Sewing the other curved units for the block



11 When the curved units are made, sew the units together into pairs using a normal  $\frac{1}{4}$  in (6mm) seam, as shown in **Fig G**. Press the seams open or to one side. Now sew the correct rectangles beneath each pair as shown. Finally, sew the units together in a row, matching seams neatly and press. Check the block is  $23\frac{1}{2}$  in x 7in (59.7cm x 17.8cm) at this stage.

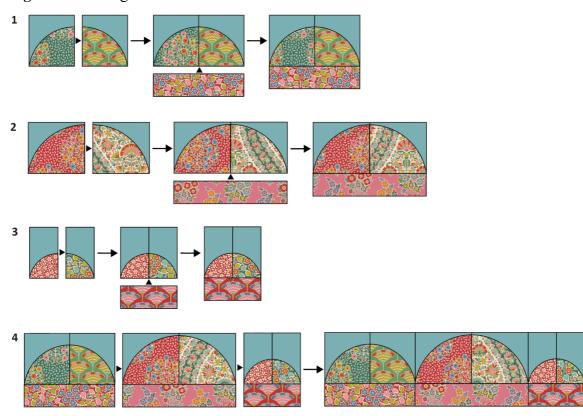
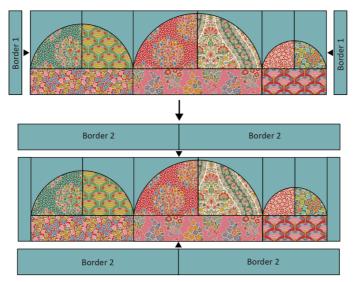


Fig G Assembling the block

## **Adding the Borders**

12 Sew the narrow Border 1 strips to each side of the block and press the seams open or outwards. Sew the longer Border 2 strips to the top and bottom of the block and press the seams open or outwards. The patchwork should now measure  $25\frac{1}{2}$  in x 11in (64.8cm x 28cm).

Fig H Adding the borders



# **Quilting and Finishing**

**13** Make a quilt sandwich of the patchwork, wadding (batting) and lining fabric (if using). Quilt as desired. Trim off excess wadding and lining fabric to match the patchwork size.

14 To make up the pillow cover, take the two pieces of fabric for the pillow back and on one long edge of each piece, create a hem by turning the edge over by 1 in (2.5cm), twice. Sew the seams with matching thread and press (**Fig K**). The diagram is shown in greys, so you can use the Tilda fabric and buttons suggested in the Materials list, or those of your choice.

**15** For the fastening, using your sewing machine, create five equally spaced buttonholes within the hem of one of the pieces. Sew five buttons onto the other piece, matching their positions to the buttonholes. Note: Instead of making buttonholes, you could use a hook and loop fastening, such as Velcro, to fasten the cover and then sew on the buttons as a decorative feature.

16 The pillow has a bound edge, so the pieces are assembled with right sides out, as follows. Place the quilted patchwork right side down. On the backing, fasten the buttons into the buttonholes and then place the whole piece on top of the patchwork, right side up. Check it is the same size as the patchwork, trimming any raw edges if need be. Make sure the outer edges of all pieces are aligned. Pin or tack (baste) the layers together and then bind as normal. As you sew the binding in place it will fix the other layers together. Press the cover and insert a pillow pad to finish.

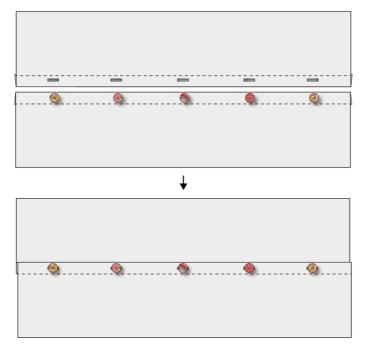


Fig K Making up the cover

# Head in the Clouds Patterns for the Quilts and Pillows

For the units facing the other way, reverse (flip) the patterns horizontally before cutting the fabric shapes

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