

Oakshott - Designer Collection

Cathedral Window Cushion

designed by

Lynne Edwards

An introduction to the Folded Faux Cathedral Window technique.



Finished Size: 15½" x 15½" approx.

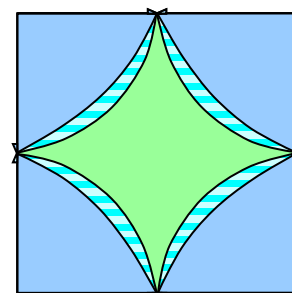
Requirements

- 1 fat eighth Oakshott Spring Collection (e.g. Paradise Blue - SESPO8)
- 1 fat eighth Oakshott Spring Collection (e.g. Sea Mist - SESPO9)
- 1 fat eighth Oakshott Spring Collection (e.g. Cay Surf - SESPO7)
- ½ m Oakshott Longshott cotton fabric for the blocks, border and cushion back. (e.g. Mint Ice - LONG07)
- 18" x 18" square of thin wadding (batting)
- 18" x 18" square of calico or similar plain fabric to line the cushion front
- small beads (optional, e.g. seed beads)

Introduction

This cushion uses a folded look-alike version of Cathedral Window which is easy to construct and combine with other patchwork techniques to make original designs. It adds interest without the layering and bulk of classic Cathedral Window. This variation is very like classic Cathedral Window in appearance, but with the bonus of a second colour fabric used for the rolled-over curved edges around the centre windows, **Fig. 1**.

Fig. 1



This cushion project uses three fabrics from the Oakshott Seasons Spring Collection plus their Longshott Mint Ice striped fabric.

Cutting the Fabric

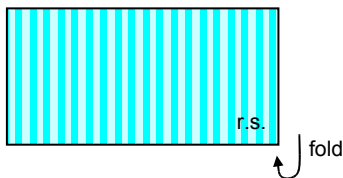
- From fabric 1 (Paradise Blue) cut 24 squares each measuring 2½" x 2½".
- From fabric 2 (Sea Mist) cut 12 squares each measuring 2½" x 2½" and 4 rectangles, each measuring 4½" x 2½".
- From fabric 3 (Cay Surf) cut 7 squares, each measuring 2⅝" x 2⅝".
- From the striped fabric (Mint Ice) cut 7 square, each measuring 4½" x 4½" for the blocks and 4 strips 2½" x 12½" for the borders. The remaining fabric will be used to make the back of the cushion.

Making the Folded Blocks

Each of the 7 blocks used in the design is made in the same way, with the same fabrics for the centre area but a variety of fabrics for the surrounding corners of each block.

1. To make the centre block take a 4½" x 4½" square of striped fabric (Mint Ice) and 4 small squares (2½" x 2½") of fabric 1 (Paradise Blue).

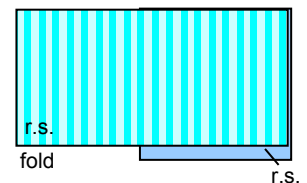
Fig. 2



2. Fold the striped large square in half, right side outwards, with the stripes running vertically from the fold as shown in Fig. 2.

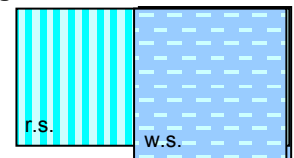
3. Place one small square of fabric 1 on a flat surface with right side **upwards**. Place the folded striped square on it, matching the raw edges along the top and side of the squares as in Fig. 3. The folded edge should lie ¼" away from the bottom edge of the small square.

Fig. 3



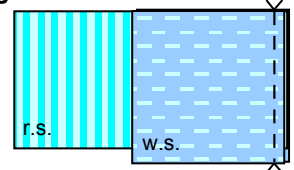
4. Place a second small square of fabric 1 on top of the large striped folded square with right side **down** exactly on top of the first small square (Fig. 4).

Fig. 4



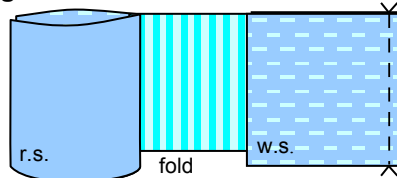
5. Pin and stitch a ¼" seam along the right hand edge as in Fig. 5.

Fig. 5



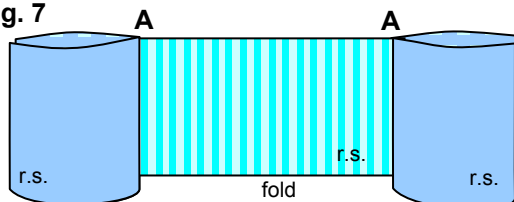
6. Pull the 2 stitched small squares back from the large folded square. Pin and stitch the other 2 small squares to the opposite end of the folded square in the same way as before, following steps 3 - 5 (Fig. 6).

Fig. 6

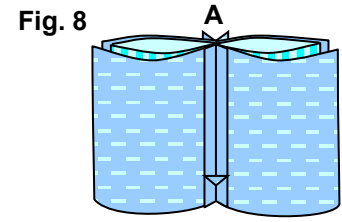


7. Pull the small fabric squares back from the large centre folded square (Fig. 7).

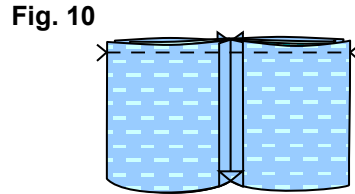
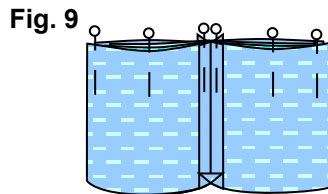
Fig. 7



8. Separate the 2 raw edges of the centre folded square of fabric. Pull them apart and match the 2 opposite seams, each marked in **Figs 7 and 8** as 'A'. Finger-press these seams open (**Fig. 8**). Pin the 2 seams together, matching them carefully.



9. Match the top edges of the squares and of the folded layer that is sandwiched between them, taking care not to catch in any odd folds of fabric. Pin these edges (**Fig. 9**). Stitch through the layers with the usual 1/4" seam (**Fig. 10**).



10. Open out the block and pull the folded square into shape (**Fig. 11**). Press the long seam on the back of the block open to reduce the bulk.

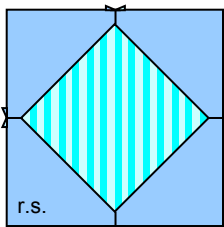
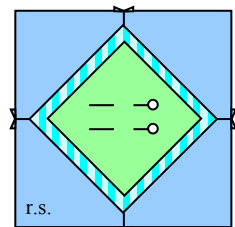


Fig. 11

11. **Adding the window:** Take a cut square of fabric 3 (2 5/8" x 2 5/8"). This is the square of fabric that will make the window. Pin it in position on the centre square-on-point of the block (**Fig. 12**).

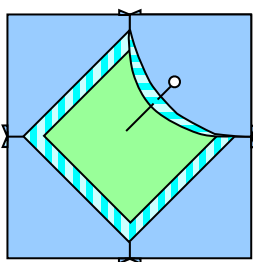
Fig. 12



12. Trim the window fabric down if necessary until about 1/8" of the background fabric shows on all sides. You may like to cut a slight curve along each side to reduce the bulk of fabric when the background fabric is rolled over it. If so, do not trim away at the corners of the window fabric - leave them at the original 1/8" distance from the background fabric.

Tip: To prevent catching folds of the inner layers in this seam, you might find it easier to pin and stitch just from the centre to one side. Turn the block over and pin and stitch the other half of the long seam, starting again at the centre and stitching towards the outer edge of the block.

Fig. 13



13. Starting at a corner, roll the surrounding border on one side of the window over it, stretching the bias edge to create a curve. Don't be afraid to really stretch that edge so that the curve measures at least 1/4" in the centre. Pin the curved edge at the centre as in **Fig. 13**.

14. Beginning about 1/2" from the corner, stitch the rolled edge down, using either a hemming stitch or tiny spaced backstitches placed close to the folded edge. The backstitch is my preferred method, but you choose whatever stitch gives you the best effect (**Fig. 14**). The trick with the backstitch is to place the needle virtually back in the place where the thread is emerging, but just behind it, so that the stitch made looks like a tiny pin-prick without any real length. I do not take my needle through to the back of the work, just into the background fabric below the window. Every few stitches I dig a little deeper to fix the curved edge onto the background layers to make it more secure and less vulnerable to wear and tear.

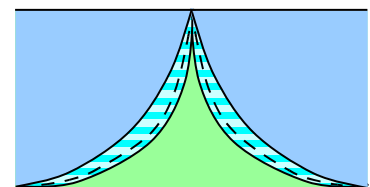


Fig. 14

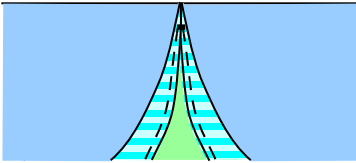


Fig. 15

15. Since all raw edges of the window fabric need to be covered, stop stitching about $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the corner and bring both bias edges over the window. Take time to arrange both bias edges so that they look balanced with each other.

16. When you are happy with the look of the rolled edges at the corner, stitch a bar stitch a good $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the corner (**Fig. 15**). Stitch straight across both rolled edges from side to side, not through any of the underlying layers. Often quilters stitch too near the corner before making the bar stitch, which risks the window fabric fraying out. $\frac{1}{4}$ " is the safest distance from the corner to keep the window fabric in place and protect its raw edges. Pull the stitch firmly and repeat it, this time bringing the needle up into the next rolled edge ready to begin stitching this side of the window in place.

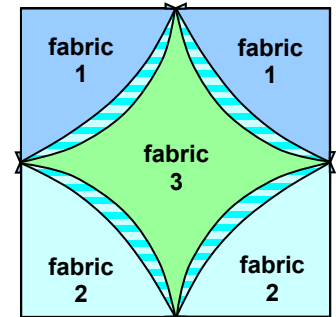
17. Stitch all four sides of the rolled edges around the window, treating each corner in the way described above. When the final corner is reached, the original stitching began $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the corner, so there is room to make the final double bar stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the corner to match the others.

18. To finish bring the needle to the back of the work. Make a couple of tiny stitches into the back layer of fabric only and run the needle into this layer for about 1" before cutting off the thread.

Making the Other Six Blocks

These are made in exactly the same way as the centre block, but the small squares used for the corners are 2 different fabrics to create the block in **Fig. 16**.

Fig. 16



1. To make the each of the 6 blocks, take 1 cut square of striped fabric ($4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ "), 2 small squares ($2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ ") of fabric 1 (Paradise Blue) and 2 small squares ($2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ ") of fabric 2 (Sea Mist).
2. Follow steps 2 - 5 above, using the 2 small squares of fabric 1 (Paradise Blue) as before.
3. Follow step 6, using the 2 small squares of fabric 2 (Sea Mist).
4. Complete the block as described in steps 7 - 18, using the same fabric 3 (Cay Surf) for all the overlying windows.

Joining the Blocks

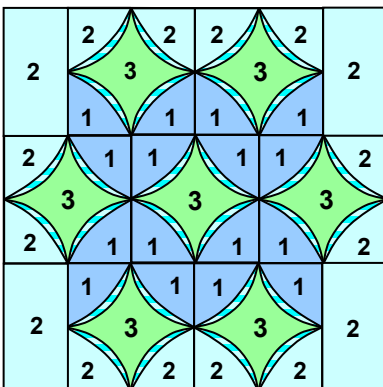
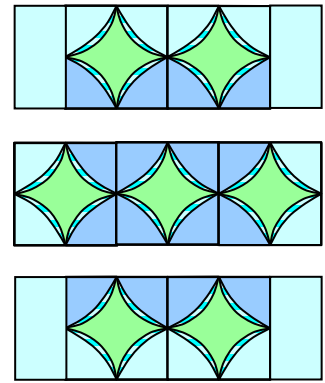


Fig. 17

The blocks are arranged in 3 rows as shown in **Fig. 17**. The top and bottom row are offset (like bricks in a wall) to make a less formal arrangement, and the end sections filled with rectangles of fabric 2 (Sea Mist). The 4 rectangles each measure $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (see Cutting the Fabric).

1. Stitch each row together to make 3 rows (**Fig. 18**). The seam allowance is the usual $\frac{1}{4}$ " and care should be taken not to let the stitched seam joining the blocks cut off part of the corners of the windows. Press all seams open to reduce the bulk in the seams.
2. Join the rows together in the same way, matching seams carefully. Press seams open as before.

Fig. 18



Adding the Border

Whenever I use striped fabric, I cannot resist cutting it into strips across the stripes to use as a border, which is just what I have done with this cushion. I also added a little curved layer at each corner to add interest.

1. From the striped fabric cut 4 strips each measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " with the strips running across the width of the strips (see photo of cushion). For the cornerstones cut 4 squares each $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " from fabric 1 (Paradise Blue).
2. To make the curved corners, cut 4 squares of fabric 1 (Paradise Blue) each measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ ". Fold each square in half with right side outwards and press (**Fig. 19a**). Pin each folded triangle in position on a corner of the cushion design with the cut edges of the triangle matching the cut edges of the cushion and the folded edge of the triangle running diagonally across the corner (**Fig. 19b**). Once the border strips are added, a little folded triangle is revealed at each corner which is then rolled back and stitched into a curve.

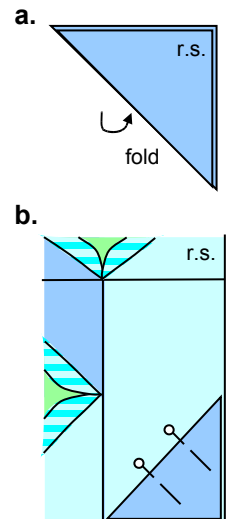


Fig. 19

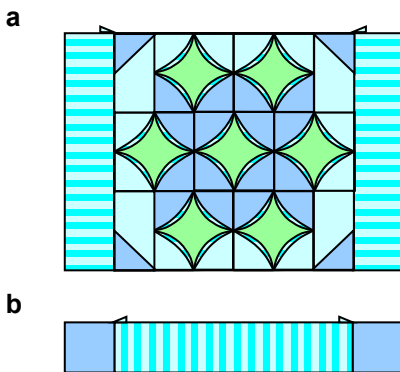


Fig. 20

3. Pin and stitch two striped border strips to each side of the cushion. Press the seams away from the cushion, ironing from the front of the work (**Fig. 20a**).
4. Pin and stitch a cut square of fabric 2 (Sea Mist) to either end of the remaining 2 long border strips (**Fig. 20b**). Press the seams towards the striped fabric ironing from the front.

5. Pin and stitch these border strips to the top and bottom of the cushion, matching seams carefully (**Fig. 20c**). Press seams outwards, away from the quilt.

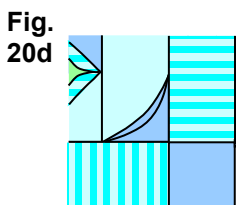


Fig. 20d

6. Finally roll back the folded corner triangles and stitch into a curve as in central section (**Fig 20d**).

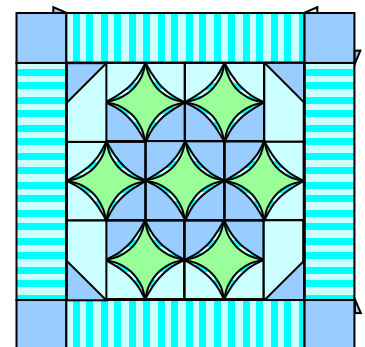


Fig. 20c

Completing the Cushion

1. Place the cushion front face up on top of the square of thin wadding and the calico (see Materials Required). Pin or tack (baste) the layers together.

This design works well without any quilting - just secure it at each seam junction by sewing small stitches through all the layers and possibly adding small beads at these places.

I was not going to quilt my cushion, but just could not resist it, adding curved lines to echo the curved blocks along each seam (main photo). Finally I stitched a cluster of two or three tiny beads at each seam junction of the design.

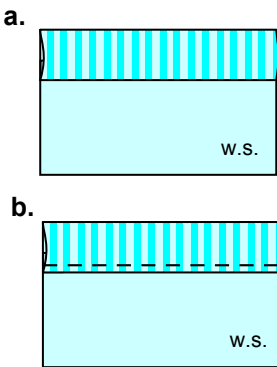
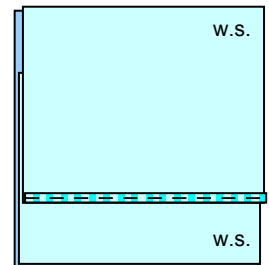


Fig. 21

2. Once any stitching is complete, trim the layers to 16½" x 16½". For the back of the cushion, cut two pieces of the chosen fabric each 16½" x 12" (43.2cm x 30.5cm). Press a ¼" turning to the wrong side of the fabric on one side of each piece. Fold over this edge again to make a ½" turning (**Fig.21a**). Machine-stitch along this edge close to the fold (**Fig.21b**).

Fig. 22



3. Place the cushion front right side **up** on a flat surface. Arrange the two back pieces right side **down** with their raw edges

matching the edges of the cushion front and the folded edges overlapping across the centre (**Fig.22**).

4. Pin the front and back together and machine-stitch all around the outer edges with a ¼" seam. Trim the corners a little to reduce the bulk of the fabric.
5. Turn the cushion through to its right side and press the outer seam. Machine-stitch a line about ½" from the edge all round the cushion - this gives it an extra finish around the outer edges.

Further Ideas

This design could also be used as a block for a quilt with the border strips becoming sashing between the blocks. It is less bulky and far more robust than real Cathedral Window, so would stand up to being used in a bed quilt as well as a cushion or wall hanging

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for

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