



# HALF-YARD *Cruise Challenge*

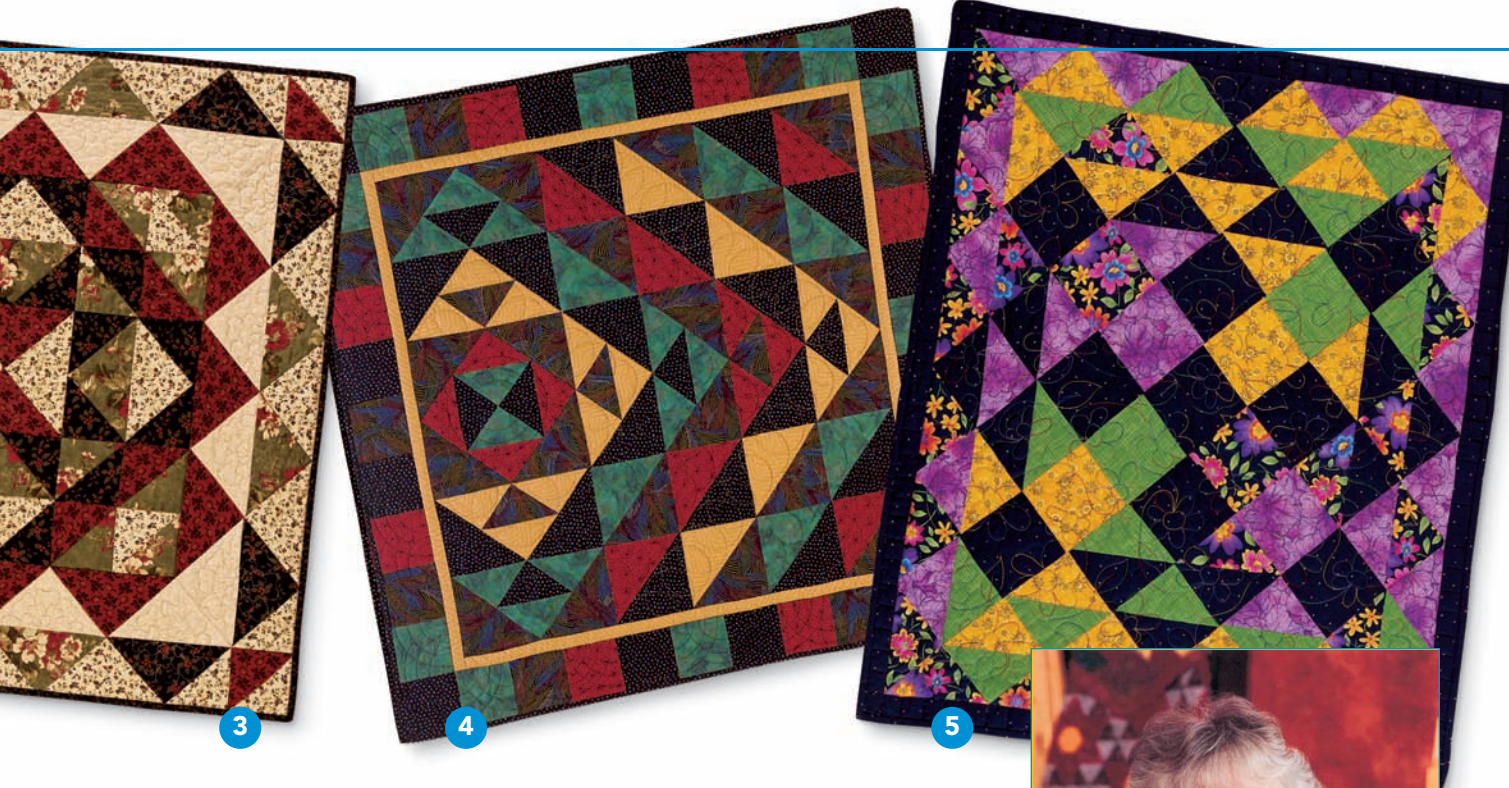
Designer Sharon Hultgren often teaches quilting on ocean cruises. This project has become a favorite at sea because it requires only five fabrics (*Photo A*), yet provides hours of fun as you make your quilt from squares, half-square triangles, and quarter-square triangles (*Photo B*).

Think about organizing a “faux cruise” with your small group and pretending you’re at sea for a day. Have fun designing your own quilt. As you run out of pieces of this or that print, you’ll experience the joy of a true challenge that forces you to think creatively!



Choose your fabrics carefully, selecting five prints that vary in color, value, and scale of print (*Photo A*). Follow the instructions on page 54 to cut fabric strips, then cut them into the three shapes needed to design your quilt (*Photo B*).





You don't have to actually go on a cruise to have fun with Sharon Hultgren's fun fabric challenge. All you need is five half-yard pieces of fabric and a willingness to play around with squares and triangles.

**1:** Sharon Hultgren's challenge quilt works well because of distinctive dark, medium, and light values in the fabrics. The colors are all fairly neutral, but the range of value makes the quilt successful. Sharon used all three types of units in her quilt.

Sharon challenged our editorial staff to make wallhangings using her techniques. Above are photos of the quilts we created in response to Sharon's challenge.

**2:** Liz Porter used batiks for her challenge quilt. Scale of print is somewhat similar in her choices, but distinctively different colors and values make each design element in the quilt stand out well.

**3:** Marianne Fons chose fabrics from a Moda Christmas fabric collection. A variety of print scale, value, and color all help this quilt work. Marianne used triangles only.

**4:** Jean Nolte combined mostly dark fabrics, using one lighter, brighter gold fabric to emphasize her off-center layout. Though four of the five fabrics are dark in value, they vary enough in color and scale to stand on their own.

**5:** Jeri Simon chose one large-scale print, then picked four tone-on-tone coordinates to go with it. Every fabric contributes to the success of her design.

## FABRIC SELECTION TIPS

- Fabrics can vary in color, value (darkness/lightness), or scale (size of print). Your quilt will be most successful if variety in color, value, and scale are all at play to some degree.
- Lay out your fabrics on a table, stand back, and squint. As you look at your choices, make sure each fabric is separate and distinct so it will pull its weight in your quilt.
- Purchase an additional  $\frac{3}{8}$  yard of one of your dark fabrics to use for the binding.

# HALF-YARD *Cruise Challenge*

## MATERIALS

½ yard each of 5 contrasting fabrics  
⅜ yard binding fabric  
Easy Angle™  
Companion Angle™  
About 1½ yards backing fabric  
Crib-size quilt batting

## PROJECT RATING: INTERMEDIATE

### Cutting

Measurements include ¼" seam allowances. Instructions for cutting triangles using special rulers are in *Sew Easy: Cutting Triangles* on page 56.

#### From each fabric, cut:

- 4 (4"-wide) strips. From 1 strip of each fabric, cut 4" squares. From 1 strip of each fabric, cut 4" Easy Angle™ triangles. From 1 strip of each fabric, cut 4" Companion Angle™ triangles. (The remaining strip of each fabric is saved to cut extra pieces as needed during the design process.)

### Quilt Assembly

1. Lay out pieces, rearranging until you find a design that is pleasing to you. Cut more pieces from extra strips as needed.
2. Join pieces into rows; join rows to complete quilt top.

### Finishing

1. Layer backing, batting, and quilt top; baste. Quilt as desired.
2. Join 2¼"-wide strips into 1 continuous piece for straight-grain French-fold binding. Add binding to quilt

### Sew Smart™

Create an instant design wall by pinning up a flannel-backed vinyl tablecloth with the vinyl side against the wall. Arrange pieces on flannel side.

*Celebrating 25 Years of Quilting Together*

### Designer Profile

For the past 18 years Sharon Hultgren's life has been about triangles, squares, diamonds, and hexagons—every shape but circles, she says. While teaching quilting classes she created the design for the Easy Angle™ tool. After her success with the Easy Angle™, Sharon has continued to design tools for EZ Quilting® by Wrights®. She has also designed Foundation by the Yard, panels of fabric printed with patterns of quilt blocks ready to be sewn on, which is manufactured by Benartex Fabrics. Currently in the works is a batting that is 20" wide by 15 yards long that Sharon is producing with Airtex®. This product is designed to be quilted in panels that can be joined together to create any size quilt. Sharon is also an author and teacher, conducting classes around the country and overseas.

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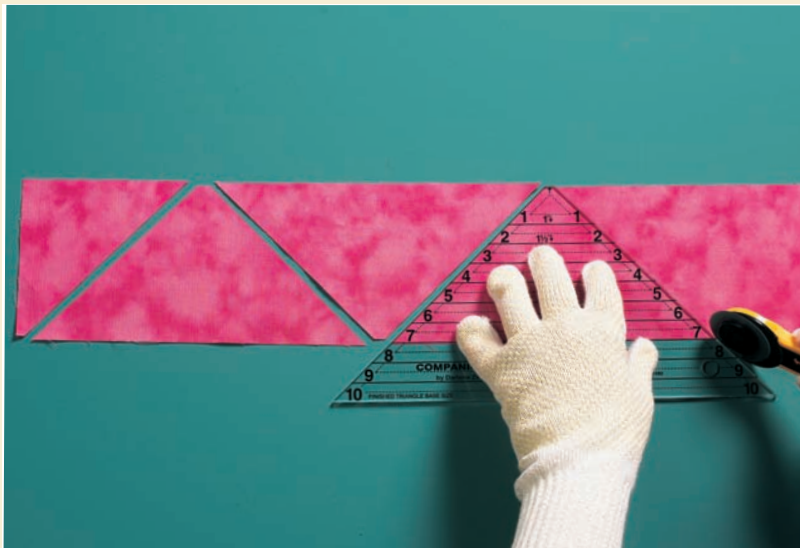
# Cutting Triangles with Special Rulers

These two special tools allow you to cut triangles from the same size strips used to cut the squares they team up with.



## Easy Angle™

1. Cut strips of fabric  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wider than the finished size of the triangle-squares. (For  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " finished triangle-squares, cut 4" strips.)
2. Straighten end of strip. Align bottom edge of Easy Angle™ with bottom edge of strip. Slide Easy Angle™ to the right until the strip size line (4") aligns with the end of the strip. Cut along diagonal edge of tool.
3. Flip tool up and align strip size (4") on tool with top edge of strip. The black tip will extend below the bottom of the strip. Cut along right edge of tool.
4. Repeat steps #2 and #3 to cut triangles from entire strip.



## Companion Angle™

1. Locate the line on Companion Angle™ that corresponds to the finished size of the base of your triangle (7"). Use measurement printed on the center of that line to cut your strip (4").
2. Align top of Companion Angle™ with top edge of strip. Cut along both edges of tool.
3. Rotate tool so tip aligns with bottom edge of strip and left edge of tool aligns with angled cut edge of strip. Cut along right edge of tool.
4. Repeat steps #3 and #4 to cut triangles from entire strip.

