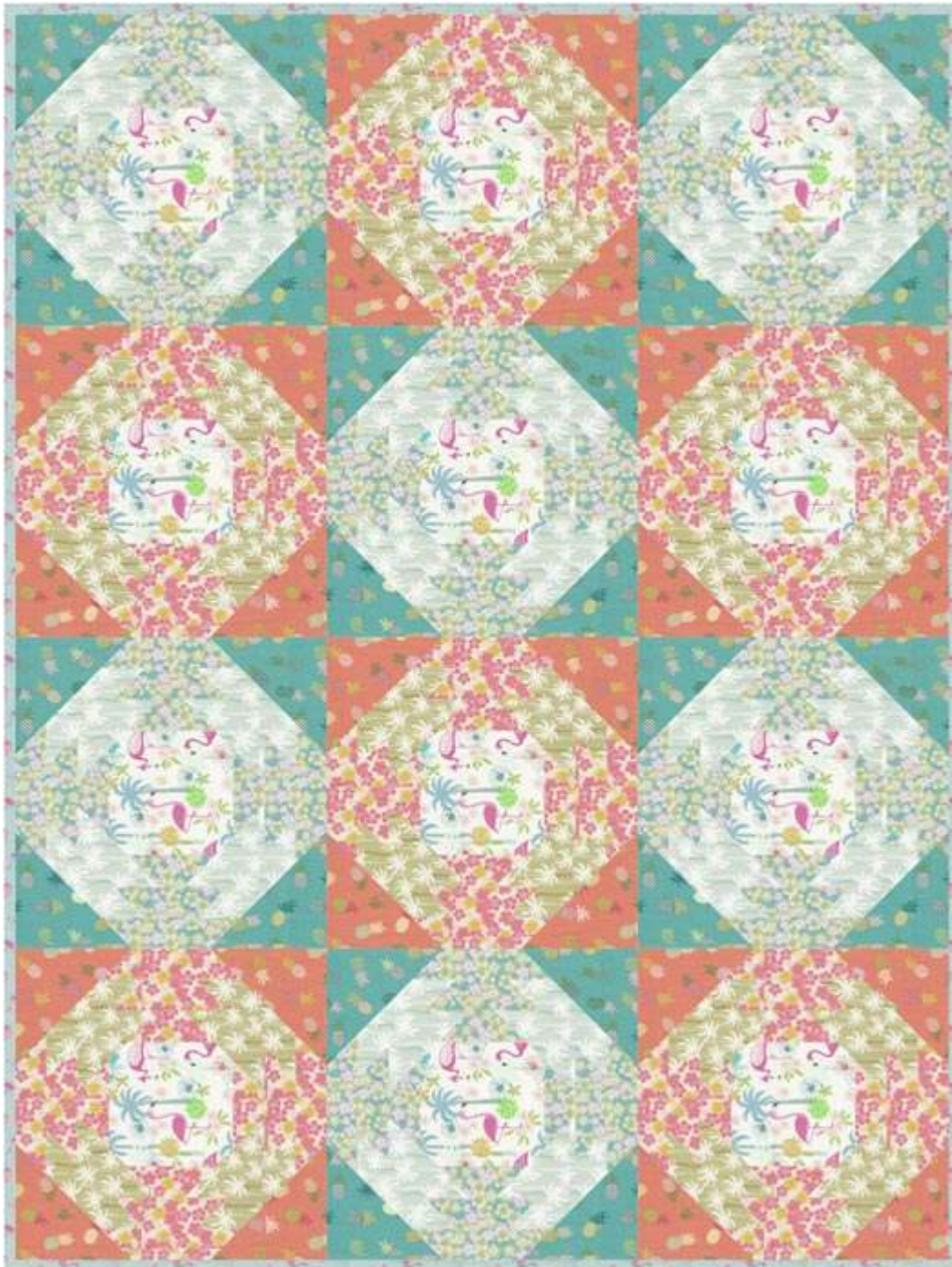# Tropicana picnic blanket (40" x 53")

Fabric requirements (1/4 inch seam allowance assumed throughout):

1. Tropicana - pineapples on blue: 3/8 yard (13.5 inches)

2. Tropicana - green tropical flowers: 3/4 yard (28 inches)

3. Tropicana - tropicana on white: 3/8 yard (13.5 inches)

4. Tropicana - palm trees on blue: 1/2 yard (18 inches)

5. Tropicana - pineapples on orange: 3/8 yard (13.5 inches)

6. Tropicana - orange tropical flowers: 3/4 yard (28 inches)

7. Tropicana - palm trees on sand : 1/2 yard (18 inches)

8. Tropicana - flamingos on blue: 1/2 yard (18 inches)

Other requirements:

2 metre stitch n tear or similar foundation paper (if using foundation piecing)

1.5 metre fabric for backing

Threads for piecing and quilting

Wadding

Quilt construction:

1. This pattern uses the rotary cutting method for making the pineapple block, however there is a foundation pattern included at the end if you prefer to construct the blocks using foundation piecing.

2. Follow the instructions below to construct the blocks using the rotary cutting method. You will need a rotary cutter, rotary cutting mat and ideally a large, square quilting ruler with 45 degree angles marked.

Rotary cutting method for pineapple blocks:

a) Cut a 4.75" square of fabric 3 for the centre of the block. Cut a 2" WOF (width of fabric) strip of fabric 6, and cut off 4 lengths at 4.75" each. Stitch two of the strips to opposite sides of the square, then press (always press the seams towards the outer strips). Stitch the other two strips to the remaining two opposite sides and press (**figure 1**).

Figure 1

b) Using a quilting ruler with 45 degree angles marked, line up the 45 degree line with one of the seam lines and trim off the corners of the strips, leaving 0.25" of fabric at the corner. Repeat by rotating the ruler for each corner. (**figure 2**).

Figure 2

c) Cut a 2" WOF strip of fabric 7 and from it cut 4 pieces approximately 1/2" longer than the trimmed edges of the previous strips. Stitch these strips to the 4 sides, as in step a and press (**figure 3**).

Figure 3

d) Trim the end corners of the strips to line up with the short outer length of the fabrics in the previous round - use the lines on the ruler to ensure the cut edges are parallel with the seams of the centre block (**figure 4 & 5**).

Figure 4   **Figure 5**

e) Continue in this way for the next 3 rounds using fabrics 6 and 7, ensuring at every stage that the seams are parallel and the outer edges square.

f) For the large corner pieces, cut a 4" WOF strip of fabric 5. To save fabric, instead of cutting a strip, cut a triangle with its base at about 1" wider than the cut edges of the previous round instead (**figure 6**). Sew one triangle on to each corner.

Figure 6

g) Use the ruler to square up the block. Ensure all blocks are exactly the same size, trim where necessary using your rotary cutting mat as a guide. The finished blocks should measure approximately 13.75" square. See **figure 7** and **8** for finished blocks.

Figure 7   **Figure 8**

3. Repeat the method for all the remaining blocks, 6 blocks using fabrics 3, 5, 6 and 7 and 6 blocks using fabrics 1, 2, 3 and 4.

4. Stitch the blocks together alternately as shown in the main picture, in 3 rows of 4, then sew the rows together to complete the quilt top.

11. Sandwich the quilt top, wadding and backing together and baste or pin securely. Quilt as desired. If using as a picnic blanket, a fleece backing could be used as an alternative to wadding and cotton backing.

12. Trim the batting and backing to the size of the quilt top. Cut 5x 2" x width of fabric strips of fabric 8 for the binding, join together and bind the quilt. The quilt is now complete - if you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to contact us at Pelenna Patchworks!

Below is the foundation pattern for constructing the blocks using foundation piecing, repeat the pattern 4 times rotating each time for the full block layout. Please note, the strip and centre patches will be a different size using this layout, please measure from the layout for exact sizes (don't forget seam allowances).