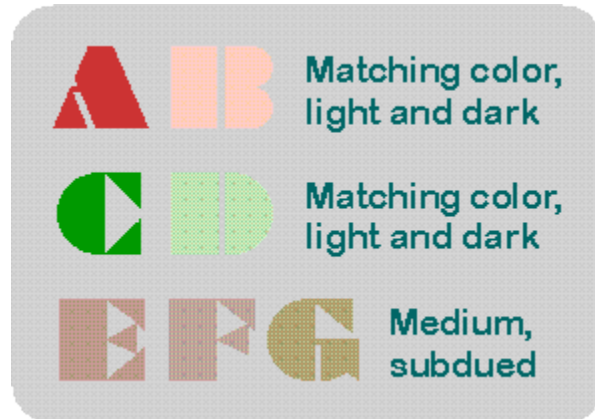


Mystery Quilt No. 3

by Johannes H. Hindriks

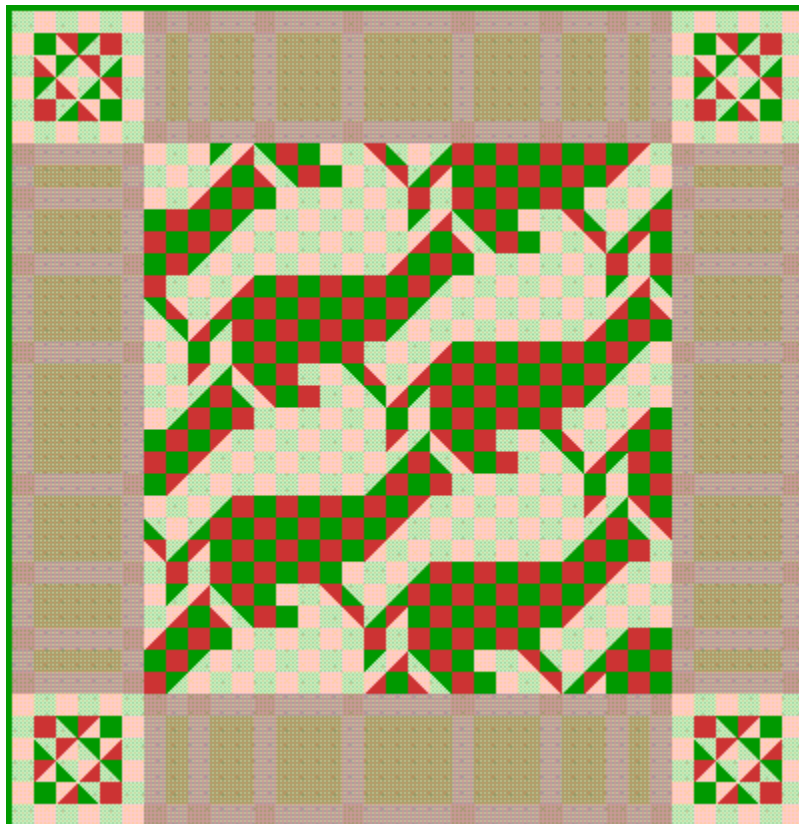
Installment 9 of 9 – Mystery Solved

Large Version: 90 inches x 92 1/2 inches



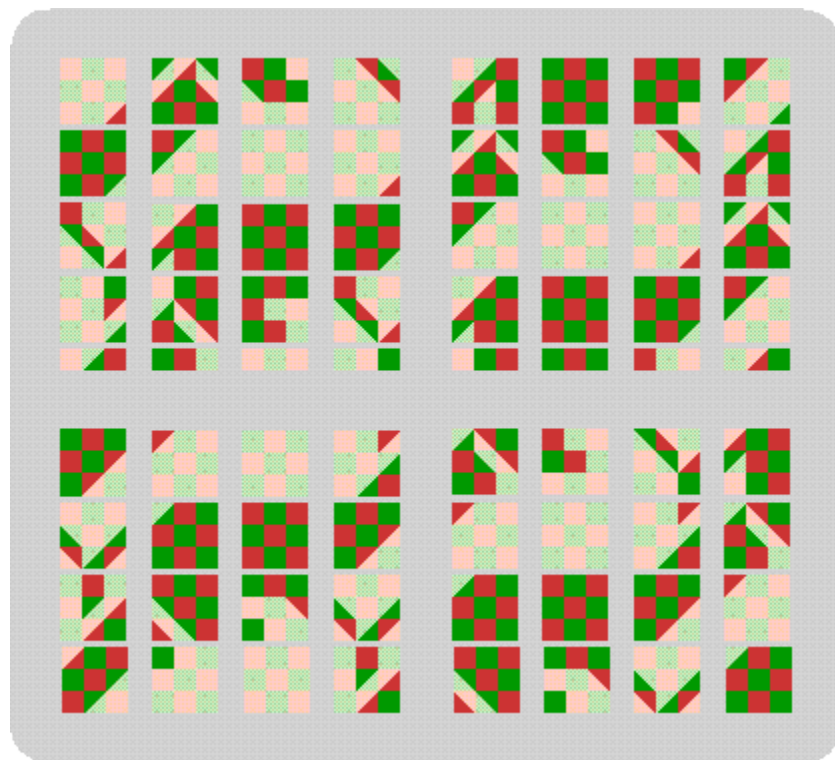
The seven Colors of the Mystery

The Finished Top: “Checkered Copycats”



The outcome of this Mystery Quilt has as its main feature a tessellation (interlocking repetitive pattern) of dark and light cat silhouettes, projected on a grid of Basic Squares. Turn the design upside down to view the light cats right side up.

COLORS "A" / "B" / "C" / "D" SEW: the Body of the Quilt. Shove and turn around your 64 Nine-Square Groups and 8 Three-Square Groups until they are arranged in exactly the same way as on the picture below. The Body of the Quilt measures 60 1/2" x 63" and covers a field of 24 x 25 "finished" Basic Squares plus the seam allowances around it.



*Assembling the Body of the Quilt
Seam allowances not shown*

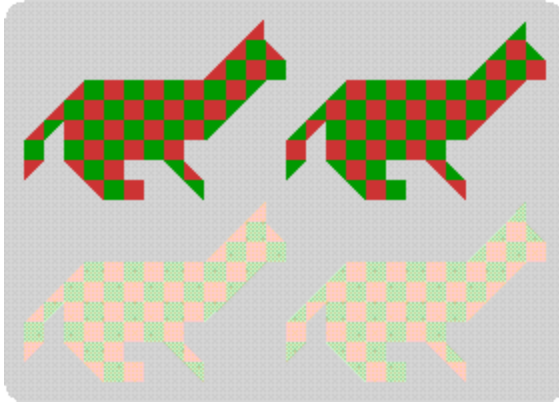
The picture offers you a way to keep the sewing process manageable. The Body of the Quilt is divided into four quadrants. Each quadrant has one fourth of the Nine-Square Groups. These sixteen Nine-Square Groups are arranged into four columns of four.

Step 1. Assemble the columns within the quadrants.

Step 2. Connect these columns to complete the four quadrants.

Step 3. Sew the four quadrants together.

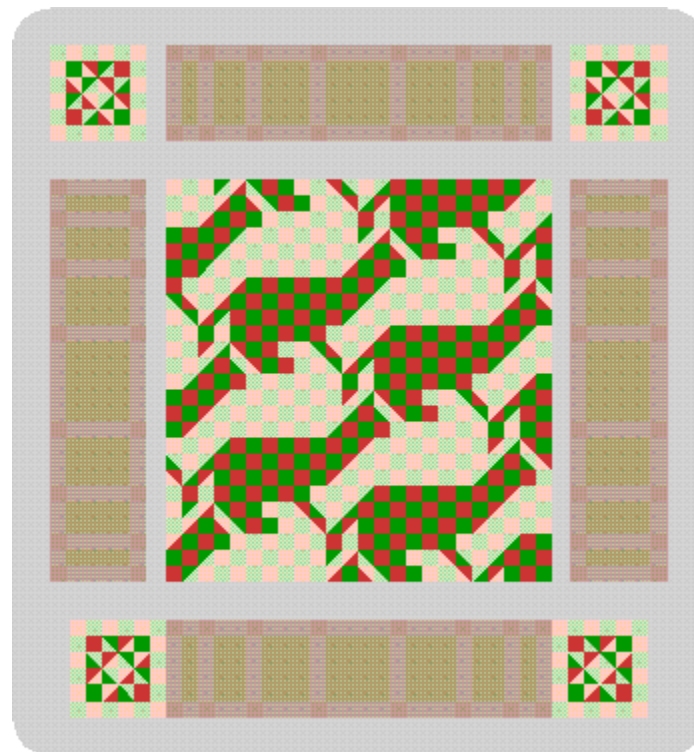
Note: The eight Three-Square Groups sewn in Installment 8 are located at the bottom of the columns in the two upper quadrants.



The Body of the Quilt is a continuous tessellation of dark and light cats, with no unused space left between them.

Please be aware that there are not two types of cats but four. Compare the two dark cats in the picture: the cat to the left has a red ear and a red tail tip (your Color "A"), whereas in the one to the right these are green (your Color "C"). In other words: the checkering in the latter animal is the inverse of that in the former. The same difference can be seen between the two light-colored cats, which are the antipods of the dark ones. For convenience, they are positioned right-side-up in this picture.

COLORS "A" / "B" / "C" / "D" / "E" / "F" / "G" SEW: the Quilt Top. The finished top measures 90" x 92 1/2", not counting the seam allowances or the binding.



*Assembling the Quilt Top
Seam allowances not shown*

Step 1. Sew the two vertical Long Border Groups (sewn in Installment 5) onto the vertical (longer) sides of the Body of the Quilt.

Step 2. Sew a Checkered Star Block (sewn in Installment 4) onto each short end of both Short Border Groups (sewn in Installment 5). Notice the orientation of these blocks: they are turned in such a way that the square that touches the corner of Body of the Quilt by the tip is always of the opposite color as the square in that corner: red (your Color "A" or "B") versus green (your Color "C" or "D") in the picture. Thus, the red-and-green checkering of the Body of the Quilt is continued in the corners of the quilt.

Step 3. Sew the Short Border Groups, with the Checkered Star Blocks connected to them, onto the horizontal sides of the ensemble sewn in Step 1.

Take a few steps back and watch your cats come to life. You can enhance the impression by outlining the animals through quilting "In-The-Ditch". If stitching on all those seam allowances poses a problem, you can opt for tying. To add some spice, you could tie a little jingle bell beneath the throat of every cat.

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