

Chateau Dumas

(22" x 22")

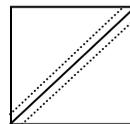
In July of 2009, I was very fortunate to have an experience of a lifetime. I spent a week at a chateau in Auty, France hosted by Kaari Meng of French General. This week was spent in the company of several amazing women where we soaked in the culture and atmosphere of the French countryside. Kaari had just finished her first line of fabrics for Moda Fabrics, and as part of our welcome gift, we each received a "charm" pack of her first line – Rouenneries.



This little quilt is made from that one charm pack of Moda's Rouenneries by French General only! I wanted to create a little memory quilt of my time in France, but knowing my resources were limited, I had to be very stingy with my fabric pieces. In order to create this quilt from one charm pack, every little bit of the 5" squares is used. Cut the applique shapes out of the same side of the square, allowing for just enough (scant 1/4") turn under on the appliques. (I cut a 1" strip from each red piece and set it aside for the inner border. You will need at least 16 of these 1" strips, so some of the reds will require more than 1 strip to be cut away. (The binding was made using a piece of red that I had on hand, pieced with the left over reds after the quilt was finished being appliquéd.) If you are using fabrics other than a charm pack, then you will have the luxury of not scrimping quite so much! I loved challenging myself with these limited resources, and I am quite pleased with the result.

Piecing the foundation:

Using the 5" squares from the charm pack, pair up all of the neutral squares, trying to match a light neutral, with a medium neutral to equal 13 pair. Once these pairs are placed right sides together, mark a diagonal line on the wrong side of one side of the pair.



Sew 1/4" away from this diagonal line on each side to create a basic block.



Eight of these sewn pairs will be used to create the 16 block inner block base. Five will be used later for the border. (Set these five aside for now.)

Quilt base layout.

Arrange these half square triangles in a pattern pleasing to you, using four across, and four down. For my quilt, my pattern was arranged as in the illustration below:



This base should measure approximately 16" x 16".

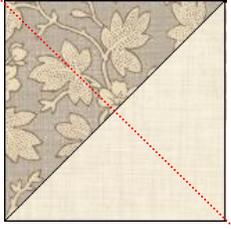
Inner border.

Using the 1" red strips cut from your charm blocks previously, sew them together, end to end to measure the same width as your base. Two strips, approximately 16" long. Sew these two strips to opposite sides of the block base. Sew two additional strips long enough to encompass the quilt base, plus the two sewn inner borders (approximately 17 1/2"). Sew these to the two remaining sides. You should now have a top that has the 16 half triangle blocks with a 1/2" (finished) border. The inner border should measure 3/4" wide after sewing to the quilt, it will be 1/2" wide when the outer border is sewn on.



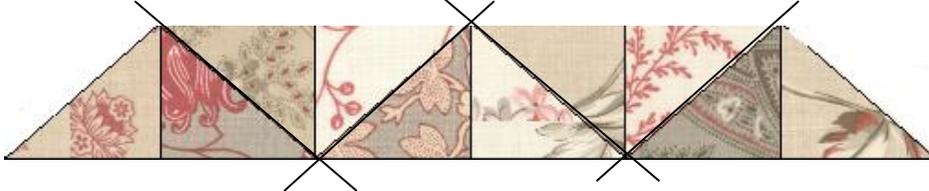
The outer border:

Using the remaining five half square triangle blocks, cut them in half diagonally as shown:

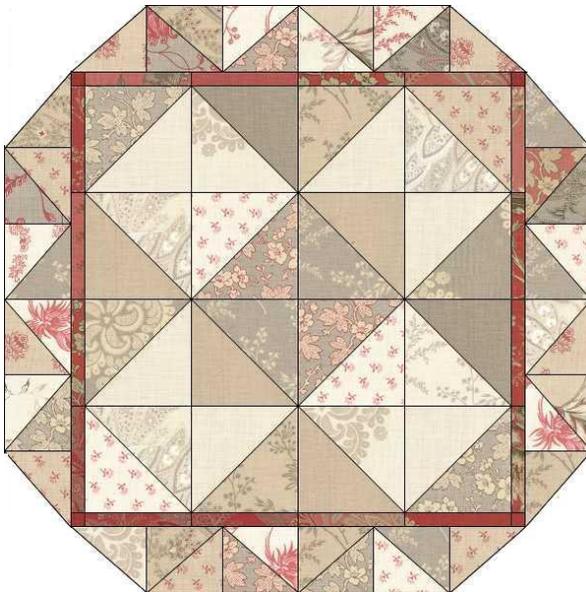


This will yield 10 units to create the borders with. Alternating directions of each unit, and randomly arranging the order of the triangles, sew five units together to create each border. The extended lines below show where each of the unit is.

You will be “nesting” the triangles together in order to create the horizontal band. The quilt has an octagonal shape, simply because I didn’t have enough charm squares to make a complete square. If you have enough fabric to finish out the corners, please do, noting my border size warning in the box above. (Using the triangle blocks to create a square quilt will require a miter setting to the corners of the quilt.)



You will now have your quilt base completed.



A word about the size of this border...

Being limited to charm squares, I didn’t have the luxury of “sizing” these blocks as I normally would. However, I knew I was using bias edges, and I could *force* them to fit. If you are not intending to quilt this project, you will not have a pleasing outcome. Because the border is a bit small for the size of the quilt, it will tend to “cup”, and won’t lay flat. Quilting this piece encourages the borders to behave, and I had very good results.

Applique

In order to get a good placement for my laurel wreath, I used a 10" dinner plate and traced around it with a water soluble marker. I appliquéd the fleur de lis first, I then placed an "x" where each circle would be placed (circles are sewn last). In reality, I traced actual laurel (bay) leaves for my pattern. I used three different, but closely matched, sizes for my wreath (the largest is 2 3/4" finished, the smallest 2 1/4" finished). There are 34 leaves on the original quilt, placed in a visually pleasing arrangement. I did not close the circle on the wreath, but left an opening of approximately 1 1/2" from leaf tip to leaf tip.

Use whatever manner of appliqué technique that works best for you. Remember, if you are using a charm pack, you must be very stingy with the fabric. Not only must you get the 34 leaves from the reds, but you will need 30 circles. I used freezer paper for the leaves and the fleur de lis, and the method in the box at right for my circles. To remove

Use the images on the following page as your patterns for the appliquéd portions of the quilt. Please remember that these represent the finished size of each element. You will need to add a slight 1/4" seam allowance for each motif. The Fleur de Lis is made up of 4 shapes. The center, the two mirror image side swirls, and the oval connector that gets appliquéd on top. I have provided three leaf sizes, but feel free to improvise on these shapes and sizes to suit your taste.

After all of the appliqué is complete, quilt and bind. I used some of the leftover red, but mostly I had to go to my stash for the red binding. The backing is also from my stash.

For an easy solution to cutting all of those circles, I used a scrapbooking circle punch (approximately 5/8") and cut all of my circles from those annoying subscription card inserts out of magazines. The card stock from these inserts are the perfect paper weight for my templates! I just basted the turned edge of the fabric on the circles, appliquéd in place, and then did a small slit on the back side to remove the circle paper.

I also put a tiny bit of fiberfill in each circle to puff them out slightly. After inserting the "fluff", I just basted the back opening closed to hold in the fiberfill until I sandwiched the quilt with the batting and backing.

Applique Templates for Chateau Dumas

