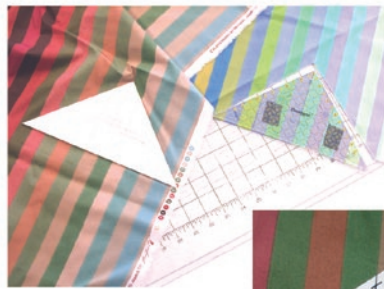


WORKING WITH MICHAEL JAMES COLORSTRIPES from FREE SPIRIT

COLORSTRIPES are made for improvisation. These unique coordinated stripes are perfect for creating subtle washes of color as well as bold contrasts. Use them in your favorite traditional patterns or create unique one-of-a-kind designs. Follow the instructions here to create a dazzling wall quilt in Michael James' signature style, or adapt the tips in this step-by-step guide to your own purposes. Either way, the sky's the limit!



Figs. 1 & 2: Templates used here are right triangles that finish as a 6" square block once sewn along their longest sides.

The template is marked with lines that correspond to the width of the stripes, for quick alignment.

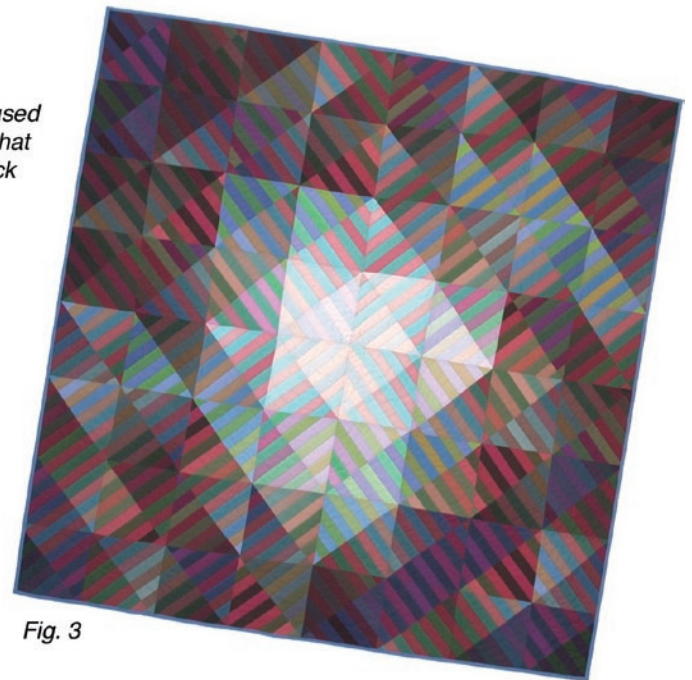
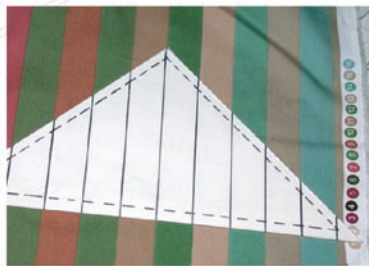
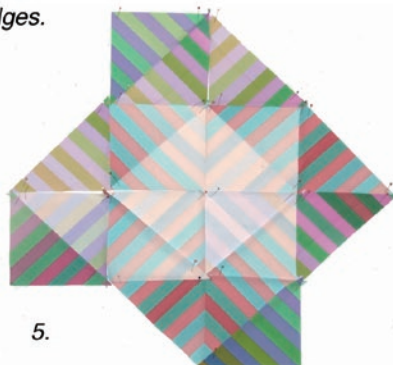


Fig. 3

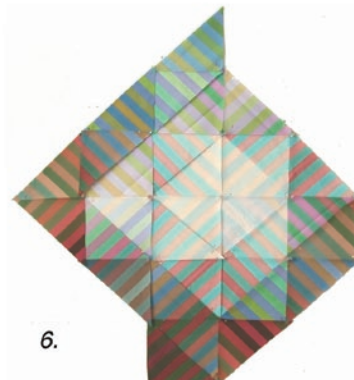
Figs. 4 - 8 (below). Triangles are pinned to a wall surface or other vertical support, to allow viewing from a distance as the composition is organized. The lightest colors are located first, at what will become the center of the quilt. Gradually, darker values are added, culminating in the darkest areas near the outside edges.



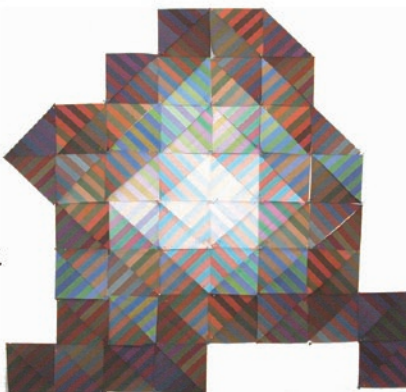
4.



5.



6.



7.



8.

When all triangles are pinned in place on the working wall, final adjustments and changes can be made to achieve the desired look.

Sets of two triangles forming the unit blocks of the quilt top are then removed from the wall and sewn together, taking care to match the stripes of adjoining pieces. Finally, blocks are sewn into rows, and then rows together to complete the top.



Figs. 9 & 10. The backside of the Colorstripes quilt is an original design of its own, made using 12" square blocks cut from several of the lighter colorways (see fig. 11 below).

The quilting follows the diagonal direction of the stripes on the top of the quilt and was executed using nylon monofilament on the top and normal cotton-covered polyester thread in the bobbin.

A hanging sleeve was prepared by matching short sections of Colorstripe fabrics to the square blocks against which the sleeve is sewn.

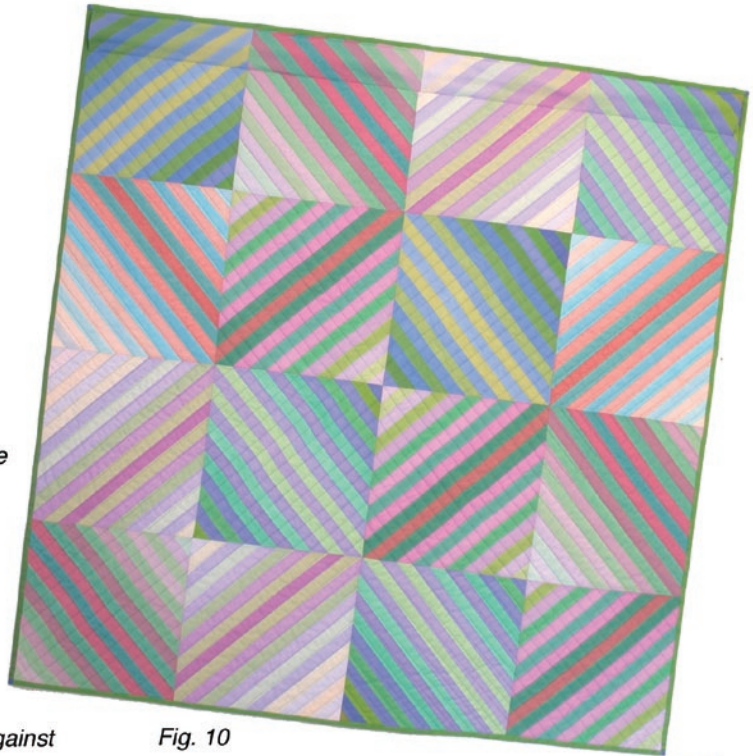


Fig. 10

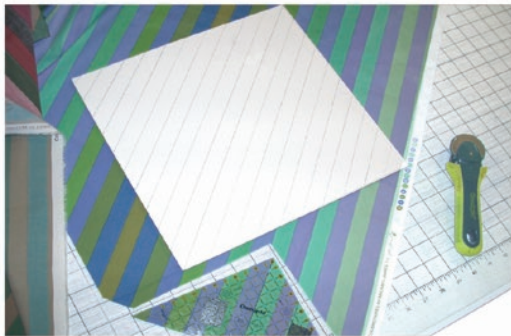


Fig. 11

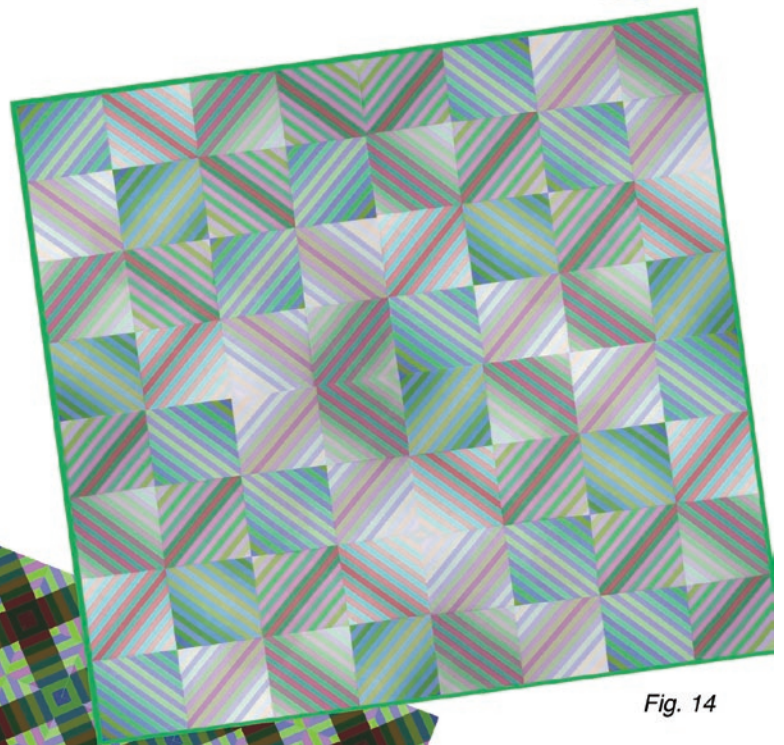


Fig. 14

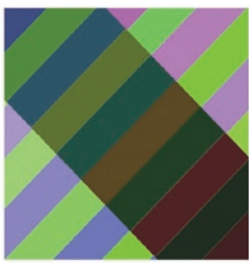
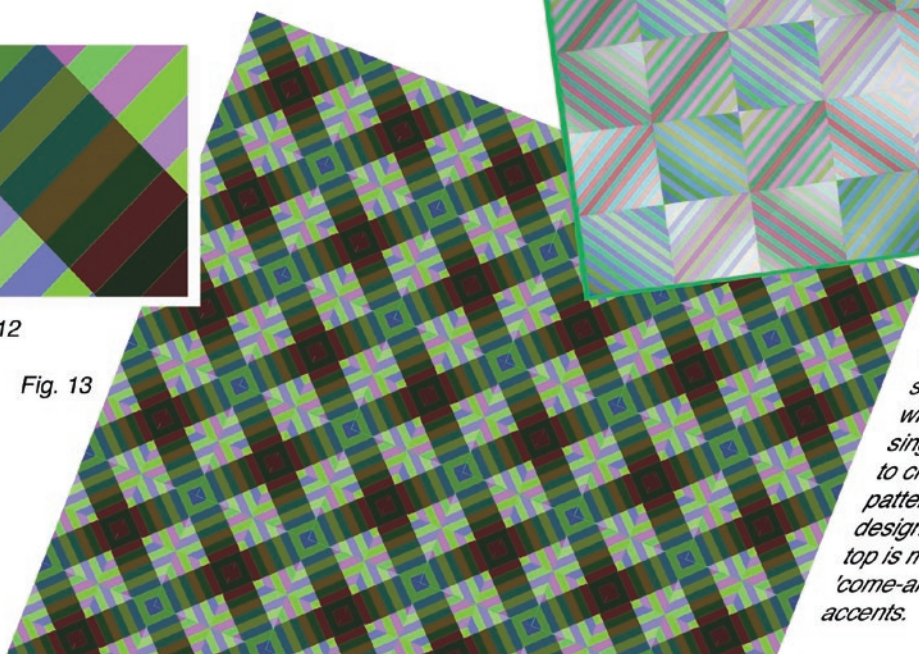


Fig. 12

Fig. 13



Figs. 12 - 14. These images show variations easily achieved with Colorstripes fabrics. A single block (fig. 12) is rotated to create a "Diamond Lattice" pattern (fig. 13). In Fig. 14, the design used to back the quilt at top is multiplied to create a dazzling 'come-and-go' grid with diamond accents.