

## July Block of the Month

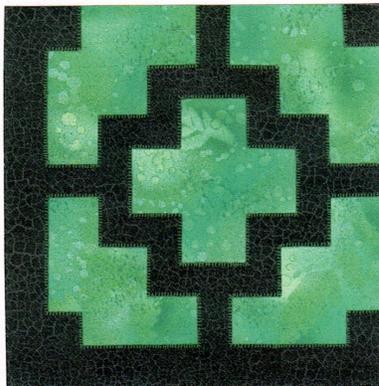
### “Carpet Squares” Karen G. Fisher

Where do our ideas come from? We know we’ll be inspired by other beautiful quilts, so we go to quilt shows and buy quilting magazines and patterns. But what about finding inspiration in unexpected places: an advertisement in a magazine, or a wrought iron gate? Ideas are everywhere, if we take time to look, then gather and catalog those ideas to develop later on.

I saved this rug pattern from a magazine years ago. The image is rather small, and has already been cut up to eliminate whatever else it showed. But I couldn’t figure out how to make it into a quilt once I started quilting. I made a piecing pattern for blocks, but the proportions felt wrong. Then I got the proportions right, but the piecing was too complicated. Then lightbulbs flashed, alarm bells rang, and the answer presented itself: applique!

With the general solution at hand, I decided to make each block from two fabrics, and had to decide which would be background, and which would be appliqued. If the center and stepped areas were the applique, it could be difficult to get all the spacing just right. But if the dark space divider lines were the applique, it was just one shape, from edge to edge of each block, plus one corner—MUCH easier to keep lined up!

If you look at the single block pattern, it reads as an L-shape, with two sides missing. As four blocks come together, all facing the same direction, there is a big square in the center. To complete a quilt top, you need only make the necessary number of blocks, then add the appropriate size inner (or final) border, to complete all the blocks.



**Pattern:**

Enlarge 200% for 9" block

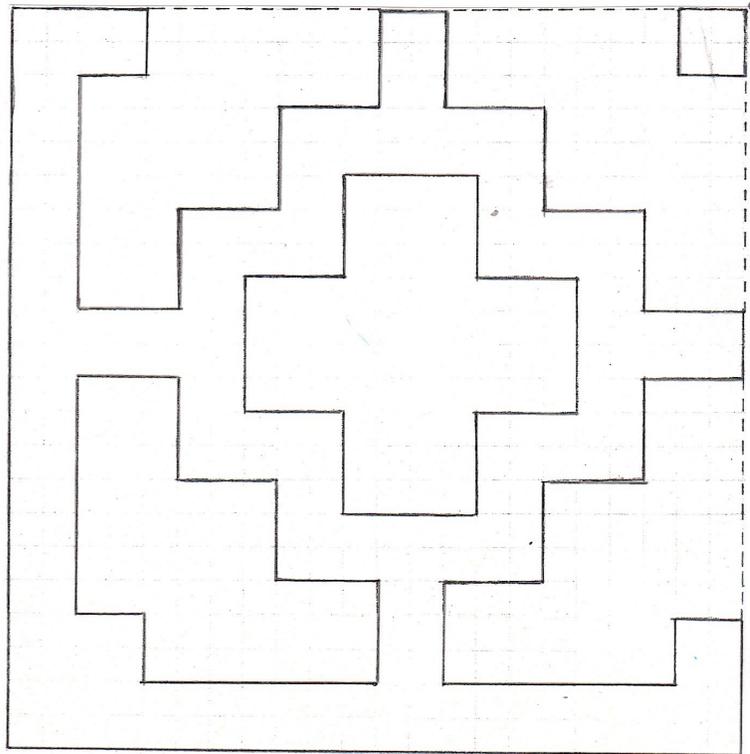
Enlarge 267% for 12" block

Enlarge 178% for 8" block

Select your block size based on the size quilt you are making.

**AFTER ENLARGING PATTERN, ADD ¼" SEAM ALLOWANCE ON ALL FOUR SIDES. IT'S EASIER TO ADD IT AT THIS POINT, RATHER THAN IN THE BASIC PATTERN OUTLINE.**

Draw top layer design on dull (non-sticking) side of Pellon 808 Craft Fuse.



Fuse interfacing to back of top (dark) fabric. Make sure it is completely fused across whole surface.

**To assemble layers:**

Cut background fabric extra large, about 10" for a 9" block.

Cut out applique. Leave seam allowance on all areas that go off edge.

Lay applique layer on background, and pin in place. Because of the interfacing, you will not need as many pins as you need for more flexible fabric.

Stitch down all edges of applique shapes. I like to use a blanket stitch, but a simple zigzag will also work

Trim blocks to desired sewing size.



Assembling multiple blocks. Sew all blocks together. If all blocks are going the same direction, you will have two sides on the whole quilt top with NO borders..

To add correctly sized border (because it is narrow, this can be a nice-sized inner border), measure the width across one of the small center side areas that extends off the edge. Add  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to this width for a border that will complete the outer edge of the whole quilt. You will get some odd numbers, but make sure to cut accurately (for a 9" block, the outer strip was cut  $1 \frac{3}{8}$ "—I measured it about 6 times to be sure it was right!). Add outer border and quilt as desired.

