

Modern Art Quilters

Charm Pack Project

Floating Stones Wall Quilt

by Helen Howes

You will need

A pack of 5-inch Charm Squares*

Approximately 2-1/2 metres for the background colour, back, and binding .

If you want a contrast binding, a long or fat quarter should be adequate

Use good quality 100% cotton fabrics for the best result.

Batting and backing to fit - this quilt finished to about 39 inches / 1 metre square

* Charm packs are usually forty-two pieces; you won't need all of them for this. The Oakshott version used two packs of 25 squares, but that was then...

If cutting from your stash you will need about thirty-two 5-inch squares - I like to start with all the squares different...

Cotton thread for piecing and quilting

A square ruler, rotary cutter, sewing machine with a regular foot for piecing and a walking foot for quilting. Scissors. A few pins



Start by making the central block

Lay out twenty-five squares in an arrangement to please your eye

Sew the pieces using a 1/4 inch seam, Right Sides Together (RST)

Sew five rows of five

Press the seams alternate ways and sew the rows together. Press nicely until all is lovely and flat

Add the first round of the background fabric

Measure the width of the block exactly (through the middle!) and cut two pieces three inches by exactly this measurement from the background fabric. Sew these to the top and bottom of the centre block and press towards the strips. Measure the height of the block with the added pieces, and cut two pieces three inches by this second measurement exactly. Sew and press...



Make Floating Stones

From your background fabric, cut twenty-four pieces 6 by 2 inches. Cut one in half

Cut your extra charm squares as shown, cutting one piece 2 inches wide by 5 inches, then cutting a 2 inch square from this narrower strip

Set the other pieces aside for the binding (or, cut 2-inch squares from yardage, or cut four 2-inch squares from 6 different charm squares)

Sew the background strips and the 2-inch squares into a long strip, starting and ending with your 3-inch pieces and press to the darker fabrics (in this case, towards the little squares)



Cut enough 3-inch strips from your background fabric to match the length of your "stones" strip, times two

Sew these to each side of the pieced strip and press towards the 3-inch strips.. If you have several 3-inch pieces make sure that the "stones" come at least 3 inches from the end of your sections



Cut 6-inch squares from the resulting wider strips, making sure that the "stones" are not too close to the ends. Vary the placement of the stones as much as possible for variety and interest...



Sew your blocks into two rows of five and two rows of seven, alternating the direction of the blocks as shown to make it easier... Sew these to the centre block..

You may need to adjust the seam allowances a little to make the blocks fit - press and try before you sew the blocks onto the centre, and make any adjustments needed to make a good fit...





Layer your quilt top with wadding/batting (cotton or bamboo or really flat polyester, please) and pin madly all over. Quilt - I quilted these very simply using a walking foot and pretty much straight lines, but you can, of course, do all sorts of jolly nice and complicated things on this sort of simple surface...

Use the leftover oddments from your extra "stones" to make a binding*, sew all of these together into a long strip, press the seams open, and fold in half Right Side Out. See <https://www.modernartquilters.co.uk/patterns/techniques.html> for all our best finishing techniques...

* or cut 2-1/2 inch strips enough to go all around, and carry on as before...

