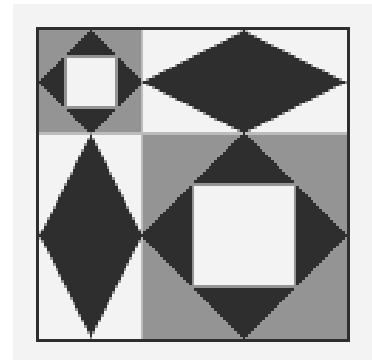


Some Variations on a Four Block Storm at Sea Pattern

By Barry McWilliams

The Storm at Sea block lends itself to a myriad of possibilities. From the same block can come stars, wavy lines, curves and circles, and all sorts of other shapes.

The basic Storm at Sea block is made of a large and small square with rectangles bordering them on two sides. Within the rectangles are diamonds; within the squares are usually squares within squares - though four patches or other patterns could be placed within them.



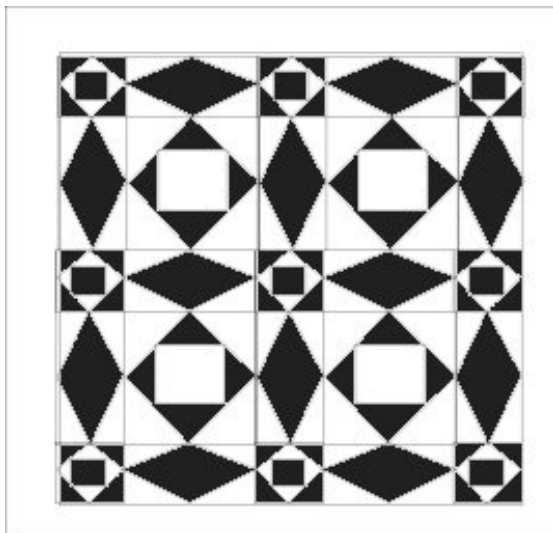
By repeating rows of these basic blocks, you get the "Storm at Sea" pattern, given its name probably because of the wavy effect that is produced by the alternating diamonds. Often an extra row of small squares and diamonds is added to the other side and bottom - as has been done in these four block or six block patterns. Some quilters double up on rows of diamonds and small squares within their quilts.

The value and shades of the various pieces produce the patterns. The traditional "Storm" colors are blues and whites - but anything is acceptable. Fabrics should be selected as "darks, lights" and "middle" tones. A variety of fabrics in a given shade or value can be chosen and used - depending on your aesthetic tastes - and certainly the patterns allow substituting colors for the values - but if you keep the values in mind, the pattern will stand out better, and make a more striking quilt. It is even possible to overlap two patterns - one using values and one using colors.

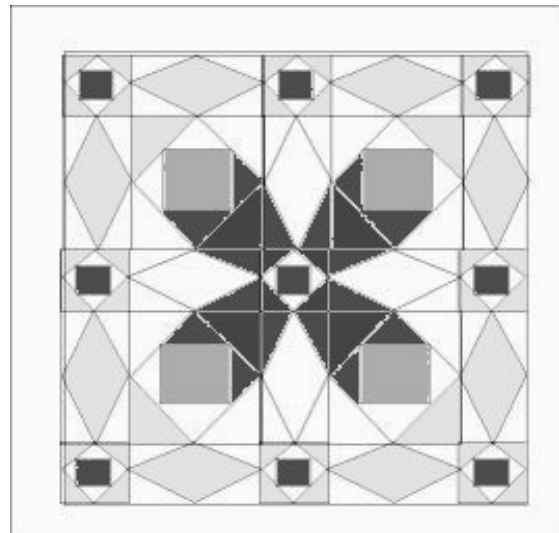
The following patterns illustrate some of the possibilities - there are certainly many more - especially as you add additional rows and columns of blocks. There are all sorts of borders than can be added to these as well.

There are sewing instructions online at **Mother's Quiltworks** and the **Quilter's Cache**; and **Marti Mitchell** also gives **extra instruction on the diamonds**. Accurate **templates** are a must; and getting the "points" where the diamonds touch the squares right takes some degree of skill as well. With so many small pieces, a flannel board is helpful. Any of these Four Block patterns will give you practice before doing a larger quilt. Some examples of Storm at Sea" quilts are also online.

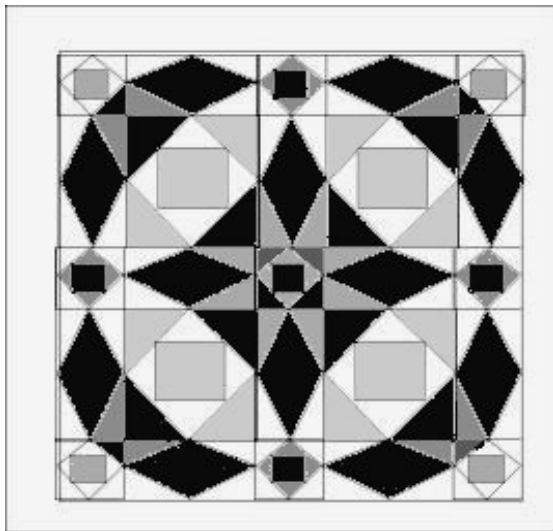
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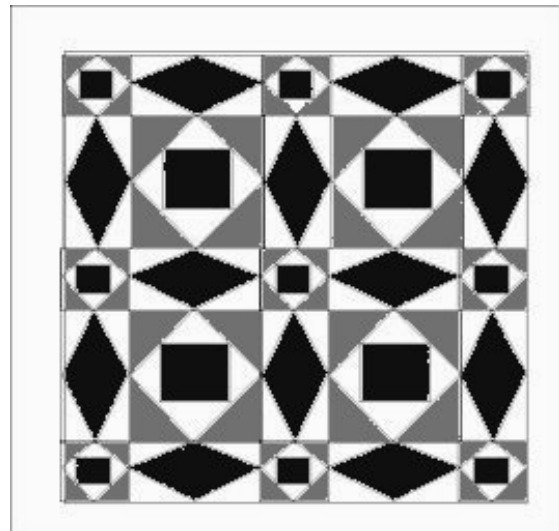
Traditional 1



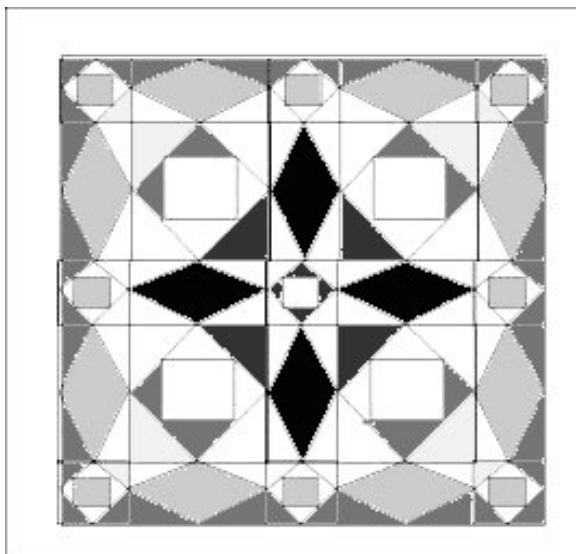
Cross



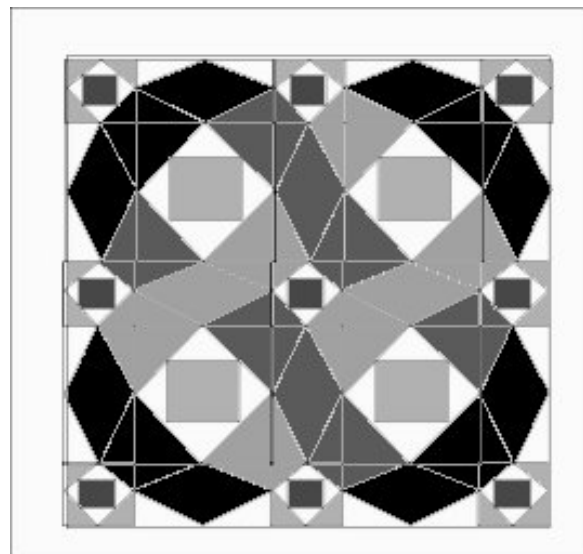
Jewel



Traditional 2

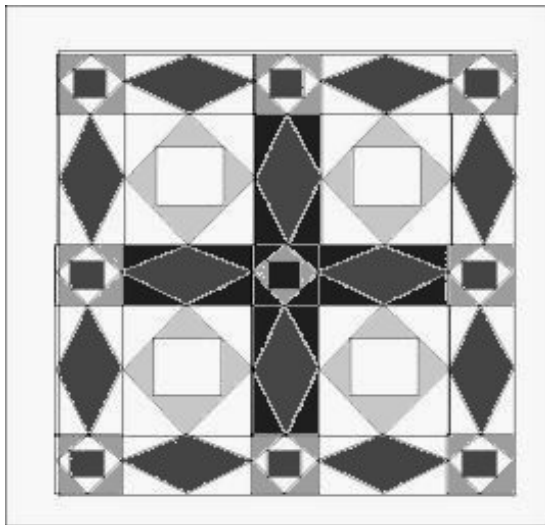


Star 1

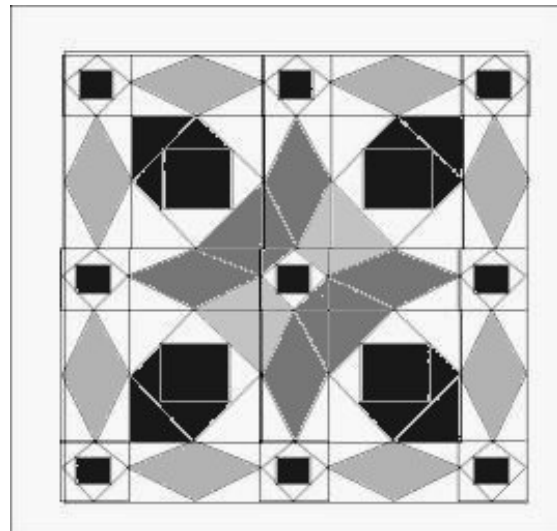


Knot

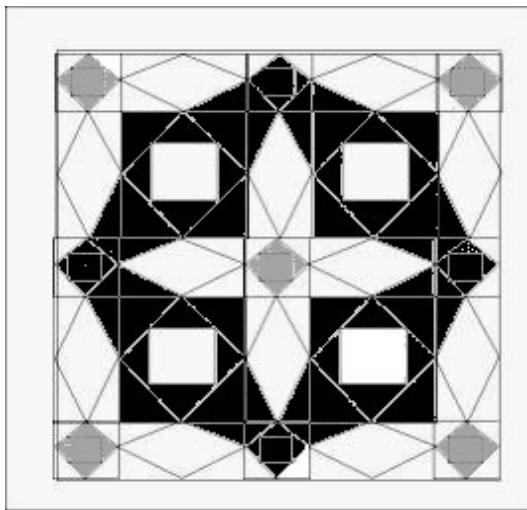
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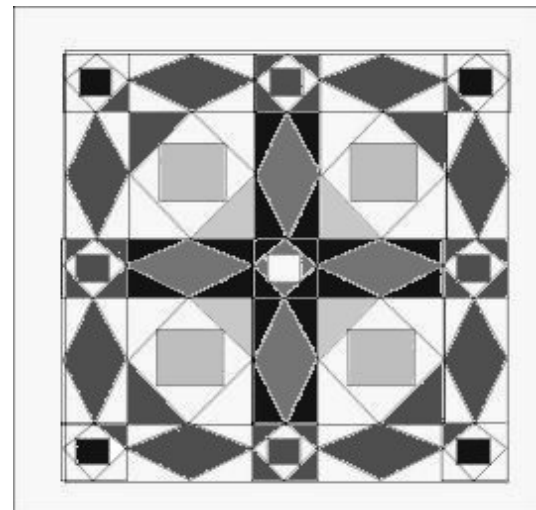
Cross 2



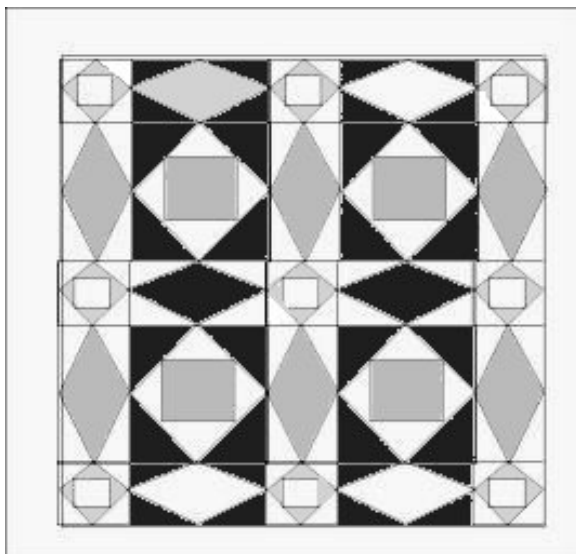
Diamond



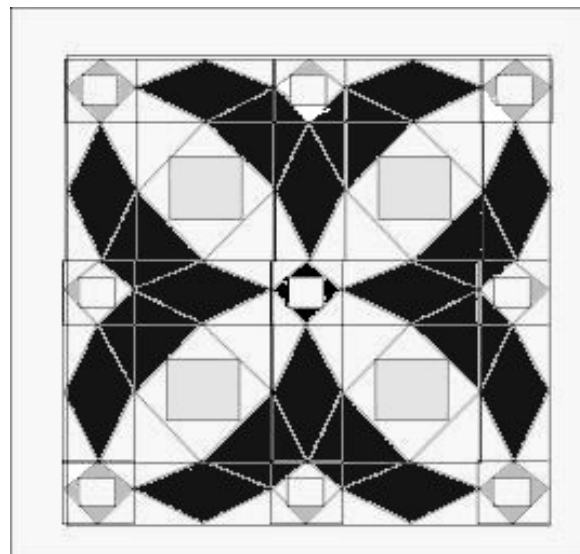
Jewel 2



Cross 3

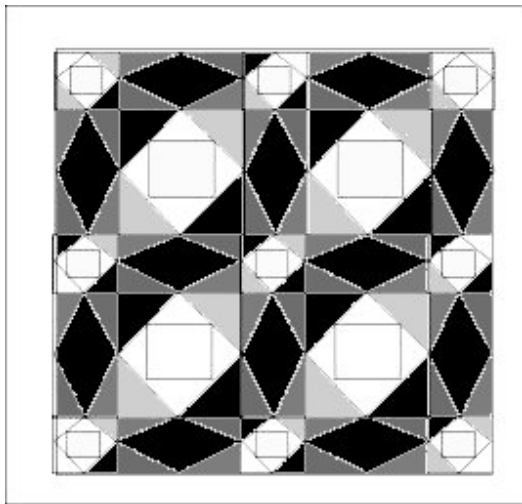


Columns

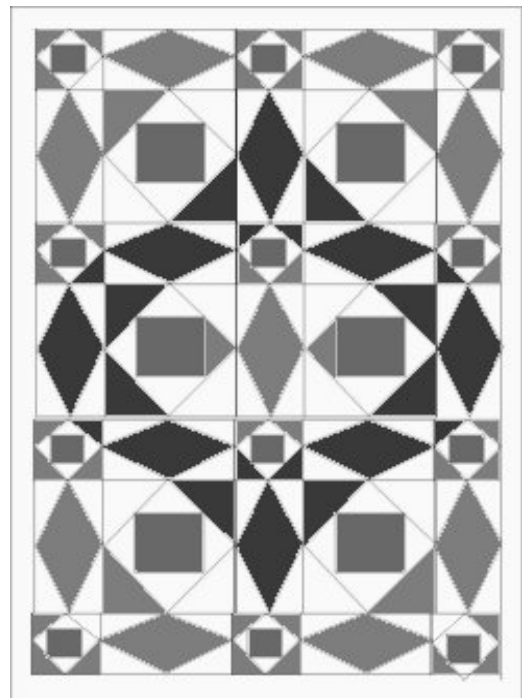


Flower

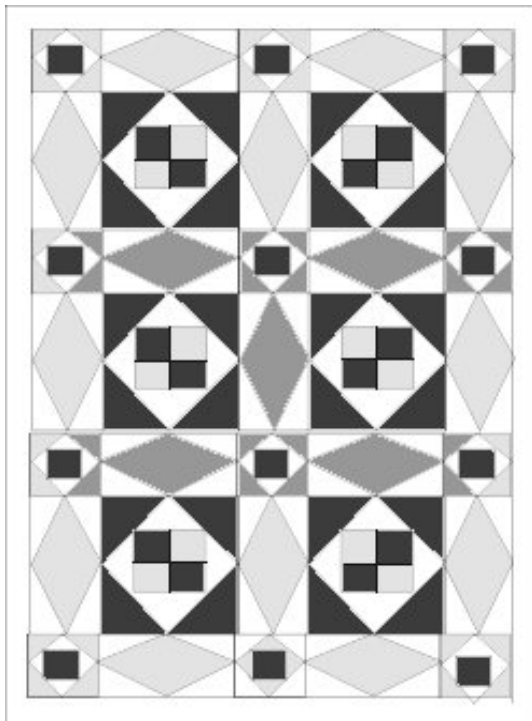
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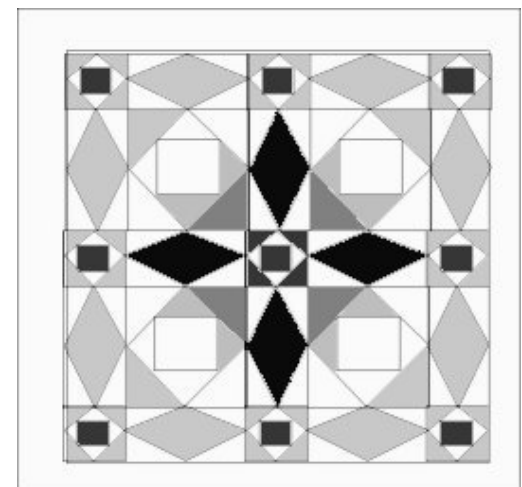
Waves



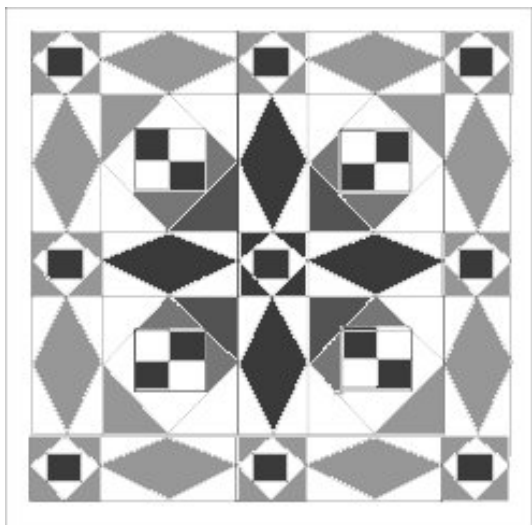
Jewel6



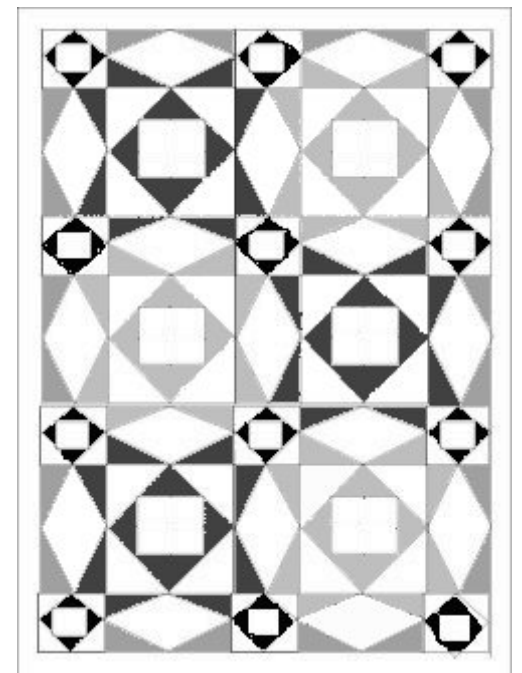
Lattice



Star 2



Star 3



Balls