

# Super String Quilts

## 13 Paper Piecing and Scrap Quilt Patterns



## ***Super String Quilts: 13 Paper Piecing and Scrap Quilt Patterns***

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## Letter from the Editors

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Hi Quilters,

If you've never made a string quilt before, you are missing out! String quilting is the easiest way to learn how to paper piece, and it's also a wonderful way to use up scraps in a quilt. String quilting simply refers to sewing strips of fabric together side by side and then trimming them into the shape you need for your quilt. You can sew the strips together just as you would for any other piecework project, or you can sew them onto a piece of paper for added stability. This is called foundation paper piecing, and many of the tutorials in this collection employ this method for making string quilts.

String quilting may sound like a hodgepodge of fabrics sewn together, but the striped piecework can be used to create beautiful patterns in a quilt top. Sewing strings together diagonally across a piece of paper creates directional quilt blocks that can be arranged into a diamond or lattice pattern. Strings can also be used to make other shapes and designs as well. Just flip through these patterns, and you'll see how versatile string quilts can really be!

Happy Quilting!

You can find more string quilt patterns, paper piecing patterns, and quilting tutorials at [www.FaveQuilts.com](http://www.FaveQuilts.com).

Our eBooks, like all our quilting projects, are absolutely FREE to members of our quilting community. Please feel free to share with family and friends and ask them to sign up at our website for our [free e-mail newsletter](#).

Happy Quilting,

*The Editors of FaveQuilts*

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## Super String Quilts: 13 Paper Piecing and Scrap Quilt Patterns

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## String Quilt Basics

### String Quilting Primer

By: [Bonnie K. Hunter](#) from Quiltville

String quilt patterns are a traditional way to piece with fabric scraps that can't otherwise be used for quilting. This String Quilting Primer will introduce you to the technique of string quilting, and show you how to make a few basic string quilt blocks.



#### FABRIC FOUNDATION STRING BLOCK:

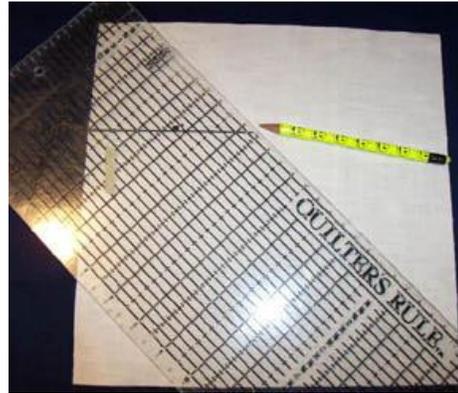
##### Materials:

- Strips of fabric, 1 to 2" wide, any color
- 11" Squares of foundation fabric, in an accent color (you may choose a different size square if you would like smaller or larger blocks)
- Ruler, pencil, sewing supplies

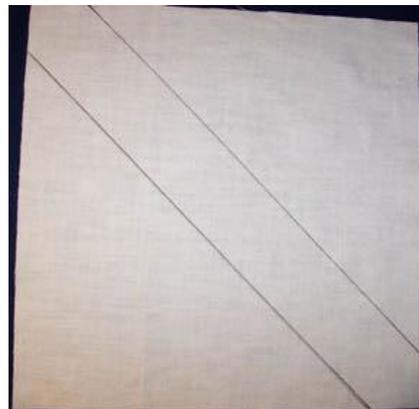


##### Instructions:

- 1) Using your ruler and a pencil, lay the 1" line corner to corner on the diagonal of the square. Draw a light line. This is a 'placement' line, not a sewing line, so it will be covered up in the next step.



- 2) Flip the block around and repeat step 1. You can use your previous line by putting the 2" mark on it and drawing the second line 1" from the center on the other side of the block.



- 3) Take your first strip of fabric, and align the right edge of the strip up against the first pencil mark. Sew 1/4" from the edge of the strip as shown.



- 4) Flip and press your strip out towards the block corner.



- 5) Place another strip on top of the first with right sides together and stitch, flip, press.



- 6) Continue adding strips until you finish one side of the square, and then repeat for the remaining side. It helps to put a piece a couple of inches wide at the very corner or you will "lose" it in the seam allowance later.



- 7) Press the whole block well and trim it to 10-1/2" square. One block quarter complete!



- 8) Two block quarters make a block half, and two halves make one big 20" block.



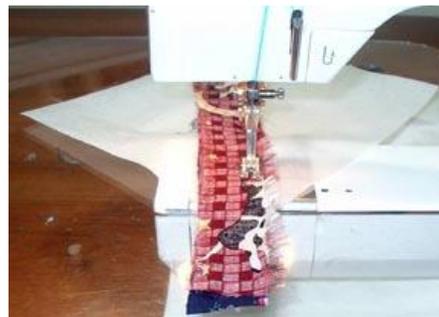
**PAPER PIECED STRING BLOCK:**

**Materials:**

- Wax paper or old phone book pages
- Strips of fabric, 1 to 2" wide, any color
- Denim needle or larger sewing machine needle, size 14 or 16

**Instructions:**

- 1) Cut the wax paper or phone book pages into squares.
- 2) Lay your first string/strip down the center of the paper square on the diagonal. Take your second strip, and place it on top of the first strip with rights sides together. Stitch the strips to the paper with an approximate 1/4" seam. Because some of my strips have uneven or torn edges, I am more concerned with "enough" of the fabric being caught in the seam, and the seam being straight, than I am with the exactness of that 1/4".



- 3) Press the second strip open away from the first, and continue adding strips to either side of that center strip in the same way, filling up the block. I like to go beyond the edges of the paper so that I definitely have enough when squaring up the block. You don't want to run short and not have enough to catch in the seams when you join the blocks together.



- 4) Trim blocks up to 8-1/2" square (or desired block size). Remove papers at this point. Stitch blocks together in rows, and stitch rows together to form quilt center.



## String Quilt Blocks

### Sun Rays Quilt Block

By: Jessica Kovach from Twin Fibers

Looking for unique quilt block ideas to spice up your quilting? Try the Sun Rays Quilt Block! This free quilt block pattern acts like a picture frame for applique and embroidery. The striped border offsets a plain center square in this block.



**Block Size:** 12-1/2" x 12-1/2"

#### MATERIALS:

- 8-1/2" x 8-1/2" center square
- Strips of fabric for the border, ranging from 1" to 3-1/4" wide and at least 8" long
- Masking tape or painters' tape
- Cutting mat



#### INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Start sewing random strips together to make the border. I placed 2 pieces of tape, 3" apart on my cutting mat, to help me see how my border is looking and if I have a long enough strip sewn on. Every time I added another strip, I checked it by lining up one of the seam lines with the 45 degree angle line on my cutting mat. You can then see that you have enough fabric on the top and bottom to create the border at a 45 degree angle.



- 2) In this picture, you can see where I was getting a little off on my sewing on the strips. At this point, I trimmed my border and adjusted where I was adding on the strips, so I would have less waste. You may or may not have to do that to keep building your border at the right angle.



- 3) Here you can see that I have enough length in the strip to create one side. I drew a line at a 45 degree angle to show you that you need enough fabric on each end to sew the

mitered corners. Make sure you sew your borders quite a bit longer than the center square to account for the mitered corners. Trim your fabric to a width of 3".



- 4) Place your pieced border strip of fabric and center fabric right sides together and stitch it together starting and ending 1/4" from the edge of the center square fabric.



- 5) Open and press with seams going toward the center.

- 6) Stitch up and trim your second border strip to a width of 3".



- 7) Stitch it to the second side, again starting your stitching 1/4" from the center fabric.

- 8) Don't unfold and press this side, yet. First you're going to draw on the line you will use to sew the mitered corner. Use your ruler and draw a line from the intersection of the two borders (see the arrows in the picture).



- 9) Now, fold your block in half as shown in the picture, with the two borders matched up. Stitch on the line that you drew in the step above, starting 1/4" in from the center and going all the way to the outer edge (see the line in the picture).



- 10) Open it up, press and admire your mitered corner! Don't forget to trim your seam allowance to 1/4".



- 11) Now, you have 2 more borders to go. Add them on in the same way as the first.



- 12) All 4 borders are on and now you can square up your block to 12-1/2".



- 13) You could add some cute applique in the center or just leave it blank; it will look great either way!



## String Star Quilt Block

By: Mary from Molly Flanders

The String Star Quilt Block is a great way to add interest to a string quilt pattern. Stitch strings across two corners of a solid colored square, and then piece the four squares together to create a star quilt block. These make interesting scrap quilt blocks, as well.



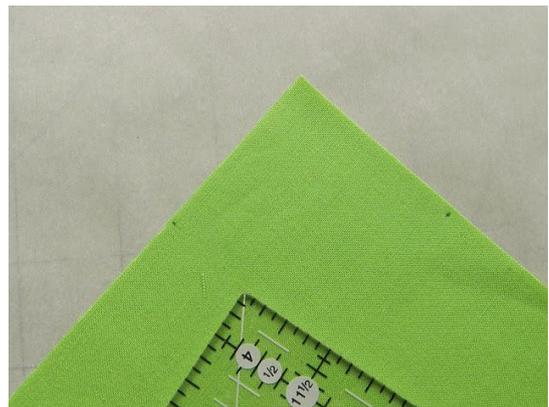
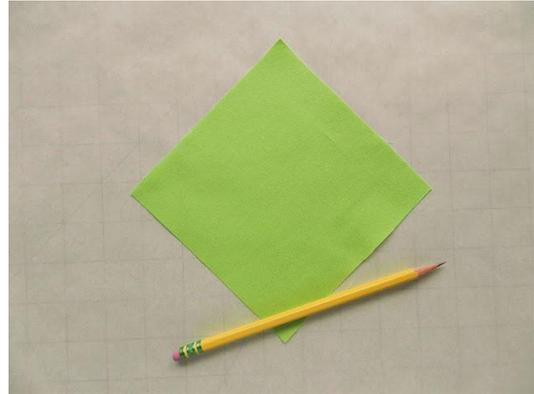
**Block Size:** 10-1/2" x 10-1/2"

### MATERIALS:

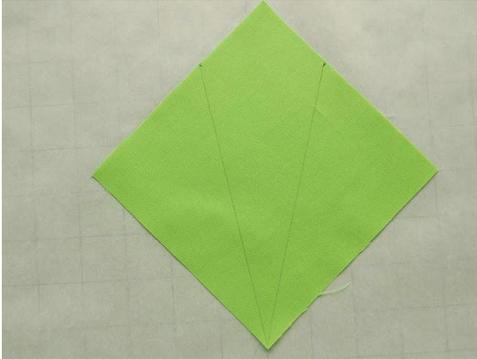
- Four 5-1/2" squares of green fabric
- Ruler and pencil
- Assorted strips of fabric, roughly 1-1/2" wide

### INSTRUCTIONS:

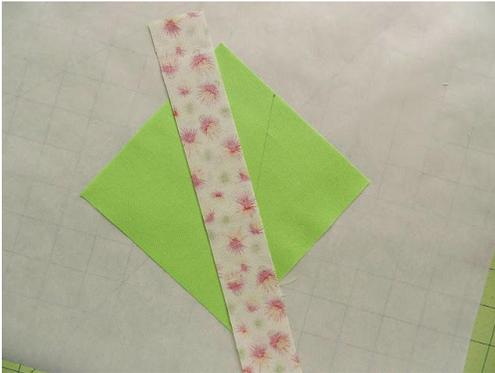
- 1) In the center of a 5-1/2" square, we are going to draw lines to make a kite shape (similar to a spider web block). Make a dot 2" from the top point on either side of the block.



- 2) Then draw a line from the dot to the point just opposite the top point on the block. This creates a kite shape in the center.



- 3) Choose a strip of fabric that will cover your first line and extend past the edges of the block.



- 4) Lay the fabric edge (right sides facing) next to the drawn line on the kite portion of the block.

- 5) Using a 1/4" seam allowance, stitch the strip to the block from top to bottom. Remember the drawn line is not the stitch line; it is used only to line up the strip.



- 6) Press this strip back.



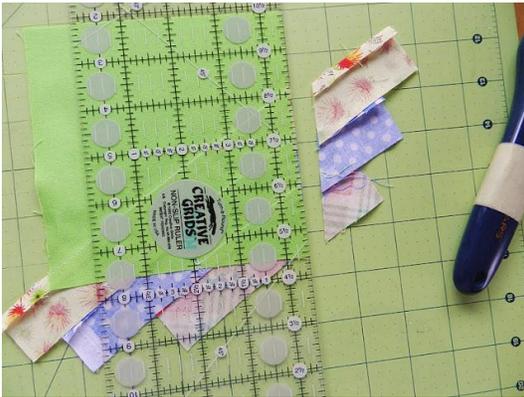
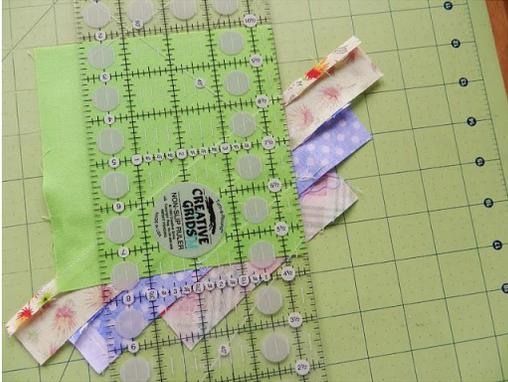
- 7) Take the next strip, and place it on top of the first strip, right sides facing and raw edges even.



- 8) Again, stitch this strip and press back.



- 9) Continue adding strips until the corner is completely covered. Flip the block over so the right side is face down on your mat and trim the excess strips of fabric. Use the block as your trimming guide.



- 10) Then begin the same process on the other side of the kite. Line this strip up next to the drawn line and stitch. Continue adding strips, stitching, and pressing until you have this corner covered. Flip the block over and trim the excess.



- 11) Repeat 3 more times for to complete 4 quarter blocks. Here is what all four finished will look like:



- 12) Stitch the top two and the bottom two together. Then stitch the two halves together.



## String Spool Quilt Block

By: Nanette Merrill from Freda's Hive

Give the traditional spool quilt block new life with this string quilt variation. The String Spool Quilt Block uses like-colored strings in the body of each spool so that each block looks like a different spool of thread. This block is a sophisticated alternative to the classic string quilt.



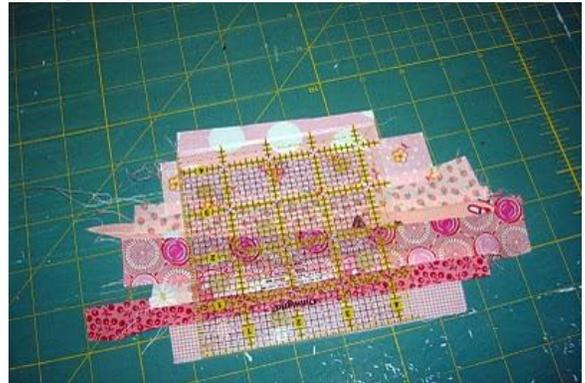
### MATERIALS:

- Pink strips at least 4-1/2" in length and varying widths
- 2 strips of neutral fabric, 4-1/2" x 1-1/2"
- 4 squares of neutral fabric, 1-1/2" x 1-1/2"
- 2 strips of aqua fabric, 6-1/2" x 1-1/2"



### INSTRUCTIONS:

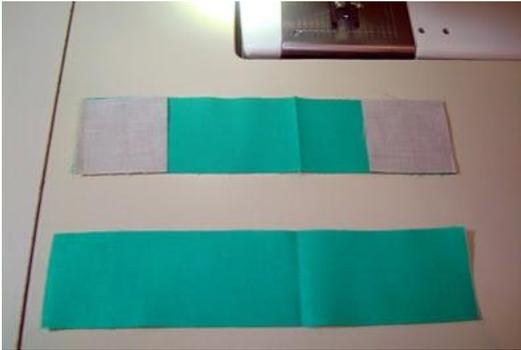
- 1) Sew the pink strips together and, using a 4-1/2" square ruler, slice off the edges to make the pink 4-1/2" square of string/strips.



- 2) Stitch the two 4-1/2" x 1-1/2" neutral strips to the sides of the pink block.



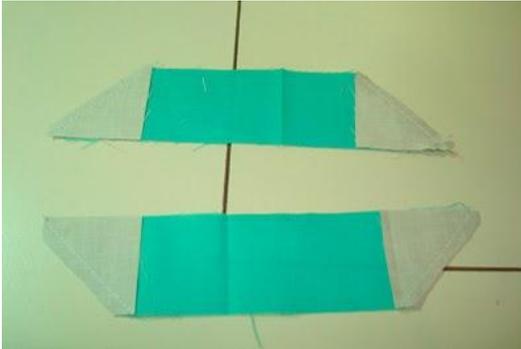
- 3) Using the snowball method, place the 1-1/2" square neutral squares to the ends of the turquoise strips.



- 7) With a finish press, you have a completed spool block. From start to finish this block can't take more than minutes. Could it be easier and more fun?



- 4) Stitch along the diagonal from corner to corner, attaching the turquoise strip to the neutral squares.



- 5) Trim a seam allowance and then press the seam outwards.
- 6) Placing the turquoise strips as shown, stitch the ends to the pink block to make the spool.



## String Projects for the Home

### Heart Strings Table Runner

By: Connie Campbell from Quilting by the River

Use all your red and pink fabric scraps in this free quilted table runner pattern meant just for Valentine's Day! The Heart Strings Table Runner features a string quilt pattern that looks like diamonds lined up along the length of the runner. The pointed ends of the runner echo the diamond pattern.



**Quilt Size:** 14" x 36"

**Time to Complete:** Weekend project

#### MATERIALS:

- Four 8" squares of old phone book pages
- Strips of red fabric, varying in width from 1" to 2-1/2"
- Starch
- Fabric for inner 1-1/2" border
- Fabric for outer 3" border
- Batting

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Start in the middle of the paper square and put one fabric strip right side up with another right side down on top of it and stitch. I have a couple used needles that I save for using on paper; use a small stitch

so it will be easy to tear off the paper when you are done.



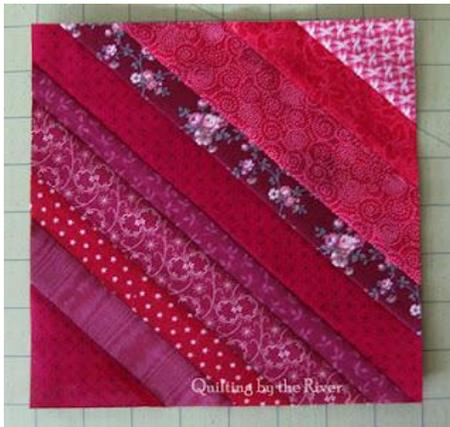
- 2) Continue adding strips until you cover the entire piece.



- 3) I like to starch the block, then flip over and trim it to the edges of the paper.



4) Finished 8" block:



5) Cut the block as shown into 4 pieces.



6) Make 4 – 8" blocks. Cut into 16 – 4" blocks (you will have 2 blocks left over).

7) Take 2 of the blocks and cut them diagonally for your ends.

8) Sew your blocks together as shown.



9) Next add a 1-1/2" border.



10) Then add a 3" border.



11) I used Warm & Natural batting, did some stipple quilting in the center and a free motion leaf on the border.

12) The binding is 2-1/2" strips that I sewed to the right side of the runner, then machine stitched down from the front.



## String Pieced Hot Pads

By: Deanna from Wedding Dress Blue

These stashbusting String Pieced Hot Pads will look just adorable in your kitchen if you use fabric scraps that coordinate with your decor. Sewing potholders is easy with this tutorial; just make sure to use plenty of batting or an insulated batting.



**Finished Size:** 8" x 8"

**Time to Complete:** In an evening

### MATERIALS (for 4 hot pads):

- 1 Fat Quarter focus fabric (mine is the cowboy boots), cut into (4) 8-1/2" squares. You can cut the leftovers into 1-1/2" strips and use them on the front, too.
- (4) 8-1/2" squares muslin
- Several matching/coordinating 1-1/2" strips (at least 10 is nice to give that scrappy feeling)

- (12) 8-1/2" squares cotton batting. That gives three layers per potholder. This gives you a very sturdy potholder. An alternative would be to use one square cotton batting and one square Insul-Bright per potholder.
- (4) 2-1/2" WOF strips for binding (You really need 2-1/2" because of the thickness of the potholder).



### INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Using your muslin squares as a foundation, you will piece the diagonal strings. To do this, place one string face up on the diagonal. Leave a bit hanging over the edge of the muslin square. Do not cut short. You will be sad.



- 2) Lay a second piece face down on top of the first string. Again, leave a bit hanging over.



- 3) Stitch through all three layers using a 1/4" seam allowance.

- 4) Iron open.



- 5) Continue to add strings until the entire square is covered.



- 6) Trim your square to 8".



- 7) Layer the focus fabric face down, and then add your batting squares, then your pieced block face up on top. Center up very carefully. Pin in a few places to prepare for quilting.





## Scrappy Tree Table Topper

By: [Tammy Harrison](#) from BOMQuilts.com

If you love string quilt patterns, this is a way to incorporate string quilting into your Christmas quilt decorations. The Scrappy String Christmas Tree Table Topper is foundation pieced and then topped with an applique star. Use leftover Christmas quilt fabrics or different shades of green scraps to make the strings for this Christmas tree quilt.



**Quilt Size:** 20-1/2" x 20-1/2"

**Time to Complete:** In an evening

### MATERIALS:

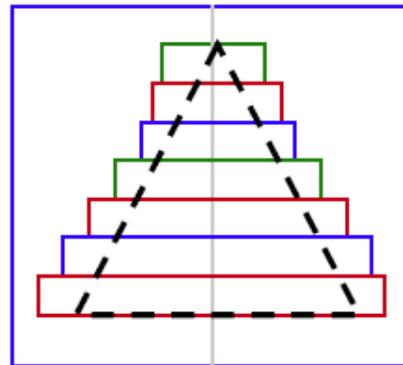
- 1/4 yd. gold fabric for star and binding (2" x WOF for binding)
- Scrap strips, as many as you need to create your tree, no larger than 2-1/2" wide
- Background fabric, ONE (1) 20-1/2" square for the Background and ONE (1) 23" square for backing fabric.

- One 15" square of muslin for the foundation for the Christmas tree.
- 23" square of batting
- Fusible web (optional for star)

### INSTRUCTIONS:

All seams are 1/4". Press in the direction of the arrows.

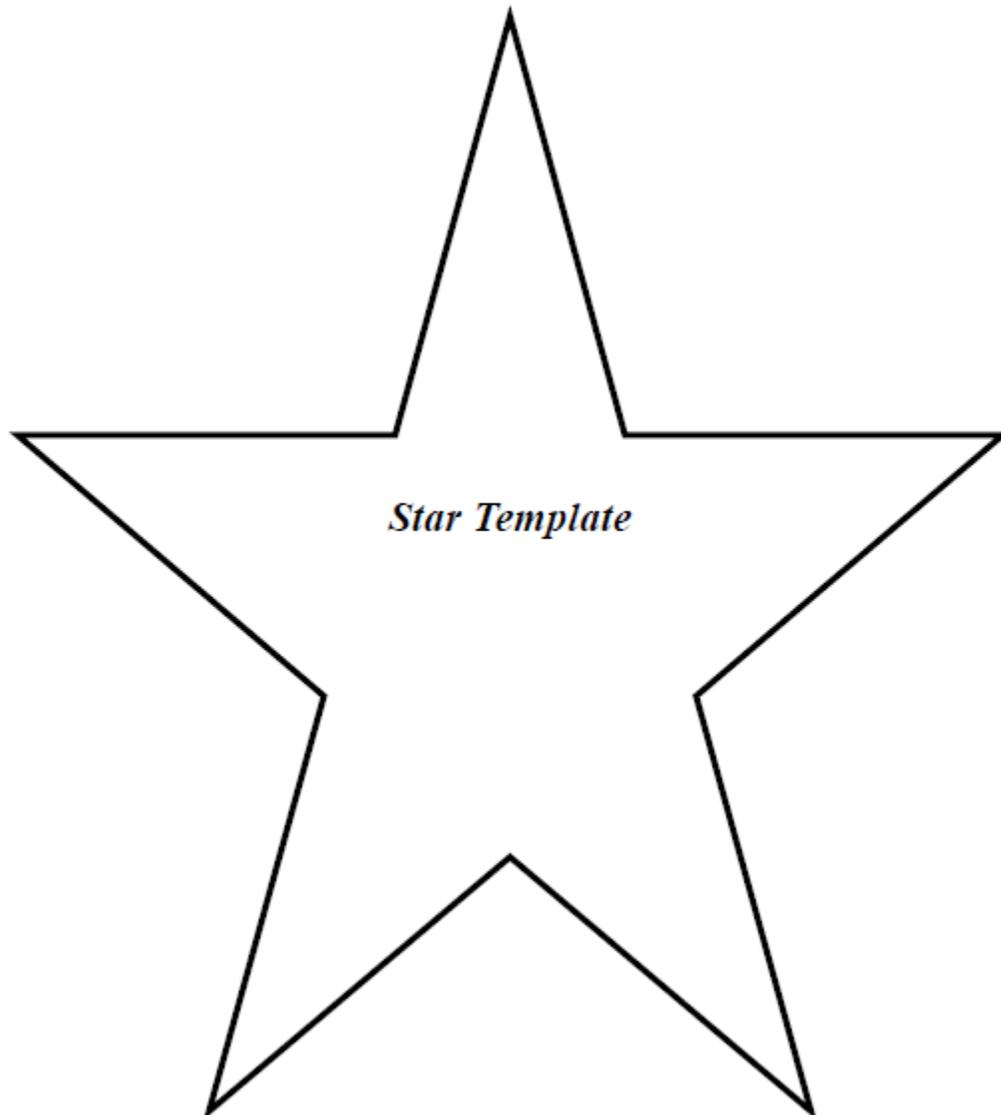
- 1) Begin by pressing your muslin foundation fabric square in the center so you have a center guideline and then sewing your string strips to the muslin foundation fabric. Sew the first strip right sides together, and then press open.
- 2) Sew the next string right sides together to the first string, then press back. Continue until you have enough strings sewn onto the muslin foundation fabric to create your Christmas tree.
- 3) Then, cut your string tree at an angle with a pinking edge.



- 4) Raw edge applique the tree to your table topper background fabric with a straight stitch 1/4" from the edge of the Christmas tree.

- 5) Next, cut out the Star template included in this pattern with a pinked edge, then raw edge applique it to your table topper background fabric with a straight stitch 1/4" from the edge of the Christmas tree.
- 6) Add decorative stitches, as desired, to the seams of your strings on your Christmas tree.





## Rainbow All-Sort String Pillow

By: Anorina Morris from Samelia's Mum

Bright colors and a bold design characterize the string quilt pattern used in the Rainbow All-Sort String Pillow. This paper piecing project makes colorful pillows that look right at home in a kids' room or play room. Use it to recycle scraps of solid colored fabric.



**Finished Size:** 15" x 15"

**Time to Complete:** In an evening

### MATERIALS:

- 4 squares of printer paper, 8-1/4" square
- 4 strips of black fabric, at least 12" long
- Fabric glue
- Assorted strips of colored fabric
- Thin poly batting
- Silver/grey perle 8 cotton thread
- 1 fat quarter for back of pillow
- 15" pillow form

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Place the black strip across the diagonal of the printer paper square and use a tiny dot of fabric glue to hold it in place.
- 2) Then it's time to add the strips. Take the first strip and place it down over the black strip, right sides facing and the edges aligned.
- 3) Make sure the strip is going to be long enough (that it will go over the edges of the paper).
- 4) Reduce the stitch length on your sewing machine to around 0.8 – 1.0. This will make for easier paper removal at the end. Trust me! You don't want to sit there with tweezers trying to remove paper when it's done.
- 5) Sew through the 3 layers with a 1/4" seam.
- 6) Flip over the colored strip and press. Take your next colored strip and repeat. Continue to the end of the square of paper. Flip it over and do the other side.



approximately 1" apart.

- 7) Trim the fabric by cutting around the paper. Then remove the paper.



- 11) I've made Rainbow All-Sort an envelope style cushion. Zippers scare me.



- 8) Make 4 of these blocks and then arrange how you please to make your cushion top.
- 9) I used a thin poly batting and hand quilted my cushion top with silver/grey perle 8 cotton. I love the texture of the cushion top.



- 10) A fat quarter is the perfect size for the back. Layer it with some batting and quilt it. I quilted mine with straight lines

## String Quilt Patterns

### Dreamy Lattice Quilt

By: Pat Bravo for Art Gallery Fabrics

The Dreamy Lattice Quilt is a string quilt pattern made with fabrics from the Sugar collection by Art Gallery Fabrics. The diagonal string blocks create a beautiful lattice pattern when they are pieced together for the quilt top. The bright yellow, pink, and teal fabrics make this quilt beautiful in a girl's room or in sunny guest room.



**Quilt Size:** 80" x 80"

**Time to complete:** A month or more

*Note: This pattern was designed using fabrics from the Sugar collection from Art Gallery Fabrics. Fabrics are coded in materials list for either color combination 1 or color combination 2. All fabrics for color combination 1 are from the SU-900 series and all fabrics for color combination 2 are from the SU-800 series*

#### Color Combination 2:



#### MATERIALS:

- Fabric A SU-906 or SU-806 3/4 yd.



- Fabric B SU-900 or SU-800 1-1/8 yd.



- Fabric C SU-904 or SU 804 1-1/8 yd.



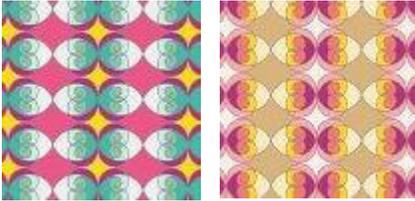
- Fabric D SU-901 or SU 801 2-1/4 yd.



- Fabric E SU-908 or SU 808 1/4 yd.



- Fabric F SU-903 or SU-803 1-7/8 yd.



- Fabric G SU-905 or SU-805 2 yd.



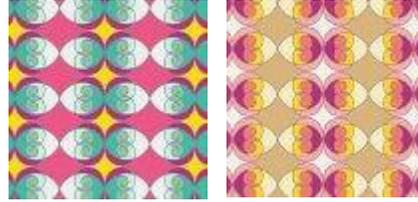
- Fabric H SU-902 or SU-802 7/8 yd.



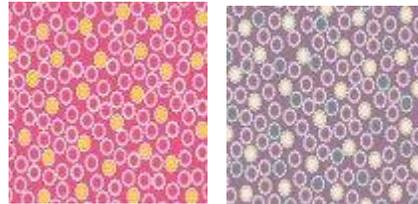
- Fabric I SU-907 or SU-807 1/4 yd.



- Backing SU-903 or SU-803 5-1/2 yd. (suggested)



- Binding fabric included SU-905 or SU-805 (FABRIC G)



#### INSTRUCTIONS:

*Note: This quilt was made from blocks composed of four units of strips cut in 45° angle and set forming diamonds. It was made in two color combinations. 1/4" seam allowances are included. Sew all fabrics right sides together.*

#### Cutting Directions:

For Block Combination 1, Cut (18 Blocks Total):

- Eighteen (18) 4-1/4" squares from fabric A, cut them once diagonally to get 36 triangles.
- Eighteen (18) 4-1/4" squares from fabric I, cut them once diagonally to get 36 triangles.
- Eighteen (18) 4-1/4" squares from fabric C, cut them once diagonally to get 36 triangles.
- Eighteen (18) 4-1/4" squares from fabric E, cut them once diagonally to get 36 triangles.
- Seventy-two 8-1/2" by 1-1/2" strips from fabric F

- Seventy-two 9-1/2" by 1" strips from fabric B
- Seventy-two 10-3/4" by 1" strips from fabric G
- Seventy-two 10-3/4" by 1" strips from fabric H
- Seventy-two 9-1/2" by 1-1/2" strips from fabric D
- Seventy-two 7-1/2" by 1" strips from fabric G

For Blocks Combination 2, Cut (18 Blocks Total):

- Thirty-six (36) 4-1/4" squares from fabric A, cut them once diagonally to get 72 triangles.
- Thirty-six (36) 4-1/4" squares from fabric C, cut them once diagonally to get 72 triangles.
- Seventy-two 8-1/2" by 1-1/2" strips from fabric F
- Seventy-two 9-1/2" by 1" strips from fabric B
- Seventy-two 10-3/4" by 1" strips from fabric G
- Seventy-two 10-3/4" by 1" strips from fabric F
- Seventy-two 9-1/2" by 1-1/2" strips from fabric D
- Seventy-two 7-1/2" by 1" strips from fabric H

For Inner Border

- Two (2) 72-1/2" by 1-1/2" strips from fabric G\*
- Two (2) 74-1/2" by 1-1/2" strips from fabric G\*

For Middle Border

- Two (2) 74-1/2" by 2-1/2" strips from fabric D\*
- Two (2) 78-1/2" by 2-1/2" strips from fabric D\*

For Outer Border

- Two (2) 78-1/2" by 1-1/2" strips from fabric C\*
- Two (2) 80-1/2" by 1-1/2" strips from fabric C\*

*\* (in order to get these long strips you need to join two Width Of Fabric strips together)*

**Block Construction:**

*Note: sew fabrics right sides together and with a 1/4" seam allowance. All 36 blocks are constructed the same way.*

For Block Combination 1 (18 Blocks Total):

*Note: This block is made from 4 units of strips set in a 45° angle, shown in DIAGRAM 1*

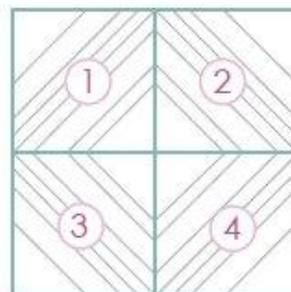


DIAGRAM 1  
4 units of the block

- 1) For units 1 and 4, fold one strip each from fabrics F-B-G-H-D-G and one triangle each from fabrics F-I in half and press with an iron to mark a crease to all of them. (DIAGRAM 1)

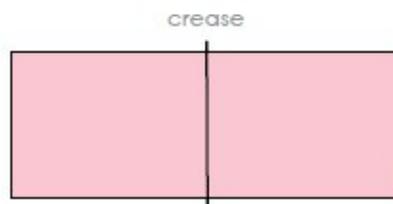
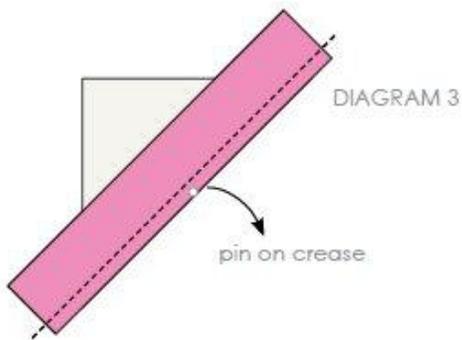


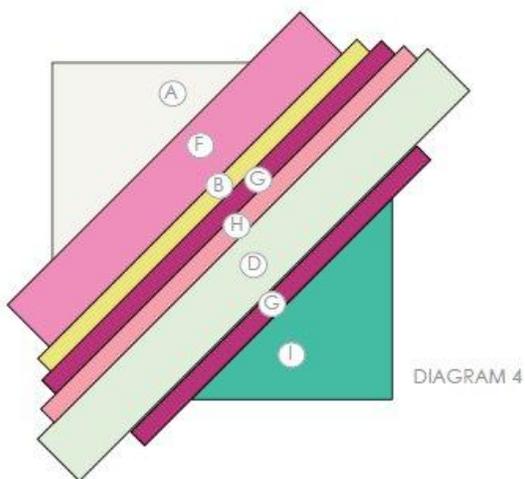
DIAGRAM 2

- 2) Position one fabric F strip over one fabric A triangle. Pin where the creases match. Sew on the entire edge (DIAGRAM 3). Open and press.

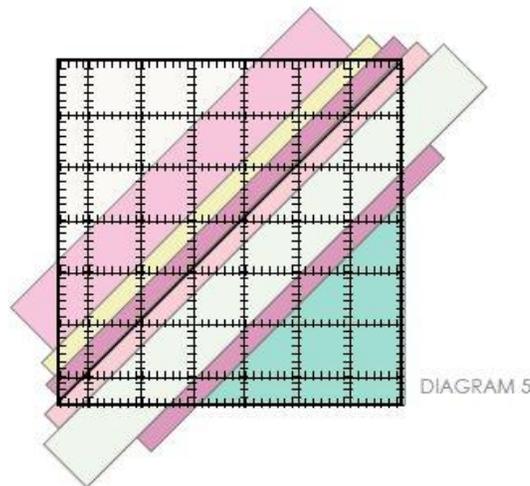


- 3) Position one fabric B strip over one fabric F strip. Pin again where the creases match. Sew on the entire edge. Open and press. Keep adding fabric strips G, H, D, and G in the same way (as shown below).

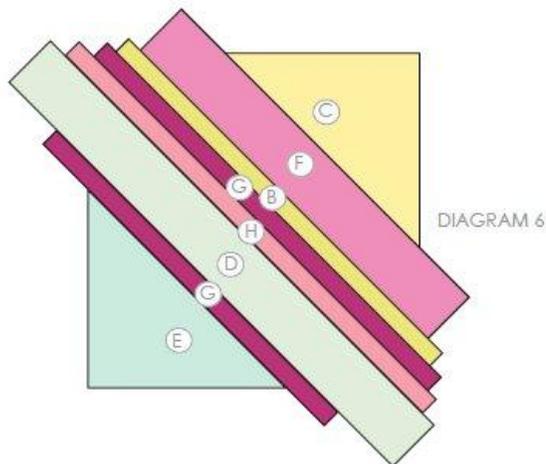
- 4) Position one fabric I triangle over the last fabric G strip. Pin again where the creases match. Sew on the entire edge. Open and press. (DIAGRAM 4)



- 5) Put a ruler over the unfinished unit, and center it, matching one seam with the 45° guide (provided in the ruler). Trim all four sides of the block to a 6-1/2" size. (DIAGRAM 5)



- 6) For units 2 and 3, follow the same steps, but replace corner triangles with fabrics C-E (DIAGRAM 6)



Fabric Combinations Layout for Units:

- Make a total of 36 units 1 and 4
- Make a total of 36 units 2 and 3

For Blocks Combination 2 (18 Blocks Total):

*Note: This block is made from 4 units of strips set in a 45° angle, shown in DIAGRAM 7*

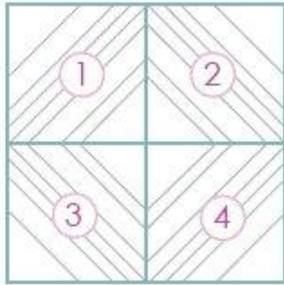


DIAGRAM 7  
4 units of the block

- 1) For units 1 and 4, fold one strip each from fabrics F-B-G-F-D-H and two triangles from fabric A in half and press with an iron to mark a crease to all of them. DIAGRAM 8

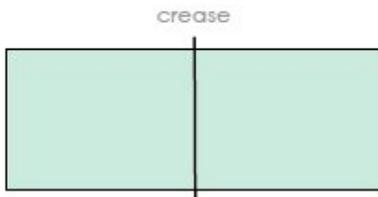


DIAGRAM 8

- 2) Position one fabric F strip over one fabric A triangle. Pin where the creases match. Sew on the entire edge (DIAGRAM 9). Open and press.

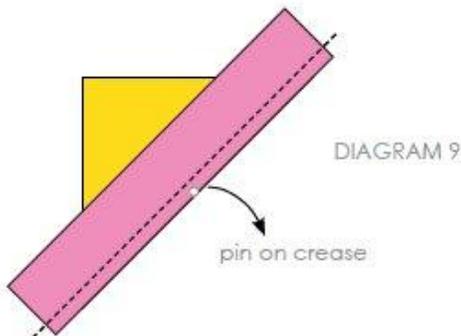


DIAGRAM 9

- 3) Position one fabric B strip over one fabric F strip. Pin again where the creases match. Sew on the entire edge. Open and press.

Keep adding fabric strips G, F, D, and H in the same way. DIAGRAM 10

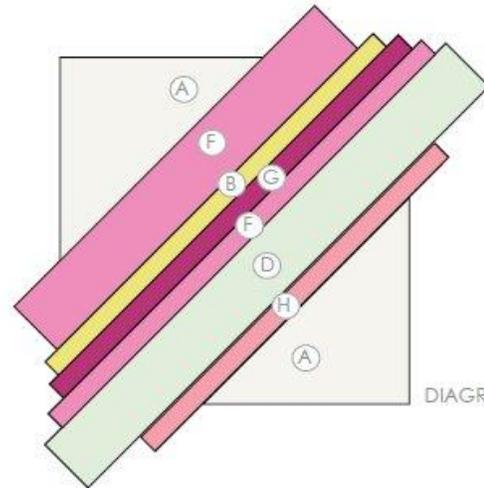


DIAGRAM 10

- 4) Position one fabric A triangle over the last fabric H strip. Pin again where the creases match. Sew on the entire edge. Open and press. DIAGRAM 10
- 5) Put a ruler over the unfinished unit, and center it, matching one seam with the 45° guide (provided in the ruler). Trim all four sides of the block to a 6-1/2" size. DIAGRAM 11

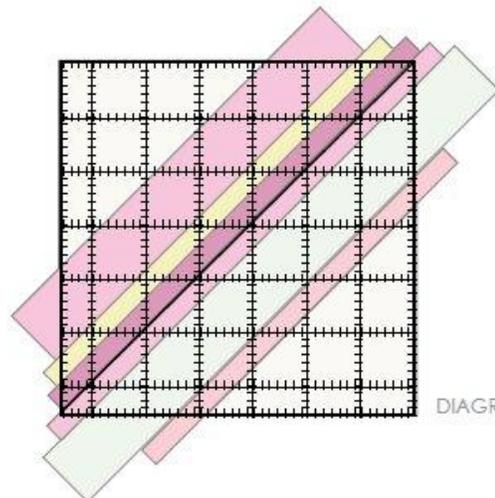
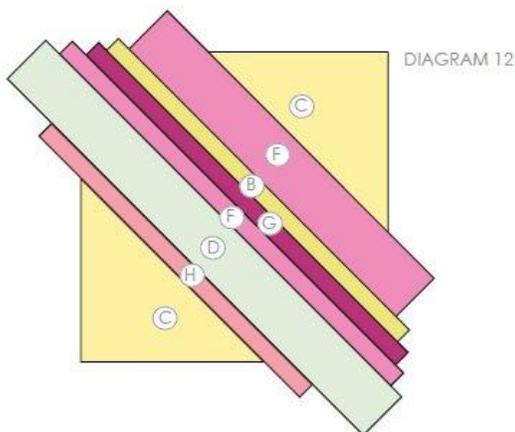


DIAGRAM 11

- 7) For units 2 and 3, follow the same steps, but replace corner triangles with fabric's C. (DIAGRAM 12)



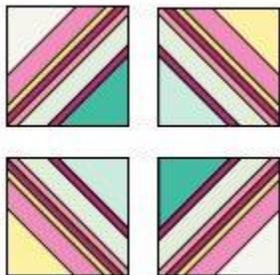
Fabric Combinations Layout for Units:

- Make a total of 36 units 1 and 4
- Make a total of 36 units 2 and 3

**Units Assembly:**

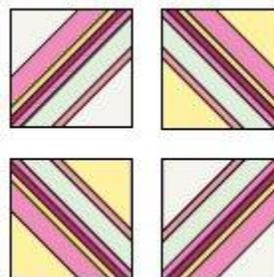
For Blocks Combination 1 (18 Blocks Total):

To make block with combination 1, position one unit 2 on top of a unit 1 and match the intersections with pins. Sew along the edge with a 1/4" seam. Repeat the process with unit 4 on top of unit 3. Open both units and press. Position the lower unit on top of the upper unit and locking intersections with pins, sew over the entire edge. Open and press. You now finished your Block Combination 1. Make a total of 18 Blocks.



For Blocks Combination 2 (18 Blocks Total):

To make block with combination 2, position one unit 2 on top of a unit 1 and match the intersections with pins. Sew along the edge with a 1/4" seam. Repeat the process with unit 4 on top of unit 3. Open both units and press. Position the lower unit on top of the upper unit and locking intersections with pins, sew over the entire edge. Open and press. You now finished your Block Combination 2. Make a total of 18 Blocks.



**Quilt Top Assembly:**

- 1) Start piecing the first row of six blocks alternating blocks 1 and 2, one block each (Follow the front cover picture for block placement). Press seams open.
- 2) After you finish, sew the remaining rows being careful of opposing the combinations (Follow the front cover picture for block placement).
- 3) After you finish, sew the rows together (Follow the front cover picture for block placement). Take much care to match block seams' intersections between each row (lock them with pins if necessary). Press all seams toward the same direction.
- 4) Press the WHOLE TOP with a hot steam iron.

**Borders Assembly:**

For the Inner Border:

- 1) Sew two 72-1/2" by 1-1/2" fabric G strips along the opposite sides (left & right) of the top with a 1/4" seam allowance. Press open.
- 2) Sew the other two 74-1/2" by 1-1/2" fabric G strips along the top and bottom sides of the top with a 1/4" seam allowance. Press open.

For the Middle Border:

- 1) Sew two 74-1/2" by 2-1/2" fabric D strips along the opposite sides (left & right) of the top with a 1/4" seam allowance. Press open.
- 2) Sew the other two 78-1/2" by 2-1/2" fabric D strips along the top and bottom sides of the top with a 1/4" seam allowance. Press open.

For the Outer Border:

- 1) Sew two 78-1/2" by 1-1/2" fabric C strips along the opposite sides (left & right) of the top with a 1/4" seam allowance. Press open.
- 2) Sew the other two 80-1/2" by 1-1/2" fabric C strips along the top and bottom sides of the top with a 1/4" seam allowance. Press open.

**Quilt Assembly:**

- 1) Place BACKING FABRIC on a large surface wrong side up. Stretch it with masking tape against that surface.
- 2) Place BATTING on top of backing fabric.

- 3) Place TOP on top of the batting with right side facing up. Smooth away wrinkles using your hands.
- 4) Pin all layers together and baste with basting thread, using long stitches. You can also use safety pins to join the layers.
- 5) Machine or hand quilt starting at the center and working towards the corners. Remember that quilting motives are a matter of personal preference. Have fun choosing yours!
- 6) After you finished, trim excess of any fabric or batting, squaring the quilt to proceed to bind it.

**Binding:**

- 1) Cut enough strips 1-1/2" wide by the width of the fabric G to make a final strip 332" long. Start sewing the binding strip in the middle of one of the sides of the quilt, placing the strip right side down and leaving an approximated 5" tail. Sew with 1/4" seam allowance (using straight stitch), aligning the strip's raw edge with the quilt top's raw edge.
- 2) Stop stitching 1/4" before the end of the quilt (DIAGRAM B1). Clip the threads. Remove the quilt from under the machine presser foot. Fold the strip in a motion of 45° and upward, pressing with your fingers (DIAGRAM B2). Hold this fold with your finger; bring the strip down in line with the next edge, making a horizontal fold that aligns with the top edge of the quilt (DIAGRAM B3). Start sewing at 1/4" of the border, stitching all the layers. Do the same in the four corners of the quilt.

DIAGRAM B1



DIAGRAM B2

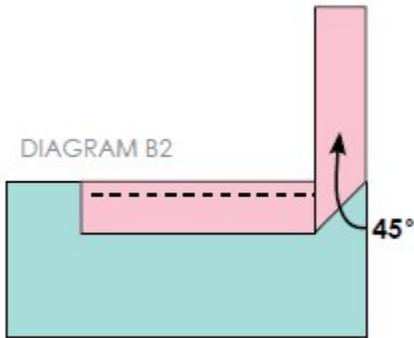
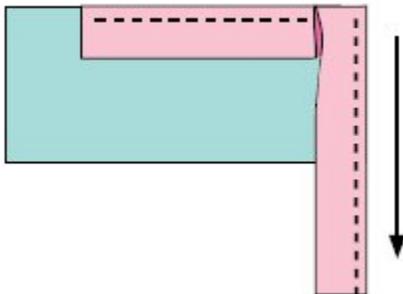


DIAGRAM B3



- 3) Stop stitching before you reach the last 5 or 6 inches. Cut the threads and remove the quilt from under the machine presser foot. Lay the loose ends of the binding flat along the quilt edge, folding the ends back on themselves where they meet. Press them together to form a crease. Using this crease as the stitching line, sew the two open ends of the binding with right sides together (you can help yourself marking with a pencil if the crease is difficult to see).
- 4) Trim seam to 1/4" and press open. Complete the sewing. Turn binding to back of the quilt, turn raw edge inside and stitch by hand using blind stitch.

## String X Lap Quilt

By: [Bonnie K. Hunter](#) from Quiltville

Free string quilt patterns are a wonderful way to use up fabric scraps, especially the long strips trimmed from squares for other projects. The String X Lap Quilt gives you a convenient and attractive way to piece and quilt those strips.



**Quilt Size:** 50" x 64"

**Time to complete:** Weekend project

### MATERIALS:

- (48) 4-1/2" x 10-1/2" rectangles of foundation fabric (use an old sheet for foundation fabric, or use old phonebook pages for paper piecing)
- Assorted scrap fabric, cut into 1" to 2" wide strips
- (48) 4-7/8" squares of background fabric, subcut into (96) half-square triangles

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Place one piece of scrap fabric on top of the foundation somewhere near the center with right side up. Place another strip on

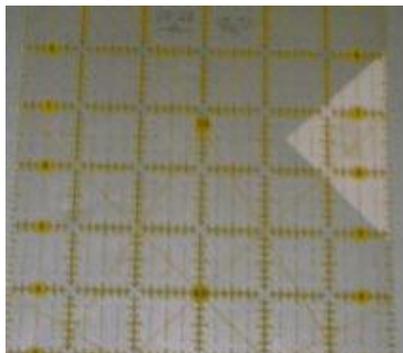
top of the first one, so that right sides are together. Stitch along the edge of these strips with 1/4" seam. Trim excess. Fold top strip out and press.



- 2) Continue to add strips in this manner until the foundation is completely covered. After all foundations are completely covered, trim them all to foundation size (4-1/2" x 10-1/2"), using your rotary cutter and ruler to slice off the excess.



- 3) From a plain piece of scrap paper, cut a 2-1/4" square. Cut this on the diagonal from corner to corner, giving you two triangles. Tape one of these triangles to the underside of your ruler as shown. This is your corner trimming guide.



- 4) Line up your ruler as shown, matching the corner of your paper triangle on your ruler to the corner of your strip-pieced rectangles. Trim all 4 corners off of your rectangles using this guide.



- 5) Sew a background triangle to each side of your strip-pieced unit to create one quarter block.



- 6) If you are using paper foundations, now is a good time to remove the papers.
- 7) Sew the quarter blocks into X blocks by arranging them as shown. This lap quilt is made with 12 String-X blocks set 3 across by 4 down.



- 8) Add borders! I cut my borders 4" wide. The quilt will finish about 50" X 64", a perfect size for a child to love and to hold. Of course, you can make the quilt any size you want by simply making more blocks. Watch those scraps disappear and turn into something beautiful before your eyes. Quilt or tie and bind as desired

## Rainbow String Quilt

By: [Penny Layman](#) from Sewtakeahike

This is one of the most colorful scrap quilts to make with your leftover fabrics! Cut brightly colored fabrics into strips, and foundation piece them to make this string quilt pattern. Use a different shade in each block for a Rainbow String Quilt.



**Quilt Size:** 48" x 60"

**Time to Complete:** A week or two

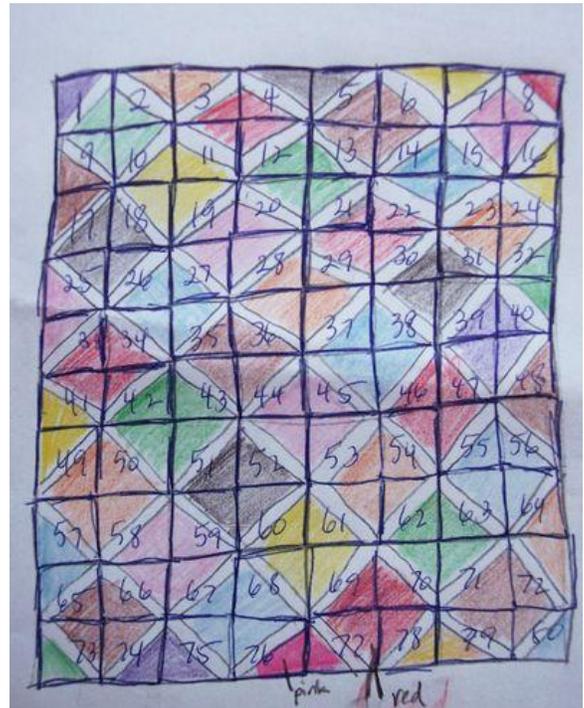
### MATERIALS:

- (80) 6-1/2" squares of printer paper (a paper trimmer may come in handy!)
- Assorted strips of scrap fabric
- (80) 1-1/2" x 10" strips of white fabric

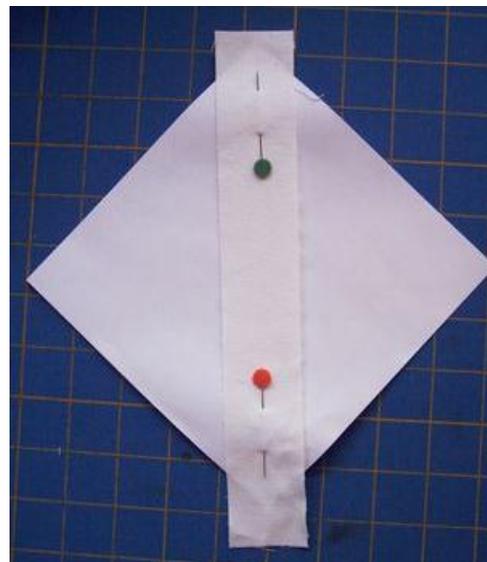
### INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Sort fabric strips by color: yellow, red, orange, pink, brown, black, blue, purple, and green.

- 2) Following the handwritten sketch, start making your string blocks (they are numbered and colored).



- 3) To do this, first pin down the white fabric down the center of the paper block diagonally.



- 4) Then lay your fabric strips down on each side to figure out your placement.



- 6) Then press the strips open. (If you do this after sewing each strip on, your block will be much nicer).



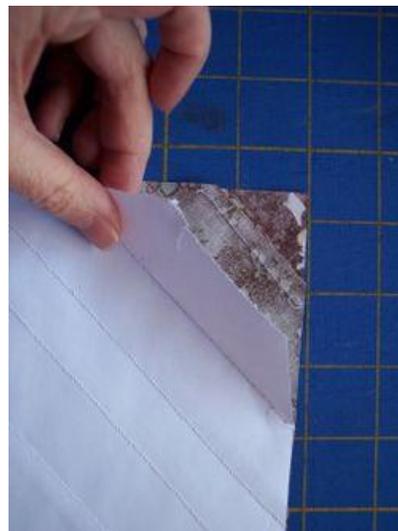
- 5) Now, starting in the center, with the scrap strip next to the white strip on one side, sew your scrap strip on to the side of the center strip of white with a 1/4" seam (using a small stitch length like 1.5 or so instead of the normal 3. This will help you tear the paper off when you are done). Make sure you have the right sides of the fabric facing each other.



- 7) Continue sewing each strip onto the previous one until that side of the paper is completely covered.



- 8) Then repeat with the other side.
- 9) Once you have all your strips sewn and have pressed the last strip open (I used 4-5 strips on each side generally), turn your block over and use the paper as a guide to trim away the excess fabric.



- 10) As you make all your blocks according to the color in the sketch, it may be helpful to number them on the back for easier placement later.
- 11) Once all your blocks are made and trimmed, start tearing the paper off the backs of the blocks by folding the paper back onto the seams and tearing it as if you are tearing a check out of your checkbook.



- 12) Now, take a light starch and iron each block to reduce stretching as you sew.



- 13) Last, I sewed the rows of blocks together and then sewed the rows together to make the quilt top. You could also do the same thing by sewing the column blocks together first, then sewing the columns together. The choice is yours!

## Out on a String

By: [Bonnie K. Hunter](#) from Quiltville

Out on a String is a gorgeous star quilt pattern made of paper piece quilt squares full of fabric scraps. Recycle phone book pages into foundations for string quilt pattern diamonds, which are then pieced together to create star blocks. Offset sashing makes these stars appear as if they are floating in the blue background of the quilt. This is a fun project for an adventurous quilter!

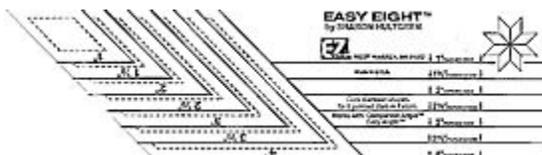


**Quilt Size:** 52" x 52"

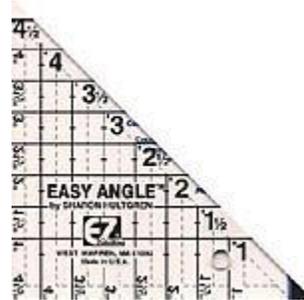
**Time to complete:** A month or more

### MATERIALS:

- EZ Easy Eight ruler



- EZ Easy Angle ruler



- EZ Companion Angle ruler



- Foundation piecing paper (old phone books or deli paper)
- Assorted fabric scraps cut into strips

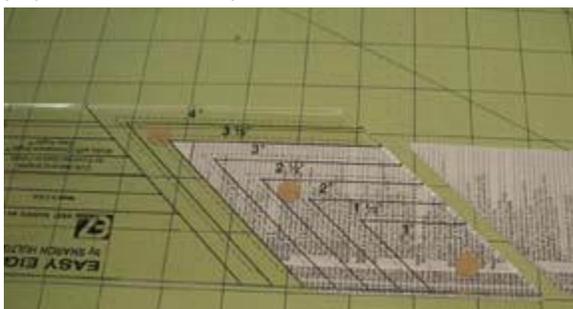
### INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) On the Easy Eight ruler are markings depending on what size diamond you want to cut. I chose the 3"-per-side diamond, which is the second dark line up from the bottom of the ruler. You can read the measurements there on the right side of the ruler, the un-angled side. Cut some strips of paper this width using the top edge of the ruler as a guide.

- 2) Turn the ruler over so the point lies in the bottom right corner of your stack of papers. Make the first trim with your rotary cutter along the edge of the ruler.



- 3) Carefully turn the stack. Lay the ruler on top of the stack and trim diamonds following the 3" guidelines on the ruler. You need 8 paper foundations per star.



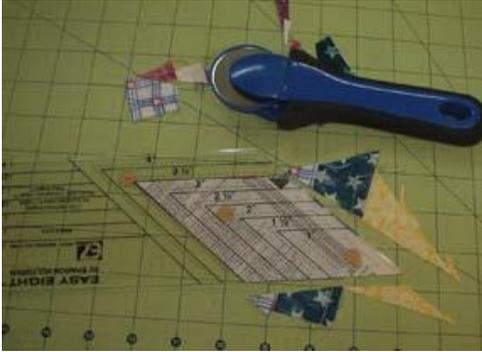
- 4) Place a scrap of fabric down the center of the paper diamond, and then with right sides together, place another scrap on top of the first, matching raw edges. Set your seam at a very small stitch (I like about 1.5 to 1.75) to help perforate the paper close enough to make paper removal easy. I find it also helps to sew with a larger needle. Try a denim size. It makes bigger holes and helps the paper come off easy too. Sew the two pieces together through the paper diamond. You can even chain piece these as shown in the second picture. I find it easy just to work on two diamonds at a time, using each one as a leader/ender for the other.



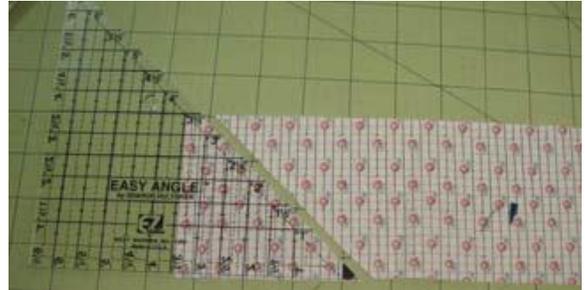
- 5) Press the piece open and continue to add scraps to the diamond foundation until it is full. Cover all 8 diamonds with scraps in this way.



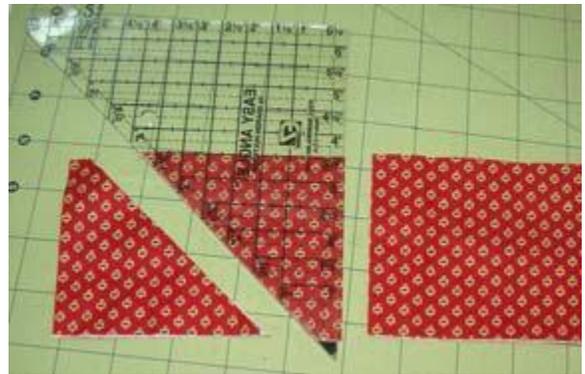
- 6) Use the Easy Eight ruler again to trim up the diamonds true to "ruler size." You might find the paper has even shrunk a bit during the piecing/pressing process, so don't pay as much attention to the edge of the paper as the markings on the ruler. This is important so that the center of your star doesn't poof up like a bra cup or a volcano! Remove the papers now. We don't want them to get in the way! I don't like papers in my seam allowances.



- 8) Then with the Easy Angle ruler, cut 4 light and 4 red triangles using the 3-1/2" marking on the ruler (3-1/2" is the UNFINISHED half-square triangle size.) Pair up the light triangles to the darks and stitch with a 1/4" seam. Because one end of the triangle is notched, they will fit together beautifully. This makes it easy to chain feed them through too.

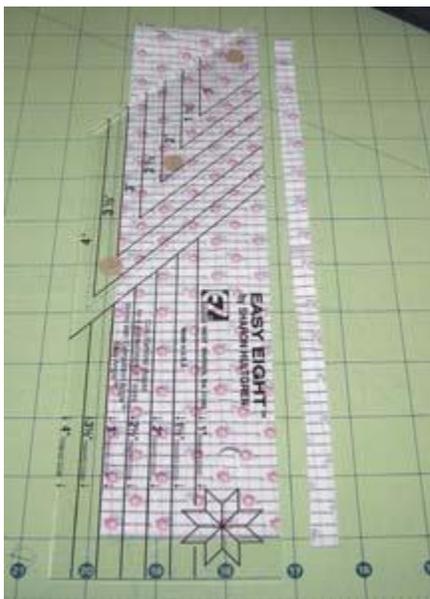


- 7) Now our Easy Angle comes into play! When using the Easy Angle to cut squares or triangles for the corners, take the finished size of the diamond (3") and add 1/2" for the seam allowance. This is how I came up with the 3-1/2" measurement for the strip needed above. Cut the 3-1/2" strip with your regular rotary ruler.

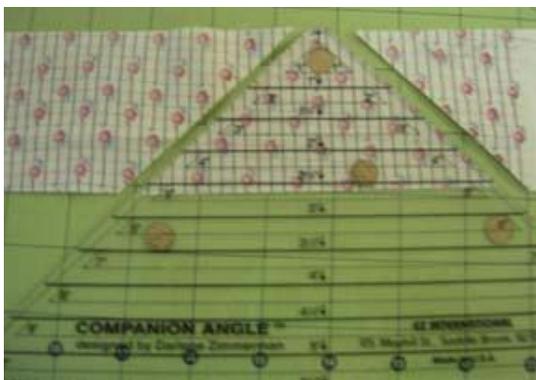


- 9) Trim the remaining dog-ear on each pair and press the seams towards the dark.

10) For the side triangles, you are going to go back to using the Easy Eight ruler. I took the remainder of the 3-1/2" strip that I used for the half-square triangles that go in the block corners, and using the 3" line on the ruler, trimmed the strip down to size.



11) Next, take the Companion Angle and align the blunt tip of the ruler at the top of the strip. The bottom edge of the strip will hang a bit below the line on the ruler. This is okay. A very odd sized strip is used this way, but it will be exactly the right size to fit between the diamonds in the block. Cut 4 of these triangles per block.



12) The trick to Y seams is knowing when to start and end the stitching. You need the seam allowances free in some instances so that you can use the space to set the inset piece. You might find it helpful to use a pencil to mark the 1/4" seam lines just where the lines cross at the corners of the diamonds. It's hard to see on that yellow piece in the picture, but there is a pencil dot where my stitching is to start and stop. It is better to be one stitch too short than a stitch too long. On these, I do sew all the way to the point that forms the center of the star. Sew 4 pairs of diamonds this way, being sure to leave the seam allowance free where the corners will be inset. When you end your stitching, stitch a couple of back tack stitches to secure the seam. Do this each time you end within a seam allowance.



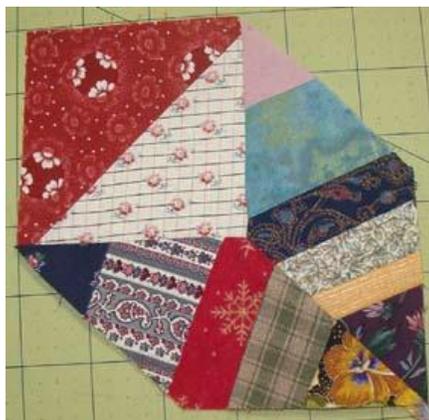
- 13) Finger press as shown towards the far right diamond. On the half-square triangle corner, you are going to want to mark 1/4" seam markings in all four corners. Run a pin through the 1/4" marking on the pieced diamond, right where the stitching ends. Have the same pin point also go through the corresponding 1/4" marking in the corner of the 1/2 square triangle corner square. The tip of the pieced diamond should extend 1/4" past the top edge of the square. This is okay. This is needed as your seam allowance there. Very carefully sew from the edge of the square just to right before where the seams intersect. This is the second seam of your Y.



- 14) Turn the unit over and check to see that your stitching didn't extend into the seam allowance. Refold the unit so that you can put the remaining diamond right sides together with the corner square. Very carefully sew this seam so that you don't go past the bottom seam allowance. Remember it is better to stop a stitch short than have it go one too long or you might get a pucker.



- 15) All four corners are set in just right. Lay them out in star format and place the four side triangles where they belong. Stitch a triangle to the right side of each unit. With this seam, you can sew edge to edge; you don't need to worry about not sewing into the seam.



16) The next step is almost a repeat of the first thing you did. You are going to match two sets together, joining string pieced diamonds right sides together. This time you will use the seam allowance you just sewed when adding the side triangles as a guide as when to start and stop your stitching when joining the diamonds. You want the stitching to stop at or just before you reach the side diamond seam. Finger press the seam allowance out of the way and also use that previous seam as a guide while stitching the remaining side triangle seam to join the units into a block half. Repeat the procedure for the remaining pieces, so you now have two block halves.



17) At this point, I like to stitch across the center of the star block, matching points in the center. I can go all the way across the middle of the star. Then it is just a matter of finishing the two remaining seams on the side triangles.

18) This quilt uses 9 blocks, but you can make as many as you want.

19) Each block is sashed on two sides with a cornerstone four patch in the corner. Seam enough 2-1/2" wide lengths of two contrasting fabrics together to be able to cut (18) 10-3/4" sashings from the strip sets. Depending on the length of your strips, you could get three or four from each strip set. You also need (18) four-patch cornerstones sewn from 2-1/2" strips (the easy way) or individually pieced from 2-1/2" squares.



20) Sew sashings on the right side and bottom edge of every block as shown, placing a 4 patch block in the corner.



21) I arranged the blocks as shown, though you can arrange them differently if you wish! I added a 1-1/2" cut (1" finished) red inner border sewn from random lengths of 1-1/2" strips. The pieced triangles were leftover string blocks, and I cut them into 4-2/3" strips and then used the Easy Angle ruler to cut them into triangles using the 4-1/2" markings on the ruler. The background triangles were also cut from 4-1/2" strips with the Easy Angle ruler.



22) I quilted this quilt with all over consecutive Baptist fans.



## Diamond in a Square Strings

By: [Bonnie K. Hunter](#) from Quiltville

The Diamond in a Square quilt is an innovative string quilt pattern that turns your scrap pile into something beautiful! This tutorial includes several possible layouts, but the sample is shown with sashing around each diamond block. You can also use these diamond string blocks to create a braided pattern or a medallion quilt.



**Quilt Size:** 61" x 69"

**Time to complete:** A month or more

### MATERIALS:

- Wondercut ruler
- Assorted scraps of fabric less than 1-1/2" wide
- Wax paper, deli paper, or old phone book pages for foundation piecing
- Background fabric
- Fabric of your choosing for sashing, inner border, and outer border

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Starting somewhere near the center of the paper, place two strips right sides together and sew through all layers using a slightly smaller stitch length. Press the top strip open, and continue to add strips until the entire paper is covered. Smaller strips add a lot of interest, so even if you only end up with 1/4" of fabric showing, use it! My strings generally run from 3/4" up to 2". I don't like to use anything bigger than that for string quilts. They aren't as interesting and are better used for other projects using wider evenly cut strips.



- 2) Square the piece up by making your first cut across the strips following the edge of the paper. Then square the left and right sides along the edges of the strips, aligning a line

on the ruler to the top edge you first cut. This ensures that three sides are SQUARE to each other. The fourth side isn't important because it will be trimmed off in the next step.



- 3) Using the Wondercut ruler, find the 3-1/2" marking and line it up along the edge of your string piecing as shown. Make 3 cuts across the width of the fabric, each using the 3-1/2" marking on the Wondercut ruler. When I have cut the strips, this is when I stop and quickly remove the paper. After this point, the paper isn't needed, so it is easier to remove it now, a few pieced strips at a time, than to wait until all the blocks are made and have to deal with picking it out of seam allowances.



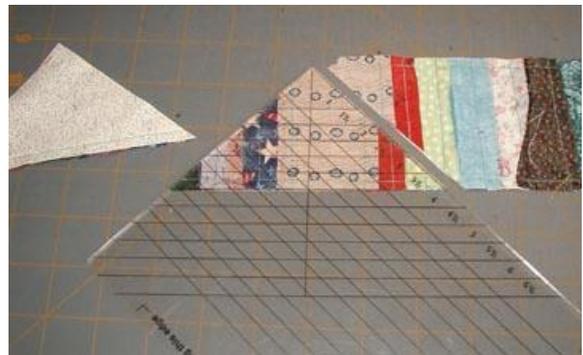
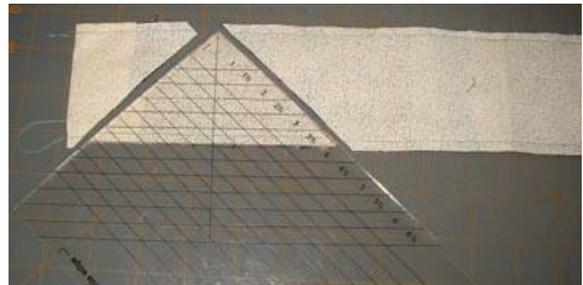
- 4) Take all your string strips back to the machine and stitch them end to end into one big long worm.



- 5) I like to piece them into approximately 45" lengths. Then, using the same Wondercut ruler, cut strips of whatever background fabric you want to use for the triangles on the outside of the string square. In the quilt shown above, I used a white/tan shirting print. Here in this demo, I'm using a white on cream.
- 6) Place your string strip on top of your corner triangle strip with right sides together. This

time you are going to sew down BOTH long sides with 1/4" seam forming a long tube. Take your tube to your ironing board and press well. This keeps the layers from shifting when you cut.

- 7) Align the 3-1/2" line on the corner of the Wondercut ruler along the bottom edge of your strip, and make two cuts. Voila! You have one block quarter. Flip the strip and make your second cut. Continue to flip the strip and align the 3-1/2" line on the ruler to the bottom of the tube. Cut as many as you can down the length of the tube.



- 8) Take your stack of block quarters to the ironing board. I like to press towards the UNPIECED triangle because the piecing lays flatter than it would if I were to try to fold all those seams back against themselves. Cut off the dog-ears at the corners. Four block quarters make a block. You might want to piece several tubes first before starting to sew the block quarters together.

This way you avoid putting the same fabrics together in the same blocks for a much more random look.



- 9) For this quilt, I made (42) 6" blocks and set them 6 x 7. I set the blocks with 2-1/2" x 6-1/2" cut black sashings and added 2-1/2" cut red cornerstones. I added a 1-1/2" cut electric blue inner border and finished off the whole thing with a different grey/black print that had red in it and pulled the whole thing together. Here is a close up so you can see the sashing/cornerstones/border fabrics I used:



*Super String Quilts: 13 Paper Piecing and Scrap Quilt Patterns*

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