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## STRINGS

## BY JANET CLARE

I love string piecing as you can easily create really dynamic blocks full of energy. Use up all your little scraps for a fun block or take a more measured approach and have elegant stripes. What will your block look like?

## CUTTING JNSTRUCTIONS:

Please note: String Blocks are created in quadrants. String Quadrants are assembled using stitch and flip methods on a plain background square. String Blocks are made to be wonky and mismatched. You may create this block as wonky, or as controlled as you like. A rectangles can be cut from colorful prints for maximum scrappiness, or using a combination of low volume background prints and colored prints to alternate between light and dark fabrics as shown to the right.
Width measurements given in the cutting chart are based on the block image provided. If you wish to feature wider rectangles and less fabrics, simply cut wider rectangles.

|  | 4" Block | 6" Block | 8" Block | 12" Block |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Base Square: <br> Use either plain solid squares of fabric or muslin for the Base Squares. | $\begin{gathered} \text { Cut (4) } \\ 21 / 2^{\prime \prime} \times 2^{1 / 2 "} \end{gathered}$ squares. | Cut (4) $31 / 2^{\prime \prime} \times 31 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ squares. | $\begin{gathered} \text { Cut (4) } \\ 41 / 2 " \times 41 / 2 " \\ \text { squares. } \end{gathered}$ | Cut (4) <br> $61 / 2^{\prime \prime} \times 61 / 2 "$ squares. |
| A: <br> Cut an assortment of rectangles within the approximate ranges listed. <br> Length and width may vary depending on your desired block appearance. | Ranging from: $\begin{gathered} 3 / 4 "-1 " \text { wide } \\ \text { and } \\ 2 "-4 " \text { long. } \end{gathered}$ | Ranging from: $\begin{gathered} 1 "-1 \text { 1/2" wide } \\ \text { and } \\ 3 "-5 " \text { long. } \end{gathered}$ | Ranging from: $\begin{gathered} 1 "-13 / 4 " \text { wide } \\ \text { and } \\ 3 \text { 1⁄2" - } 7 " \text { long. } \end{gathered}$ | Ranging from: $\begin{gathered} 1 "-2 " \text { wide } \\ \text { and } \\ 41 / 2 "-10 " \text { long. } \end{gathered}$ |

## ASSEMBLY JNSTBUCTJONS:

1. Blocks are assembled using a method in which you stitch assorted rectangles onto base squares by stitching, flipping and pressing until the entire base square is covered. Place (1) long A rectangle with (1) base square diagonally as shown. The right side of the A rectangle should be facing upward. Ensure that the corners of the base square are covered by the A rectangle completely before proceeding. Pin the diagonal A rectangle in place.
2. Select another A rectangle. Place the new A rectangle right sides together and edges aligned with the pinned A rectangle. Ensure that it is placed so that once it's sewn, it will cover the edges of the base square.
3. Sew the A rectangles and the base square together using a $1 / 4$ " seam, following the edges of the A rectangles.
4. Once sewn, press the last sewn A rectangle away from the center of the base square and to the corner.

5. Continue attaching A rectangles to the base square using a $1 / 4$ " seam. Always attach the new $A$ rectangle to the raw edge of the last sewn $A$ rectangle. Repeat until the right side of the base square is completely covered.
6. Repeat to create (4) covered base squares.

7. Turn each base square over wrong side up on the cutting mat.
8. Use a ruler to trim excess A rectangle fabric from each of the base squares. Reference the cutting chart for base square sizes for each block size.


## ASSEMBLY JNSTBUCTJONSs

9. Arrange (4) completed base squares in a $2 \times 2$ grid. Arrange for even color and print distribution.
10. Sew together as shown.

11. Trim block using the guide listed below:
a. $4 \frac{1}{1 / 2 "} \times 4 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}$ unfinished ( 4 " $\times 4^{\prime \prime}$ finished)
b. $61 / 2^{\prime \prime} \times 6^{1 / 2 "}$ unfinished ( $6^{\prime \prime} \times 6^{\prime \prime}$ finished)
c. $81 / 2 " \times 81 / 2 "$ unfinished ( $8 " \times 8$ " finished)
d. $121 / 2^{\prime \prime} \times 121 / 2 "$ unfinished ( $12 " \times 12 "$ finished)

## DESJGNER JNFO

New Collections: My next fabric collection is called 'Geometry' and is in quilt shops now. I'm piecing my blocks with it!

New Quilt Designs: I designed two new quilts for the collection, Meander and Mizmaze.

Join my email club here!


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