How to make a string quilt by Patchwork Posse

patchworkposse.com/how-to-make-a-string-quilt

Learn how to make a string quilt using leftover strips from your stash. If you have strips of fabric that are either from a collection (think jelly roll) or from scraps, the string quilt is really a great method for making a quilt.

You'll be adding your strips to a foundation fabric, then trimming your blocks and finishing thequilt by sewing them all together.

Feel free to use scrap stash – as the blocks are busy and perfect for hiding any fabric you want!

It's also great way for showing of a beautiful line of fabric, think scrappy string quilt. Either way, the process is simple and the blocks really do sew up quick.

Materials Needed:

sewing machine

rotary cutter

quilt ruler

- foundation piece – use muslin or copy paper if you'd like
- scrap bags filled with strips from various fabrics, wider strips, thin strips, whatever you've got is great
- rotating cutting mat (optional – but they are fantastic!)
- Large square ruler – for squaring up your quilt block

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Instructions

Step 1: Gather Materials Collect an assortment of fabric scraps in various colors and patterns. Choose a fabric foundation – or a foundation piece, leftover fabric or muslin works well. Ensure your scraps are cut into strips, varying in width from 1 to 2.5 inches. You don't want the strips to be too skinny or they won't show when you sew the seams.

Step 2: Prepare the Foundation Cut your foundation fabric into blocks of your desired size. Common sizes are 8×8 inches or 10×10 inches. These blocks will be the base for your string quilt.

The size of foundation pieces I used in the images and video is 8 1/2″ x 8 1/2″

Step 3: Start Stringing Place one strip diagonally across the foundation block, right side up and wrong side down. I used a glue stick to secure the first strip to the center.

Place your second strip on top – right sides facing, sew it in place using a ¼-inch seam allowance.

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Fold back the strip

Use a wood presser to flatten the seam.

Flip it over and from the backside, trim any excess fabric that extends beyond the edges of the block.

Sew the next strip – right sides together

Flip the strip and press again with wood presser

Continue until the foundation piece is covered completely

Vary the colors and patterns for an eclectic, scrappy look. Trim excess fabric after each strip is attached.

NOTE: If you find that one of your strips doesn't cover the full piece of foundation – then add another strip!

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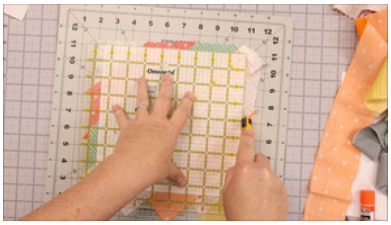
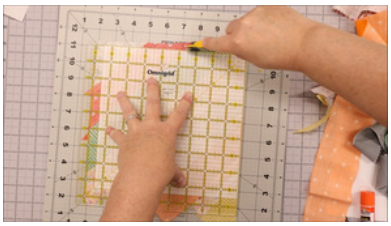
You do want to make sure that the foundation is completely covered and no corners are showing when you are finished with the block.

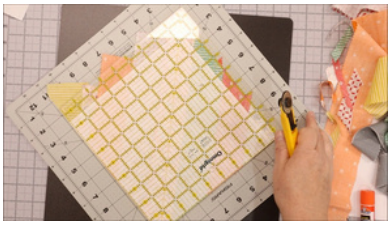
Press the block well before trimming the sides



Trim the right side of the block – measuring from the left



Trim the top of the block



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Rotate your cutting mat

Re-align the ruler and trim the right and top edge again.

*use the RULER to trim – to make sure you are trimming to the correct size. Sometimes the foundation piece shrinks a little bit because of all the sewn strips. So double check the size prior to cutting!

Your block is ready!

Before sewing your blocks together in the next step – make sure all your blocks are the same size!

Repeat and Arrange Repeat the process for as many blocks as needed. Once you have a collection of uniquely designed blocks, experiment with arranging them to find a layout that pleases you and you get to your desired finished size.

Sew Blocks Together Sew the blocks together using a ¼-inch seam allowance. Pay attention to the arrangement to maintain the desired pattern.

Add Borders (Optional) If desired, add borders to your quilt for a finished look. Choose a border width that complements the overall design.

Complete the Quilting Layer your quilt top with batting and backing, then quilt as desired. This could be straight-line quilting, free-motion quilting, or any pattern that suits your taste.

Bind the Quilt Finish your string quilt by binding the edges. Choose a fabric that complements the quilt top, and follow standard binding procedures.

Enjoy Your String Quilt Admire your handiwork! Your string quilt is now ready to add warmth and charm to any space.

With these steps, you'll create a vibrant and personalized string quilt, showcasing your creativity and quilting skills.

String Quilt Layout Ideas

Finishing the Quilt

1. Cut or piece together your batting and a piece of quilt backing fabric. 2. Make a quilt sandwich with the backing, batting, and top. 3. Baste together with fusible batting, pins or basting spray. 3. Quilt as desired. A few of my favorite ways to quilt are Straight line quilting or cross hatch
quilting. Use a walking foot on your sewing machine. Trim away the extra batting and backing.

4. Cut strips of fabric for the binding. Cut 2 1/2” tall (sometimes I use 2 1/4″) binding strips. Sew the binding strips together and bind using your favorite technique.