

Quilt Block Club #8: Basket Weave Block

Terms used in these instructions:

RST Right Sides together (RST): Placing two pieces of fabric together so that the printed ("right") sides face one another

Seam allowance: The area between the fabric edge and the stitching line on two pieces of fabric being sewn together

Strip Piecing: Sewing strips of fabric side by side, then cutting across them to make striped quilt block pieces

Tools:

Sewing machine

Thread and bobbin

Scissors

Pins

Seam ripper

Iron

Ironing board

Rotary cutter

Cut mat



Supplies:

White fabric: 4 strips, 7 x 1½" 1 square, 3½ x 3½"

Blue fabric: 2 strips, 7 x 1½"

Red fabric: 2 strips, 7 x 1½"

Green fabric: 2 strips, 7 x 1½"

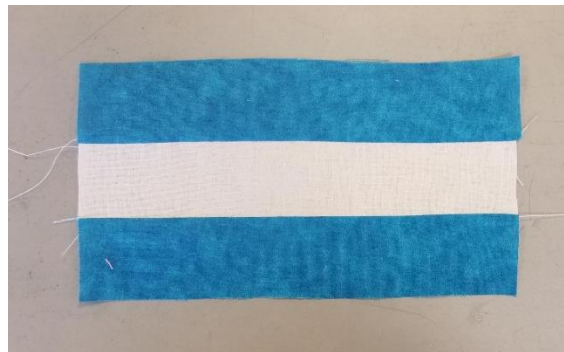
Yellow fabric: 2 strips, 7 x 1½"

Strip Piece Colors

1. Place one white strip on top of one blue strip, right sides together (RST). Carefully line up corners and edges.
2. Sew strips together, leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. You may want to use pins or clips to ensure strips don't slide during sewing.



3. Place your second blue strip on top of the white strip, RST. Carefully line up corners and edges.
4. Sew strips together, leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Your white strip should now have a blue strip on either side.



TIP: Your sewing machine's feed dogs will pull slightly more on the lower piece of fabric as you sew. If you sew multiple strips together, you may notice that this difference in tension begins to warp or curve your straight strips. Help prevent this by alternating which end of the strip you start with each time you sew.

5. Press seams open to set, then press toward the blue fabric.
6. Cut your strip into two $3\frac{1}{2}$ " squares.

7. Repeat steps 1-6 using your remaining strips. For each color, you will sew a colored strip on either side of each white strip. You should end up with eight $3\frac{1}{2}$ " squares. Trim squares to the correct size if needed.



Sew a Nine Patch Block

1. Lay out your nine squares in a Basket Weave pattern.



2. Sew the squares of each row together, creating three strips of three. Don't forget to leave a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.



3. Press seams open to set. Press toward the seams of the top and bottom strips toward the inside, and the strips of the middle strip toward the outside (away from the white square).
4. Stitch your rows together. Use pins or fabric clips if needed.
5. Press seams open to set, then press toward the darker fabric.
6. You have finished your basket weave block!



Notes:

Strip piecing is a popular quilting method because it can get a lot of work done quickly. Rotating cut pieces or cutting pieces on the diagonal allows the creation of intricate geometric patterns without having to deal with tiny scraps of fabric or doing a lot of sewing on the bias. You can even purchase pre-cut strip piecing sets known as jelly rolls (sometimes also called roll ups or design sets). These contain fabric strips in a variety of complementary colors or patterns. Strip pieced quilts are sometimes known as “jelly roll quilts.”

Since most of the sewing in a strip pieced pattern is done with larger pieces of fabric that are then cut down, it’s a popular method for smaller quilting projects such as table runners or throw pillows. Check out some of these small projects below:



Scrappy Christmas Table Runner

<https://kristinesser.com/2016/12/06/scrappy-table-runner-tutorial/>



“Hobo Rails” Table Runner

<http://quiltingdigest.com/this-runner-will-be-done-before-you-know-it/>



Jelly Roll Jamboree Pillow

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87aRfxgXdR4>



Rail Fence Mini Quilt

<https://www.diaryofaquilter.com/strip-piecing-basics/>