

Quilt As You Go: Strings and Beyond

Amazing Quilts Made Easy



Valerie Bradley

Quilt As You Go: Strings and Beyond

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All appliqué patterns were designed by the author.

Paper pieced pattern is traditional Economy Block, in the public domain.

Valerie Bradley

Valerie Custom Quilting

<http://www.ValerieCustomQuilting.com>

I wish to thank all my friends, quilty and otherwise, who have encouraged me to put this book together. I especially want to thank my family for putting up with me while I'm busily sewing away or plugging away on the computer.



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Introduction

“Quilt as you go” quilts have been around for many, many years. Pioneers in wagons had the need to make quilts for the winter, without having the space to set up a large quilting frame. So they would make and quilt individual quilt blocks, to be joined together later in the project. In recent years, “quilt as you go” quilts have once again gained popularity as quilters wished to make larger projects without the difficulty of quilting large pieces with their home sewing machine. This is especially true of quilters who have arthritis or other medical issues that prevent them from handling all that material.

This book expands on the basic technique, adapting traditional quilting techniques to be used with “quilt as you go” techniques. The beauty of the techniques described in this book is that they combine the piecing and the quilting steps into one, making your projects that much easier and faster to create. Quilters of all abilities are able to make amazing quilts with ease.

You will start off learning to make string blocks. String blocks are known far and wide for their ease in construction both in terms of the ease of piecing and the minimal amount of time required. They are a great way to use up that scrap bin that every quilter has!

There is only so much that can be done with string blocks, however. This book also describes how to make appliqué blocks and paper pieced blocks, which gives you many more avenues to express your creativity.

Note that if you already have some pieced blocks on hand, you can layer them with batting and backing and quilt them with your preferred technique and pattern. Trim the excess backing and batting away, and you’ve got a “quilt as you go” block completed! This book simply shows you several ways to combine the piecing and quilting steps into one.

Have fun exploring the many possibilities of “quilt as you go” quilts!

~ Valerie

Supplies

The supplies you'll need for quilt as you go techniques are really no different from those of any other quilting project.

Fabric

Of course, you will need fabric! You will need pieces of fabric to use for your block top, and squares of fabric to be the backing of each block (shown in next photo).



Batting

You will also need batting to put between the block top and backing. Use up those scraps that were left over from larger projects!



Paper for Paper Piecing

If you will be making paper pieced blocks, you will need to print out your pattern onto paper. There are specialty papers made to tear away easily during paper piecing, but regular copy paper will also work.

Other supplies

And of course you will need the other standard quilting supplies such as your sewing machine, iron, thread, pins, scissors, rotary cutter and mat, curved safety pins for basting, and so on.

A walking foot for your sewing machine is a very useful tool when quilting, as it ensures the top and the backing move along at the same rate. It significantly reduces the amount of puckering and slipping you can get on the top of your quilt or quilt block. If your machine didn't come with one, talk to your local dealer about how to acquire one. There are also universal walking feet that work with many different brands of sewing machines.



Starting Off With Strings

Let's start off by learning to make string blocks. This is by no means the only kind of block you can make for a quilt as you go project, but it is a fabulous one to begin with if this is your first quilt as you go quilt. It's fun, it's easy, and it uses up lots of scraps. So go digging through your scrap stash, and we can begin!



Step 1:

First, you need to assemble the fabrics you will use for your blocks. I chose to make my blocks completely random, so I raided every single color of my stash to come up with this pile of scraps.



Step 2:

Start cutting your fabric into strips. I recommend you make your strips anywhere from 1½" to 3" wide. Less than that and the strips may be difficult to work with, more than that and they just look too wide. Of course, this is all my opinion, you can make your strips as wide or as narrow as you like.

Here you can see my Sack O' Strips... I put my strips into a paper bag to keep them corralled.



Step 3:

You will also need pieces of backing fabric and batting. The size you cut depends on the size of block you're going to make. I recommend you make your backing and batting 1" wider and 1" longer than the block size you want. This will give you plenty of extra to trim off when you square up your blocks at the end.



Step 4:

Layer your batting and backing material like you would for any quilt. Lay the backing material face down on the table, and place the batting on top of it so that the edges match up.



Step 5:

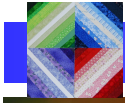
Place your first fabric strip across the batting, right side up, diagonally like so. Make sure your strip extends beyond the ends of the batting.

(Of course, if you want to make your blocks horizontally, there is nothing stopping you. It's your block, make it how you want!)



Step 6:

Place your next strip, right side down, on top of the first strip so that the raw edges are aligned. In this photo, the edges along the top of the diagonal are aligned.



Step 7:

Sew all the layers together, using a ¼” seam allowance like you would when piecing any other quilt block. This picture was taken when I had just finished sewing the seam, you can see the line of stitching behind the sewing machine foot.



Step 8:

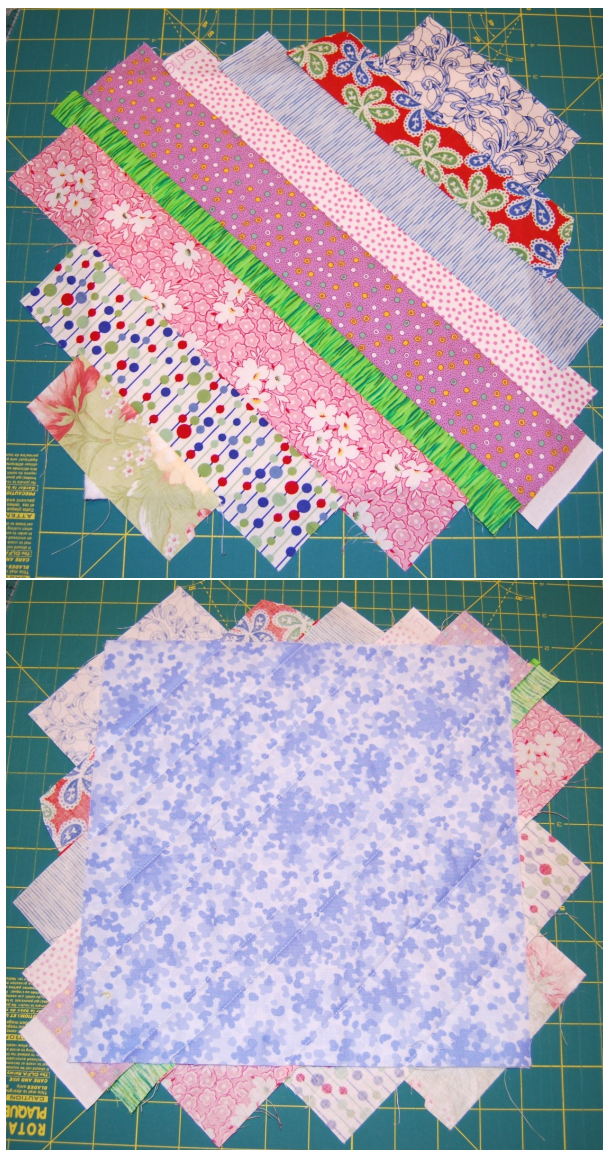
Press the second strip to the side, covering the seam you just sewed. Voila, you’re ready to sew your next strip. Using the same technique, place your next strip face down along the raw edge of the second strip (green in this picture) and sew in place just as in Step 7.



Step 9:

This is what your block will look like once half the strips have been sewn on.

Using the same technique, finish the other half of the block starting from the center strip and working your way out.



Step 10:

This is what your finished, but raw, block will look like after all the strips have been sewn on. The top picture is the front view, the bottom picture is the back view.



Step 11:

Now it is time to trim your block to the finished size. I found it was easiest to trim the block with the front face down, so that I could see exactly where the edges of the backing were.

Here I have trimmed off one side of the block. Continue trimming all the sides to square it up and achieve the block size you desire.



Step 12:

Voila! Here is what the finished block looks like. It takes no time at all, is fun, and best of all it's easy!

String Block Variations

Try some of these fun variations and discover the different looks your string block quilts can have. It's amazing how color placement can drastically change the look of a simple string block!



Random

As the name implies, strips are added at random, with no regard for strip size, color, or pattern.



Half And Half

By choosing your strips and their placement carefully so that half are light strips and half are dark, some very interesting patterns can be created by the way the blocks are arranged.



Gradation

In this variation, all the strips in each block are from the same color family, but the value of the color shifts from very dark on the outside to very light on the inside.



White Center

In this variation, the center strip is always white even though the rest of the strings are of random color and pattern. In this way, a more striking pattern can be created depending on the way the blocks are arranged.



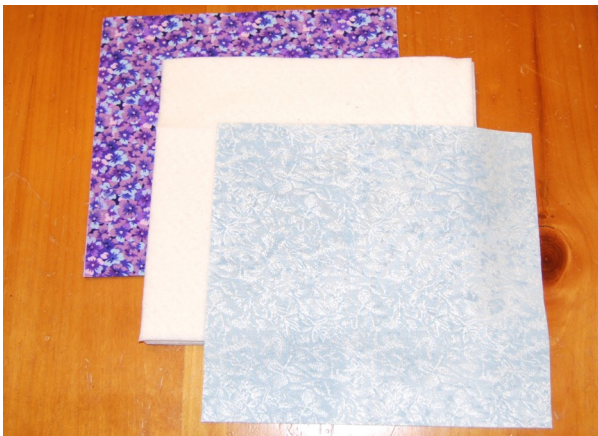
Appliqué Adventures

Next, let's learn how to make appliqué blocks. This chapter will show you a way to combine the appliqué and quilting steps into one. One thing to note, however, is that this technique works only with fusible appliqué. It is the act of stitching around the edge of your appliqué design that also quilts your block. Needle turn appliqué is too fine and delicate to go through all the layers and still maintain a small stitch size... unless you're an expert hand quilter, that is.



Step 1:

First, you need to assemble the fabrics you will use for your blocks. Choose the appliqué pattern you wish to make (I've included a few easy patterns at the end of this book), then hunt through your stash (or go to your local fabric shop) for fabrics. Here is a sample of my scrap pile I'll be using for my appliqué.



Step 2:

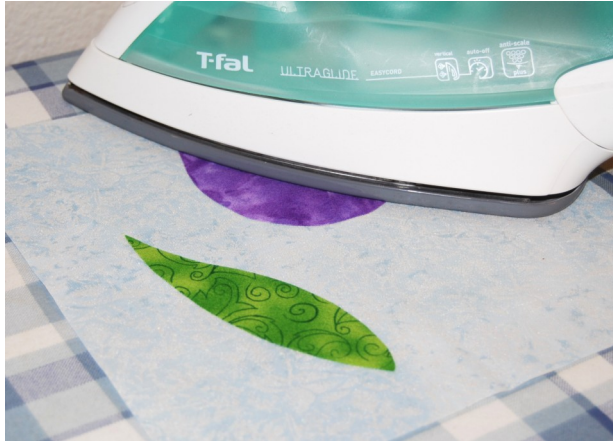
Next, we need to cut your backing, batting, and appliqué background pieces. The size you cut depends on the size of block you're going to make. I recommend you make your pieces 1" wider and 1" longer than the block size you want. This will give you plenty of extra to trim off when you square up your blocks at the end.



Step 3:

Trace your reversed pattern onto fusible web, then cut out your shape leaving about 1/8" - 1/4" of space from your traced line.

Following the directions for your fusible web, attach it to the wrong side of your fabric. Then cut out the shape along your traced line.



Step 4:

Center your appliqué motif on your background material. Following the directions for your fusible web, fuse your appliqué to the background material.



Step 5:

Layer your batting and backing material like you would for any quilt. Lay the backing material face down on the table, and place the batting on top of it so that the edges match up.



Step 6:

Place your fused appliqué block face up on top of the batting.



Step 7:

If you have a walking foot, attach it to your sewing machine. Pin the layers of your block together, curved safety pins are wonderful for this.

Using a large stitch length and a contrasting thread, baste around your appliqué design about 1/4" away from the edges. This will stabilize your design so the layers don't shift on you as you're quilting, without adding bulk to your block.

If you wish, you may also baste about 1/4" away from the edges of your block, to prevent the rest of your block from shifting while you're quilting. This can be helpful if your appliqué motif is small and the block will require additional quilting to stabilize it.

The second image shows you the fully basted block with safety pins removed.



Step 8:

After your appliqué block has been basted, choose the type of stitching you wish to use to secure the edges of the appliqué design. There are many options. For this block, I chose a satin stitch using thread that closely matches my fabric colors.

* Remember that the bobbin thread will be visible on the back of your quilt block. I normally prefer to use the same color thread on the back as I use on the front of my block, so that if my thread tension shifts (which it will do sometimes as I do tight curves), it is not noticeable on either side. But this is completely up to you.

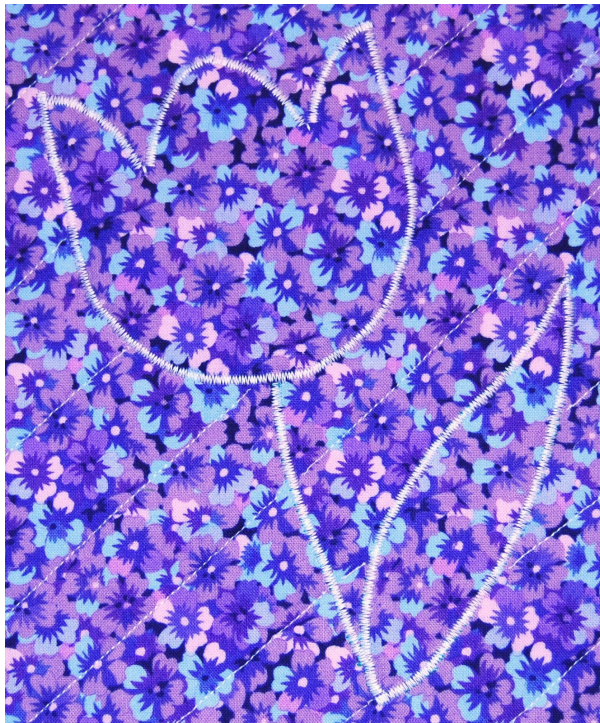
Once you are done appliquéing your design in place, remove the basting stitches.



Step 9:

After you have finished the appliqué stitching, determine whether or not you need to do any background quilting to stabilize your block. I chose to sew some (mostly) parallel lines of quilting to stabilize the background of my block.

Here is my appliquéd block. Notice that the stem of my block was created completely by using my machine's satin stitch. That's an easy way to add in some detail to your block while adding more quilting to the design! Brilliant!



This is a detail of the back of my block. I used white thread in my bobbin for this sample so that the stitching would show up in the photo. You can see exactly where I used satin stitching around the appliqué design.

Step 10:

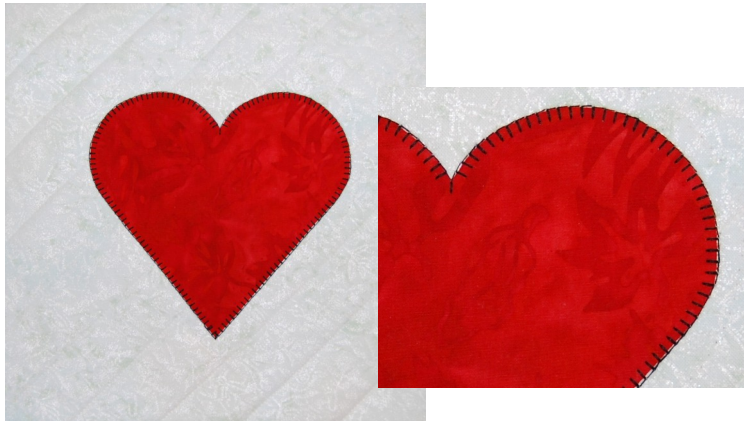
When you are done with your block, trim it to the desired finished size as described on page 9. Now that you know the technique, you can make as many appliqué blocks in as many patterns as you desire!

I've provided a few appliqué designs in the Templates section of this book. Play with them, or come up with your own patterns. The possibilities are endless!



Appliqué Block Variations

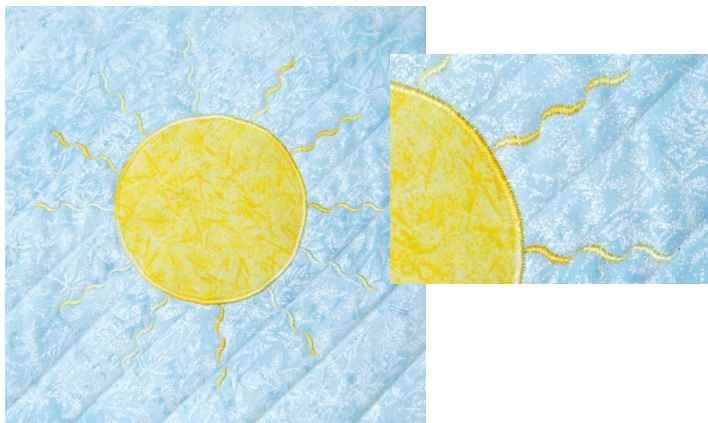
As you probably know, there are so many different ways to do fusible appliqué, it's up to you how you want to do yours. Here are some variations I made to show you a few of the possibilities.



In this Heart block, I sewed a button hole stitch using a black contrasting thread to do the appliqué. This is a traditional way to secure your appliqué and looks great on almost any block.



In this Flower block, I used two techniques. First I used a more open zig zag stitch (not a satin stitch) in yellow thread around the flower petals to secure them in place. Then I used a button hole stitch with orange thread around the orange center.



In this Sunshine block, I again used two techniques. First I used a satin stitch in variegated yellow rayon thread to stitch around the center circle of the sun. Then I used a decorative stitch on my sewing machine to sew 12 rays of sunlight radiating out from the center, using the same variegated yellow rayon thread. The variegated thread adds yet another level of complexity as the color shifts between light and dark yellow.



Paper Piecing PIZZAZZ

Our next adventure brings us to making paper pieced blocks. This chapter will show you a way to combine the paper piecing and quilting steps into one. One thing to note, however, is that this technique works with paper pieced patterns where the entire block is made from a single pattern. Some paper pieced patterns have you make several sections, then join the sections together to finish the block. Due to the nature of quilt as you go construction, these patterns will not work. So please choose your paper pieced pattern carefully.



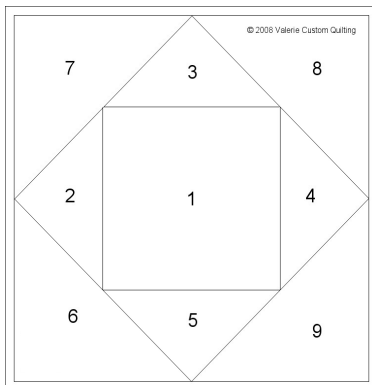
Step 1:

First, you need to assemble the fabrics you will use for your blocks. Here is a sample of my scrap pile I'll be using for my paper piecing blocks.



Step 2:

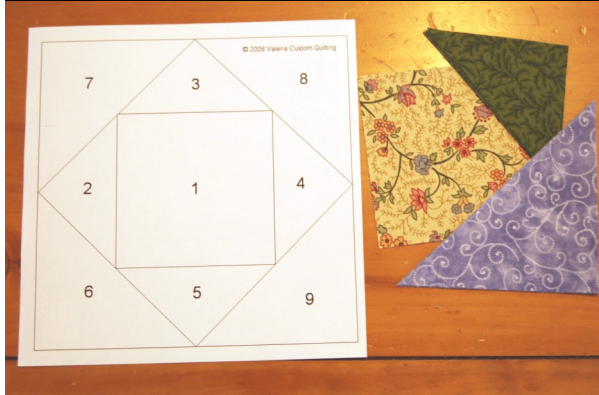
You will also need pieces of backing fabric and batting. The size you cut depends on the size of block you're going to make. I recommend you make your backing and batting 1" wider and 1" longer than the block size you want. This will give you plenty of extra to trim off when you square up your blocks at the end.



Step 3:

Choose a paper piecing pattern* you wish to make. I've included an easy pattern at the end of this book, a traditional pattern called Economy Block.

* Remember, you can only choose paper pieced patterns where the entire block is made from a single pattern. Please choose your paper pieced pattern carefully.



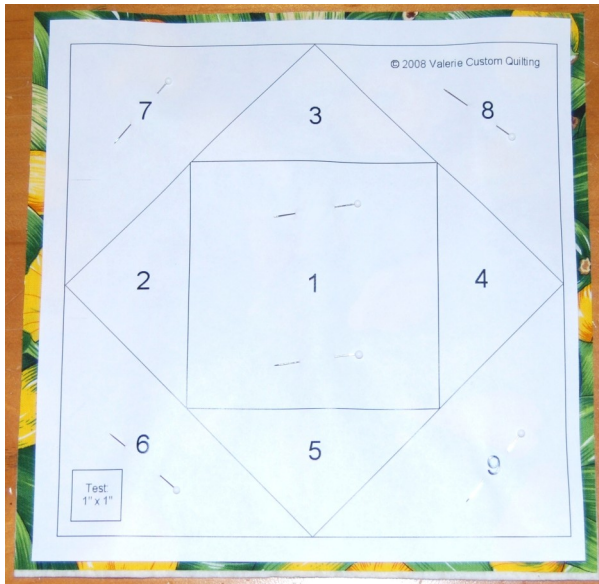
Step 4:

Prepare your fabric pieces. Make sure that you have at least 1/4" of seam allowance on all sides of your pieces.



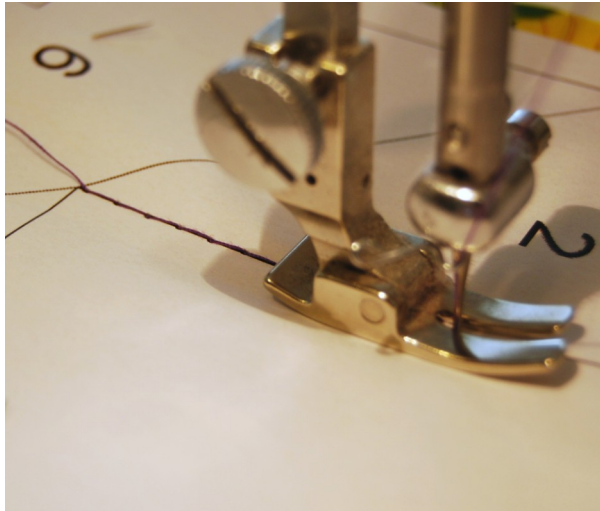
Step 5:

Layer your batting and backing material like you would for any quilt. Lay the backing material face down on the table, and place the batting on top of it so that the edges match up.



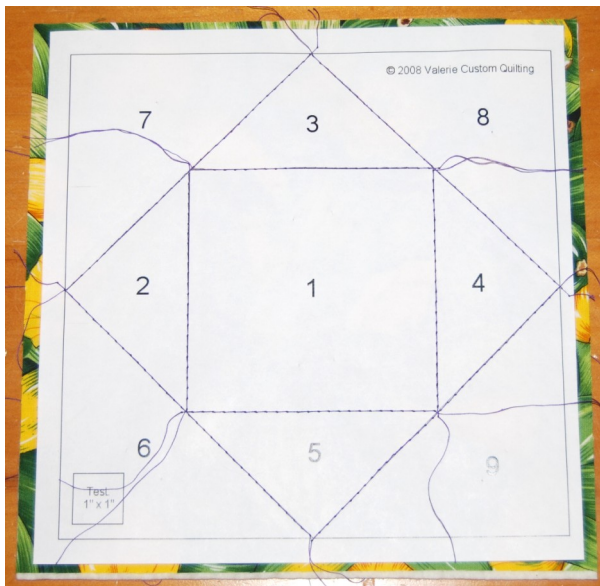
Step 6:

Flip over your batting and backing so the backing is face up. Center the paper piecing pattern on the backing and pin in place.

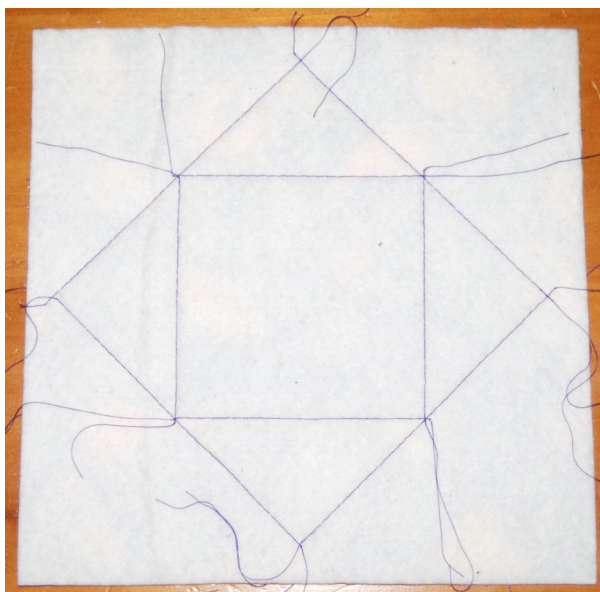


Step 7:

Using a large stitch length and a contrasting thread color for both top and bobbin threads, baste over each sewing line of your paper piecing pattern. Do not sew a lock stitch at the beginning and/or ending of your basting, as you will be removing it later. When you have finished basting, remove the pins.



Here is the block with all the seam lines basted, as seen from the back.



And here is the block with all the seam lines basted, as seen from the front.

HERE IS THE MAGIC OF THIS TECHNIQUE!

By basting along all the sewing lines with a contrasting thread, you've essentially transferred the pattern onto the batting. You will be able to position your pieces correctly by lining them up with these basted lines. Isn't that nifty?!?

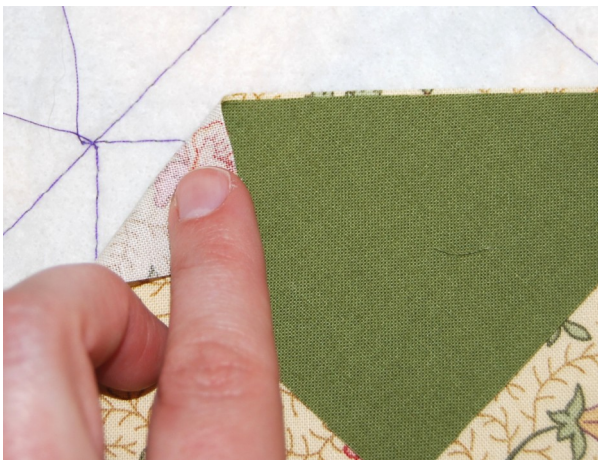


Step 8:

Now, as with any other paper piecing pattern, place piece #1 right side up on the batting, making sure you've aligned it properly within the basted lines.



Because of all the layers, you can't really hold up the block to the light to check for proper alignment. To check for proper alignment, simply bend back a corner of your piece and look to see if approximately 1/4" of fabric extends beyond the basted line.



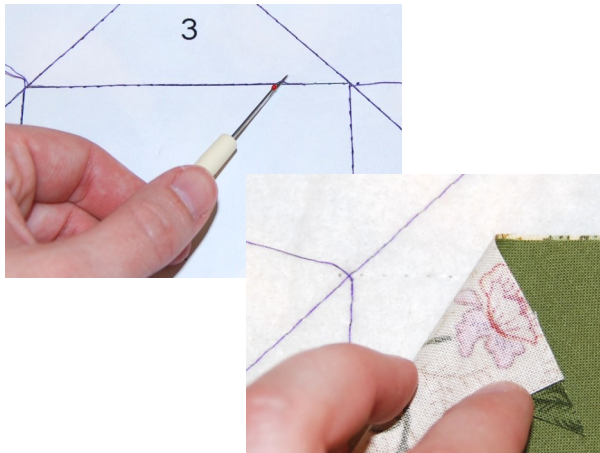
Step 9:

Now place piece #2 face down on top of piece #1, and check again for proper alignment of seam allowances.



Step 10:

Once you know you have your alignment correct, pin piece #2 in place.



Step 11:

BEFORE YOU BEGIN SEWING...

You need to remove the basting stitches for the seam you're about to sew. Remove the thread from the back first and the thread from the front will pull out easily.



Step 12:

If you haven't already, put away the contrasting thread you used for basting and load your machine with whatever color you wish to use for piecing. Remember, this thread will show on the backing of your quilt block! Also, readjust your sewing machine stitch size to a small stitch length, which will make removing the paper easier.

Now that your machine is reset and the basting has been removed, place your block with the paper side up and stitch along the seam line whose basting you just removed. When you're done sewing, your seam will look like this.

See the Important Note on the next page before sewing!



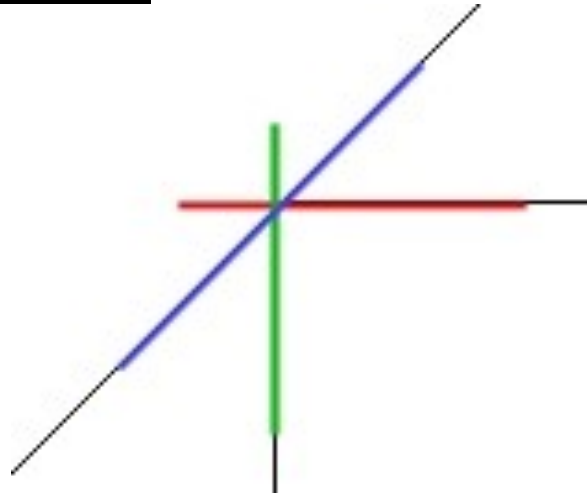
Important Note!

When sewing a traditional paper pieced pattern, usually you will start your seam line about 1/4" beyond the beginning of the printed line, so that when the next seam is sewn it locks the first seam in place.

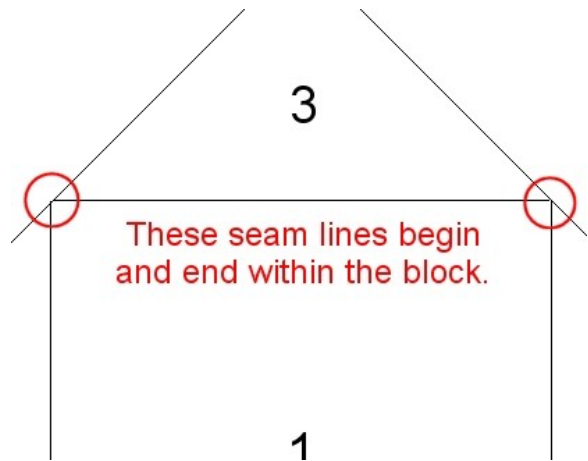
To illustrate...

Seam #1 (in red) and seam #2 (in green) would both be locked in place by seam #3 (in blue).

When doing traditional paper piecing, this is fine because those seam lines will be hidden within the block. However, when making a quilt as you go block, we cannot sew this extra seam length because it will show up on the back of your block, and your seams would not be locked.



With any seam that starts or ends within the block (see illustration), you need to begin or end your line of stitching exactly at the beginning or ending of that printed line. This means that you must lock your line of stitching with either a lock stitch or by manually tying off your stitches.



The easiest and fastest method is to lockstitch using your machine. Sew forward a few stitches, backstitch over those few stitches, then continue forward again. Of course, this leaves a visible "knot" at the beginning and end of your line of stitching, which is visible from the back of your quilt block. If this does not bother you, or if you are pressed for time, this is the method for you.



Machine lockstitch from pieced side.



Machine lockstitch from block back.



The other method to lock your stitches is to manually tie off your stitches. It takes a little longer but results in a very nice, neat looking seam line on the back of your block. If you have the time to manually tie off your line of stitching, if the way it looks on the back of your block is important to you, then this is the method you should choose.



Manual knot from the pieced side.



Manual knot from block back.

To manually tie off your line of stitching, first pull the thread from the back side to the front. Don't cut it off, carefully use a pin or your seam ripper to pull it through.



Here is what your threads should look like once the back thread has been pulled through to the front. Now tie a nice knot with these threads. I like to do a square knot, but whatever knot you fancy should work out fine.



Here is the finished knot, with the excess thread trimmed off. It will be hidden once the green fabric is folded over and the seam line pressed.



We now return you to your regularly scheduled chapter...



Step 13:

Now that the seam has been sewn, press piece #2 up and away from piece #1. Voila, your first piece has been sewn! Continue with pieces #3-5 until all the inner pieces (green in this photo) have been sewn in place.



Step 14:

Now that the inner pieces have all been sewn on, you can begin sewing on the last pieces, #6-9. Since these pieces have seam lines that extend beyond the outer boundary of the block design, you can start and stop your seam line 1/4" beyond the beginning and the ending of the printed line. These seam lines will be hidden when the blocks are assembled into a finished quilt.



Step 15:

And here is the block with all the pieces sewn on!

There is one last step. It isn't mandatory, but I find that it is very helpful in keeping everything where it belongs while assembling the quilt.

First, pin the outer pieces (purple in this photo) in place so they don't shift.



Step 16:

From the back (the side with the paper), and still with a small stitch length, sew just barely outside the boundary line for the block design. This will hold everything together nicely and will make assembling the blocks into a quilt top easier. But since your line of stitching is beyond the outer boundary of the block design, it will be hidden when the blocks are assembled into the finished quilt.



Step 17:

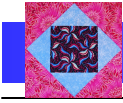
Now we need to trim the block to size. Trim around your block leaving 1/4" of material for a seam allowance.

After trimming, carefully remove the paper from the back of your block. Be sure to remove all the paper, using tweezers if necessary to get those stubborn little bits that like to stay behind. Remember, those bits won't be hidden within the quilt block, so try your best to remove them all.

Voilà! You're done!

Here are images of the finished block, from the front and from the back.





Paper Pieced Block Variations

Of course, there are all kinds of variations on this simple yet versatile block. And there are many other paper piecing blocks available that would be suitable to this technique. Have fun experimenting!



Brights

Bright fabrics always make for interesting and cheerful quilts.



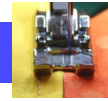
Juvenile

This pattern could be used to make quick and easy “I Spy” quilts in all sizes.



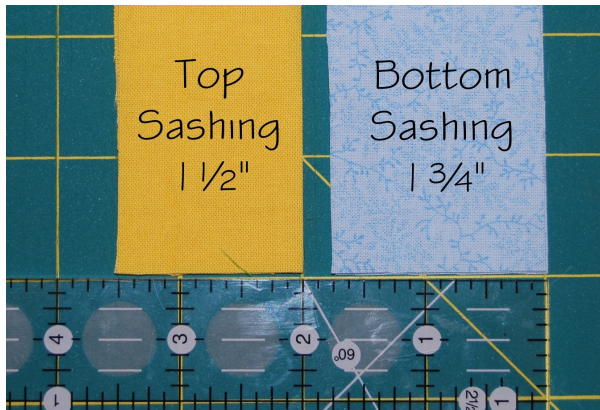
Masculine

Deep, dark color schemes make for very masculine quilts that any guy would love.



Quilt Assembly

This chapter will show you how to take the blocks you have created and assemble them into a finished quilt. This method makes a very sturdy quilt, one that will last through lots of loving abuse and trips through the washing machine. It is also very generic and will work with any quilt as you go or pre-quilted block, not just the string blocks shown in these photos.



Step 1:

First, you will need to cut the strips that will become the sashing that joins your blocks. You will cut two different sizes of sashing strips:

Quilt front: 1½” wide strips (yellow)

Quilt back: 1¾” wide strips (blue)

From these strips, you will cut as many pieces as you will need to make the sashing that will hold the blocks together. Make these pieces as long as the size of your quilt block.

In this sample, the sample blocks are squared to 10” x 10”, so the first sashing strips are cut 10” long. The quilt will be assembled from 5 rows with 4 blocks per row, so I needed to cut 15 top sashing pieces and 15 back sashing pieces



Step 2:

Once you've cut your sashing pieces, you need to press them in half the long way. (This is just like what you would do when making quilt binding.) Continue until all your sashing pieces, for both the front and the back, have been pressed in half.



Step 3:

Next, you will pin one of your back sashing pieces to the back of your quilt block. Align the raw edge of the sashing piece with the raw edge of your quilt block.



Step 4:

Now you will pin one of your top sashing pieces to the front of your quilt block. Align the raw edge of the sashing piece with the same raw edge of your quilt block to which the back sashing is pinned.



Step 5:

Using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, sew through all layers to attach the two sashing pieces to the quilt block.

This is what your quilt block will look like when viewed edge-on, after the two sashing pieces have been sewn in place.



Step 6:

Now you must set your sewing machine for a wide zigzag stitch so we can join two blocks together. Here is how I had my machine set up:

Stitch length: 1.2

Stitch width: 4.0

Experiment with a piece of scrap material until you get your machine settings set just where you want them.

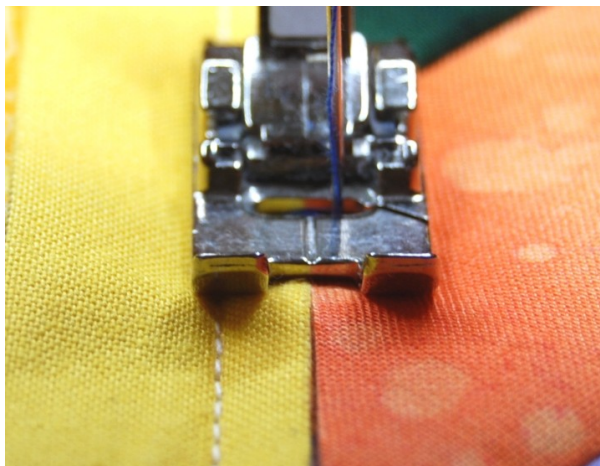
Once your zigzag stitch is set up, place two quilt blocks side by side so they butt up against each other. Then carefully move them under your sewing machine's presser foot, making sure they don't shift.

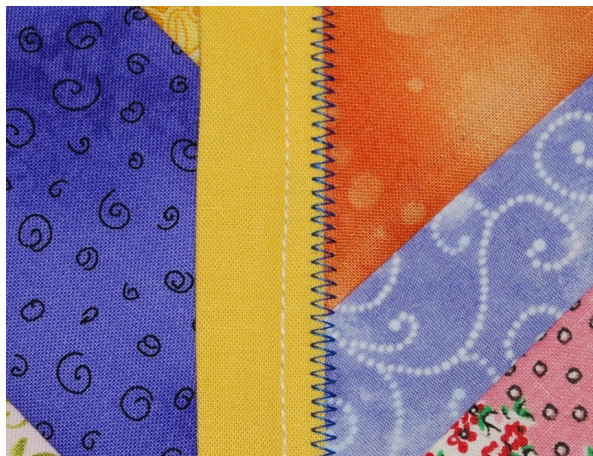
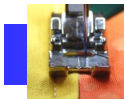


Step 7:

Stitch the two blocks together using your zigzag stitch. It really isn't that difficult to do, and it adds a great amount of stability to your quilt.

Watch carefully to be sure you are catching both quilt blocks with the zigzag stitch. Keep the center of your foot lined up with the place where the two blocks touch and you will do fine.





Here are two blocks that have been successfully sewn together with a zigzag stitch. The sashing pieces are still only sewn in place with the seam you sewed in Step 4.

For this sample, I used a contrasting thread so that the zigzag stitch would show up nicely. You can use any color of thread you want, the zigzag stitching will be covered up by the sashing pieces.



Step 8:

Now, fold the top sashing piece back over the zigzag stitching to cover it up, and press. I personally like to use the steam setting on my iron when doing this step as it sets the fold better. But this is up to you.



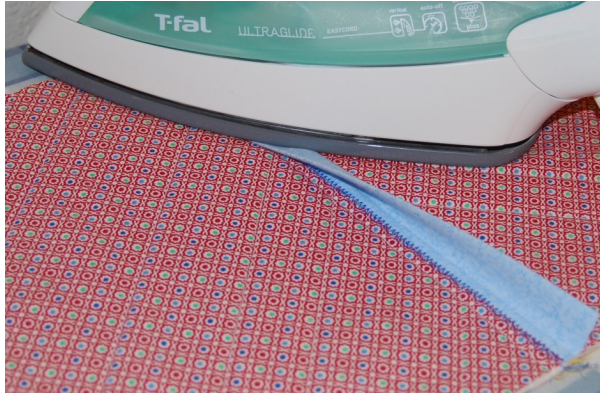
Step 9:

Once you have pressed the top sashing over, sew it in place. You can either do a machine topstitch as I have shown here, or you can sew it by hand using a blind or whip stitch. It's your choice.

NOTE: When I topstitched the sashing, I used a walking foot to prevent the sashing from shifting on me. You can do this without a walking foot, just be sure to pin the sashing securely before you start.



This image shows the top sashing sewn in place.



Step 10:

Next, fold the back sashing piece over the zigzag stitching to cover it up, and press. This also hides the line of stitching from when you sewed the top sashing in place (if you sewed the top sashing by machine).



This image shows how the zigzag stitching is hidden under the back sashing.



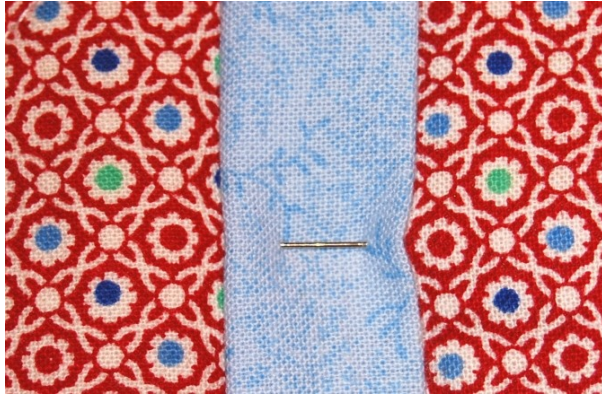
Step 11:

If you are sewing the back sashing in place by machine, you must first secure the back sashing in place as you will be stitching it down while working from the front of the quilt block.

Poke your pin through the front of the quilt right next to the top sashing, catching the back sashing. Feel for the pin point as it comes through and make sure that the back sashing is being caught.



Once you know you've caught the back sashing with the pin, push the pin through more and come out the other side of the top sashing.



If you flip over your quilt, you should see the pin in the back sashing like in this picture.

Continue pinning until the entire back sashing has been secured in place.



Step 12:

Sewing from the front of the quilt, you will basically stitch-in-the-ditch right next to the edge of the top sashing. This is how we sew the back sashing in place.

Remember how we cut the back sashing 1/4" wider than the front sashing? That is just enough to make the finished back sashing a hair wider than the top sashing. It's that extra width that allows us to neatly sew it in place from the front, because we know it is wide enough to be caught as we sew next to the top sashing.



This is what the front of the quilt will look like after the back sashing has been sewn in place. You can hardly see the line of stitching!



This is what the back of the quilt will look like after the back sashing has been sewn in place.

NOTE: Of course, you could sew the back sashing in place by hand as well, if you like. If this is the case, you do not have to pin the sashing in place from the front of the quilt.

Repeat

Step 13:

Repeat steps 3-12 to assemble all of the rows for your quilt.

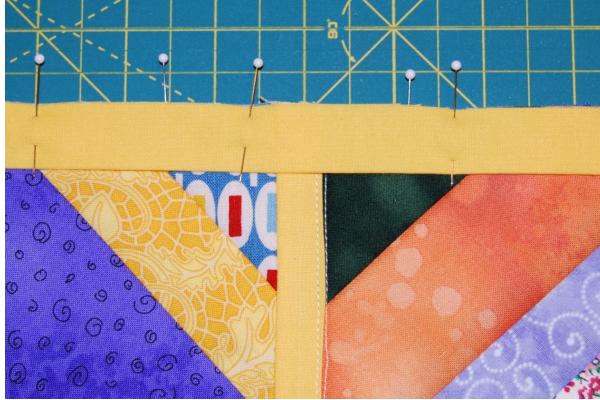


Step 14:

Once your rows have been finished, it is time to join them together. We will basically repeat steps 3-12 again, but this time using sashing pieces that are long enough to span the width of the quilt. Cut them the same width as in Step 1, then cut them to the length required for your quilt rows.

For this sample, I used 10" blocks and assembled rows with 4 blocks per row, making my quilt 40" wide. I needed to cut four top sashing strips and four back sashing strips, each 40" long.

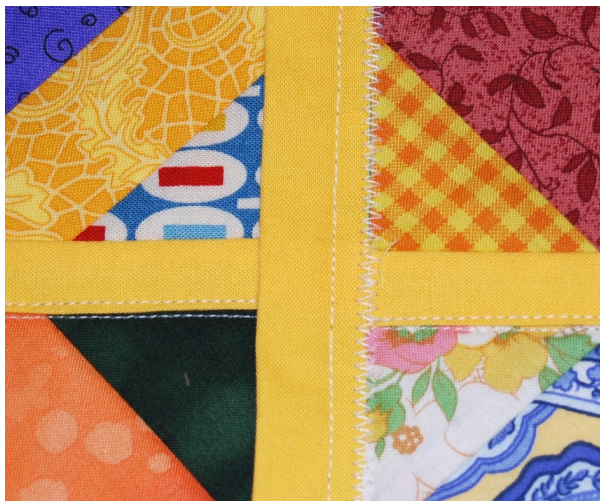
Start by pinning the back sashing to the back of your row.



Step 15:

Next, pin the front sashing piece to the front of your row. Align the raw edge of the top sashing piece with the same raw edge of your row that the back sashing is pinned to.

Using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, sew through all layers to attach the two sashing pieces to the row.



Step 16:

Place two rows side by side so they butt up against each other. Do your best to match up the sashing between the blocks of the two rows. Then carefully move them under your sewing machine's presser foot, making sure they don't shift.

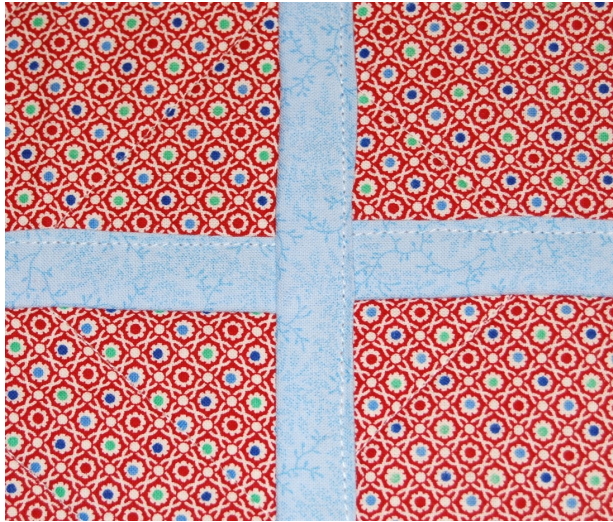
Sew the two rows together with a zigzag stitch, using the same settings you used in Step 6.



Step 17:

Following the same procedure as in Steps 8 and 9, fold the top sashing over the zigzag stitching, press, and sew in place.

Here is what the top should look like after the top sashing has been sewn in place.



Step 18:

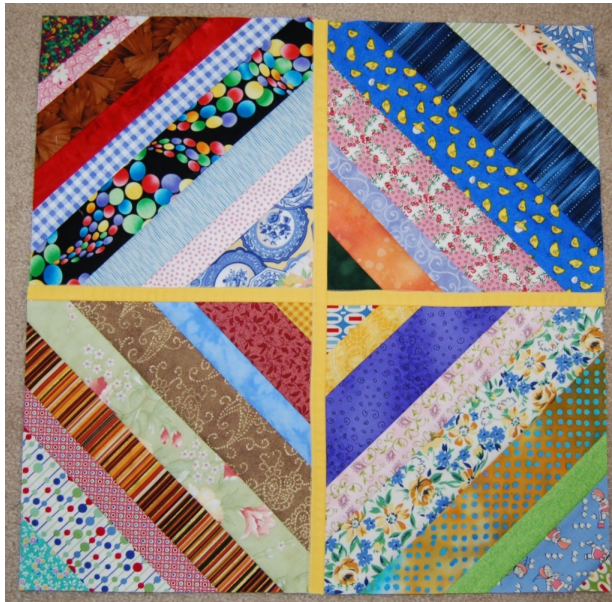
Following the same procedure as in Steps 10 through 12, fold the back sashing over the zigzag stitching, press, pin, and sew in place.

Here is what the back should look like after the back sashing has been sewn in place.

Repeat

Step 19:

Repeat steps 14-18 to complete assembling the quilt.



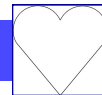
Here is a picture of the small sample I made for this chapter. I personally like the look of the thin sashing, as it does not distract your eyes from the pattern made by the string blocks. It is possible to make wider sashing of course, just be careful so that your sashing isn't off-center when you attach it.

The only thing left to do is to attach binding around the edge of your quilt, and then it is ready to be used and washed and used again. Enjoy!



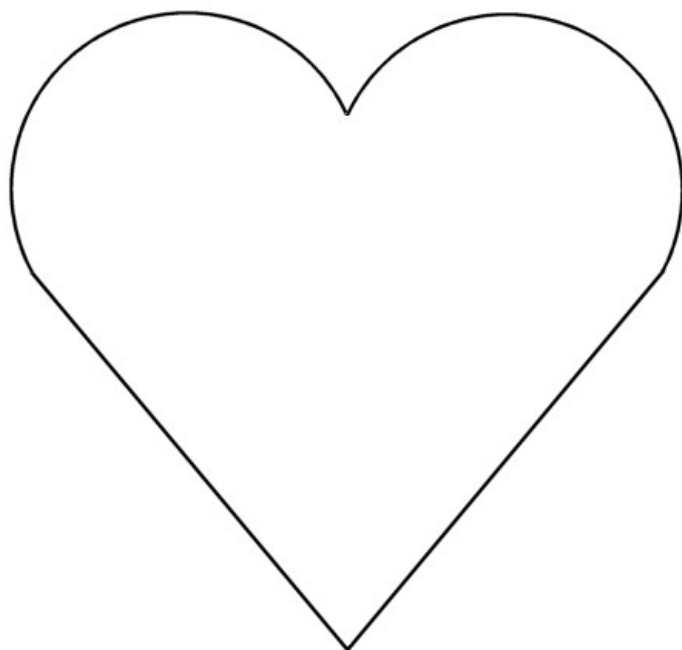
Finished Quilt As You Go String Quilt





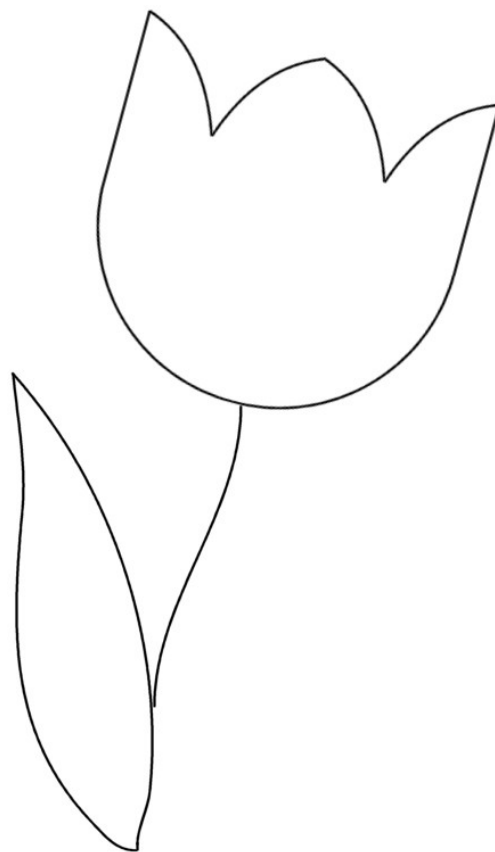
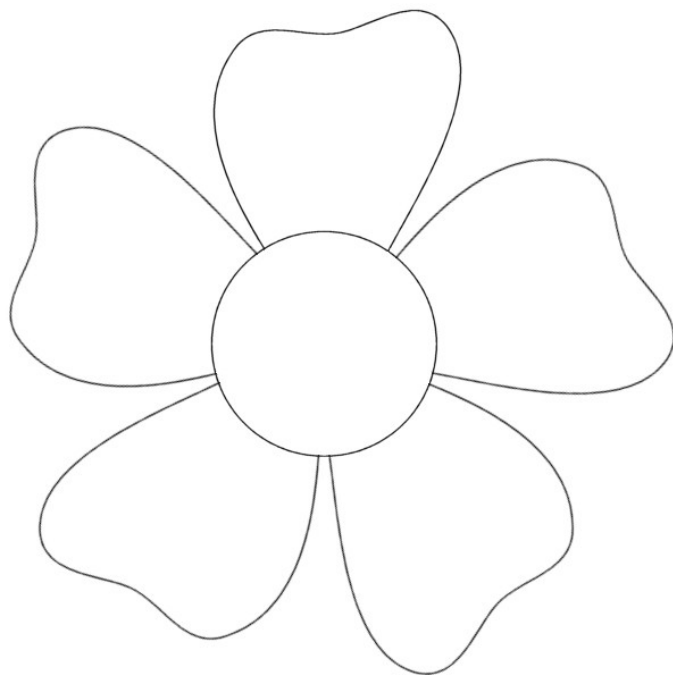
Templates and Patterns

Appliqué Block Patterns



Here are the easy appliqué patterns I used in this book, you can use them to practice your appliqué skills.

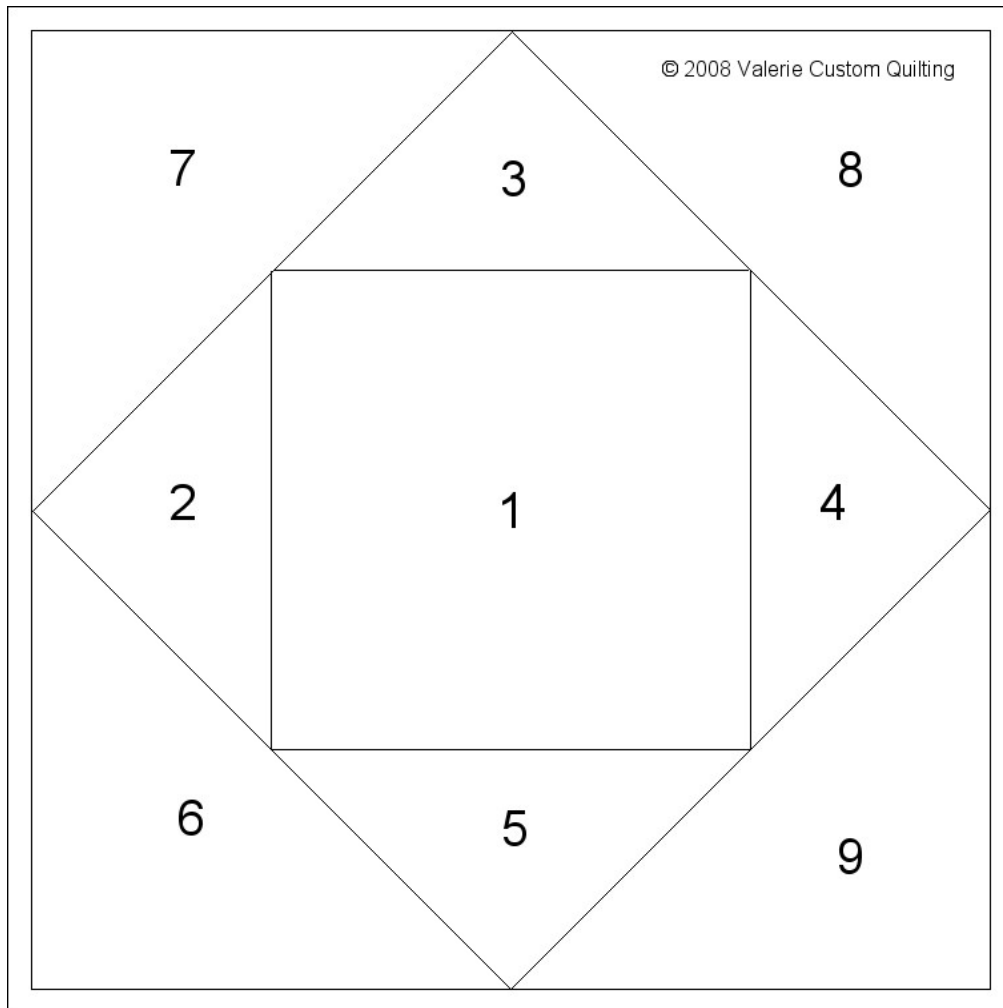
You can find inspiration for appliqué blocks everywhere, from children's coloring books to magazines to wallpaper designs! Have fun playing!





Paper Pieced Block Pattern

This is the paper piece pattern used in this book. Enlarge it by 200% for a 10" block, or adjust it to be whatever size you desire.



About the Author



In one way or another, Valerie has been using needle and thread for most of her life. When she was just 6 years old, her mother and grandmother taught her to embroider. Later, she received a toy sewing machine and soon after graduated to using her mother's "real" sewing machine to work on various projects.

With the skills learned as a child, Valerie began quilting in earnest in January 1999, making her first baby quilt. From that moment on she was hooked! As of the writing of this book, she's made nearly 100 quilts, most of which were given to friends and family or donated to charity. She enjoys the challenge of trying new techniques and rarely makes the same quilt pattern twice.

As her community of quilting friends grew, she had the opportunity to write several tutorials and pass on her knowledge to other quilters. This began Valerie's love of teaching and sharing her passion with others. Nothing is more exciting to her than seeing that spark of understanding and inspiration in a fellow quilter's eye!

Valerie now runs her own quilting business, Valerie Custom Quilting, which allows her to connect with quilters all over the world. In addition to providing long arm quilting services, she also enjoys creating her own quilt patterns and helping new quilters to find their "voice" in fabric.