

It's a String Thing! Block of the Month for February 2013

February block - - - Tans and Blues with a Brown accent strip in the center

String piecing is addicting and fun. See the basic tutorial on the web, or ask Denise for a printed copy.

Cut foundation paper at 7 x 10" square



Cut accent strip at 1 ½" wide (approx. 13" long)

Accent strip color is:

Medium or Dark Brown

All other strings: **tans on one side, blues on the others**

After pressing, trim your square to 6 ½ x 9 ½" . *Make sure that the accent strip is centered on the diagonal before trimming!*

Make 4 for 1 set to exchange at the meeting.



Important Hint ! When drawing your diagonal lines on a rectangular block, make sure that two go one way, and the other two go the opposite direction to form the diamond when placed together! (see picture to the left)

Basics and Hints:

- Use a larger needle (14 or 16)
- Shorten your stitch length
- Draw a line down the diagonal of your square, and center the accent strip on it before stitching
- Press your seams as you go to keep your blocks from curling and getting wonky
- 4 blocks make a set..... for every 4 blocks your name goes in one time.
- Try to use enough variety of strings that you don't repeat strips within each foundation.
- Vary the width of your strings for more movement and texture in your blocks
- Your blocks **do not** have to be identical or matched sets.... The scrappier the better!
- A little starch or "best press" will help control any stretching after the paper is removed.

Possible setting ideas for this block:

- Like a 4 patch to form an **X** with the white accent strips
- Stich into 4 patches and then add a sashing in another accent color
- Cut in half across the accent strip.... And piece with a solid triangle to form a pinwheel block

Have fun! I stitched all four of my blocks in about 2 hours, and that included cutting the foundation papers and removing the papers and trimming my blocks.

See you at the February meeting! If you have any questions, please call me or send me an email.

blockofmonth@northwestquilters.org Denise Gies