

Block of the Month Aug. 2019 Mudsock Quilt Guild READ ALL BEFORE YOU START!

String Quilt Block from Judy Ireland (with help from Susan Cook of Mudsock and Bonnie Hunter: <https://quiltville.com/stringquiltingprimerpf.html> .  
Bonnie says:

“Into a bin I toss odd shaped pieces from squaring up backings, tapered ends from trimming up yardage when rotary cutting, anything that I don't feel like cutting down into uniform strips, and anything less than 1.5". This is the END of my fabric food chain! The last stop on the road to being "useable". But strings, as humble as they are...can be beautiful and so fun and rewarding to work with!

“If you don't have a collection of strips and strings you've been saving, you can cut random strips of varying widths from 1" to about 2" wide from your scraps for this project. It is great too if not all the strips are straight...angle them a bit (when cutting). It adds a lot of interest to the quilt!” *Bonnie H.*

**Supplied:**

1) **Phone book paper for your base**—2 pages (one for practice); Cut it to 7.5" square. This is the size of your block before assembly of the quilt

2) **Strip of a common fabric** for blocks in the drawing next month (Sept.)

**Use a 14 or 16 needle and shorter stitch length to ease removing paper.**

**You can fold your cut-to-size paper diagonally and crease to give you a guide for laying your first corner-to-corner diagonal strip; center the strip over the crease you made and proceed as below.**

- 1) Lay a string/strip of fabric diagonally across the block extending at least 1" past each of the two corners, RS up. ATTENTION—Right Side Up!
- 2) Along one straight edge, lay a different fabric strip/string RS down; it should go beyond the edges of the paper foundation at the ends. Use pins to hold if you like.
- 3) Stitch 1/4" seam through all layers, flip top fabric over (RS up) and press
- 4) Lay another string along the opposite edge of the first string, RS together and stitch 1/4" seam; flip over, press. (some call this "stitch and flip")
- 5) Keep building out both sides with more fabric strings long enough to extend past all edges of the foundation paper; press as you go

- 6) Use wider strips as you get near the corners to make them easier to handle when sewing and trimming later
- 7) Turn the block over and carefully trim the excess fabric even with the paper foundation using ruler and rotary cutter
- 8) Repeat until you have enough blocks for your quilt. Each block needs a foundation base of paper. (Other papers you can use for foundations: deli paper, cheap copy paper, specialty paper that costs \$\$)
- 9) Remove the foundation papers: Phone book paper releases easily especially if you run the dull pointy side of a seam ripper along the seams to help break the paper. Do this while watching TV with your honey.
- 10) Confirm that you have a 7 1/2" unfinished block to turn in for the drawing.

If you want to make more blocks for the drawing, find a similar blue of the same value (darkness of color) and keep going!

String blocks are infinitely variable and fun to make. Bet you can't do just one!



