

Block of the Month Feb. 2020 Mudsock Quilt Guild READ ALL BEFORE YOU START!

String Quilt Block from Judy Ireland (with help from LCHarris: thelittleredhen.typepad.com) * 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 (or similar) 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) 2.5” x 8.5” accent/common fabric

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

Place a mark 2” down from the top left corner of your paper square along the left edge. Place a 2nd mark 1.5” from the right top corner of the square on the top edge of the paper. Draw a line between these 2 marks. This is a guide for laying the last strip you sew. (see diagram)

Design tip 1: Use contrast when placing strips next to each other: contrast in value (lightness/darkness of the color) and in scale (size of print patterns).

Design tip 2: Use bits trimmed off strips to piece new strips to include in your blocks. Adds interest!

- 1) Put a vertical fold in the paper square, top to bottom near the center to guide placement of the first strip, if you need this. Angle this fold a bit if you like.
- 2) Lay a fabric strip face up along that fold and put another strip RST on top of it. Overlap the diagonal line at the top and the edge of the paper by about 1/2”. Stitch 1/4” seam as usual on one side. Pin if you like.

- 3) Open and press the seam. Work from both sides of the first strip to cover the paper with 6 to 7 fabric strips, stitching, flipping and pressing as you go. Try not to use narrower strips along the edges for ease of sewing blocks together.
- 4) For the diagonal strip at the top: use the accent/common fabric in a 2.5" x 8.5" strip and line up seam line of the strip with the drawn line. Stitch, flip and press to cover the raw edges of the already sewn strips and extend beyond paper edges. Carefully trim fabric even with edges of the paper.
- 5) 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 \$\$)
- 6) 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. You can also give the block a little "snap" to help release the paper. Do this while watching TV with your honey.
- 7) Confirm that you have a 7 1/2" unfinished block for the drawing.

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

*LynnCarsonHarris, author of Every Last Piece \$24.99 on Etsy

Revised BOM directions, page 2 drawing

Judy Ireland <artladyj@sbcglobal.net>

Thu 2/20/2020 9:17 AM

To: Diane Lockman <diane.lockman@gmail.com>

Here:

- 3) Open and press the seam. Work from both sides of the first strip to cover the paper with 6 to 7 fabric strips, stitching, flipping and pressing as you go. Try not to use narrower strips along the edges for ease of sewing blocks together.
- 4) For the diagonal strip at the top: use the accent/common fabric in a 2.5" x 8.5" strip and line up seam line of the strip with the drawn line. Stitch, flip and press to cover the raw edges of the already sewn strips and extend beyond paper edges.
- 5) 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 \$\$)
- 6) 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. You can also give the block a little "snap" to help release the paper. Do this while watching TV with your honey.
- 7) Confirm that you have a 7 1/2" unfinished block for the drawing.

String blocks are infinitely variable and fun to make. Bet you can't do just one!
*LynnCarsonHarris, author of [Every Last Piece](#) \$24.99 on Etsy

