

String Piecing Instructions:

To make long strips of string-pieced fabric start with a piece of foundation fabric larger than your finished block. Cut uneven strips of prints and solids as show in Diagram #2.

Starting from the left end of one of the foundation fabrics, place one strip of print/solid fabric right side up with the wide end at the top. Place the next piece of fabric upside down with the narrow end at the top lining up the right side. Sew it down with a 1/4" seam. Turn the fabric to the right side and press.

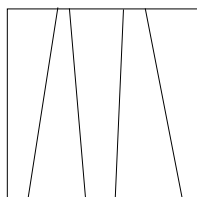
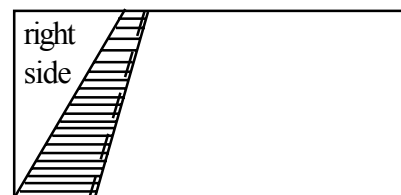
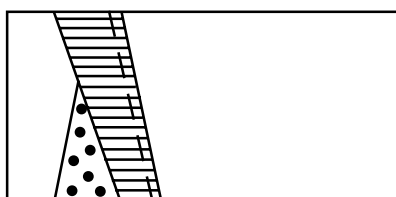


Diagram #1

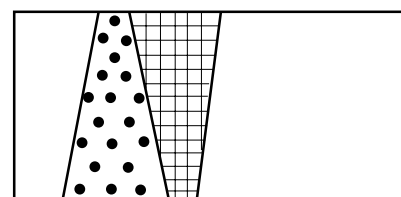
Diagram #2



Step One



Step Two

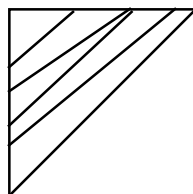


Step Three

Continue stitching and turning until the foundation fabric is covered. (I always make it at least 1" larger than needed because the strips will have to be squared up and trimmed.)

If you are making a border or large piece of string-pieced fabric, it is best to use one piece from each print in a row, until all your different prints are used -- then repeat. This will spread the colors and patterns throughout the borders. I recommend spreading any very dark and very light pieces throughout the sequence, so the eye won't be drawn to an area of several darks or several lights in a row. It is also good to space out any stripes, checks or dots and alternate them with floral or figurative prints.

For Ben's quilt, start with a square foundation fabric. You can make your block any size -- I started with six-inch blocks. Use a pencil to mark the reverse side of the foundation block on the diagonal. Make another mark about 1.5" from the outside corner, parallel with the diagonal. String piece starting at the center line out toward a corner. Make the final piece a solid -- I used red -- and make this a regular triangle following the pencil mark you made on the back. This will result in a regular square when the blocks are pieced together and give the eye a place to rest. Then turn the block and use a solid or overall print (where I used the music fabric) and flip and sew the other diagonal half of the block.



*Diagram 3
for Ben's Quilt*