

June BOM

This month's block is a real scrap buster and I hope you have some fun with it. Here are two examples of string quilts. The first was made years ago for my nephew's 21st birthday. This one I pieced on foundation blocks of fabric and boy was it heavy!



This one was completed last year as part of the Rainbow Scrap Challenge. You see it here without the borders on it but it is still one of my favourite quilts. We won't make hearts for Aussie Heroes but if you made extra blocks you could do one for yourself.



And now on to the tutorial -

The first thing you have to do is **pull out some scraps**. If you have lots of strips they are perfect. I save all the strips leftover from cutting strips - you know that useless bit of a strip that just isn't wide enough for anything else. I have chosen red, blue, green and yellow but you can choose whatever you want. I like to put them into a plastic bag for convenience.

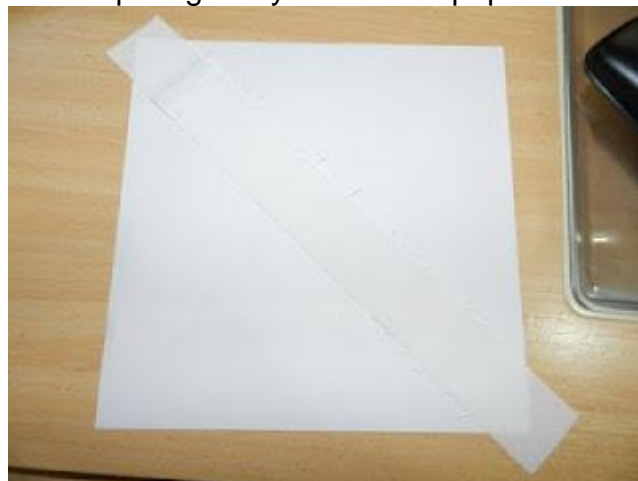


Then you need to cut yourself a **1 1/2" wide strip of white** - plain white or tone on tone white - but **preferably white, not cream**, as I think the end result will work better with that little bit of uniformity.

Next grab some A4 sheets of paper. Now I use A4 for convenience. You can get thinner paper, cheaper paper, your choice. You just have to be able to **cut yourself an 8 1/4' inch square**. With A4 paper that means just one cut.

Before you start sewing **shorten your stitch length**- this makes it so much easier to tear off the paper afterwards. I shorten mine down to about 1.3 or 1.4. You need to experiment to find what works for you. I found anything less than that was frustratingly slow to sew. you don't want to make your stitches too big or you will pull the thread instead of tearing the paper.

Lay your white strip diagonally across the paper corner to corner.



Next lay a coloured strips on top of the white strip and sew along one of the edges from corner to corner.



When you have finished sewing open out your strips and finger press the coloured strip back. You can iron if you want to but that just makes this more time consuming.



I usually sew a couple of strips at least before iron and rely on finger pressing. **Do not use a steam iron - steam and paper do not mix.**



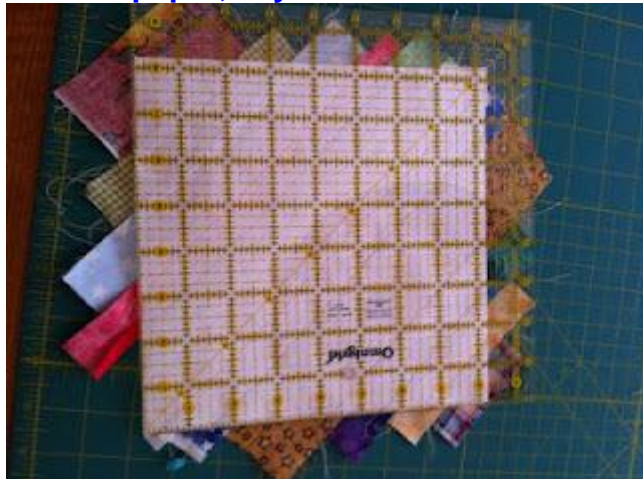
Keep stitching and ironing till you have covered all the paper. The strips do not have to be the same width and they definitely do not have to be straight. If your strips is longer than you need just snip the end off and throw it back on your pile/into your bag.



Once you have completely covered your paper give the block a good press. Now it is time to trim it back to size.



With the paper side up line up your ruler with the edge of the paper and trim off the excess. **If you are afraid of cutting the paper place your ruler just past the paper, say around 1mm.**



This is what you will be left with.



Now it is time to take off the foundation paper. Start at one corner and fold back the corner to the first row of stitching. finger press the paper back



and you should find it will tear away quite easily.



Keep going till you have removed all the paper. At this stage you can give your block another press. **You might find that it is not quite 8 1/4"any more. That is no problem. Do not trim it any more.**



You will be left with a block (I made two at once) that looks something like this. I will probably trim them all back to 8" when I have ironed them all and checked their sizes



So, do you think you can manage it? It is a simple block, a great stash buster and a great way to get a colourful quilt.

<http://aussieheroquilts.blogspot.com.au/2012/06/couple-of-days-late-but-here-is-june.html>