

Thousand Islands Quilters' Guild

Block of the Month 2024 – 2025: Studio Sampler[©]

Our Block of the Month (BOM) for 2024 – 2025 is called **Studio Sampler**. This is a sampler-type quilt using a variety of pieced and appliqued blocks, all related to items found in our sewing rooms. The finished size is 48" x 60".

You'll receive patterns for the blocks in the newsletter, starting in September 2024 and continuing until June 2025. Bring your completed block(s) to the monthly Guild meetings, starting in October 2024, and have your name entered into a draw for a \$25.00 gift certificate from one of our local quilt shops.

The design team (Jean Boyd, Jennifer Clark, Kathy Colwell and Heather Tolton) will be available to help you when the Stitch by Stitch group is at Centennial Road Standard Church. We meet just inside the west set of doors from 9:30 am until 11:45 am every Tuesday. We'll also be available at Guild meetings during the break to help with any problems you might have.

It's always a good idea to read through all the instructions before beginning to sew the blocks.

Choosing Your Fabrics

As a general rule, you'll want to have light, medium and dark fabrics in each block. But it's OK to do your own thing and use your fabric as you wish. Enjoy the process!

This is a great scrap-buster project and you have many choices for selecting fabric for your sampler quilt. It's always a good idea to have some solid or tone-on-tone fabrics, as well as prints for whatever style you choose.

Here are a few options:

1. Choose a favourite colour scheme and then look through your stash to find fabrics with small, medium and large designs in those colours. The more variety of fabric, the more interesting the design **or**
2. Use all solid fabrics in co-ordinating colours **or**
3. Go monochromatic – all fabric in one colour family **or**
4. Use a specific style such as 30s prints, modern fabrics or batiks.

For the background and border, you'll need 3 metres of fabric. A tone-on-tone, low volume or plain fabric will work best for this. Don't choose a directional print for the background.

Important!

Before starting to sew the blocks, set aside .8 m of fabric to use later for the borders.

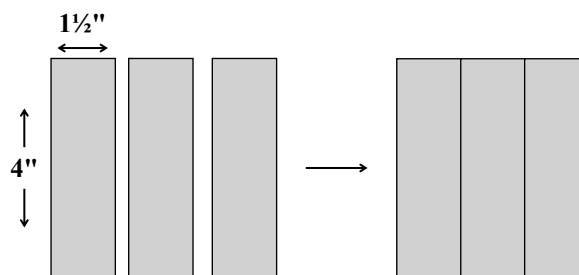
To finish the quilt, you'll also need 3 m of fabric for backing, and .5 m for binding.

The Perfect ¼" Seam

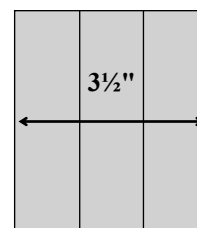
It's very important to use an accurate ¼" seam when making these blocks. Once you find the perfect ¼" seam allowance, you'll be able to use it on all of your quilting projects. It's well worth the extra few minutes it will take you to determine this seam allowance for your machine.

Here's one method to help you find the ¼" seam on your machine.

1. Cut 3 strips of fabric 1½" x 4".
2. Sew the strips together using a ¼" seam.



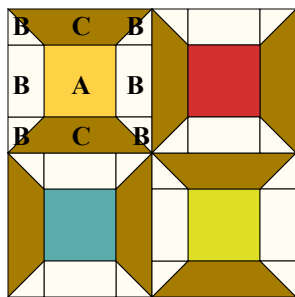
3. Measure across the centre of your three joined strips. If you have a perfect ¼" seam, the measurement will be 3½".



4. If the measurement is more than 3½", your seam is too narrow. If the measurement is less than 3½", your seam is too wide.
5. If necessary, adjust the width of your seam allowance using one of the following methods:
 - a) Move your needle position to the right or left if possible.
 - b) Find a guideline on the throat plate of the machine or on the presser foot and align the edge of your fabric with that line.

Block #1
Traditional Spool Block

Please read through all the instructions before beginning to sew.

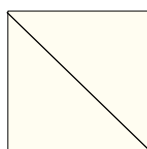


Cutting Instructions

A: (centre of spool) 4 – 2½" x 2½" from different fabrics.

B: (background) 8 – 1½" x 2½"

16 – 1½" x 1½". Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner on the back of each square.



C: (top and bottom of spool) 8 – 1½" x 4½"

Sewing Instructions

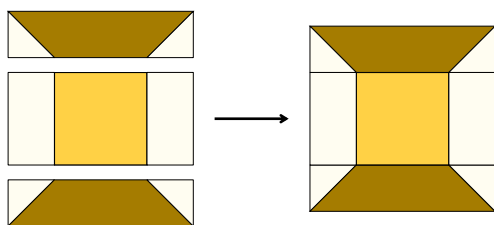
1. Sew 2 – 1½" x 2½" strips to a 2½" x 2½" square to make a 2½" x 4½" strip. Press seams toward background.



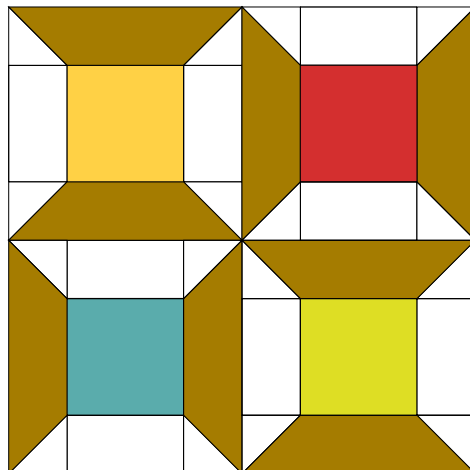
2. Stitch on the drawn lines to sew 1½" squares to each end of 2 – 1½" x 4½" strips.
3. Cut excess background fabric from each square. Press triangles over the 1½" x 4½" strips.



4. Sew the units together to make 1 Spool block that measures 4½" x 4½".



5. Make 3 more Spool blocks in the same way.
6. Sew the blocks together to make 1 – 8½" x 8½" block. Notice the orientation of each 4½" block.



7. Make 2 more 8½" x 8½" Spool blocks.