

Simple Braid using Brilliant Bindings® tool and 2 ½" Pre-cut Strips

This simple quilt uses the **Brilliant Bindings®** tool as the template to cut the trapezoid pieces for the braid, saving cutting time and increasing accuracy!

Please read through all instructions before starting. This pattern is designed to use your Brilliant Bindings® Tool to its fullest extent. Instructions are written for making braid strips. Add sashing between the braid strips or attach side by side for the look you want.

Terms

BB = Brilliant Bindings® Tool (by Debbie Wendt/Wendt Quilting)

BBR = Brilliant Bindings® Tool reversed (writing down)

WOF = Width of Fabric

All Seams will be ¼".

Strips and Cutting Trapezoids

Strips

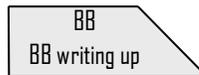
Use pre-cut strip roll bundles (2 ½" wide) or cut your own.

Most rolls, like *jelly rolls*, are packaged with 40 – 2 ½" WOF strips.

Brilliant Bindings® tool as Templates

BB – Brilliant Bindings tool shape **face up**

BBR – Brilliant Bindings tool shape **face down**



Cutting Trapezoids

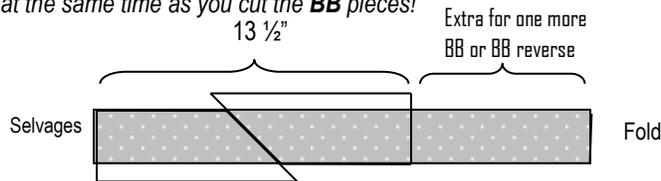
Leave strips folded in half and sub cut into 13 ½" rectangles.

Cut **6 trapezoids** from each 2 ½" strip,

4 from the layered rectangle (**2 BB and 2 BBR**) + **1 BB** and **BBR** from the extra left at the end of the strip.

NOTE:

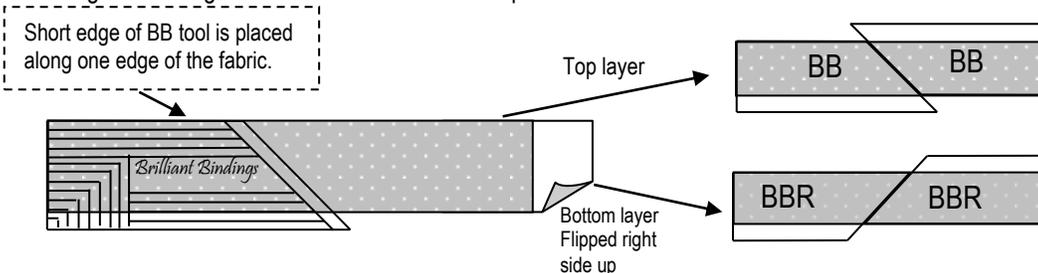
~By leaving the fabric strip folded in half, you are layering two rectangles wrong sides together. Therefore the bottom layer is reverse of the top layer and the **BBR** pieces are cut at the same time as you cut the **BB** pieces!



DETAIL OF TOOL

If using **Brilliant Bindings tool**, place the short edge of **Brilliant Bindings** along one edge of the fabric and square end even.

Cut along the 45° edge of the tool for the correct shape.



CUT a total of 120 BB's and 120 BBR's.

Building the Braid Vertical Rows

All braid vertical rows are constructed in the **same** way. In the steps below, the row is pieced from the bottom of the row up to the top. (If you choose, you can turn the entire process upside down and piece in the opposite direction.) A variety of fabrics are shown for clarity of piecing. The steps are shown for PROCESS ONLY, the fabrics are not for the same quilt.



1 - Blue dots is next in line moving up



2 - Blue dots RST along previously sewn seam



3 - Blue dots is sewn and pressed



4 - Hot Pink is next in line moving up



5 - Hot pink is sewn and pressed

Detail of Sewing the Braid Row

Begin the braid row from the bottom. Take the bottom left **BB reverse** and add it to **BB** just below it. Sew seam (shown in blue thread) and press.



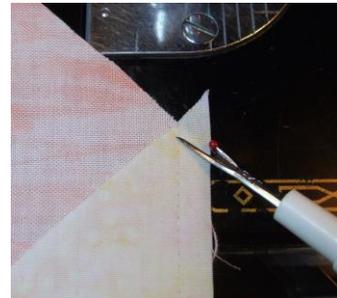
Add the next piece in line, **BB**. The long edge of **BB** is along the edge of the previously sewn seam. The end is even. Sew seam. Press seam toward the piece you just sewed on.



Add the next piece, **BB reverse**, along the new edge across the seam you just sewed.



It is easier to sew from the pointed end to the inside corner so the bulk of the piece is to the left of the needle. Correct placement results in a 1/4" bunny ear extending past the edge.



The sewn seam is shown below. The edges will align when pressed toward the newly added piece.



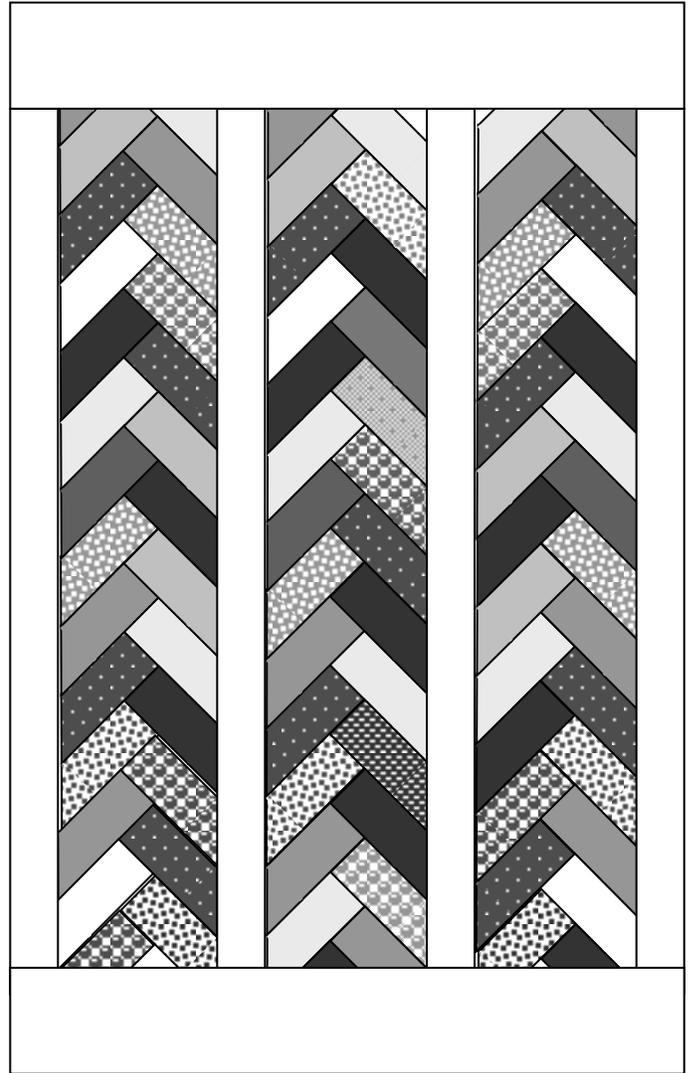
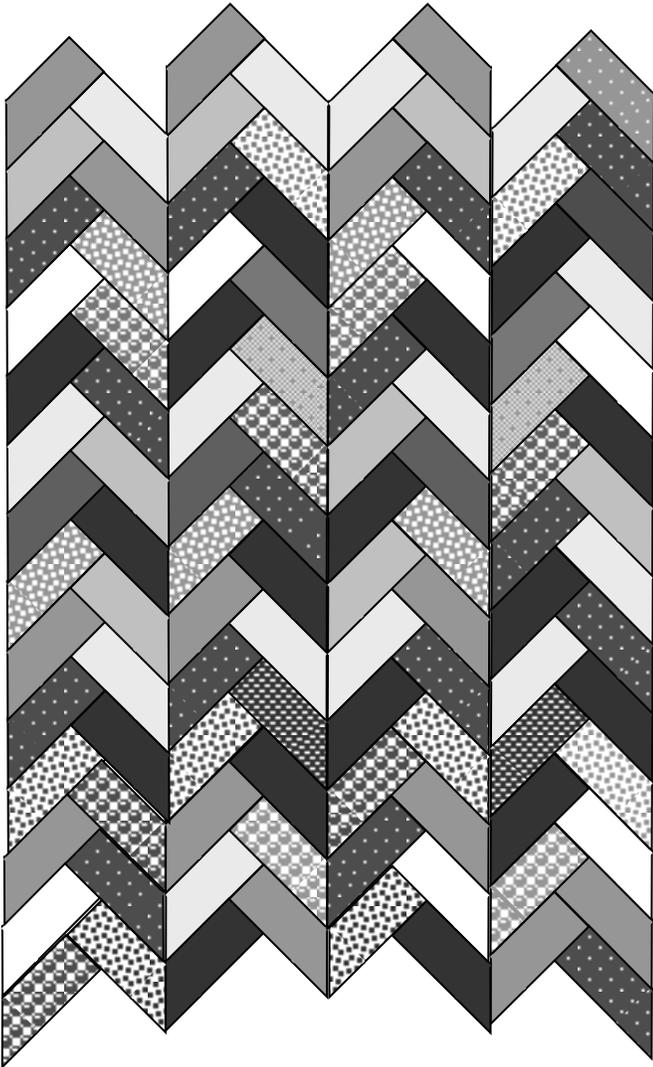
Continue adding all **BB** and **BB reverse** for the entire braid row. Trim off bunny ears after seams are sewn.

Sew all the braid rows for the quilt you are making.

Layout of the Braid

The **Simple Braid** can be arranged in a random layout (bottom left) sewing rows together. Or in vertical rows adding sashing and borders (bottom right).

FIVE rows can be made with one “jelly roll”. Each row will have 24 BB and 24 BBR pieces.



Finishing Touches

Layer the quilt with backing and batting.

Be sure to add extra inches to the backing for ease of quilting. If quilting on a frame system, at least 4” extra is recommended on all sides. Piece backing as needed.

Quilt as desired.

Simple overall quilting is well suited for this quilt. Let the fabric shine rather than the quilting!

Bind

For instructions in *perfect bindings every time*, refer to your **Brilliant Bindings**© directions!