

## Block of the Month: August 2018

### \* String Block \*



Why don't you pull out your red, blue and white strips on July 4th to make this patriotic string block. String blocks are everywhere on social media right now. They are so easy to make and ADDICTIVE. Accuracy is not critical - don't worry about a perfect 1/4" seam or whether the center strip is exactly in the center as everyone will use different width, nothing will need to line-up. Let's see if you can only make one block!

#### Materials Needed

+ **Assortment of white, red, and blue strips** including one white strip at least 13" long. Vary the strip width but not wider than 2.5" though as this is a small block (8.5" squared up).

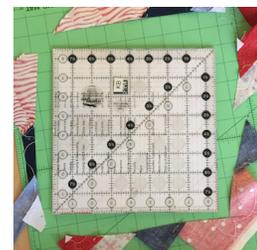
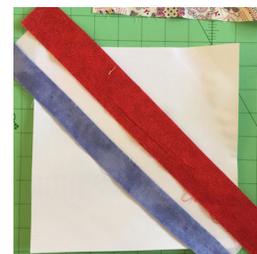
For the corners you need some chunkier pieces that can be wider than 2.5 so that you don't finish with a skinny piece where all the seams come together.

#### + Sizing

+ **11" x 8.5" piece of paper** (or pull out that foundation paper piecing packet that you bought ages ago and haven't used yet)

#### Instructions

1. Cut the piece of paper to 8.5"x8.5" - this will be your foundation on which you sew your fabric strips.
2. Take the long white strip and lay it **right-side-up** on the paper on the diagonal from corner to corner (all blocks will thus have a consistent white center strip).
3. Now pick the longer red and blue strips and lay them next to the white strip making sure the fabric is longer than the piece of paper.
4. Start sewing. Take the second strip and place it right sides together on top of the white strip and attach by sewing 1/4" seam from raw edge through paper - a smaller stitch length is helpful to remove the paper later (1.8). Open press fabric to the corner. Take the second strip and attach it to the other side of the white strip - again right sides on top of each other. Sew. Press. Continue in this manner adding a strip on each side. Press.
5. When you come to the corners and have about 2.5" width remaining, take a chunkier piece and sew to the corner.
6. The piece of paper should now be fully covered with overhang. Turn your piece over so that you can see the piece of paper. Using an 8.5" ruler, trim the block along the paper to 8.5" square.
7. Spray block with some starch or sizing as all the edges are on the bias after cutting. Press. Let the paper dry and remove the paper.
8. Voilà - a perfectly square 8.5"x8.5 patriotic block is done.



Remember, we appreciate DIFFERENT blocks. So if you make multiple blocks, please use different fabrics. This BOM is due at the guild meeting on August 6, 2018. More info on the BOM on our [web site](http://www.mpgg.org/activities/block_of_the_month/) at [www.mpgg.org/activities/block\\_of\\_the\\_month/](http://www.mpgg.org/activities/block_of_the_month/)