
Show Your Colors ~ 32" X 21" ~ 2014 Susan K Cleveland

Show some patriotism with this colorful flag quilt. Fifty prairie points are pieced into the flag which is surrounded by piping and a border. Special techniques include embellished prairie points and piping.

If piping and prairie point stitching are eliminated, project is suitable for beginners.

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Fabrics/thread: (fabrics based on width of 40" - 44") A long quarter yard measures 9" by 40"-44". A fat quarter measures 18" by 20"-22".

- Red: 1/2 yd
- White: 1/2 yd
- Blue: 1/4 yd (long or fat quarter)
- Yellow for piping: 1/4 yd (optional)
- Border & binding: 1/2 yd
- Tear-away stabilizer or starched muslin for foundation: 10" x 14" piece
(Must not melt or disintegrate when ironed)
- 1/16" cording for piping: 3 yds (optional)
- Backing: 3/4 yd
- Batting: 35" x 24" piece
- Decorative thread for embellishing prairie points (WonderFil Spagetti 12wt cotton or another heavy decorative thread)

Supply List:

- Needles to accommodate decorative thread (100/14 topstitch)
- Thread for piecing and thread to match piping fabric (50 or 60wt cotton)
- Sewing machine, fresh needles, bobbin
- Rotary cutter, cutting mat, and acrylic rulers
- Pencil or marker that will show on foundation
- Groovin' Piping Trimming tool by Pieces Be With You (optional but very helpful)
- Prairie Pointer tool by Pieces Be With You (optional but very helpful)

Cutting Instructions

- I recommend using two or three applications of spray starch and ironing before cutting. It will increase accuracy.
- For each piece of fabric, prior to cutting strips, fold selvage to selvage and straighten one end so that strips are cut on the crosswise grain of the fabric (as is usually done) unless specifically noted otherwise.
- Check off boxes as you perform each step.

White:

- Cut (3) 2" strips for prairie points
- Cut (5) 1 3/4" strips for stripes (IF fabric is greater than 43" wide, only 3 strips are needed)
- From the 1 3/4" strips, cut (3) 27 1/2" in length
- Also from the 1 3/4" strips, cut (3) 15 1/2" in length

Red:

- Cut (5) 1 3/4" strips for stripes (IF fabric is greater than 43" wide, only 4 strips are needed)
- From the strips, cut (3) 27 1/2" in length
- Also from the 1 3/4" strips, cut (4) 15 1/2" in length

Blue:

- If you have a long quarter, cut (3) 1 3/8" strips (approx. 40" strips) AND (1) 1 3/4" x 13" piece
- OR If you have a fat quarter, cut (9) 1 3/8" strips AND cut (1) 1 3/4" strip
- Cut the blue strips into 13" lengths (You'll need (9) 1 3/8" x 13" pieces and (1) 1 3/4" x 13" piece.)

Yellow/gold:

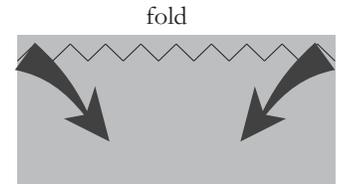
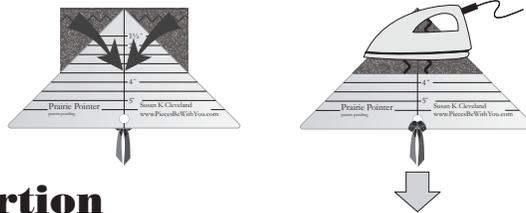
- Cut enough 1 1/4" BIAS strips to total at least 100" (optional piping)

Border fabric:

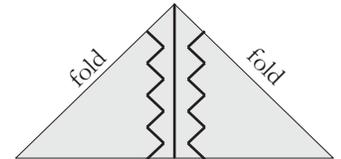
- Cut (4) 3" strips for border
- Cut binding now if you wish (leftovers from borders will complete the binding)

Make prairie points

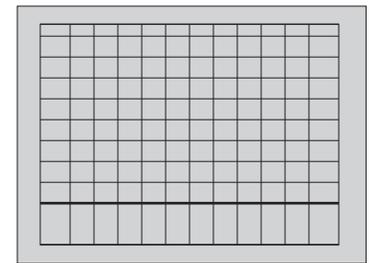
- If 2" white fabric strips have not been starched and ironed, do so now.
- Press strips in half the long way with WRONG sides together.
- Optional: Stitch with decorative thread a bit more than 1/8" away from the fold. (My favorite is WonderFil Spagetti 12wt cotton thread with a 100/16 TOPSTITCH needle and 50 or 60 wt cotton thread in the bobbin. The tension on my machine needed to be loosened slightly to accommodate the heavy thread.) About 15" of one of the folded strips may be used for practice.
- Cut the decorated/folded strips into (50) 2" pieces.
- Fold and press each piece as shown. If PP has optional stitching, the decorative thread should be on the underneath side at the beginning. Take care not to scorch the white fabric! **The Prairie Pointer tool from Pieces Be With You makes this task a breeze!**



Fold is at top,
raw edges at sides and bottom,
bring top corners to center bottom,
press



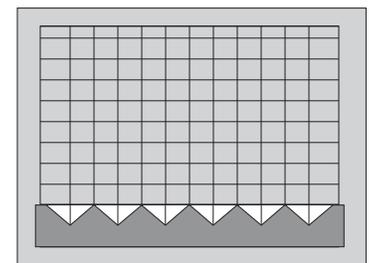
Fold meets in the middle,
all raw edges on bottom edge



Prepare foundation

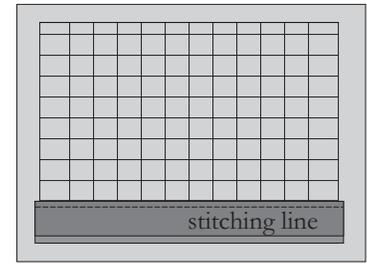
Assemble blue portion

- Make a foundation for assembling blue portion of flag:
 - On foundation paper, draw a rectangle 12 1/2" x 9 1/4". Label one long edge "Bottom".
 - From the bottom edge, draw another line 1 3/4" from it, then every 7/8" to fill the space.
 - Vertically, draw a line 1 1/4" from left edge, then every 1" to fill the space.
- Please note the following about the foundation before proceeding:
 - On the foundation, left and right lines are trim lines. Blue strips were cut a bit longer than what is necessary so that the sides and top edge of this portion may be trimmed upon completion.
 - Foundation serves as a placement guide for blue strips and prairie points. The lines are NOT stitching lines.
 - Sewing will be done with the fabric on top, NOT the foundation.
- Lay 1 3/4" wide blue strip (right side up) between the two bottom horizontal lines and overlap the right and left vertical lines as shown.
- Pin a prairie point (PP), *pointing downward with fold showing* on top of the blue strip using the second vertical line as a placement guide. The raw edges of the blue strip and the PP's should line up with the horizontal line.
- Continue pinning prairie points (PP's) at every other vertical placement line across the blue strip. The first row will have 6 PP's.



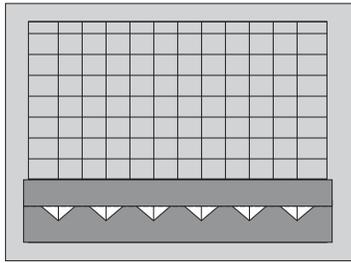
1 3/4" blue strip (right side up)
with first row of PP's

□ Place a 1 3/8" blue strip (right side down) on top of PP's aligning raw edges and sew through all layers with a seam allowance **a thread or two greater than 1/4"**. If you have tear-away stabilizer, you may wish to use small stitches so the stabilizer is easier to remove.



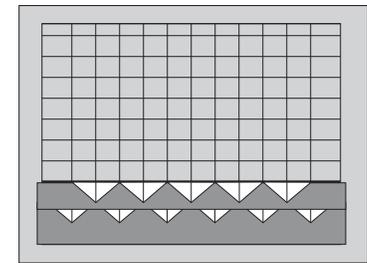
Place 1 3/8" blue strip over Pp's, (right side down) and sew through all layers

□ Press second blue strip upward. If you stitched a seam allowance a thread or two greater than 1/4", the strip will not quite reach the next line. That's OK! It's good to have the line exposed.



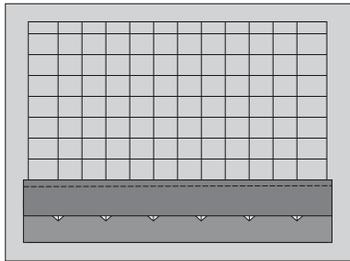
Press second strip upward

□ Use the line just above newest strip to align next row of PP's. The vertical lines to be used are the third, fifth, then every other one. The second row will have 5 PP's.



Add second row of PP's using line just above newest blue strip and the appropriate verticals for alignment

□ Lay a new blue strip (right side down) over PP's lining up on the horizontal line. Sew with a seam allowance **a thread or two greater than 1/4"**.



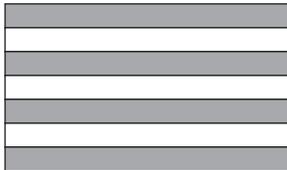
Add third blue strip aligning it with horizontal line just above previous strip (right side down)

□ Press strip upward, add PP's, add a strip and continue. Remember to use alternating vertical placement lines to place the PP's correctly and sew with a seam allowance **a thread or two greater than 1/4"**. Every other row will have 6, then 5 PP's. The last blue strip is much wider than what is needed...don't worry...it will be trimmed to size.

- Trim blue portion on foundation's outermost lines. The piece should measure 12 1/2" x 9 1/4".
- Remove foundation (unless you're using muslin).

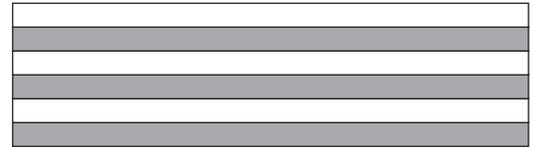
Assemble stripes and flag

- Using 1/4" seam allowance, sew short red and white strips together. Press seam allowances toward **red** stripes. The set should begin and end with a red stripe.

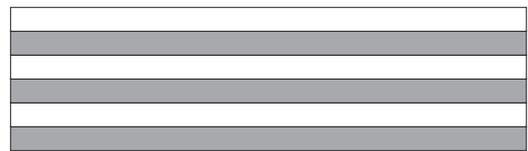
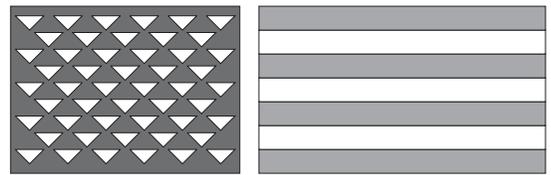


assemble short
red and white stripes

- Using 1/4" seam allowance, sew long red and white stripes together. This set should have a red stripe on one edge and a white on the other.
- Add short stripes to right of blue portion. The prairie points should be pointing down. Press seam allowance toward stripes. Trim blue seam allowance so blue does not show through white stripes.
- Add long stripes under blue and short stripes and press toward the top unit (blue and short stripes). Make sure white stripe attaches to blue/short stripe unit.



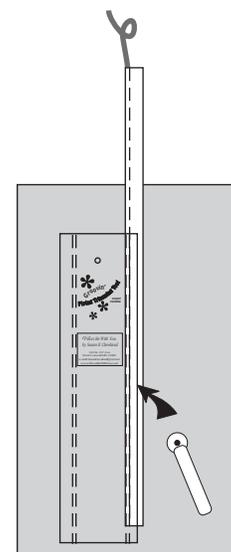
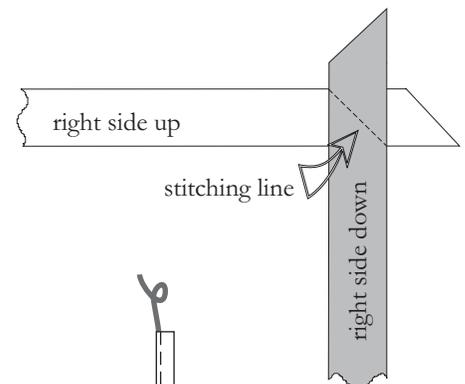
assemble long
red and white stripes



assemble sections

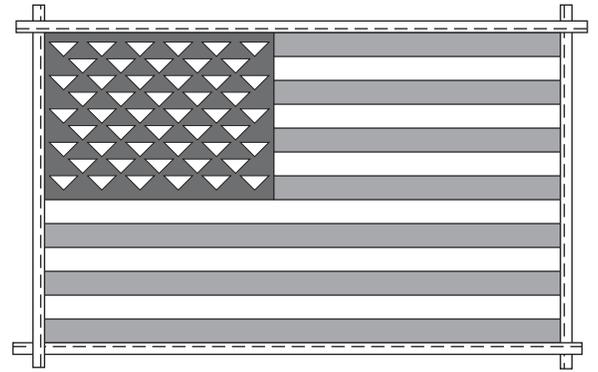
Make piping/add to flag (optional)

- Join piping strips together into one long strip by sewing diagonal seams as shown. (Angles on ends of strips may look different than what is shown.) Use a tiny stitch length so thread won't show. Press seam allowances open, then trim seam allowances to about 1/4".
- Press strip lengthwise wrong sides together.
- Steam cording to pre-shrink.
- Place cording inside fold of piping fabric and sew near cording but not so close that you catch cording with stitches. You should just be able to wedge your fingernail between cording and stitching line. Use thread to match piping fabric when possible. A foot with a groove in the bottom will make this much easier, but a zipper foot will do. Place a stack of sticky notes on the bed of your machine just beside the fold of the fabric so that as you pull the cording into the fold, you pull it against the sticky notes. The sticky notes also act as an additional guide for the piping to pass through your machine. The needle position (right-to-left) may need to be adjusted.
- Using a rotary cutter and ruler, trim piping seam allowance to 1/4". The Groovin' Piping Trimming Tool makes this job easy!



Cut along edge of tool

- Piping will be added to flag one side at a time. Lay piping along one edge (aligning raw edges) and leave about a 1/2" tail beyond edge. With thread matching piping fabric, sew exactly over piping stitching line. I like to use an open toe foot for this so that I can see the needle easily. One with clear plastic between the toes may also work well.
- Continue adding piping one edge at a time overlapping at corners.
- Make sure the piece hasn't drawn up along the edges. If it has, steam the piping and stretch it back to shape.
- Trim excess piping at corners.



One side at a time,
align cut edge of piping with cut edge of flag,
sew exactly over piping stitching lines

Add borders

- Measure width of quilt body and cut (2) 3" borders that length.
- Pin borders to top and bottom edges of quilt body.
- Turn piece over so quilt body is on top and attach borders by sewing just one thread left of piping stitching line. If no piping is used, simply add borders with 1/4" seam allowance.
- Press seam allowances toward borders.
- Measure length of quilt including top/bottom borders and cut (2) 3" borders that length.
- Pin borders to right and left edges of quilt body.
- Turn piece over so quilt body is on top. Where border attaches to the quilt body, stitching will need to be just left of the piping stitching line. Use this seam allowance for the entire seam. It may be a bit different from 1/4". That's OK...just be consistent throughout the seam. If no piping is used, simply add borders with a 1/4" seam allowance.
- Press seam allowances toward borders.

Quilting suggestions

- Layer quilt top, batting, and backing and baste. Bleached white cotton batting will keep white fabric bright.
- I suggest machine quilting between piping and borders, around blue portion, between stripes, and between blue strips. This will keep the piece flat and square during decorative quilting.
- My favorite heavy decorative thread is WonderFil Spagetti 12wt cotton. I used red to stitch wavy lines in stripes and blue to stitch the border design. These big threads require a 100/16 **topstitch** needle in the machine and may require a lower tension setting. To "mark" the designs, I transfer designs to freezer paper, cut it out, and iron the freezer paper templates to the quilt top. I then stitch next to the freezer paper's edge, peel it off and reuse it. (I like not having to remove marking lines!)
- I added a line of stitching just outside the border seam.
- Use your favorite binding technique to finish the edges.

Enjoy your quilt! God bless America!!