



2020 First Saturday Sampler Block of the Month

Grateful
A quilt by
Cheran Bee

Month Six - Strip Set blocks

Important information:

Each month a section of the pattern will be presented. Some months you will make pieces that will be set aside for future use. Sew seams with right sides together, using a scant 1-4" seam allowance. "HST" stands for Half Square Triangle.

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This month everyone will be making 4 strip set units which will ultimately frame the center block. Some of you will choose to do applique in the light triangle space in these blocks. Others will choose to add the other half of the little diamond to fill in the applique space.

After you finish these four 8-1/2" x 16-1/2" blocks, please set them aside. Please don't sew them to any other block. The applique is coming soon and you'll want to be able to easily complete the applique and also be able to assemble the quilt top in the correct order.

### Cutting instructions for **Throw / Queen / King**:

#### Backgrounds:

- Cut: (8) 2-1/2" x 2-1/2" squares
- (8) 2-1/2" x 4-1/2" rectangles
- (8) 2-1/2" x 6-1/2" rectangles
- (8) 2-1/2" x 8-1/2" rectangles

#### Assorted colors

- \*\*Cut: (8) 2-1/2" x 2-1/2" squares
- (8) 2-1/2" x 4-1/2" rectangles
- (8) 2-1/2" x 6-1/2" rectangles
- (8) 2-1/2" x 8-1/2" rectangles

*\*\*\*IF you are NOT doing applique and want to complete the small "diamonds" you started in the center square, you will need an ADDITIONAL (8) 2-1/2" x 2-1/2" squares of assorted colors.*

For each 8-1/2" x 8-1/2" section, you will need one of each of the eight pieces above.

Match up one 2-1/2" x 2-1/2" background with one 2-1/2" x 8-1/2" assorted color rectangle.

Match up one 2-1/2" x 4-1/2" background with one 2-1/2" x 6-1/2" assorted color rectangle.

Match up one 2-1/2" x 6-1/2" background with one 2-1/2" x 4-1/2" assorted color rectangle.

Match up one 2-1/2" x 8-1/2" background with one 2-1/2" x 2-1/2" assorted color rectangle.

Repeat for remaining 7 sets.

Remember for each 8-1/2" x 16-1/2" section (two blocks, as per instructions on page one) you will have mirror image piecing. I actually find it easier to layout two sections at once. A left side and a right side.



I find it helpful to measure in 2-1/2" from the end of the assorted color strip and draw a straight line. Then for the strips on the Right side of this block, you'll need to lay them out and draw a diagonal line on the darker fabric from the "side" to the upper right corner. After sewing the line, press open (don't cut anything off yet....) and make sure they are all going the correct direction. (show above in the four strips on the right side of the strip set. Once you are assured they are all going the correct direction, go ahead and trim off the excess, leaving a 1/4" seam allowance.



Repeat all the steps as listed above for the left side. Making sure to draw your diagonal line in the opposite direction, as shown.



Once you have everything pressed and trimmed, lay out your pieces. DON'T WORRY about the jagged edge, as show above. They are supposed to look like that. Sew the four pieces on the left together (the jagged look will disappear into the seam allowance.) I found it helpful to press all the seams open. (If you find that you have a little seam that doesn't line up into a nice straight line, try finger pressing to one side, then the other. Sometimes you can manipulate a "straight line" by the direction you press the seam allowance) Square up the four pieces into a 8-1/2" x 8-1/2" block. Repeat for the four pieces strips on the right side. Once both the right and left sides are complete and squared up to 8-1/2" x 8-1/2", sew the two sides together, resulting in a block that is 8-1/2" x 16-1/2". Repeat for the remaining three sets. Set aside.

\*\*\*IF you are not doing the applique, and want to have the small diamonds you started on the center square, you'll need to add those to the two center strips, as shown.



All I can say is, Breathe. Inhale, hold it, then exhale.

Be supportive, be kinder than necessary

And SMILE.

Love to each and every one of you~

