



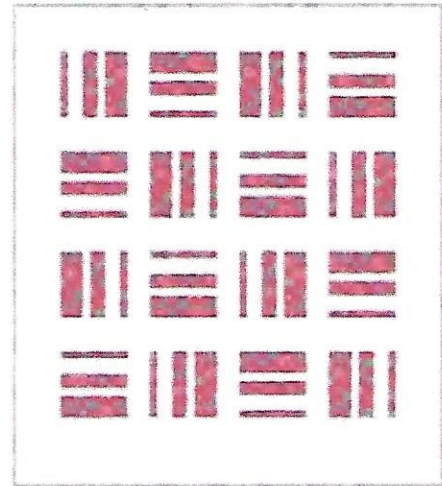
Pattern of the Month - May 2013

by Evelyn George

"A Look at Modern Quilts"

Everywhere you look there are Modern Quilts popping up! What is it that makes a quilt "modern?" Is it clean, simple lines and large, bold geometric designs? Solid colors, neutrals like white, gray or black? No borders? Simple quilting? It could be any of these, or none—but perhaps it could be best defined as "No rules, no frills, spontaneous design and a fresh look." Would you like to try a modern quilt, either with or without a pattern? Just use your own ideas, or try this very simple approach:

Cut width of fabric (WOF, approx. 42") strips from plain white and one (or more) solid colors or "modern-looking" prints, and sew them together into long strip sets. Cut the strip sets into square or rectangular blocks. Cut additional strips of white for sashing and borders, if you wish, and just arrange the blocks as you think they look best, and when you are pleased with the way it looks, sew everything together. Then quilt and finish it in a simple manner.



The quilt shown at upper right is made from strips of several different widths. Blocks finish at 9" and the quilt is about 57½" x 65." For a similar size quilt (your choice of fabrics, of course), cut WOF strips in these sizes:

Blocks: Red strips 1½", 2½" and 3½" x WOF (cut 4 of each size)

White strips 1½" and 2½" x WOF (cut 4 of each size)

Sashing: Cut 3 White strips 3½" x WOF for vertical sashing

Cut 4 White strips 5" x WOF for horizontal sashing

Borders: Cut 5 White strips 6½" x WOF for the top and side borders

Cut 2 White strips 9½" x WOF for the bottom border

Yardage Requirements:

Red 1-1/3 yds. (incl. binding)

White 3 yards

Backing 3 yards

Sew strips together in this order:

1½" red; 2½" white; 2½" red; 1½" white; 3½" red. →

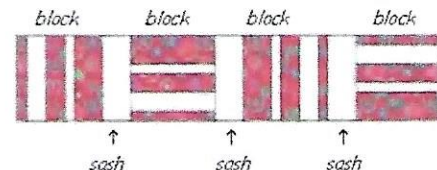
Press the seam allowances toward the red.

Make 4 strip sets. Press seams toward dark.



Measure width of your strip sets (if you used ¼" seams the width would be 9½"). Yours might be a different width, that's OK! Cut each strip set into squares of *whatever* your width turns out to be -- for example, if the strip sets are 9½" wide, cut 9½" sections and they will be squares. (Make all the squares the same size.) You should get 4 blocks from each strip set, for a total of 16.

The blocks in this quilt are arranged in four rows of four blocks each. Each block has been rotated ¼ turn counterclockwise from the previous one in the row. Arrange blocks as you wish in rows, and sew 3½" wide vertical sashing strips between the blocks (as shown at right).



Piece 5" wide horizontal sashing strips and cut them to the length of the pieced rows. Sew strips between rows. Measure left and right sides of quilt, and piece two 6½" wide border strips to measure that length. Sew to left and right sides. In the same manner, add the 6½" top and 9½" bottom borders. (In this quilt, horizontal sashing is wider than vertical sashing, and bottom border is wider than the other three. Is that modern?)

Does this give you some "modern" quilt ideas? Perhaps you'd like to substitute striped fabric for the pieced strip sets, or use several colors in the strip sets. Maybe you'd like to make larger blocks, or smaller ones, or try rectangular ones. There are really no rules, so why not follow your inspiration, and have fun making a modern quilt!