



Pattern of the Month January 2014

By Evelyn George

Flip-a-Strip Scrappy Quilt ~40" x 60"

This quilt top is made entirely from $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF (~42") strips. You could use a precut roll of strips, or cut assorted ones from your stash. This quilt uses mostly dark strips with light accent squares. If your fabrics are mostly light, use bright or dark for the accent squares, instead. Have fun—the finished look will depend upon the fabrics you choose!

27 assorted dark or medium strips (patriotic prints shown)
5 white or gold strips (contrasting, for accent squares)
6 coordinating strips for binding (this quilt has no borders)
Backing about 42" x 63" ($1\frac{1}{2}$ yards) (& batting about the same size)

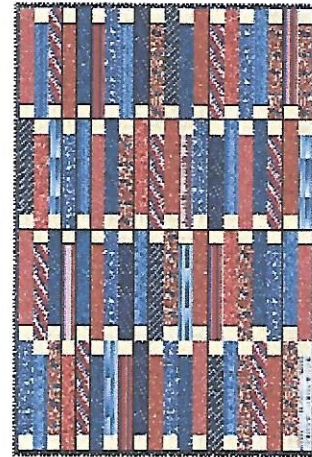
First, set aside the binding strips so they won't accidentally get cut.

Cut the 27 assorted strips into $13\frac{1}{2}$ " pieces* (3 per strip; need 80 pieces).

**Note: if WOF after trimming off selvages is less than $40\frac{1}{2}$ " on some of your strips, try cutting out all of the pieces 13" in order to get 3 pieces from each WOF strip. (The quilt would then finish about 2" shorter.)*

The exact length isn't critical, but all pieces need to be the same length.

Cut the white or gold into $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares (need 80).



Sew pieces right sides together using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

Sew a square onto one end of each $13\frac{1}{2}$ " piece; press each seam toward the square.

Sew 4 square + strip combinations together into a continuous length, so squares and strips alternate. (Press these seams toward the long strip; that will make them easier to match when sewing rows together.) This makes 20 identical long vertical rows. Each row needs to have a square at one end, but not the other. Sew the 20 rows together, flipping every other row in the opposite direction, so that one row begins with a square and the next doesn't.

Layer top, batting and backing. Quilt as desired; join binding strips together and bind using your favorite method to finish the quilt. Here's one method for a quick binding, done completely by machine:

Trim off backing and batting even with edges of quilt top. Use walking foot and a slightly longer stitch.

Piece binding, fold lengthwise and press as usual; but sew it onto back of quilt first. Begin somewhere near the middle of any side. Leave the first 8" or so of binding free when you start. (Begin with about $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance, testing a short section to see if binding will cover the first stitching when it is folded over to the front. You might need to adjust seam allowance, depending on width of binding, thickness of batting, etc.) Stop $\frac{3}{8}$ " before each corner and fold the strip up so there is a 45 degree angle at the corner, and then back down, to miter in the usual manner.

Stop stitching about 10" to 12" before you reach your starting place. Join the two ends, using your favorite method, then finish sewing the joined section to edge of quilt. Fold binding around to front and stitch down with a straight or decorative stitch by machine. Aim to overlap the first stitching line just enough so that you can stitch close to the fold and be a tiny bit to the left of, or right on top of, the first stitching. It helps to use a bobbin thread that blends with both binding and backing; this stitching will show slightly on the back, but it is a very durable finish for donation quilts or any utilitarian quilt that will be washed a lot.