



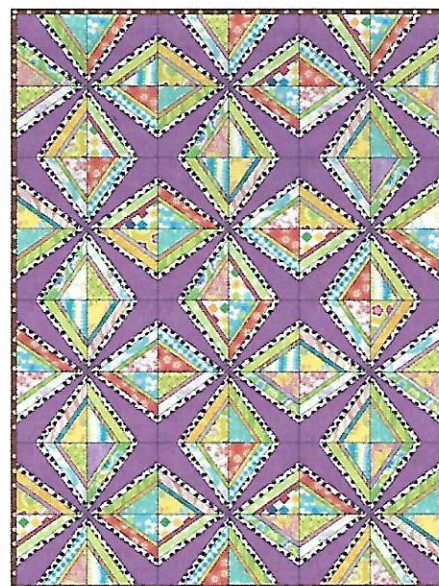
Pattern of the Month - July 2016

By Evelyn George

String Diamonds

(quilt block $7\frac{1}{2}$ " finished size)

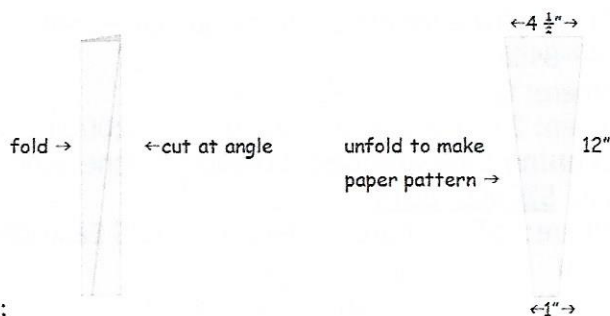
Can you make diamonds without cutting diamonds? Yes you can, if you make them from strings and squares! The scrappy diamonds appear magically when you put 4 blocks together, and to top it off, you get a star design, too! I chose lots of bright fabrics, including black and white prints, for these scrappy blocks.



Here's the easy string-piecing method:

For each block cut:

- An 8" square of lightweight muslin (foundation)
- 2 strips black and white print $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x $10\frac{1}{2}$ " (accent)
- 2 assorted strips $1\frac{3}{4}$ " x 9"
- 2 assorted strips 1" x 6"
- 2 assorted strips $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5" (corners)
- 1 solid-colored center wedge - make pattern as follows:



Fold a $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x 12" strip of paper in half the skinny way. Lay a ruler from the open corner at one end, angling down to $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the folded corner at other end (*above, left*). Cut, unfold; it should make a wedge 12" long, $4\frac{1}{2}$ " wide at one end and 1" wide at the other. Use as a pattern to cut fabric wedges.

Center a wedge, right side up, diagonally across the 8" foundation square from corner to corner (lift ends and check from the underside to make sure it is centered over both corners; put a couple of pins down the center to keep it there while you add the next strips.)

Line up a black and white (accent) strip along right hand edge of the wedge, with right sides together and raw edges matching. Using $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, stitch the two pieces onto the muslin square. Open out strip and press. Repeat on other side of wedge, with another black and white strip.

Continue adding assorted strips to completely cover foundation square, pressing after each. (Add strips in decreasing order of length, as listed for cutting, above.)

From wrong side, trim and square up block to 8". Make 48 blocks. Arrange in diamond layout as shown, to make a quilt 45" x 60. When joining blocks for quilt, press seams open to reduce bulk.

Tips: Preshrink muslin, and starch the foundation squares. If using scraps, strings can be assorted, random sizes. To add a cohesive design element, make center wedges all one color, and/or use a strongly contrasting fabric for accent strips. ---For more on string piecing, see POM September 2013.