

PRESIDENT'S BLOCKS

It is time to honor our “esteemed” presidents with a quilt block. Barb and Pat have decided, with much thought, what they would like for their blocks. Brenda Lewis will collect the blocks for Barb Ridgeway, and Kathie Mackey will collect the blocks for Pat Zarp. Please do not sign your blocks. Brenda and Kathie will have a piece of fabric for you to sign when you turn in your block. Barb and Pat will add this to the label on the back.

For Barb's Block: From batiks, any star pattern that measures 6 ½”, 9 ½”, or 12 ½” unfinished. Preferred colors are earth tones – reds, greens, teals, golds, browns, oranges, etc. Please no purples or pinks.

For Pat's Block: Pat would like hers to be 6½” blocks of Japanese Daiwabo fabric with string piecing on muslin. The fabric should be in taupes, browns, creams, and grays. No gold tones. If no Daiwabo fabric, then please use the requested colors in cotton fabric. For more information about string piecing please see below.

Blocks should be turned into Brenda or Kathie by the business meeting, MARCH 2012.

Thank you for making a block for our presidents. Now they have to make the quilt!

What is a String Quilt?

String piecing is a type of foundation piecing, where fabric is sewn onto a backing material - the foundation. The technique gets its name from the long strips of fabric that are used - the strings, which are sewn randomly to a permanent foundation that's typically cut from muslin.

String quilts likely originated as a make do technique by budget conscious quilters, as a way to use leftovers scraps of fabric. The technique is still a perfect way to use quilting scraps, but today's quilters often purchase fabric just so they can cut them up into strings.

String Quilts Tips

- Strings needn't be straight strips of fabric; try using angled strings to create variety and visual interest.
- Don't worry about fabric grain placement, because the strings are permanently stabilized by the muslin.
- Choose quilting fabrics in a wide variety of color values.
- Strings can be any width, and for the most interesting results their widths should differ. Typically used are cut strips that are 1/4” to 2 1/2” wide for a 8” or larger blocks; narrower widths for miniatures.

String piecing is a free-form quilt making method, so you will not usually mark a pattern onto your foundations—instead you will simply position strips, sew a seam, flip the strip right side up, and then add another. It's super simple, but there are so many ways to string piece that the results are never boring.