

String Quilt**Origins and Meaning**

A string quilt is a quilt made from narrow strips of fabric—called "strings"—that are sewn together, onto a foundation. The technique developed as a practical way to use even the smallest scraps of cloth that would otherwise be discarded. Some quilt historians consider string quilts to be among the earliest examples of "recycling" in American textile arts because virtually every usable scrap of fabric could find a place in the finished quilt.

Origins of String Quilts

String quilting emerged in the United States during the nineteenth century as part of the "waste not, want not" tradition of quilt making. Quilters saved narrow remnants from garment making and household sewing projects, stitching them onto foundations to create new fabric from scraps. Many surviving string quilts date from the late 1800s. String quilts became especially popular during periods of economic hardship, including the late nineteenth century in rural America and the Great Depression of the 1930s. Because the technique allowed quilters to use tiny pieces of worn clothing, flour sacks, feed sacks, and leftover fabric, it was an economical way to create warm bedding for families.

Fabric Requirements	
Foundation Square	8 ½" muslin foundation base square (cut slightly larger and trim to size in the final step)
White center strip	One white center strip 1 ¼" x 12"
Scrappy fall colors	Cut 8-12 random strips ½" to 2" wide x 6-12" long
Use any fall inspired scrappy or solids for the colored strips	

Sewing tips from Sandy and Sue (BOTM table chairs):

- Use ¼" seam allowances throughout
- Carefully position and baste the white center strip diagonally to the foundation fabric
- Double-check that the finished center white strip measures ¾" wide
- Press after adding each strip away from the center after sewing
- Trim the completed block to 8½" unfinished
- Remove the center basting stitch after trimming

Directions

- Center the white strip diagonally across the foundation square and baste it in place.
- Sew random strips, right sides together (RST), to each side of the white strip using a ¼" seam allowance.

August 2026: String Quilt

Due: September Meeting
8 ½" square unfinished

- Press each strip away from the center after it is added.
- Continue adding strips until the foundation square is completely covered. Depending on strip widths, this will typically require 5–7 strips per side.
- Trim the completed block to 8½", ensuring the white diagonal strip remains centered.
- Remove the center basting stitch.

Pattern inspiration from Quilty Love/Emily Dennis <https://www.quiltylove.com/the-scrappy-and-happy-string-quilt/> (helpful videos for string quilts if needed)

