

Strips & Strings Log Cabin

Quilt Size 54 x 72

Block size is 9 inches finished (9.5 inches with seam allowances)

Setting is 6 x 8 blocks



QUILT NOTES

- ✂ This quilt is made up of strips and strings approximately (1) inch to about (3) inches although most of them are in the (2 – 2.5) inch range.
- ✂ I do not cut fabric for these quilts but rather pull them all from my strips and strings bins.
- ✂ The blocks are sewn in a log cabin style but I don't worry about deviating or adding strips to any side I need toyou'll see what I mean as we go along. You'll also note that the photos are of different blocks. I make 10 – 20 at one time and while I photographed each step, it was not always with the same block.



BLOCK PIECING

I start with red centers of different sizes pulled from my crumb bin that I keep under my desk.



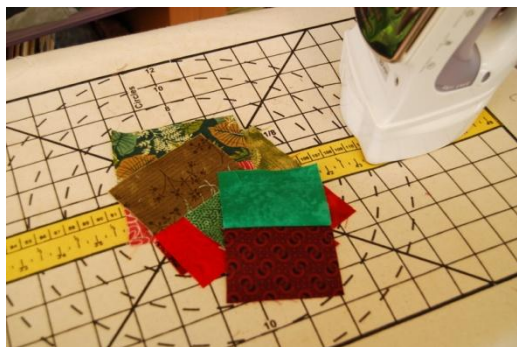
We'll add two rounds of dark strips first. I match them up with crumbs of similar sizes and sew with right sides together. Round 1



Cut strips even with red centers with scissors.



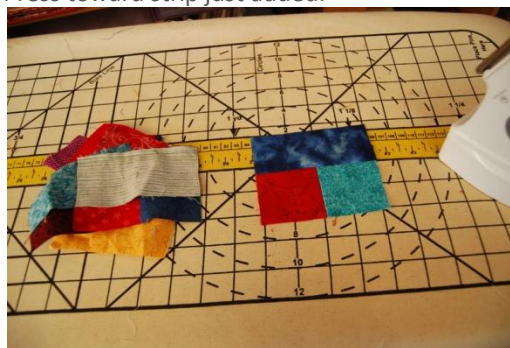
Iron seams toward the dark string just added. You will always be ironing seams toward the most recently added string.



Round 2 – add another dark string.



Press toward strip just added.



Round 3 – first of two light rounds. Make sure you are sewing along a side with the red center – I don't care which one.



Round 4 – sew another light strip to the remaining side of the red center which will then be surrounded by two dark and 2 light strips.



I was too busy taking photos and sewed this one to the wrong side. NO seam ripping in this quilt if I make a mistake; I just trim the seam off and sew to the correct side.



Iron toward the last strip added and you can see my blocks are all different sizes at this point.



Round 5 is another dark round. You want to pay attention to the side you add this strip. The (R) side of this block is where my next strip will go (this is the only side that has (3) fabrics).



Round 6 is your second dark and again note that you'll add it to the side where you have 3 fabrics.



At this time, I'm starting to look at the size of my blocks as I'm adding strips and using thinner strips for larger blocks and thicker strips for smaller blocks.

Round 7 is a light round – again adding to the side with 3 fabrics.



Now that I need to use longer strings, I'll chain piece more than one at a time.



And when I have a really uneven side from trimming with my scissors; I'll clean up the edge with the rotary cutter.



Round 8 is another light round.



Now we're ready to add our last two dark rounds. This is where I pull out the 9.5 inch square ruler so I'll know what size strip I need to add including a little extra for squaring up the block.



Round 9 - you can see I turned my block from the above photo so I'm still adding my strip on the side with 3 fabrics.



This is the round I get more creative. See how short this block is at the bottom? I can choose to add another white round to avoid adding a too wide dark strip.



Sorry for lining this next one up at the bottom of the ruler but you can still see how adding this extra white will make my next dark strip narrower.

Looking on the (R) side of the next photo, notice that your dark strip will now cross 4 fabrics rather than the usual 3.



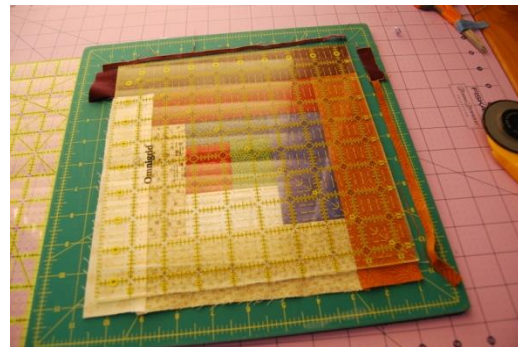
Round 10 will be your final dark round with a strip large enough to cover the remained edge of the ruler.



While I don't have a photo - I want to note that as you're adding these last two strips - if your final darks strips will be too narrow when you lay the block on the ruler, just trim the block down a little before adding them.

Using my 9.5 inch ruler; I square up my final blocks. If you don't have a 9.5 inch ruler - just use a larger square ruler to trim the block to 9.5 inches.

I trim up the right and top sides first.



And flip the block around to trim the other two sides.



I'm laying these blocks in a Fields & Furrows pattern but you can use any Log Cabin layout that you choose.

As I put these blocks up on the design wall, that bottom right block bothered me. That green strip was too wide.



So I pulled it off the wall – see that bottom strip?

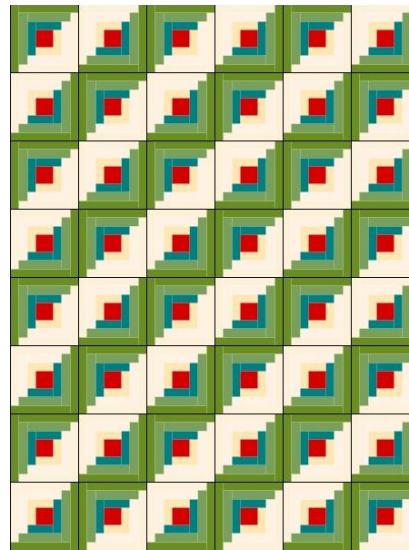


I chopped half of the green strip off, added a blue strip and squared up the block again. So while I'm using a log cabin style to make the blocks – I don't worry when I add an extra round here and there to get the size and look I need.



ASSEMBLE TOP

The quilt is set 6 blocks across and 8 blocks down in a Fields & Furrows setting as shown in the EQ drawing below.



For a larger quilt add more blocks or borders.

My Log Cabin was quilted with freehand leaves and loops and bound with leftover bindings from other quilts. A scrappy binding suits this one well.