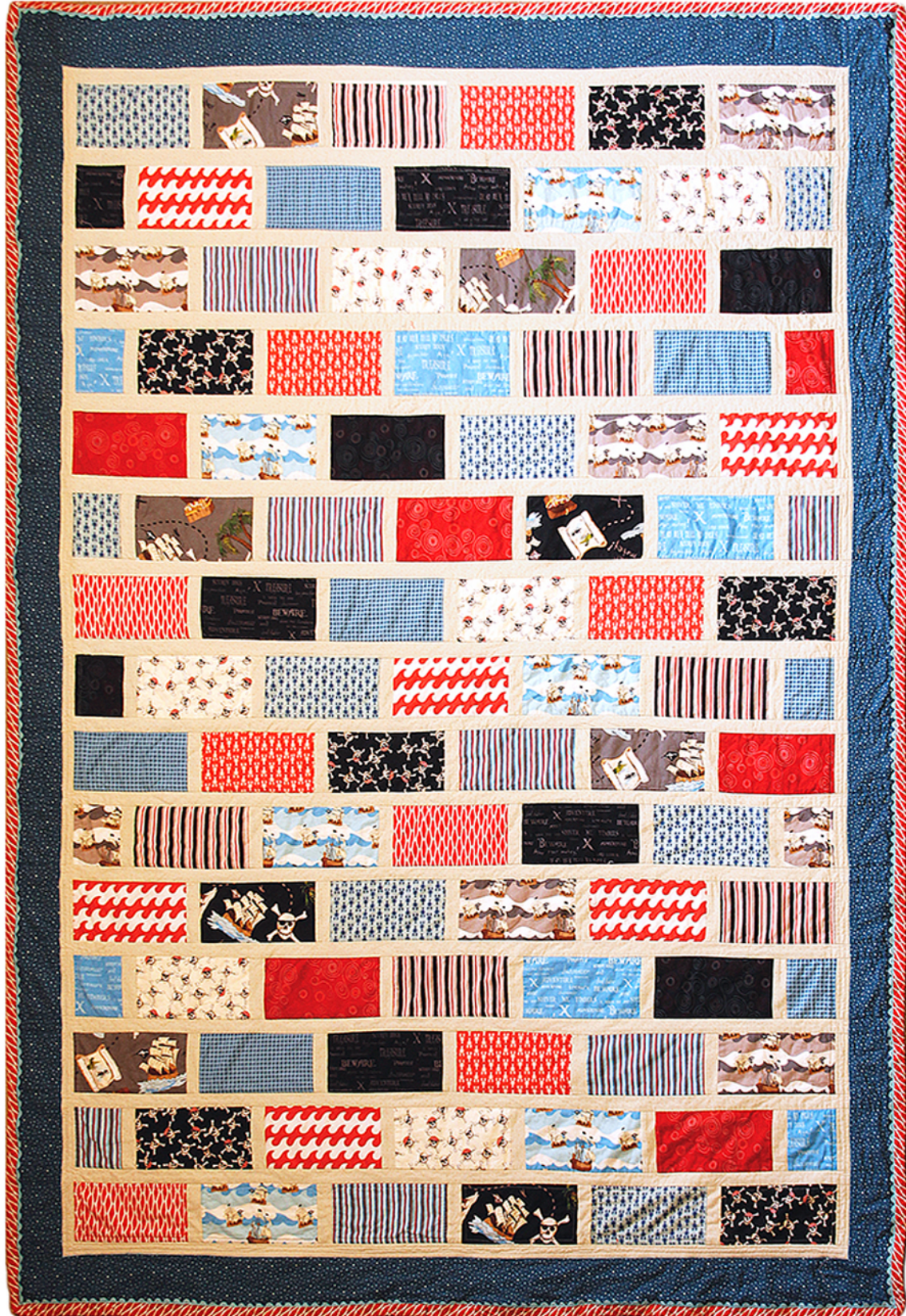




Quilt-As-You-Go Strip Quilt





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Project by: Samantha Walker

Project Level/Time: Medium to Advanced/20+ hours (depending upon skill level)

Equipment Used:

Janome MC 15000 Sewing/Embroidery Machine

A Note about the Fabric:

For this quilt, I want to challenge you to “use up your stash.” Gasp!

You mean I’m not going to tell you exactly how much of each of these fabrics that I used?

Yup, that’s right...

But what I will tell you is this...you can mix and match fabric from across many lines and different themes. It’s totally okay.

Don’t worry though, I won’t leave you totally hanging.

I’ll give you the yardage amounts that you’ll need to collect from your stash.

Why use your stash on this project? Here’s the scoop:

Brick quilts are a perfect type of quilt to use a variety of mix and match fabrics when the bricks are divided by a solid color or a subtle tone on tone. This quilt uses fabric from FIVE different collections that have all been retired from Riley Blake Fabrics:

I used fabric from Emily Talor’s 2011 Pirates collection and her Pirate Matey’s of 2012

I also used fabric from the following collections that I designed for Riley Blake:

2014 Fly Aweigh 2014 Round Up collection and 2015 Rodeo Rider collection.



Quilt Finished Size: 82X94.5

About the size: You can modify the instructions to create a smaller quilt if you wish. This quilt was made to fit a twin as a bedspread. It has sides that drop down, and enough length to account for a pillow tuck. It will also fit a double bed as a quilt.

Fabric Yardage and Cuts:

Dark Quilt Border Pieces 2 1/4 yards (I used Navy Star Fabric)

4 6x6 inch Dark Border **Corner** Pieces

6 6x24 inch Dark Border **Top** Pieces

32 6x2 inch Dark Border **End** Pieces

30 6x5.5 inch Dark Border **End** Pieces

Light Morter Pieces 3 1/4 yards (I used Cream Star Fabric)

48 2x24 Light Morter Pieces

112 2x5.5 Light Morter Pieces

Brick Pieces 4 yards Use Fabric Variety of mediums to darks

(8 half yards of different fabrics, or Fat quarter bundles and scraps are ideal choices, so use up that stash!)

14 5.5x4.75 **Half Brick** Pieces

83 5.5x10.5 **Full Brick** Pieces

Backing 6 yards Piece the back with what you have, or use one fabric

Binding 2 yards Choose a Fun Fabric (that looks great on the bias for the binding)

84x96 inches of Quilt Batting



Laying out your cuts:

When I lay out a quilt, I need to be able to see the whole thing to make sure that I get the colors distributed in a way to create a balanced visual weight. So after cutting your pieces, I recommend laying out the entire quilt on the floor so you can see how it all goes together. Move things around until you are happy with the result. Follow the piecing order indicated below when laying out the design

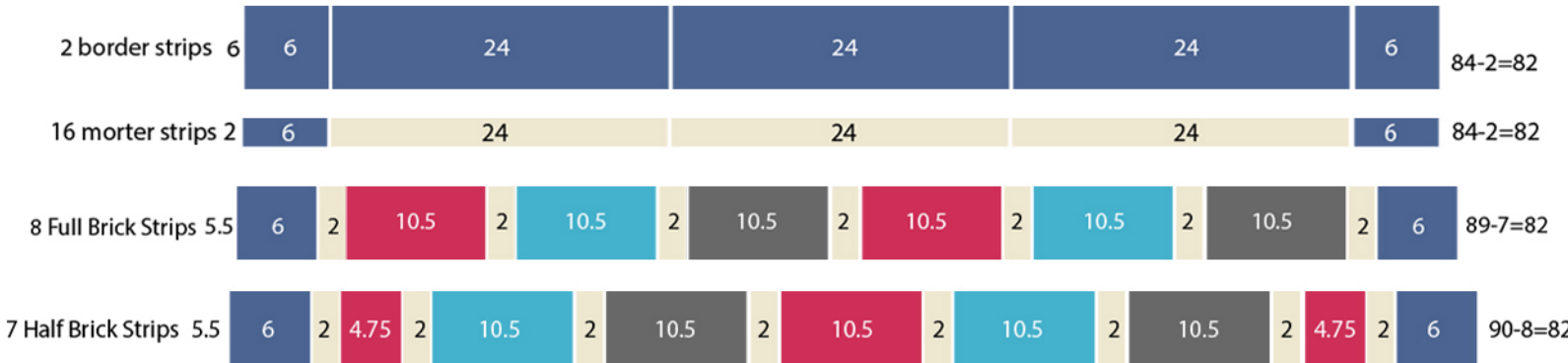
Piecing order:

Now that you have your cuts, we will be arranging them, then sewing them into strips. I have diagrammed the pieces below into strips, to show you how they go together.

We will use a 1/4 inch seam to piece this quilt.

Each strip will measure 82 inches, after being sewn.

Sew together the number of strips of each kind indicated below. For example, the first strip (navy) is the top and bottom border. You will need to sew two of these, they will sew to a finished size of 6x82. The second strip, is a mortar strip. You will sew 16 of these to a finished size of 2x82, and so forth.



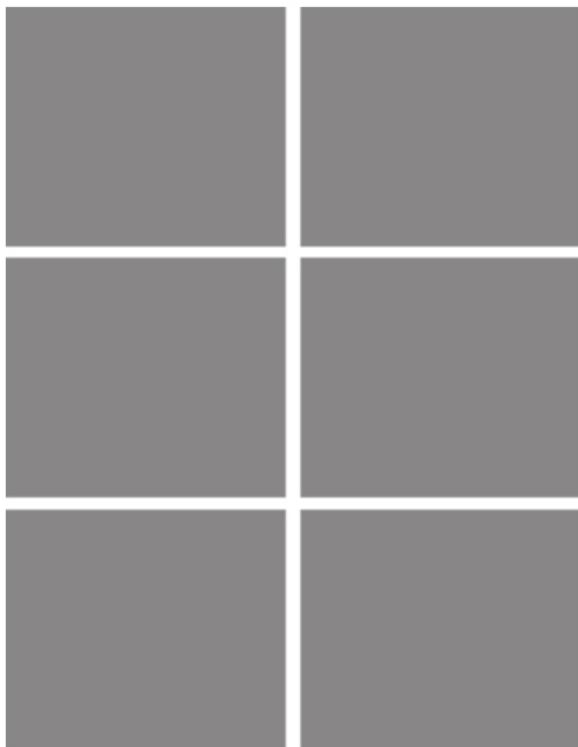
You can see a diagram of the entire quilt on the next page.

Now that the strips are sewn, prepare the backing and cut the piece of batting to size.

The reason that this is called a “quilt-as-you-go” project, is because you will literally be sewing the strips to each other, at the same time that you quilt them to the batting and the quilt back.

The backing needs to measure approximately 86x100 inches. The backing can be sewn from 6 yards of the same fabric or six different 42x36 pieces of fabric. This will leave you a little extra wiggle room.

See below:



You should now have all your strips, your backing sewn, and your batting trimmed to size. Lay your strips in the order that they are to be sewn together.

Now take your pieced quilt back, and your quilt batting; and lay them together. Smooth them, making sure that they are lined up straight. Clip the top edge of the batting to the backing to prevent slippage.

Now take your first strip that you pieced. It's the top border. (Mine is navy stars fabric.) Lay it out onto the batting a few inches down, then center it. Pin it in place.

Then take your next strip. It's a thin mortar strip. Align the edges and seams with the border strip you just pinned. Now pin the mortar strip with edges aligned, right sides facing to the border strip, as shown below:



Next carefully roll the quilt from the unpinned edge toward the section that you just clipped and pinned. You will do this so you can feed it through the throat of your sewing machine.



Now it's time to sew the first two strips together, while quilting it to the batting and backing. I moved the quilt through the machine with the roll moving through the throat of your sewing machine. This is one of many reasons why I LOVE my Janome MC15000, it has a huge throat for big projects.

Hints for success:

I used the dual feed with foot OD. It has a 1/4 inch guide for piecing. A dual feed foot will help prevent slippage of the layers and your job will be much easier. I also have a cutting table that I moved behind my sewing machine to lift the quilt so it's weight wouldn't pull so much.

First strips are now sewn together AND quilted to the back and batting.





The next few steps in the process are going to be a series of wash rinse and repeat. So, if you've done one strip, you can take a deep breath, because you will be able to do all of the rest of them too.

Now that the first strips are sewn together, remove any pins, and fold the mortar strip out. If you have a cold press iron, you can run it along the seam to flatten it. If you don't, you can use your finger to press the edge down.

Take your next strip, this should be your first brick strip that starts with a full brick. Align the brick strip to the mortar strip edge with right sides facing, and pin through all the layers.





Now we have the top border, the first mortar strip and first brick strips sewn.

I wanted to point out a few things of importance to make sure that your quilt is a success. Since this strip quilt has the border sewn to the ends of the strips, it is not very forgiving. I know that when piecing a quilt, that sometimes things start to misalign. It can be especially noticeable in a situation like this because in order for the border around the quilt to be successful, it must line up.

That's why I'm going to recommend that as you pin and sew the rest of your mortar and brick strips, that you make sure that you line up the border seams from the strip that you are pinning to the border seam of the strip you just sewed. So first pin each border side, then evenly distribute the fabric and pin between the two border edges. Fabric has a little give to it, so you may be able to stretch it a little to make up for being slightly off.



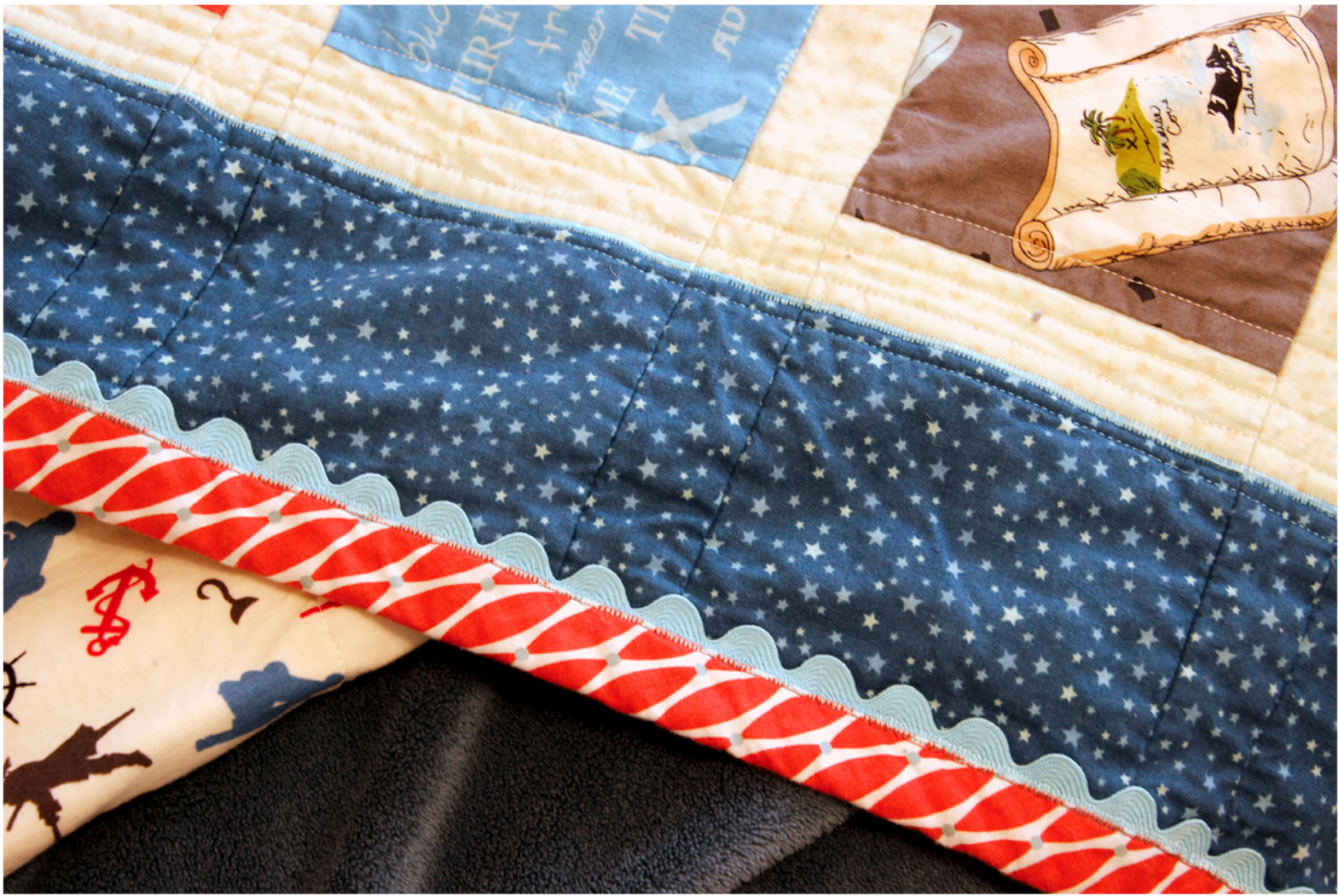
Continue through the pinning and sewing steps, as you add strips. As you add more strips, it will become necessary to start rolling the sewn side of the quilt as well. Also, as you pin and before you sew each strip, it is important to be sure to smooth the batting and backing to prevent any bunching or puckering.





Also important is that you remember your strip order. You will sew a mortar strip, full brick strip, mortar strip, half brick strip, then repeat through all of your strips until you come to the bottom border strip.





After all of your strips are sewn together, and quilted in the process...you can now creatively quilt on top of your quilt if you wish. I added a few extra quilting stitches down through the mortar and on the inside edges of the bricks. It's easy to add more quilting detail at this point as the front batting and back are all secured. You can also add decorative stitches to help "hide" any obvious mistakes like if your border didn't end up aligning perfectly. I added a tight little zig zag stitch to straddle the edge between my border and first mortar. This worked like a charm for hiding two spots that aligned less than perfectly.

When you are satisfied with any extra details that you added, you will need to bind your quilt.

This is a very personal area of any quilt. Everyone seems to have a big opinion on how they like to bind a quilt. Some like to bind the quilt by rolling from the backing of the quilt then either hand stitching or machine stitching it. I allowed for this with the size of the backing should you wish to take this route. If you prefer, you can cut 4 inch strips on the bias and sew the strips together and either hand bind or machine bind it. You can tuck a piece of trim like ric rac into your binding and use a decorative stitch for added flair. I prefer to machine bind whenever I can. My hands get cold and I don't love to do needle work. I know some find it therapudic. So for the binding,take the route you choose, and love your result!