



## SUMMER 2007 BLOCK OF THE MONTH

### *String Block*

Turn in at September meeting

**Techniques:** Using scraps ("strings") on a foundation. Dig into your scrap bag/box, project leftovers, fabrics you have decided you hate, etc.

**Block size:** 8-1/2 x 8-1/2 inches

**Colors:**

- *Foundation:* light-weight cream or white fabric, such as muslin, or special foundation fabric. Do not use foundation paper that you tear out, please.
- *Strings:* any and all cotton fabrics -- any colors or patterns. Blend or contrast your strings, depending on the effect you want to achieve. A variety of VALUE is desirable.

**Cutting:**

- *Foundation:* I like to cut my foundation 1/2 inch larger (at 9 inches) and then square it down to 8-1/2 inches after the strings have been sewn on.
- *Strings:*
  1. The first string can be any width (at least 1-1/2 inches wide) and needs to be long enough to cover the foundation diagonally from corner to corner.
  2. Strings can be symmetrical (with parallel sides) or irregular (like wedges). Both edges of the string should be straight.
  3. Every string should be at least 1-1/2 inch unfinished.
  4. Every string should cross the block diagonally from its starting position. This is NOT a crazy quilt with odd-shaped patches.
  5. Use not less than 5 strings and not more than 10 strings in your block.

**Construction:**

1. Lay your first (longest string) right side up, approximately diagonally from corner to corner across the center of your block (a little bit off-center is fine, sometimes even desirable). Pin in place.
2. As in paperpiecing, place the second string, right-sides together with the first string, aligning the straight edges along one side. Make sure the second string extends beyond the edges of the block, because when turned and pressed, it must cover the entire foundation.
3. Sew a 1/4 inch seam down the aligned edges of the two strings, sewing the pair to the foundation. Fold the second string back, right side up, and press.
4. Repeat with string 3, sewing it to the other side of string 1. Flip and press.
5. Alternate adding strings to either side until you have covered the entire foundation.
6. Press the block carefully.
7. Turn the block over and square the block down to 8-1/2 x 8-1/2 inches.  
Congratulations!!! You've made a String Block!