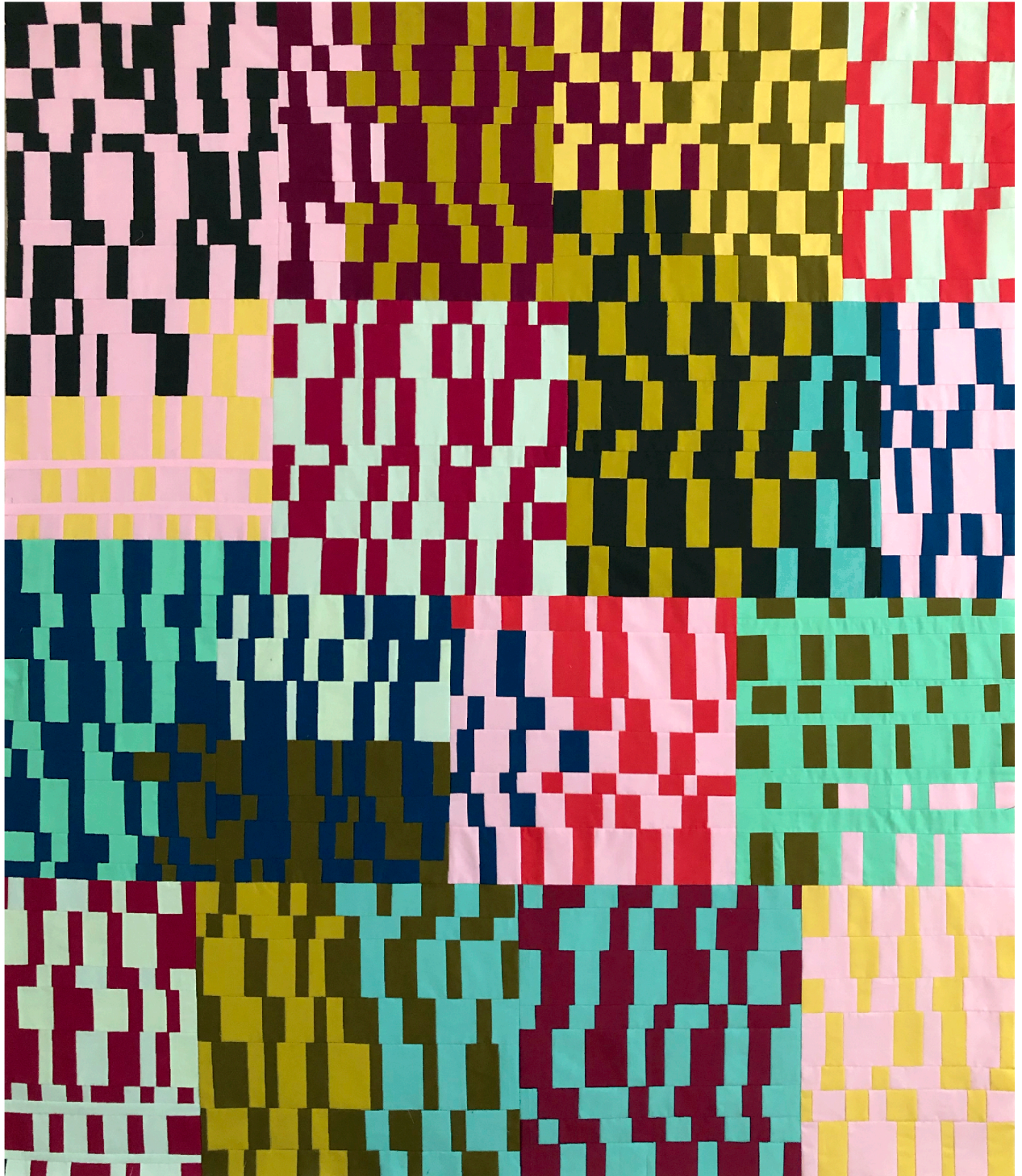

Hitch Quilt

pattern by tara faughnan

finished block size: varies



MATERIALS:

Optional but recommended:
Large square ruler

FINISHED SIZE:

variable

WELCOME!

We are building on last month's block of using proportion and improv to create rhythm. More specifically, we are playing with how strip piecing and disrupting the continuous strip can create its own rhythm. This quilt may be right up your alley. For some others, it may make you a little uncomfortable and be a good exercise in creating unity from a little chaos. The first block can be daunting, so I have provided an example with measurements to get you started if you want to refer to that. I found that after a few blocks I began to understand the mechanics of how the block went together as well as how the strip width affected the overall look of the block. do not be afraid to experiment and "waste" fabric! This technique involves playing, and "mistakes" can often lead to innovative solutions and new ideas.

VALUE/ COLOR ADDITIONS

- Notice in my quilt, some of the blocks skew lighter and some skew darker. Pay attention to creating different looks in each block by varying the values from one block to the next.
- Notice that not all colors are necessarily "friends". Though they can live in the same palette, some colors might compete when put next to one another.
- Think about value when working with these colors. Pairing a light value and a dark value allows the colors to sit with one another without competing.
- I constructed my quilt with two to three colors in each "block". Sometimes the block next door bled into its neighbor. This is your chance to play.

TIPS

Most of the tips and tricks for this block are in figuring out how to compose the block rather than sewing techniques.

- Sew with a consistent 1/4" seam allowance to ensure your strips are even and straight.
- This quilt is about creating rhythm by cutting colors into strips different widths. What is pleasing with regards to proportion is personal, and you may find you prefer wider or narrower strips. Cut strips and make a block to ensure you are happy with the proportions before you cut the rest of the fabrics.
- Note I created some blocks that were wide and some blocks that were narrow for my quilt, but I kept the height of each block at 18". That way there is interest in the composition, but the blocks will sew together easily into rows.
- Use care when pressing so as not to distort the long strips, and use steam sparingly as it can exacerbate distortion.
- If improv is new for you, keep some constraints to help ease you into it.
For example:
 - Square all the blocks to the same size.
 - Use only 2 colors per block.
 - Keep the project small and make pillows
- A large square ruler is extremely useful when making large blocks. I highly recommend investing in a 20 1/2" square ruler.
- Watch this month's video for tips and tricks, including ways to create a layout.

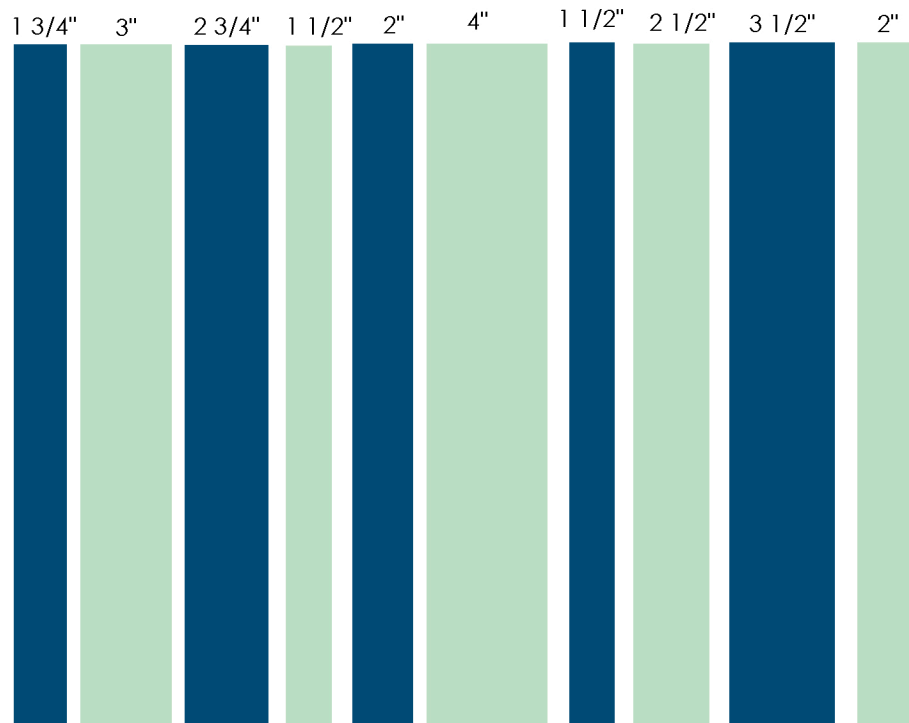
CUTTING FABRIC

1. Cut strips from two different colors in a variety of widths ranging from 1 1/2" to 4". Be sure to reserve some yardage from each color to allow for cutting specific widths if needed as you progress in the quilt.
2. Sub cut each strip in half and trim off selvages. Your strips will measure approximately 21"-22". I have provided some examples of widths below if you would like a jumping off point.

Note: Remember you will lose 1/2" to seam allowance from each strip.
Fat quarter subscribers cut strips 22" long.

LAYING OUT THE STRIPS

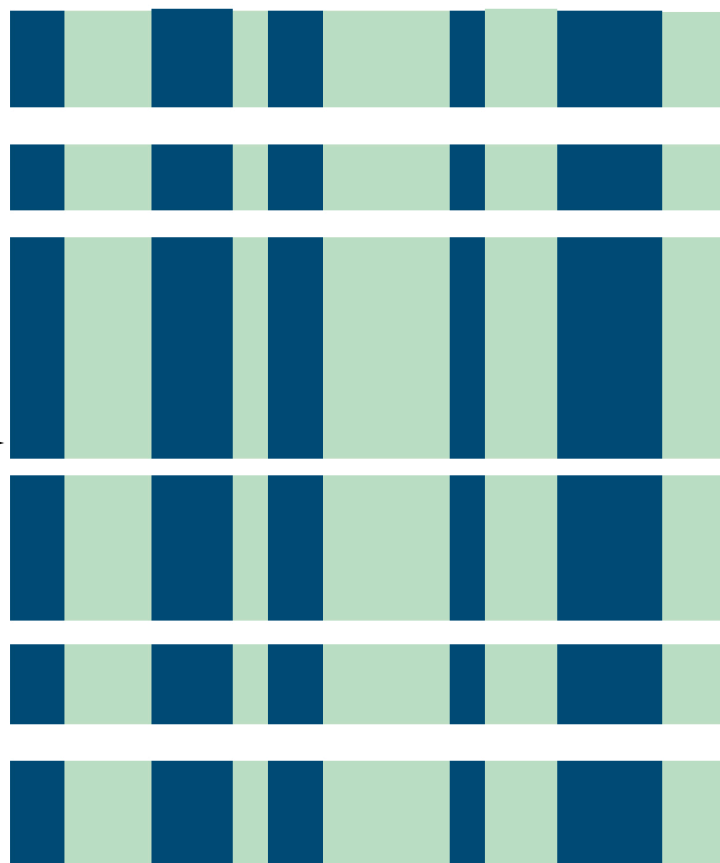
1. Determine the size of the block you want to make and lay out the strips in alternating colors. Make sure the colors on the ends of the strip set are different colors.
2. You will lose 1/2" of width for every seam allowance, so make the lay out wider than needed. You can add to the strip set once it is sewn together to achieve the desired width. Do not try to make the strip set the exact width you need, as you will trim the block when you are done, and it is better to have it too wide than too narrow. The example below measures 24 1/2" before sewing. Once sewn it will lose 4 1/2" to seam allowance and measure 20".



SEWING THE BLOCK

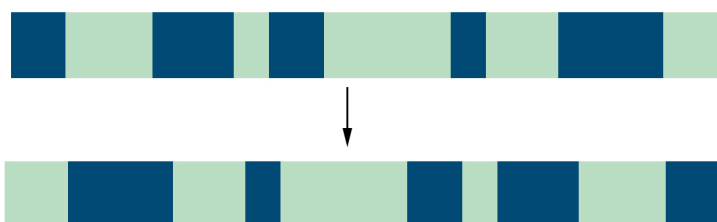
1. Sew the strips together with a 1/4" seam allowance. Use a slightly smaller stitch length than your default. **This will help to mitigate seams coming apart when you sub cut the strip set.**

2. Trim ends even if needed. Sub cut the block horizontally into a variety of widths ranging from 1 1/2" to 4 1/2".

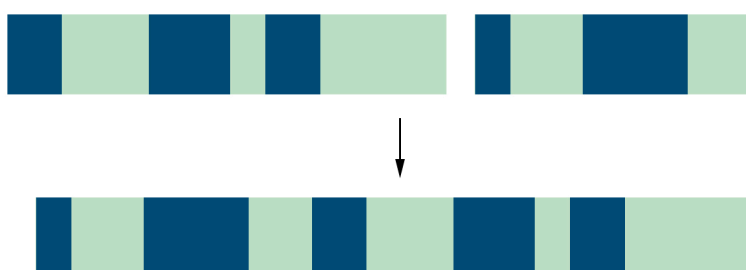


3. Reconfigure the strips to get a variety of patterns.

A. Rotate a strip

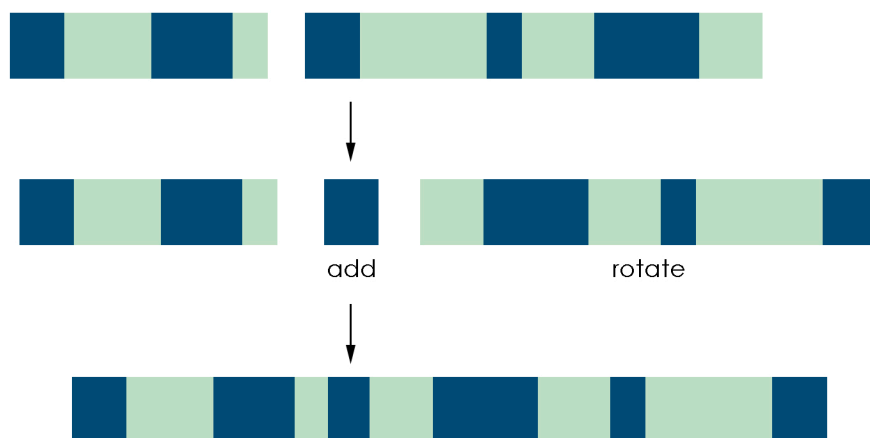


B. Pull a strip apart along a seam, move the separated piece to other end of the strip and reattach.

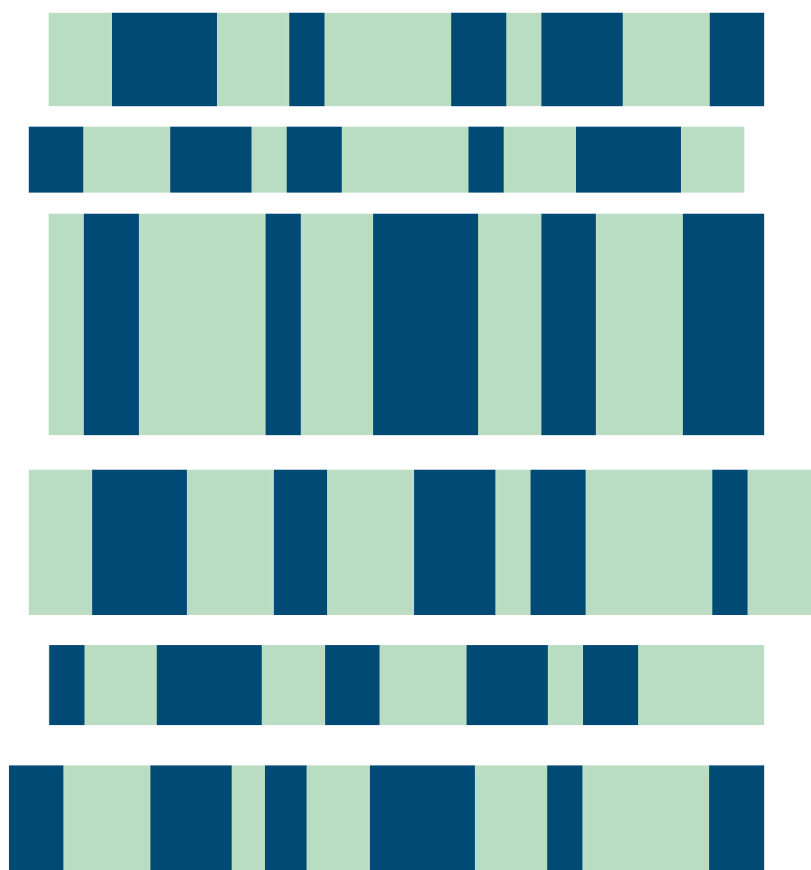


SEWING THE BLOCK CONTINUED

C. Pull strip apart along a seam, rotate the piece and reattach. You may need to add a piece to the strip to keep the colors alternating.



4. Lay out the strips in a pleasing manner. If your strips are wider than the desired finished size you can also offset them to help break up the lines and achieve an interesting block.



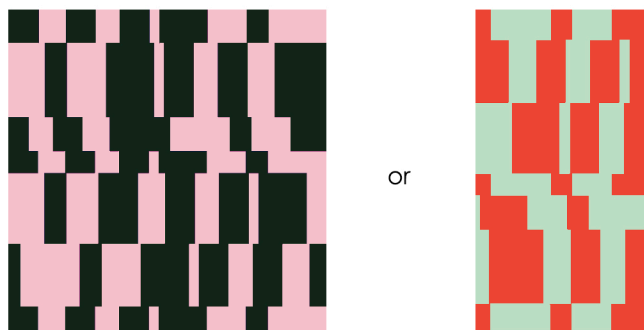
5. Sew strips right sides together with a 1/4" seam allowance. Press seams as desired.

6. Trim the block to desired width. This is easiest using the largest square ruler you have. You may find that you also need to square the top and bottom edges of the block.

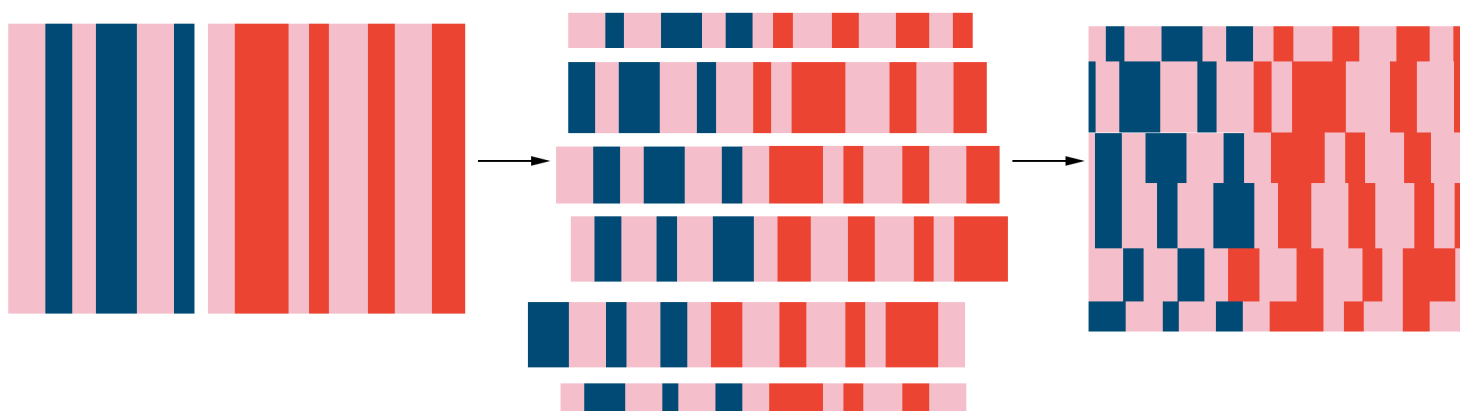
VARIATIONS

There are many variations to think about as you create your blocks. Below are just a few examples.

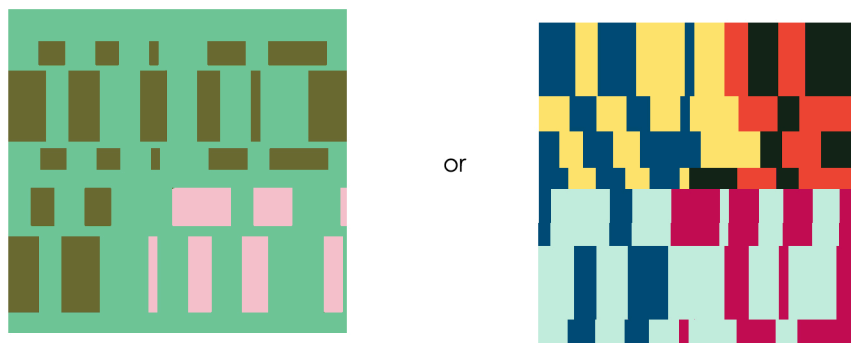
1. Make narrow and wide blocks. Keep the height the same for ease of joining blocks for the final quilt.



2. Create 2 strip sets and combine them to create blocks with more than 2 colors. Make the sets wider than needed to allow for offsetting the rows.



3. Add sashing between the rows and add in leftover bits from other blocks.



THANK YOU!!

Thank you so much for being a part of the Color Collective! We hope you enjoy the process and we'd love to see what you make, so don't forget to post on Instagram and/or Facebook and use the hashtags #thecolorcollective, #hitchquilt, or just tag us!

COLOR PALETTE

Kona solids



Evergreen



Moss



Celestial



Candy Green



Ferndale



Mint



Bordeaux



Sangria



Coral



Peony



Pickle



Banana Pepper

ADDITIONAL colors you could add



Storm



Oasis



Seafoam



Fog



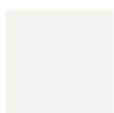
Ruby



Leather



Nectarine



Putty