

# SCRAPPY BARS QUILT BLOCK

SCRAP-SF QUILTING BASICS  
March 1, 2023  
with Lorraine Woodruff-Long



## THOUGHTS:

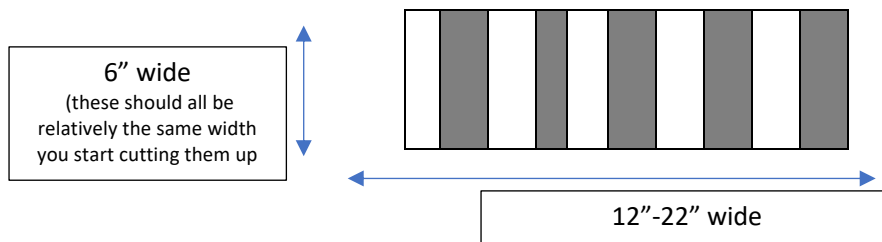
- Scrappy Bar Blocks are a great way to use up larger scraps – from SCRAP, your stash, repurposed clothing, etc. – and make baby, throw or bed quilts.
- There are no rules – you can make the contrasting bars evenly spaced, or just wing it with little use of a ruler. It's very forgiving!

## GOALS FOR TODAY'S CLASS

- Learn to cut, arrange, and sew 2-contrasting fabrics into a long bar block.
- Learn how to cut, arrange, and sew bar blocks from more than 2 fabrics
- Explore how to make long strips of bar blocks to make a quilt.

## Quilting things to know, GENERALLY:

- **Seam allowance:** For this block, you don't have to worry so much about keeping to the traditional  $\frac{1}{4}$ " quilt seam. If it is larger that's fine (but avoid going smaller than  $\frac{1}{4}$ " as you risk your sewn pieces fraying and coming apart with use/wear.)
- **Pressing/ironing:** Once you complete a block, you can press your seams all in one direction – for this I never press seams open (way too much work!)
- **Suggested width/length of starting pieces:** I generally cut my starting pieces at 6" wide and anywhere from about 12" to 22". (I have a 6"x24" ruler that I like for the manageable size and it's been my go-to tool for this.
  - Mostly you want to have whatever pieces you are working with be the same width. In this case I'm defining width as the short edge.



## 2 COLOR SCRAPPY BARS BLOCK

### STEP 1:

Pick out two strips that have some contrast in pattern or color.

### STEP 2:

Lay the two strips on top of one another, with the left hand-corner matching up so that you have the top edge and left-hand side edge in alignment. If you have one piece that is significantly longer than the other, that's OK.

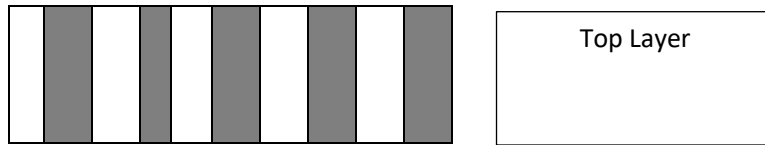
## SCRAPPY BARS QUILT BLOCK

### STEP 3:

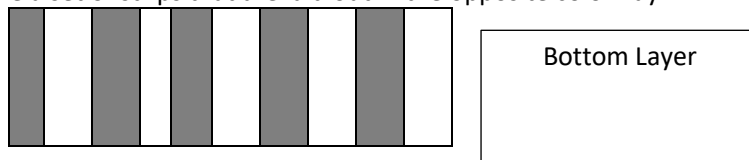
- If using scissors: Use a pencil to mark strips that are about 2-3" wide across the width of the strips. Cut through both strips, but then back on the table, and keep the top piece of fabric on top.
- If using a rotary cutter: Cut strips about 2-3" by eyeballing it. Keep the top piece of fabric on top.

### STEP 4:

- On the far left, take the top fabric, and switch it to the bottom so the bottom fabric is on top. Do this for EVERY OTHER set of cut up strips so that you end up with something like this on top:



- Underneath, you'll have a set of strips that are laid out in the opposite colorway



- Sew all the top layer of pieces together, keeping to the alternating pattern you've created. You'll be left with the bottom set of strips that you'll sew together still on the table (Bottom Layer)
- NOTE: You'll see that if you sew these two strips together it'll make a very long block-strip that looks like the continuation of the same general pattern idea.

### STEP 4:

- Trim the long edges of the block so that the strip edges are parallel to each other. Pick a size 5.5"-6" that you want all your color bar block strips to be and keep trimming each to the same size.
  - NOTE: To create visual interest, you can make some bars smaller, then sew them together and trim to be the size of your larger color blocks. Whatever floats your boat!

**VOILA!**  
**YOU'VE MADE YOUR FIRST**  
**SCRAPPY BARS BLOCK!**

**PARADE IT AROUND PROUDLY & KEEP GOING!**

Check out my website for the class page that shows lots of ways you can use this idea.

<https://quiltinginthefog.com/color-bars-class-resource-page/>

Includes:

- This handout
- Images of ideas for quilts and other things you can sew with these blocks
- PowerPoint presentation
- A picture tutorial for how to cut, arrange and chain-sew multi color blocks:  
<https://quiltinginthefog.com/color-bar-blocks/>

Sign up on my email list (SIGN UP SHEET IN CLASS) for future offerings, tips, shows, ideas!

Or email me: [Lorraine@quiltinginthefog.com](mailto:Lorraine@quiltinginthefog.com)