



DRAFT INSTRUCTIONS: Barbara Alama helped me by making the gypsy setting top. I wrote draft instructions to make her quilt. I was not able to finish them. I had to make my own quilt to write instructions. To save time I used an alphabet panel. This changed my block placement as I wanted to accommodate the letters of the alphabet. Good luck.



Barb Rubio FINISHED SIZE 84 X 100 This is a queen, if you want to make a smaller size change the strip size to 1 ½ or 2 inch strips, I used 2 ½ jelly roll strips. Merge some of your columns. I have 14” from last block to bottom edge, that can be shortened.

QUILT TOP ASSEMBLY: Be flexible when making this quilt design. I have over explained my design process to help you make decisions. Sorry if it is confusing hopefully, we have a class in the future. **The key is to know which blocks are in your column. Make the smallest block the same width as the largest block by adding strips to one side. Then start making strips sets to fill in between the blocks.** Apply this principal and you can make your own.

The layout of this quilt is different than the draft instructions or Barbara Alama quilt because I was working with the alphabet and I wanted the letters in some sequence.

Step 1 Choose background strip fabric. Look online by searching “gypsy wife quilt” get ideas for what you want to use. Suggestions are neutral colors with different prints for a subtle difference; use a jelly roll; Barbara Alama used fabric from her blocks mixed with scraps. I used scrap Jelly rolls pieces.

The strips should provide contrast to the outer edge fabrics used on the blocks. Contrast is needed between the background and blocks for the blocks to show their detail or pop out.

When using the same fabric that was used in the blocks; plan ahead and move the strip away from the blocks that have that same fabric on the edges.

Step 2 Cut strips.

I used my left over jelly roll strips. I added a few 1 ½, 2 and 3 inch strips. I recommend various size of strips, to add interest. You need at least two strips of the same fabric or very similar color and tone. For the fill strip that runs the full length of the quilt I used three jelly roll strips.

If cutting your own strips, the size of a jelly roll strip is a 2 ½ wide strip that is cut the length of the fabric, which is usually 42 inches long.

There are 42 strips across the top of my quilt. There are two strip lengths when a block breaks it up, three strip lengths when it runs the whole length of the quilt. I used approximately 90 Jelly Roll strips.

Step 3 Block Count. You will need 2 – 18”, 2 – 14”, 3 – 12”, 2 – 10”, 1 – 9”, 7– 8”.

I did not use filler blocks on purpose. I wanted you to see how the 17 blocks fit and let you decide where to add in a filler block.

Filler blocks can be used to help distribute color and take up space for less strips.

PRINT THIS PAGE TO REFERENCE AS YOU READ INSTRUCTIONS.

I will reference the blocks by the alphabet letters in my quilt to coordinate with the photos. Notice my original layout doesn't match my end result. I moved things as I was working such as the W alignment. Feel free to move your blocks and strips to fit how you like.

Below are the block sizes of the letters and the letters in each section for assembly.

AB – 8	C – 8	SECTION 1	AB, J and MNOP
DE – 10	FG – 8		C and K
HI – 12	J – 10	SECTION 2	DE, L and QRS
K – 8	L – 8		FG
MNOP - 14	QRS – 18	SECTION 3	H/I, T/U
TU – 12	V – 8		V and Z
W – 12	XY – 14	SECTION 4	XY and tan starfish
Z – 18	Light tan shell square – 9		W and tan shell
Tan with orange/red star fish – 8			



Notice that the original layout has the V and Z blocks in the same column as the HI and TU. I moved them to the side for their own column while assembling. **These instructions are for the finished product.** Pulling the V and Z to the side made the quilt 18" wider.

Step 3 Layout the blocks.

Lay out your blocks. Space out the sections. Notice how blocks in columns line up with flush edges. Use the finished quilt layout. The photo on the left is to show how I started with just the blocks, the instructions are for the quilt on the right.

Try swapping your 18" and 10" blocks to see which looks best where, to balance your fabrics. If some blocks are darker than others move them around the quilt to different rows. Swap you 8" blocks and take a photo to see which way looks best.

Set 4 Layout strips. Look at the completed quilt and notice where strips run the full length. Place the fabric you have to cover the longest length in those positions. Then start laying out your strips to fill in sections around the blocks. Pick a strip and see if that fabric is in the outside edges of any of your blocks, if it is move it away from that block. If you are using strips fabric different than your blocks, then lay our darker strips in a row with lighter block edges and lighter strips with the darker edge fabrics to create contrast. These are only recommendations to help new quilters that have never created a quilt using their own fabric choice. **TAKE A PICTURE.**





Set 5 Start sewing strips.

I sewed sets of two strips. I started from the left side of what I laid out and worked my way across the quilt. I left the full-length strips, a row with no blocks, as singles. You can skip this step, but it helped me have some ready for when I started working a section and to see how the fabrics looked together.

Example: I sewed the blue and pink on the left edge. Then I sewed the tan and burgundy strips under the J.

The following blocks need strips added before sewing the strips into sets.

Sew one strip to the left of the AB to match the width of J.

Sew one strip to the left side of L to match the width of DE.

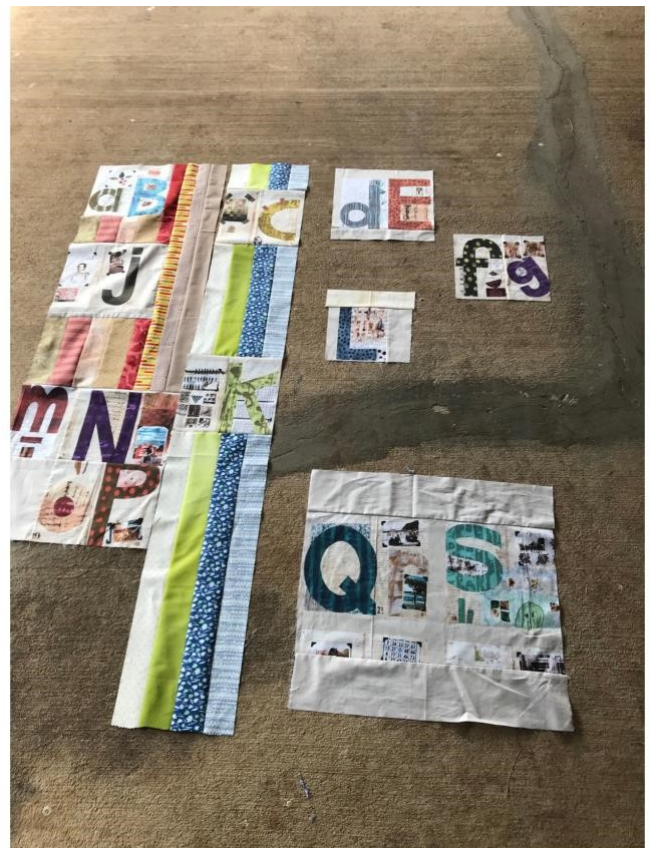
Sew 2 strips or 4" to the right side of the tan starfish fabric (8" block to match the size of the TU or 12" block)

Step 6 Start assembling sections

SECTION 1 A/B, J, MNOP, C, and K

Blocks A/B, J and NMOP will all be flush to the left.

Blocks C and K will be flush to the right.



NOTE: AB, J and MNOP are all flush to the left. C and K align in the same row and are the same width.

NOTE: My fabrics change as I sew sections. The first photo had a gray pock-a-dot next to the bright yellow strip, I changed it to a tan as I was assembling.

Block A/B is 8" and J is 10" sew a 2 ½ strip to the end of A/B. (my red strip- picture 2)

Make a strip set that is 10" or the width of your J block, the strip used on A/B will be at the right end of the strip set.

Cut and sew a 4 ½ x 10 section from the strip set to the top of the J block

Cut and sew a 8 x 10 section for the bottom of the J block.

Add block A/B to the strip set on the top of the J block.

Make a 4 ½ strip set to fill the space from the edge of the J block to the edge of the MNOP. (this is where my bright stripe strip and tan strips are)

Sew this set along the edge of the AB and J section trim and then sew the MNOP block to the bottom.

Sew this new portion to the top of NMOP block.

C AND K SECTION

Next sew a strip set 8" wide for the C and K column.

Cut a 4 x 8 section and sew to the top of the C block.

Cut a 14 x 8 section and sew to the bottom of the C block.

Sew the K block to the bottom of that strip set.

Sew the remainder of the set to the bottom of the K block.

NOTE: The height measurements DO NOT have to be exactly like mine. If it is shorter or longer it just moves the block up or down. Put the blocks where you think they look best.

Again, the key is to understand how you are assembling the sections. Sewing strips together to make the width of a block then cutting sections to fill in between the blocks. Noticing when you need to add one or two strips to the ends of the smaller blocks.

Stop don't sew portions together. Move to next section.

SECTION 2 D/E, FG, L, and QRS

Blocks D/E, L and QRS are flush to the left.

Block F/G is flush to the right of QRS.



I laid out my sets of two that I liked for this section and started sewing them together. Notice I moved the order of the colors when sewing them in picture 2.

Sew 2 ½ strip to the end of the L block to match the width of the D/E block.

Create a strip set 10” wide with the fabric used at the end of L as the last strip on the right in the set.

Cut a 8 x 10 section to sew under the D/E.

Cut a 9 x 10 section to sew under the L.

Create a strip set 8” wide or the width of F/G. Cut a section 17 x 8 and sew under the F/G.

Next sew D/E and L portion to the F/G portion. Sew this top portion to the top of QRS block.

See picture below. Stop and move to next section.

Section 3 H/I, T/U, V and Z

Blocks H/I and T/U are flush to their left side.

Block V will be flush to the right side of Z.



Lay strips for the H/I and TU.

NOTE: The last two sections have the longest length of strips, I used three jelly roll strips for the length. Under the TU is a good place to add in filler blocks. Decide ahead of time and sew strips the width of your filler block then add the side strips to make the 12" width.

Both HI and TU blocks are 12", create a strip set 12" wide or the width of your blocks.

Cut a 7 x 12 section and sew to the top of the H/I and then cut a 15 x 12 section and sew to the bottom of H/I and then sew the T/U to the bottom of those strips.

The remaining portion is sewn to the bottom of T/U.

NOTE: If you don't have enough strips or don't want this much of the strips showing; add in filler blocks in the 10" section or the 8" section around the V block.

Block V is an 8" block. Make an 8" wide strip set. It will be flush with the RIGHT side of the 18" Z block.

Cut a 40 x 8 section and sew to the top of the V block. Cut a 17 x 8 section and sew to the bottom of the V block. You will need a remaining 16" of the 8" strip set for the bottom of the Z block.

You will need a 10" wide strip set for the left side of the V block.

Cut 66" x 10 and sew the length of the right side of the V portion. Sew the Z block to the bottom of the all the strips. Sew the 10" strip set and the 8" strip set together and sew that set to the bottom of the Z block.



Picture above shows layout of 8" under the V before sewing and the layout of the 10" wide to the left under the Z block with the tans and burgundy. **Stop and move to next section.**



Section 4 – Bottom of the quilt. I start to work from right to left. Filling in the strips that match the top sections colors to carry down.

Blocks W, X/Y, and 8” block (starfish fabric) and 9” block (shell fabric).

8” starfish block is flush with the right edge of the TU block. I just cut the strip set under the TU on where I wanted to place the 8” block.

I then cut 8” of that set and used the seam ripper to remove the strips that exceeded my block size and sewed them to the left side of the block (blue strips on the left). You can also just sew strips to the side of the block that are similar in color.

I then sewed the remaining 12” strip set to the bottom of the star fish block.

In section 2 you stop after the QRS block was attached. Find the strip sets used for section 2.

Working from the right (last strip on block FG and QRS. Create a strip set 14” wide. Cut a section 13 x 14 and sew to the top of QRS, remainder of the set is sewn to the bottom. Then take the 6” wide strip set from the left side of the DE, L and QRS section and sew it along the length of the XY portion.

Block W will be worked in the same way as the XY block. It is flush with the C and K blocks. Find your strip sets from section 1 and create a strip set 12” or the width of the W block.

Working from the right of the block so the blocks are flush. Mine starts with the light blue strip and then works across to the pink. You may have only had the 8’ strip set from the C and K. At this time create an additional 4” strip set to fill in the left side of the C and K blocks and the top and bottom of the W block.

9” block (shell fabric) will be flush to the right of the MNOP block. Find your strips from section 1. A 10” section from under the J block and the 4” section for the right side of the AB and J blocks to make 14” for the MNOP. You need to make a strip set 9” wide or the width of your block. Cut a section 15 x 9 and sew to the top of the shell block then sew a section to the bottom of the shell block. The remainder strips from under the MNOP will be sewn to the left of the shell block portion.

REPEAT NOTE: The length between blocks can be adjusted to your liking, I provide the height I used, so you have a reference. Main key is making strip sets the width of the blocks and carrying the fabric or similar color fabric through from the top to the bottom. Keep blocks flush, add fabrics to the end of blocks to create the same size in columns.



Finishing the quilt.

The hard work is over, you have fitted all your blocks into columns. Now let's play. Depending on how many strips you have and what size quilt you want this is where you can adjust the size. You can leave the AB, J and MNOP on the edge of the quilt or you can add strips to the left side. You can leave V and Z on the edge or add strips to the right side.

You can sew each of your columns together or you can add strips between your columns. Notice I added a skinny dark tan between my FG and HI columns. I added a turquoise between my C and DE columns.

You can adjust your columns up or down. Notice in the first section photo shows the AB was flush to the top like the DE. I pulled the column down and cut a portion of the strip set off the bottom and added it to the top.

I know these instructions can be confusing, I planned to have a class and demonstrate in person. I apologize for how long it has taken me to write these instructions and for any confusion you may have.

I'm available to try and answer your questions by email or phone. Good luck and I look forward to finished quilts at the guild or send me photos to post.

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