

Chop Up Those Painted Lines

by Sherri Lipman McCauley

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Host Susan Brubaker Knapp and quilt artist Sherri Lipman McCauley

Materials

- Design wall
- Strips and cuts of painted and dyed fabric
- White and off-white fabric strips cut 2"–3" wide in a variety of lengths
- Narrow strips of solid contrasting fabric cut 1"–2" wide in a variety of lengths
- Felt backing 1" larger on each side to match the size of the quilt top
- Fusible web to cover the quilt top (I use Mistyfuse®.)
- Press sheet

- My inspiration for this project resulted from
- having too many small pieces of painted and
- dyed fabric, none of which were 'special'
- enough to become a wholecloth piece. If
- you have similar scraps and pieces of fabric
- from previous paint or dye sessions, bring
- them out to your mat! Using cut pieces
- of fabric that do not stand alone, you can
- create pieced artwork in an improvisational
- manner. The size of the final project
- depends on how many blocks you create.


INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut block centers from pieces about the size of your fist (approximately 2"–3" on each side).
2. Sew a few strips of white and off-white fabrics around the center fabric. Sew improvisationally. A Log Cabin or Courthouse Step block is a general style I use frequently.
3. Add solid colored strips next. Continue until you have a block around 8" square.
4. Arrange the blocks on a design wall to create a composition. Square up the blocks, as needed.

5. Sew a group of blocks to create a larger unit, adding additional strips, if desired. Sew the units to create a quilt top. Press.
6. Apply fusible web to the entire back of the quilt top using the press sheet.
7. Fuse the quilt top to the felt backing, centering it.
8. Using a walking foot, quilt gentle curves. When the quilting is complete, square up the quilt.

Tip: If you use light-colored thread and it crosses over a painted line while quilting, use a matching color fabric marker to blend it in with the painted line.

9. Finish the edges with binding, facing, or as desired.

Note: If you plan to enter the quilt in a quilt show, verify that this two-layer style of construction is acceptable to that group or organization. If not, layer the quilt top with traditional batting and backing. 

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