

Raggedy String Quilt

by Mary-Jeanine Ibarguen



block size: 7 ½ square

- batting scraps your final block size: 5 ½ square

This is one of the easiest ways to use up your 'strings' (long, straight bits of scraps). You will need various lengths, widths, colors and values. The best part is, once you sew the blocks together, you're done; no binding, no quilting! This is also a great use for batting scraps.

Tools: square ruler (7 ½, 9 ½ etc) , walking foot, rotary cutter, good snippers or scissors to make it ragged.

Cut: (let's decide these blocks will be 5 ½ finished)

- backing squares 2 inches bigger than your final

Decide if you will have a center strip the **same color** for all blocks.

Lay the backing fabric square down, right side down.

Lay the batting square onto the middle of the backing square.

Lay down your center strip, right side up.

Lay down the next strip, right side down on top of the center strip.

Using your walking foot, sew thru all layers, using a ¼ inch seam, straight stitch.

Finger press the strip open, right side up.

If you need to, clip the excess strip, making sure it covers the backing fabric.

Lay down the 3rd strip right side down on top of the 2nd strip, again sewing a ¼" seam thru all layers. Finger press the strip open, right side up.

Continue in this way on both sides of the center strip until you've covered the entire backing fabric.

Turn the block over and trim the excess strip ends so you have a square, once again.

To sew all the blocks together, sew with the raw edges to the front, keeping all seams open. Use a 1 inch seam allowance.

Sew a straight stitch all the way around the edges of the quilt, 1 inch in from the edge.

Clip all seam allowances, perpendicular to the seam, in ½" to ¾" intervals.

Launder with an old towel, and then toss in a very hot dryer till dry to fluff the seams.

Tabebuia (Dancing 16-patch)

By Mary-Jeanine Iburguen

Quilt is 70" x 74"



Another great way to use your scraps. This quilt starts with 5" squares. I use my "Nifty 4-patch" technique to create 4-patches, and then 16-patches.

I started with Quiltville.com's "Dancing 9-patches" and made some changes: 16-patches instead of 9-patches, and the two sashing strips on each block are narrower: 1.5" wide unfinished. Just a slightly different look. Take a look at Bonnie's great step-by-step tutorial.

Where did I get so many 5" squares? If my scraps are big enough, I cut 5" squares from them before relegating them to the scrap bag. This pile of 5" squares is a great source for my Leader and Ender projects.

Pay attention to darks and lights, and try to make each 4-patch a checkboard of value (2 lights and 2 darks). Same with the 16-patch, so you have a dark diagonal and a light diagonal. As you can see, medium values are just fine too.

The 16-patch should end up 8.5" unfinished, so one yellow sash is 8.5x1.5, the other one is 9.5x1.5.

This is the basic block. It's all about how you set the blocks to get the 'dancing' effect.

I used a dark green flange as my inner border, and then 7" of border fabric. That one is up to you!

PS: **What's up with the name?** The bright yellow Tabebuia trees are blooming right now, and the yellow sashing in this quilt is the same shade of yellow. The flowers in the border also remind me of this vibrant tree.



Bobbin Braiding

by Mary-Jeanine Ibarguen



A great method for 'bulking up' thin trim: rat-tail, cording, lacing, tubing, etc. This technique is best used for trims that are round or square, but not flat.

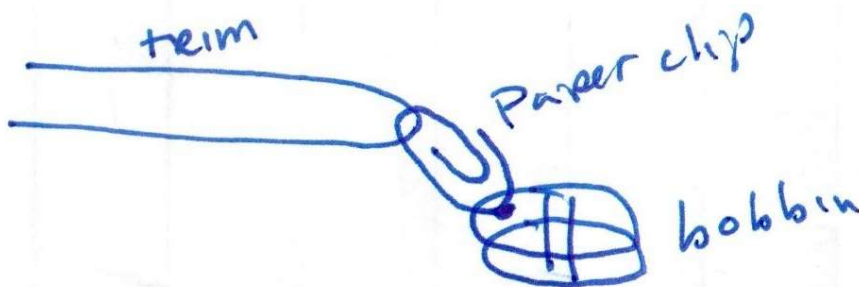
I use my Braided Trim for purse handles and longer cross-body straps. What else could we use it for?

This isn't really a 'braid' as such, its more like tight twisting, using the motor of your sewing machine to do the hard work.

You will need approximately 5 times more trim than the final length required. So if you wanted 2 feet of braid, you will need to start with about 10 feet of trim. It all depends on how tight you want to twist it up, but give yourself extra.

You will need:

- A sewing machine with a bobbin winder
- Trim (at least 5 times more than the final length needed)
- Empty bobbin
- Small sized paper clip – a regular one, about an inch long
- Small/medium Binder clip
- If you are starting with more than 6 feet of trim, you will need a helper...or sprout 2 extra hands.



Slide the paper clip end through the tiny thread hole in the top of bobbin, then place the bobbin onto your bobbin winder.

Thread your trim through the upper end of the paper clip. Keep pulling till your two ends are together and the paper clip is at the trim's halfway point.

This is where you might need a second set of hands to hold the raw ends if your starting trim is longer than 6'. If it's less than 6', you can hold the ends with the left hand and start the bobbin with the right hand. Use your sewing machine foot pedal or 'go' button. Lift the operation up over the sewing machine so it can spin and twist freely.

Be ready to stop the bobbin winder as needed. You are letting the bobbin spin and twist the 2 pieces together. When its pretty tight, stop the bobbin winder, put your finger at the halfway point and bring your left hand over to the bobbin. The twisted trim will twist again on itself so the braid is now 4 trims thick. If its twisted enough, you're done. If not open it back up and twist some more.

Use that binder clip to hold all the raw ends together until you're ready to sew them into the final product.