

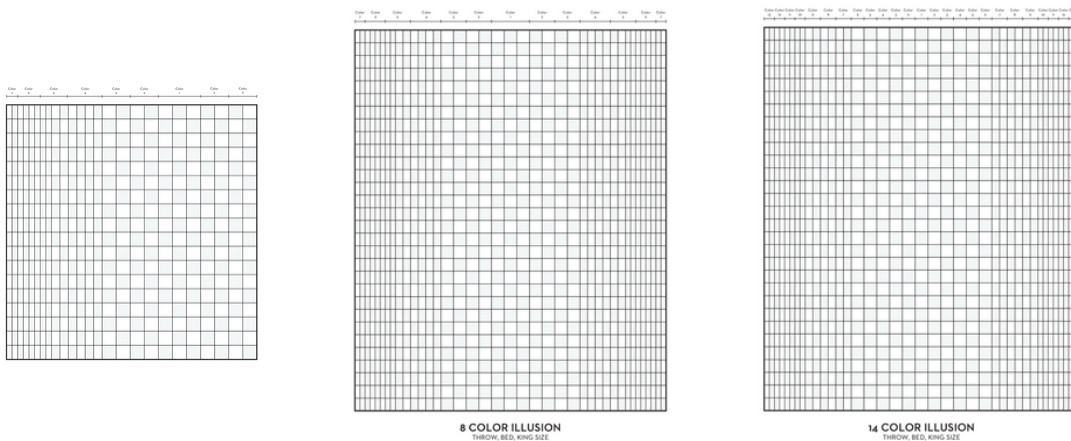
modernhandcraft.com

Guide to:

ILLUSION

Coloring Sheets + Planning

There are three coloring sheets included in the pattern - click on the link in the PDF or type in the address included in the printed pattern. Use the numbers along the top of the sheets to assist you in coloring the Color # needed - these squares and rectangles are shaded in light gray. If planning a 2 color quilt color in the gray areas for your secondary color.



There are three different plans included in the Illusion pattern: 2 color, 8 color and 14 color layouts. The 2 color layout gives a simple checkerboard look with a distorted appearance from the change in block sizing. The 8 color and 14 color layouts give the same distorted look but with an additional change in color. When planning your quilt think about how you would like your color and patterned fabric to flow across the quilt. Higher contrast in colors = more of a striped look / Closer contrast in colors = more of a flow.

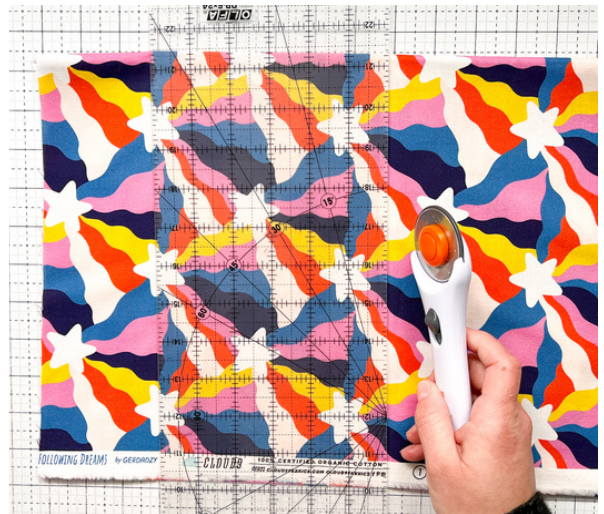


Cutting Instructions

Cutting instructions are written to account for directional prints. Keep this in mind when you are cutting your fabrics and laying them out to piece together. The background fabric cutting instructions are found under the 2 color illusion chart.



When cutting fabric from fat quarters, cut from the 18" end. This will ensure all cuts will work with the fat quarter size and that any patterned fabrics will have images in the correct direction for piecing.



When cutting fabric from yardage, I like to first square up my fabric to make sure it is straight. I then fold my yardage in half (selvedge to selvedge) and in half again to fit on my cutting table. You can now cut the size x WOF (width of fabric) strips needed for your size quilt.

After cutting your initial strips you will then subcut into the pieces needed for sewing your blocks together.

Block Assembly

Reference quilt layouts towards the back of the pattern to see how many of each block to make for your quilt size. Note that the baby quilt does not require blocks B3 / B4 + C3 / C4.

Laying out pieces for each block next to your sewing machine will help you keep directional fabrics in the right direction and also help make sure that all of your pieces are there and in the right color order.



Reducing your stitch length will help keep your stitches from loosening at the ends when you cut your strips in the next step. I used a length of 1.8 - 2.0 when piecing this quilt top.



Using a foot that has a 1/4" seam guide or piecing guide will help you keep your seam allowance straight and keep blocks from waving.



When you start to piece strips together - always look to make sure that the strips are even with the strips before them - keeping your block even.



Chain piecing is a great way to work on piecing your blocks together.



Sew accent fabric strip to block



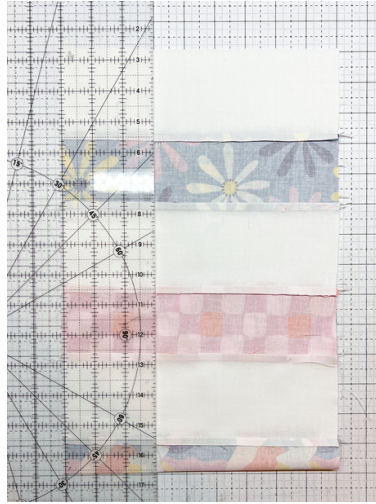
Flip block over to sew next strip - allowing you to keep accent fabric on top.

If you notice that your blocks start leaning one direction, your seams might taper off at the beginning or ending. Double check your seam allowance or alternate your sewing direction by always sewing the accent fabric on the top (or background fabric). This will alternate your starting points.

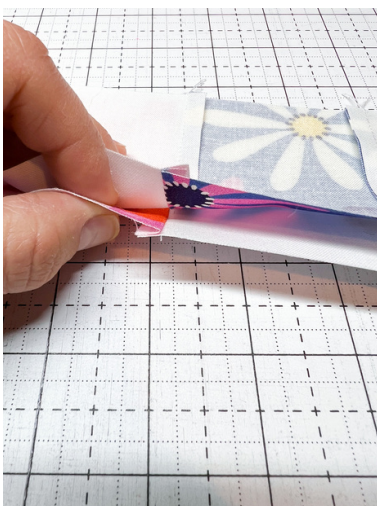


Once you finish your strip blocks you can press your seams towards the darker fabric - for this example its the accent fabrics. This entire quilt has nesting seams - this allows for stronger piecing, and an easier time piecing all of the strips together. If nested properly you will not need to use any straight pins while sewing or very little. The B and C blocks are a little harder to press in this manner, take your time and use a good spray starch if handy.

Cutting + Nesting Strip Blocks



Use the lines on your cutting mat as a guide for measuring and cutting your blocks into new strips. Since block A is much longer I fold it in half right sides together before cutting. There will not be extra fabric to cut away in this step - if you notice that parts are uneven just by a bit you should be fine - nesting the seams together when you piece your block and pressing to one side will secure them.

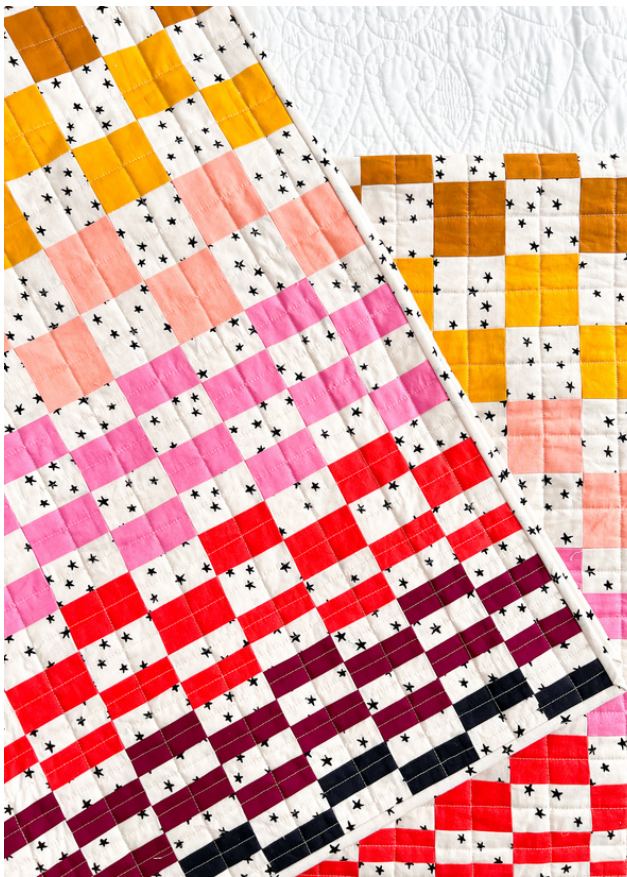


Your new strips will be ready for nesting together into your finished blocks. Remember to not press seams until you are finished with your blocks - you will be nesting finished blocks together.

Nesting allows your blocks to fit together like a puzzle piece, giving you perfect looking blocks.

Quilting ideas

There are so many fun ways of finishing your quilt - sending off to a long arm quilter or if you are willing to quilt yourself I have a few different ideas that I used myself on my domestic machine!



This straight line pattern is the easiest method of quilting using the size of the blocks as your guide. Straight line quilt through the middle horizontally and then using a guide bar to assist you, stitch through the middle of each column creating a plus shape with the stitches.



Another creative straight line option is an X stitch through each piece. Start sewing and as you come to a new size square / rectangle stop at the corner and adjust your quilt to be centered for the new size shape. This plays with the illusion of the quilt nicely.



This wavy stitch creates a fun texture. I used my walking foot and stitch #1317 on my BERNINA 770 QE plus. Using the walking foot as my guideline and the top of the last stitches I created a wavy line that is spaced .5" apart.



This fun orange peel design plays off of each straight side on the square / rectangle shapes. I used the BERNINA Stitch Regulator and freemotion quilting to create this look.

I will be sharing a "how to" on some of these quilting techniques over on Instagram and will share here on the blog when I share finished quilt posts.

Thank you for your support on the Illusion pattern - feel free to reach out with any additional questions or to add your own great tips and tricks!

-Nicole