

# Quilts that Captivate: Unleashing Your Creative Spirit

## Introduction

Pasquale De Marco's passion for quilting began at a young age, inspired by the intricate and colorful quilts made by her grandmother. As she grew older, she delved deeper into the world of quilting, experimenting with different techniques and styles. *Quilts that Captivate: Unleashing Your Creative Spirit* is a culmination of her years of experience and love for strip quilting.

In this book, Pasquale De Marco shares her expertise in strip piecing, a versatile technique that allows quilters to create stunning quilts with ease and precision. Through step-by-step instructions and clear illustrations, she guides readers through the

fundamentals of strip piecing, from selecting fabrics and rotary cutting techniques to assembling quilt blocks and finishing touches.

Whether you're a seasoned quilter or just starting out, *Quilts that Captivate: Unleashing Your Creative Spirit* offers something for everyone. Pasquale De Marco provides a comprehensive overview of strip quilting, covering everything from basic strip piecing to advanced techniques such as curved piecing and foundation paper piecing. She also includes a gallery of inspiring strip quilt projects, showcasing the endless possibilities of this dynamic technique.

With its clear instructions, helpful tips, and inspiring designs, *Quilts that Captivate: Unleashing Your Creative Spirit* is the ultimate guide to strip quilting. Whether you're looking to create cozy throws, vibrant wall hangings, or eye-catching bed quilts, this book will empower you to bring your creative visions to life.

Join Pasquale De Marco on a quilting adventure as she shares her passion for strip piecing and helps you unlock the endless possibilities of this versatile technique. With *Quilts that Captivate: Unleashing Your Creative Spirit* as your guide, you'll discover the joy of creating stunning quilts that will bring beauty and warmth to your home for years to come.

## Book Description

**Quilts that Captivate: Unleashing Your Creative Spirit** is the ultimate guide to strip quilting, a versatile technique that allows quilters to create stunning quilts with ease and precision. Through step-by-step instructions and clear illustrations, Pasquale De Marco guides readers through the fundamentals of strip piecing, from selecting fabrics and rotary cutting techniques to assembling quilt blocks and finishing touches.

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In *Quilts that Captivate: Unleashing Your Creative Spirit*, you'll discover:

- The basics of strip piecing, including fabric selection, rotary cutting, and piecing techniques

- Advanced strip piecing techniques such as curved piecing, bias strip piecing, and foundation paper piecing
- A variety of quilt block patterns using strip piecing
- Tips for designing your own strip quilt patterns
- A gallery of inspiring strip quilt projects
- Troubleshooting tips for common strip quilting problems

With *Quilts that Captivate: Unleashing Your Creative Spirit*, you'll have everything you need to master the art of strip quilting and create stunning quilts that will be cherished for generations to come.

# Chapter 1: The Art of Strip Piecing

## Fabric Selection and Preparation

When it comes to strip quilting, fabric selection is paramount. The fabrics you choose will significantly impact the overall look and feel of your quilt. Here are some factors to consider when selecting fabrics for strip piecing:

- **Color and Value:** Consider the color scheme and value range you want for your quilt. Do you prefer bold, contrasting colors or a more subtle, monochromatic palette? The value of the fabrics, from light to dark, will also affect the overall look of your quilt.
- **Texture:** Fabrics come in a wide range of textures, from smooth and silky to rough and textured. Mixing different textures can add visual interest and depth to your quilt.

- **Print and Pattern:** Choose fabrics with prints and patterns that complement each other and enhance the overall design of your quilt. Consider the scale of the prints and whether they will work well when pieced together in strips.
- **Fiber Content:** The fiber content of the fabric will affect its durability, drape, and ease of care. Consider the intended use of your quilt and choose fabrics that are appropriate for the purpose.

Once you have selected your fabrics, it's important to prepare them properly before beginning to piece your quilt. Here are some tips for fabric preparation:

- **Pre-wash and Dry:** Pre-washing and drying your fabrics will remove any shrinkage or distortion that may occur after quilting. This will help to ensure that your quilt remains stable over time.

- **Ironing:** Ironing your fabrics before cutting will help to remove wrinkles and make them easier to work with.
- **Starching:** Starch can help to stiffen fabrics, making them easier to cut and sew. This is especially helpful for fabrics that are thin or slippery.

By carefully selecting and preparing your fabrics, you can create strip quilts that are both beautiful and durable.

# Chapter 1: The Art of Strip Piecing

## Basic Strip Piecing Techniques

Strip piecing is a versatile technique that allows quilters to create stunning quilts with ease and precision. The key to successful strip piecing lies in mastering the basic techniques, which include cutting accurate strips, sewing strips together with a consistent seam allowance, and pressing seams correctly.

### **Cutting Accurate Strips**

The first step in strip piecing is to cut accurate strips of fabric. To ensure consistent strip widths, use a rotary cutter and a quilting ruler. Place the ruler on the fabric, aligning the desired width measurement with the raw edge. Hold the rotary cutter perpendicular to the fabric and run it along the edge of the ruler, applying gentle pressure. Repeat this process to cut multiple strips of the same width.

### **Sewing Strips Together**

Once the strips are cut, it's time to sew them together. Use a sewing machine with a 1/4-inch presser foot to ensure a consistent seam allowance. Place two strips right sides together, aligning the raw edges. Sew a straight stitch along the edge of the fabric, keeping the needle within the 1/4-inch seam allowance. Continue sewing until all the strips are joined together.

### **Pressing Seams**

After sewing the strips together, it's crucial to press the seams open. This helps to reduce bulk and create a flat, smooth surface for further piecing. Use a hot iron and press the seams open along the entire length. For longer seams, use a seam roller to apply additional pressure and ensure a crisp, flat seam.

### **Troubleshooting Common Mistakes**

Even experienced quilters can encounter challenges when strip piecing. Here are some common mistakes to watch out for:

- **Uneven seam allowances:** To avoid uneven seam allowances, use a 1/4-inch presser foot and sew carefully, keeping the needle within the seam allowance.
- **Puckering seams:** Puckering can occur when the fabric is not pressed properly. Make sure to press the seams open with a hot iron and use a seam roller for longer seams.
- **Distorted blocks:** Distorted blocks can result from inaccurate cutting or sewing. Use a rotary cutter and quilting ruler to ensure accurate strip widths and sew the strips together carefully.

# Chapter 1: The Art of Strip Piecing

## Rotary Cutting for Precision

Rotary cutting is an essential technique in strip piecing, allowing you to cut fabric strips with precision and accuracy. This technique not only saves time but also ensures that your quilt blocks are uniform in size and shape, resulting in a more polished and professional-looking quilt.

To begin rotary cutting, you will need a rotary cutter, a cutting mat, and a quilting ruler. The rotary cutter is a sharp, circular blade that is mounted on a handle. The cutting mat provides a stable and non-slip surface for cutting, while the quilting ruler guides the rotary cutter to ensure straight, even cuts.

When using a rotary cutter, it is important to follow proper safety precautions. Always keep your fingers away from the blade, and make sure to use a sharp blade to avoid snagging or tearing the fabric. Hold the

rotary cutter perpendicular to the fabric and apply gentle pressure as you cut.

To cut a strip of fabric, first measure and mark the desired width of the strip on the fabric. Then, align the quilting ruler along the marked line and hold it firmly in place. Place the rotary cutter at the starting point of the cut and roll it smoothly along the ruler, applying gentle pressure. Continue rolling the cutter until you reach the end of the cut.

Rotary cutting can be used to cut strips of any width or length. By using different quilting rulers, you can create strips that are perfect for a variety of quilt blocks and projects. For example, a 6.5-inch wide strip can be used to create a log cabin block, while a 2.5-inch wide strip can be used to create a nine-patch block.

With practice, you will become more proficient at rotary cutting and will be able to cut strips quickly and accurately. This technique will help you to create

beautiful and precise quilts that will be treasured for years to come.

**This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.**

**Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.**

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