



# Improvised Herringbone



Who says you have to piece an entire top? These bold herringbone strips create lots of impact when stitched to a favorite background fabric, adding up to a special quilt in no time. Have fun being creative as you sew random-width strips to foundations using your favorite collection of fat quarters or a selection of scraps from your stash.

Designed and pieced by Amy Ellis; machine quilted by Natalia Bonner

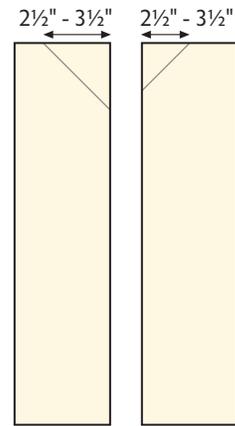
FINISHED QUILT: 70" × 83"

FINISHED BLOCK: 10" × 20"



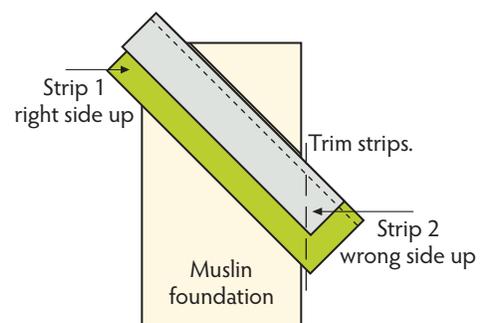
## PIECING THE BLOCKS

1. On the right side of each muslin rectangle, mark a 45° line across one corner, roughly 2½" to 3½" from the edges as shown. Vary the line placement between pieces; make seven with the line slanted in each direction.



Make 7 of each,  
varying line placement.

2. Lay a strip cut from the assorted fabrics right side up along the line and pin or glue in place. Place a second strip on the first, right sides together and raw edges even, working toward the corner. The strip must be long enough to cover the muslin base, so flip it into position before sewing to check the length. Sew through both strips and the muslin, ¼" from the strip raw edges. For a tidy block, continue stitching the seam into the excess strip beyond the foundation edge; if sewn only on the muslin, the edges become wavy when ironed.



## Materials

*Yardages are based on 42"-wide fabrics.*

- 4⅓ yards of blue print for quilt top and binding
- 1¼ yards of muslin for chevron foundation piecing
- 16 to 20 assorted fat quarters (or equivalent scraps)  
for chevrons
- 5 yards of fabric for backing

## Cutting

**From the blue print, cut on the lengthwise grain:**

- 1 rectangle, 40" x 70½"
- 1 rectangle, 24" x 70½"
- 5 strips, 2½" x 70"

**From the muslin, cut:**

- 7 strips, 5½" x 42"; crosscut into 14 rectangles,  
5½" x 20½"

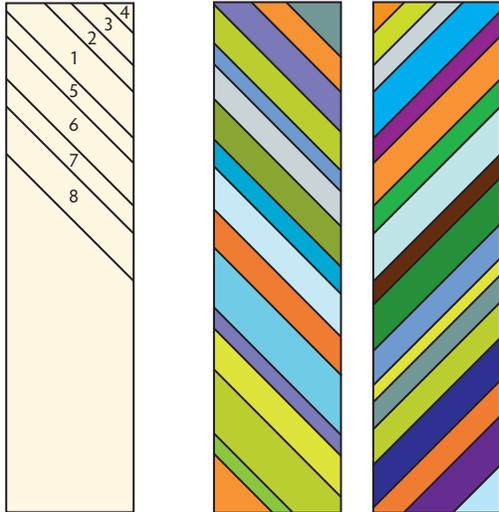
**From each of the assorted fat quarters, cut:**

- Assorted-width strips, 1" to 2½" x 22"

## STRIP PLEASER

Look for variety in color and strip width as you piece each block. Also, trim the strip ends at 45° angles after pressing them open to reduce fabric waste.

3. Flip the new strip right side up and smooth it over the muslin, covering the seam allowances. Press. Continue working in the same manner, adding a new strip, stitching, and flipping, until the muslin corner is covered. Return to the original strip and, working from its opposite edge, add strips to cover the entire muslin rectangle. Make seven rectangles angled in each direction (14 total).



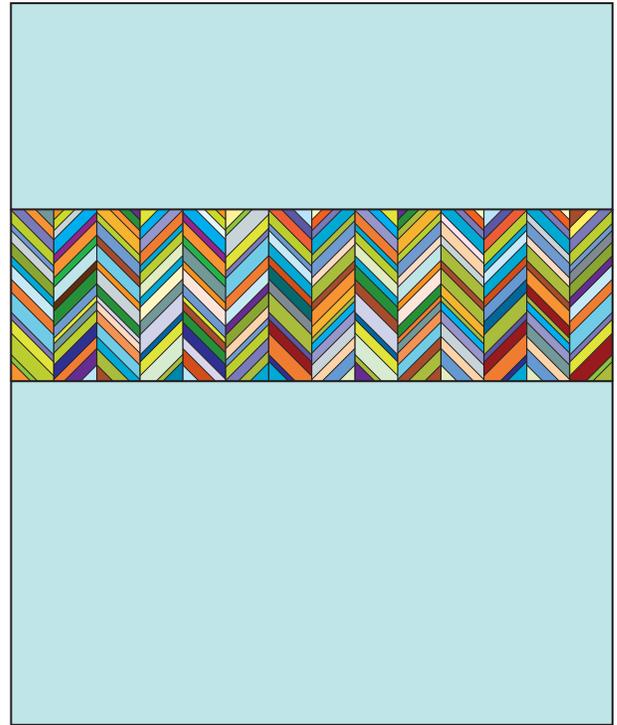
Work up and then down the block to cover the muslin.  
Make 14 (7 of each).

4. Trim each unit to  $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 20\frac{1}{2}''$ , using the muslin rectangle as your guide. Join two units together to form a completed block measuring  $10\frac{1}{2}'' \times 20\frac{1}{2}''$ . Make seven blocks.



## Assembling the Quilt Top

1. Arrange the pieced blocks in one row of seven. Pin and sew the blocks together, pressing the seam allowances open.
2. Sew the larger blue rectangle to the bottom edge of the pieced row and press the seam allowances toward the blue fabric. Sew the smaller blue rectangle to the top of the pieced blocks and press the seam allowances toward the blue fabric.



## Quilting and Finishing

1. Cut the backing fabric in half to create two 83"-long pieces. Remove the selvages and sew the two pieces together side by side. Press the seam allowances open.
2. Layer the backing, batting, and quilt top; baste the layers together and then quilt. (See page 4 for quilting ideas.)
3. Use the blue  $2\frac{1}{2}''$ -wide strips to make double-fold binding and attach it to the quilt.



The quilt shown is quilted in a herringbone pattern that compliments the patchwork design. Conversely, you could opt for a curvy design such as loops, swirls, feathers, or pebbles as a counterpoint to the straight lines in the quilt layout.

