

Gallery Facing for your Art Quilt

By Mary-Jeanine Ibarguen



Sometimes you have a quilt or wall-hanging that doesn't need a binding, which is really a framing device...it visually frames the work.

But you still need to finish the raw edges of your work.

Enter the 'Gallery Facing', which brings the raw edges to the back and covers them handily.

There are various ways to accomplish a Gallery Facing, but I really like this one:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbwDW0XqSEI>

You can google for other methods too, of course!

Some of the other tools I'll be talking about today:

- **Faultless Iron Cleaner** (hands down the best one out there!)
- **Steam-a-Seam 2 (Lite)**: perfect for when you want repositionable fusible web.
- **Karen K Buckley purple scissors** (all 4 sizes are awesome)
- **Gridded Interfacing**: I like to make a copy of the original June Bloom base pattern so I can make 2 collages for the price of one pattern.
- **Diagonal Seam tape**: take the guesswork out (or the line drawing out) of making HSTs.
- **Clearly Perfect Slotted Trimmer**: Trim your Half Square Triangles with just 2 cuts

Purple Forest Majesty

By Mary-Jeanine Ibarguen

This quilt takes advantage of your bag of 'strips' or 'strings'. I used up all my green tinged strings, paired them with purple triangles and created half-square triangles.

Time to Cut:

Cut 9 inch squares of foundation fabric (use any old fabric you hate, since you won't see it in the final quilt. Just be sure it is stable and won't go wonky on you). You need 12 of these.

Cut 9 inch squares of purple fabric. You need 12 of these.

Cut your green scraps into strings. Any width from $\frac{3}{4}$ inch to 2 inches. To save a little time, cut a few green 2" and 3" squares, then cut them in half diagonally. These will be good for the corners.

Time to sew:

Lay one green string down on the foundation square, diagonally down the middle, RIGHT SIDE UP.

Lay the 2nd green string on top of the first string, RIGHT SIDE DOWN. Match up one long side.

Sew that long side down. The beauty of this is, it doesn't have to be a perfect $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, as long as it's straight. You are sewing through 3 layers: two strings and the foundation.

Finger press, then iron/press that 2nd string open and flat.

Continue sewing and flipping open till you get to both ends. Here is where it is handy but not required to use those green triangles you cut. As long as they are not bigger than 3 inches along one side, they are fine.

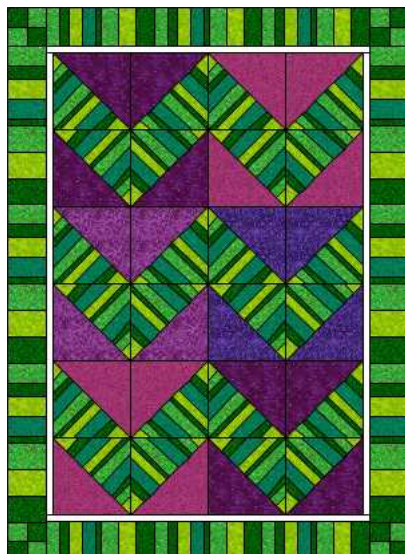
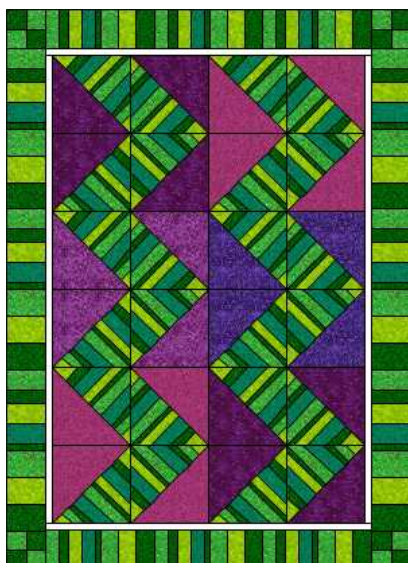
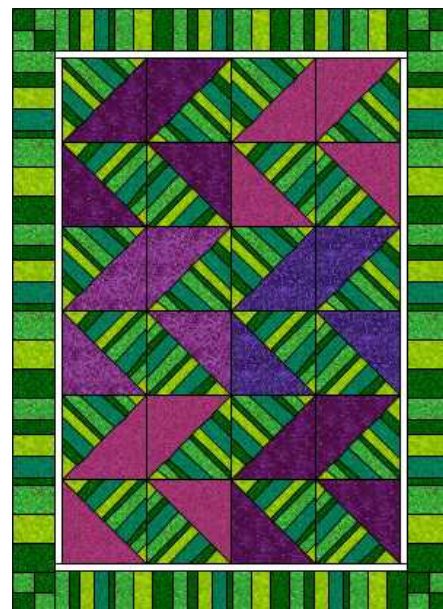
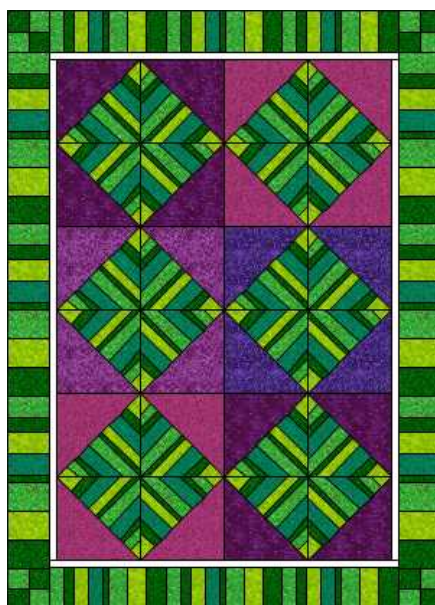
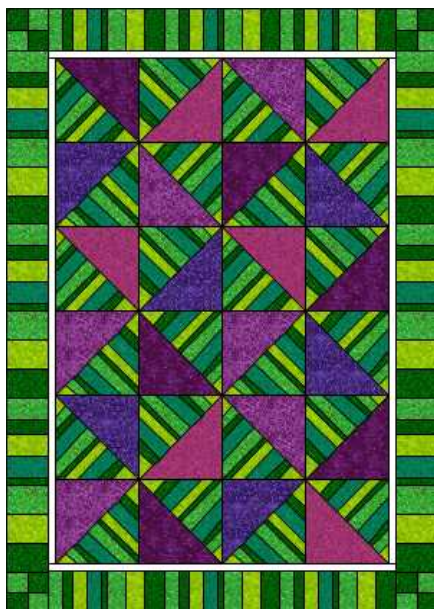
Time to make a pinwheel:

Lay a purple square RIGHT SIDE DOWN on the top of the green stringed square. Pin or press them together. Draw a chalk line on the wrong side of the purple square, down the diagonal, making sure that this line is perpendicular to the green strips.

Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ inch line on either side of that chalk line.

Rotary cut on the chalk line, so now you have two half-square triangles. Press block closed, then open.

Arrange the 12 blocks in a pleasing way. Here are some options:



Choose a contrasting or complementary inner border. The outer border can be a print, or piano keys (I sewed mine onto more foundation cloth) or smaller pinwheels, or

What a great way to use up a pile of strips!

Stack 'n Slash Quilt

By Mary-Jeanine Ibarguen

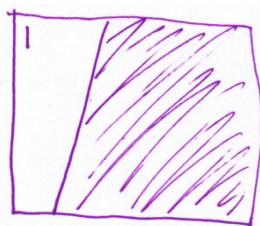
Far less sophisticated than 'Stack 'n Whack', this is a fast and fun way to create a crazy quilt. It's a great time to pull out those packs of coordinating 6 fat quarters. As always, yardage is fine too.

You will need

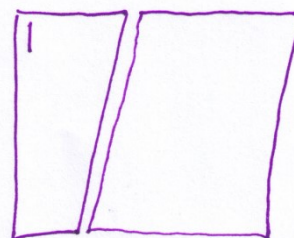
- 6 fat quarters (FQ) of 6 different fabrics
- Sashing and border fabric(s)
- A nice sharp rotary cutter and a 24" ruler

Press the FQs, and stack them neatly in one pile, lining up the selvages. Pin a number in the upper left hand corner of each, numbering them 1-6.

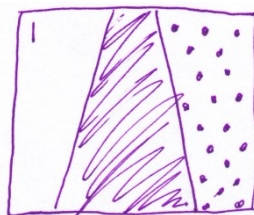
Make your FIRST cut. That's right; SLASH wherever your little heart desires:



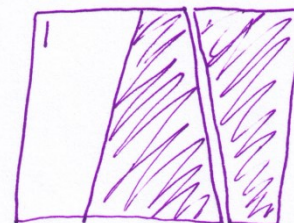
Now from the unnumbered pile on the right, take the bottom piece and bring it to the top of its stack. Sew the top two pieces together, then the next two, on down the set. Press and restack.



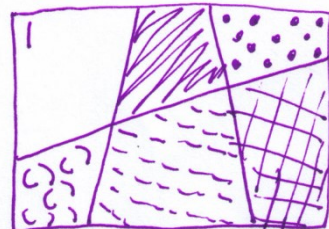
Make your SECOND cut.



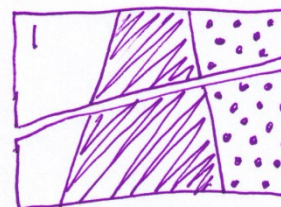
Take TWO pieces from the bottom of the unnumbered pile and bring them to the top. Sew in pairs again, press and restack, always keeping the numbered pieces in numerical order, 1 through 6.



Make your THIRD cut.



Take THREE pieces from the bottom of the unnumbered pile and bring them to the top. Sew in pairs again, press and restack.



You could be done now, or you could continue to stack 'n slash. When you've finished making the blocks, trim them all to the same size. You can choose to put sashing between the blocks or not. You can also make another set of 6 or 12 blocks with the same fabric to make an even bigger quilt. Lots of choices!!

Plastic Bag Holder & Dispenser

By Mary-Jeanine Ibarguen

I needed a pretty way to hold my plastic grocery bags. I use two every time I take a walk.....to pick up trash along the way! Here's my current back door situation:



What you need:

- 1 fat quarter - canvas or home-dec fabric is preferable to give your bag holder some substance (You could also double the thickness of regular quilting cotton fabric)
- 8 inches of ½" elastic
- 6" ribbon for hanging
- bodkin or safety pin
- optional: 1 yard ribbon or ric-rac for decoration.

Square up your fat quarter. It should end up approximately 18" x 22". Don't worry if its not exactly those measurements, this is a pretty forgiving project.

Press a hem on the two shorter ends (18"). About $\frac{3}{4}$ " or thereabouts is good.

From the wrong side of the fabric, topstitch down both hems, sewing about $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the folded edge.

Optional: if you have ric-rac or trim, now is when you top-stitch it down to the right side, covering the hem stitching in the previous step. Both hems, top and bottom of the bag. Use a top thread that matches your trim.

Using a bodkin or safety pin, thread the elastic through the bottom hem. Baste or pin the ends of the elastic down so they can't escape.

Fold the hanging ribbon in half, and pin or clip it to the top raw edge, left or right, like this →

Final Step: fold the fabric in half, right sides together, and sew the long lengthwise seam, catching all the trim and elastic ends. If you have a serger, this is a good job for your serger.

You're done! Fill that baby up with rolled up plastic grocery bags.

These make great gifts and boutique items.

And if you decide to pick up trash as you walk your neighborhood, you get extra points!!

