

“Blue Ocean Bargello” Quilt Pattern

Find a spare weekend, grab a Jelly Roll, and get to work! Our Blue Ocean Bargello quilt is really quite easy to make, with super stunning results! We added borders sufficient to make a Queen-sized quilt, but you can choose to add or leave off what you like.



This quilt measures approx. 78-80 inches square.

You Will Need:

1 x 2½ inch strip (Jelly Roll) pack in colours of your choice. The pack **MUST** have **two** sets of 20 strips in order to make this pattern. It needs to have a good variety of colour contrast too, for the best effect with the bargello ‘waves’. We used a batik roll for ours.

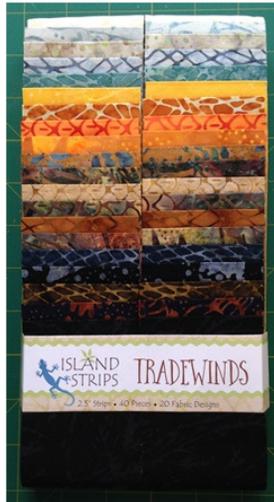
4 metres (4 ¼ yards) plain coloured contrast fabric for the borders. We used a dark navy blue, and bought extra for the backing and binding as well.

½ metre/yard fabric for binding (we used navy blue – see above.)

Batting measuring at least 90 x 90 inches

Backing fabric measuring at least 90 x 90 inches

Bargello Piecing:



We used this stunning 2½ inch strips set for ours.

Note there are TWO sets of the same strips – a total of 20 strips in each set; 40 strips in the roll.



To start, arrange your strips in an order you like, and sew them together in order lengthways. (We liked the order ours came in, so just sewed them straight from the pack without any rearranging.)

Do not press the seams.

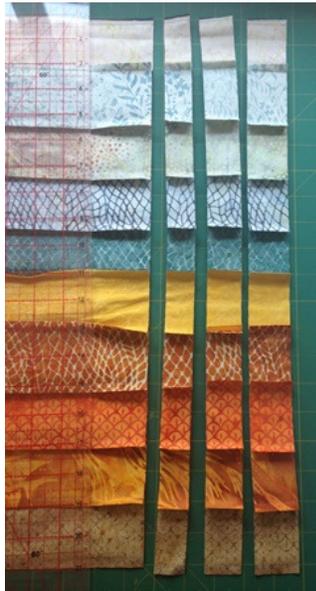


Repeat with the second set of 20 strips, so you have two identical sets of pieced strips as shown.



With right sides together, join the top strip to the bottom strip to make a tube from the strips.

Repeat for the second set as well.



Start with one strip set and put the other aside for now.

Position your strip set on your cutting board so that the top strip is at the top. You will have 10 strips (with wrong side) facing up, and the other 10 strips will be underneath this.

Trim to square up the end before you start cutting your bargello strips.

(We cut our strips from the right hand edge – you can reverse this, just follow the method and you will be fine.)

We found it easiest to cut and sew in order to avoid any confusion with the order. Cut the first 2-3 strips, then piece them, and so on.

For the first set of strips, you will need to cut strips from the 'tube' with the following widths, in the following order:

1½ inches, 1¼ inches, 1 inch, 1 inch, 1¼ inches, 1½ inches, 1¾ inches, 2 inches, 2½ inches, 3 inches, 3½ inches, 4 inches, 3½ inches, 3 inches, 2½ inches, 2 inches, 1¾ inches, 1½ inches, 1¼ inches, 1 inch.

There will be a little bit of your tube of strips left over. Put it aside for now.



To piece the strips, start at the top. We marked the strips in order with a pin as pictured, so that the next strip is always one strip lower.

This marks the new top edge of each strip, and staggering the top edges is what gives the wonderful bargello effect.



Use your unpicker/seam ripper to take out the seam joining the top jelly roll strip to the bottom. In this case, where the white top joins the black bottom.

The second row has the pin moved down one jelly roll strip, so you need to unpick the seam above that pin. Here, between the pale blue and the white. (This moves the white strip to become the new bottom of your pieced strip.)

Repeat this for the third strip, again, one jelly roll strip down. Here it's between the spotty green and pale blue.



When you have unpicked the first couple of strips, they will look like this.

Our first strip is the left hand one with the white at the top, and the second strip has the pale blue moved to become the new top.



Sew the strips together in order.

Make sure you nest the seams as you go, putting one seam allowance downwards, and folding the other up, so the seams fit together nicely. This is why you didn't iron your seams before – it makes this so much easier!



Your first three rows sewn together,
with the fourth one ready to add next.

You can see the pattern starting to
form.

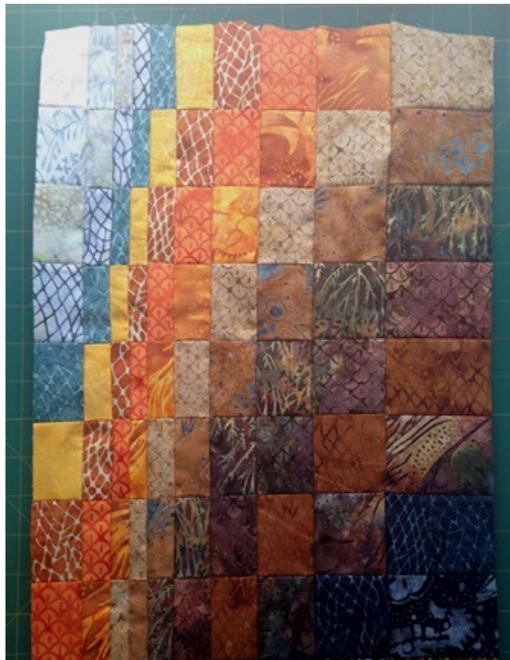


Keep cutting your strips in order, and
make sure to mark the new top strip
with a pin as you work your way
through the pattern.



The first 7 strips pieced together.

Remember to alternate the seam allowances on the back, up and down, so the seams go together perfectly.



The first 10 rows...



When you have cut the first 10 rows, you will find that your marker pins have reached the bottom of the 'tube' strip set.

Turn the set over so the next jelly roll strip in order is at the top, and continue cutting and moving your marker pins down this side for the remaining 10 strips to cut.

Put aside the skinny 'tube' strip that is left over for later.

The remaining 20 strips are cut from your second pieced jelly roll set. Start with your same top strip as you did for the first set – in our case, the white strip. Place the 'tube' on your cutting board with your top strip at the top, and a total of 10 strips with wrong sides facing up. The other 10 strips are underneath.

This is cut and pieced the same as before, but strips are cut in the following order:

1 inch, 1¼ inches, 1½ inches, 1¾ inches, 2 inches, 2½ inches, 3 inches, 3½ inches, 4 inches, 3½ inches, 3 inches, 2½ inches, 2 inches, 1¾ inches, 1½ inches, 1¼ inches, 1 inch, 1 inch, 1¼ inches, 1½ inches.



You will have the same sized end strip left over from this second set. We used these strips to make the contrast strip in our borders.

Measure the width of your strip and square up the ends, then cut it in half vertically to make two strips the same width.

(Ours ended up about 3 inches wide once we trimmed the edge, so we cut it into two, 1½ inch strips.)

Decide where you want the top of this border strip to start, and unpick the seams so you can join both strips together in order to make one long strip.

Repeat with the other end of the pieced 'tube' from the first set.



Your finished pieced bargello quilt centre!

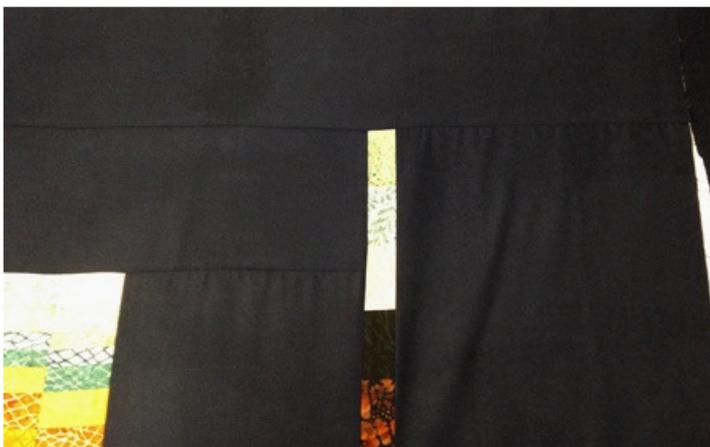
Press all seams well now.

Ours finished at this point measuring about 41½ x 61½ inches.

You may decide to leave yours at this size for a wallhanging, or add borders to the sides to make a throw quilt size.

We added a couple of borders to make ours big enough for a bed.

Assembly:



Using the dark navy blue fabric, we added two borders to finish our bargello quilt.

Our borders were pieced. If you would prefer to keep them all one length of fabric, you will need to allow more yardage to do this.

Please use our measurements as a guide, but make sure to measure your quilt first, and as you go, so your borders fit.

****Before you cut your borders, if you are planning on using the same (navy blue) fabric for your quilt binding, cut sufficient 2¼ inch wide strips to make at least 330-340 inches of binding.**

The first border is a plain blue border. We cut (and pieced) two strips $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and $61\frac{1}{2}$ inches long for the sides. Sew in place and press seams well.

The top and bottom strips for the first border were cut $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and about 58 inches long.

The second border has the pieced jelly roll strips added to the inner edges of the long side borders.

Cut two side border strips from the dark blue, measuring $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by about 72 inches long. Sew one jelly roll strip to the right hand edge of one strip, and sew the other to the left hand edge of the second strip. Press seams, then join the side borders to the quilt top, so that the jelly roll strips are sewn to the outer edge of the first border.

Cut two strips measuring $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by about 78 inches for the top and bottom strips for the second border. Sew, and press well to finish your quilt top.

Quilting:

Place your backing fabric face down on a flat surface, then smooth the batting on top. Put your quilt top on top of that, centred and smoothed flat.

Pin the layers together in preparation for quilting.

Rather than worry about a specific bargello quilting design, we quilted ours with an edge to edge design, but you may quilt yours as you like.

Finishing:

Join your binding strips together with 45 degree seams. Press the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seams open, then fold the strip in half, right sides out and press.

Join the binding to the right side of the quilt edge with a quarter inch seam, mitring each corner as you go. Turn the folded edge of the binding to the back and slip stitch it in place with thread that matches the binding to finish.

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