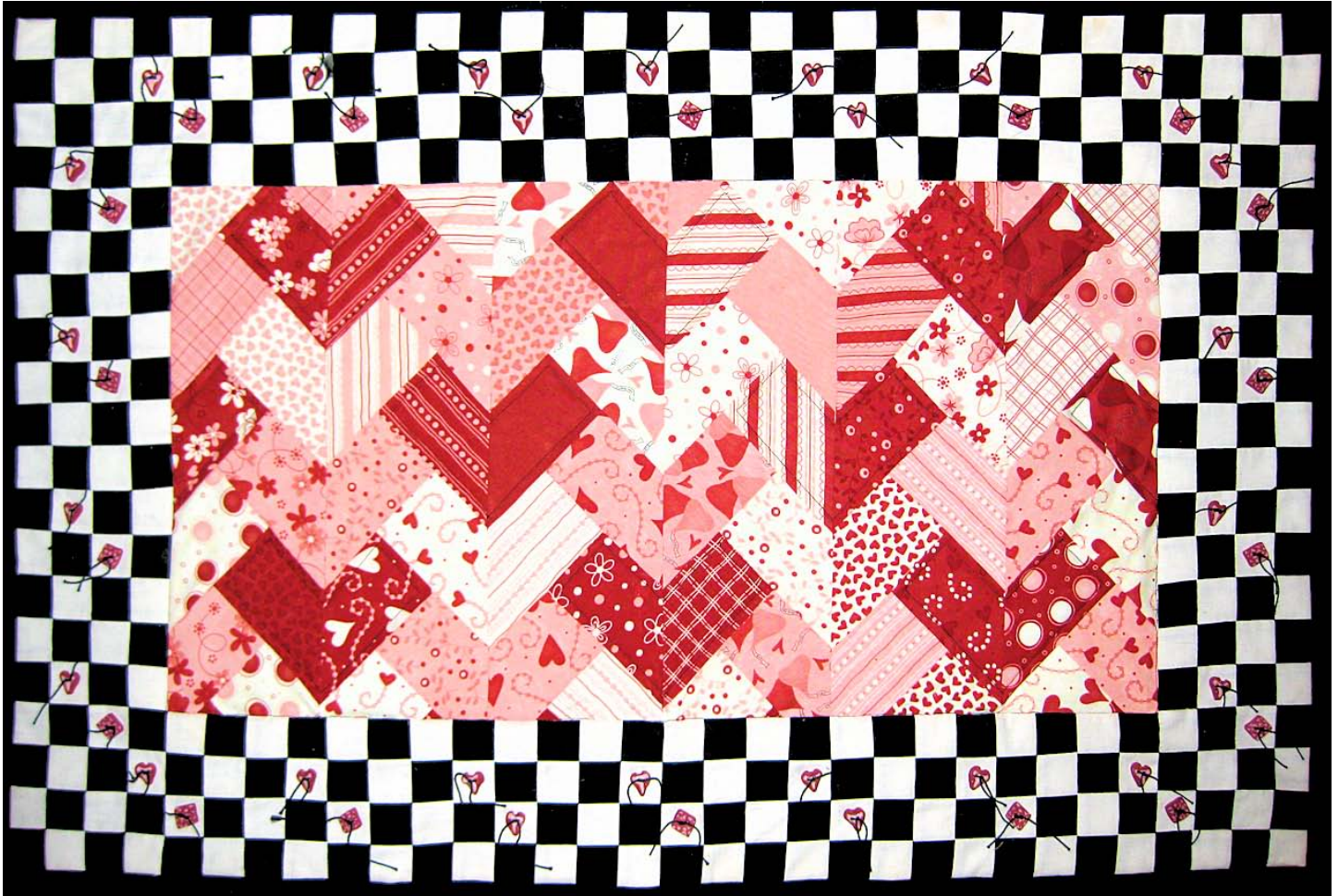


MIRKWOOD DESIGNS presents...
Friendship Braid Quilt Tutorial



**This Valentine's Day Friendship Braid wall hanging measures 22 x 34 inches.
The center portion was echo quilted, and the border was "button quilted" in alternating squares.**

Note: This tutorial explains how to make the center "Friendship Braid" portion of the quilt.
For the checkerboard border, please see the Checkerboard Quilt Border Tutorial at
<http://www.mirkwooddesigns.com/projects/checkerboard.pdf>



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Friendship Braid Quilt Tutorial

Supplies and Tools

- Jellyroll (or a lot of 2 ½ x 42 inch strips)
Note: You can also use 5-inch charm packs, however you will be left with a lot of triangles after cutting.
- Template (or ruler with 45-degree marking)
- Rotary cutter
- Sewing machine and basic sewing supplies
- Standard quilt finishing materials, such as backing fabric, batting, and binding

Instructions

1. Use one of the templates included in this tutorial to cut your pieces. Alternately, you can use a ruler that has 45-degree markings.
Note: You can make your pieces anywhere from 5 inches to 8 inches or so (any wider than that, and the pattern doesn't look quite right to me, but maybe it will to you!).
2. Cut out the braid pieces.

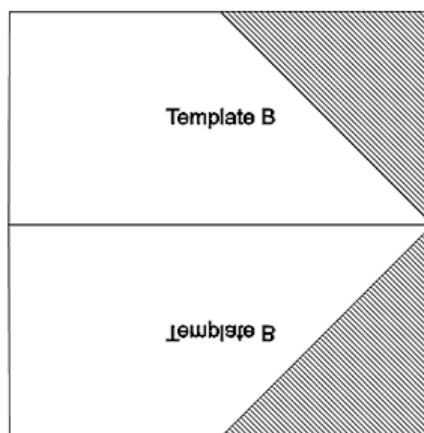
Notes

- If you are using a jellyroll strip, fold the strip in half lengthwise before you cut.
If you are using a charm pack, flip the template over when cutting. It is important that you have an even number of both "right" and "left" pieces.
- **Figure 1** below shows how to maximize use of the jellyroll. **Figure 2** shows how to cut the charm pack.
- Standard jellyroll pieces are 2 ½-inch wide by about 42 inches long (the usable width of a bolt of fabric). You can generally cut eight 6 ½-inch pieces from one jellyroll strip. That is a good size for this quilt pattern. Use **Template A** for jellyrolls.
- Alternately, you can use charm squares, which are 5 inches square. Use **Template B** to cut the charm squares. You will have a lot of triangles left over if you use charm squares. I'm sure you can find a great use for them!



Figure 1. Cutting the jellyroll.

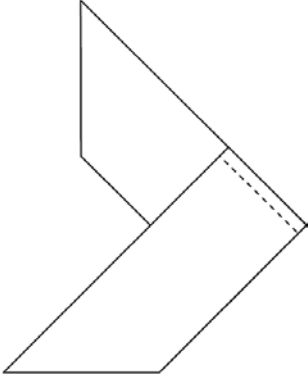
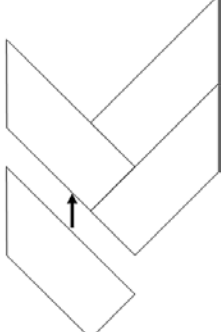
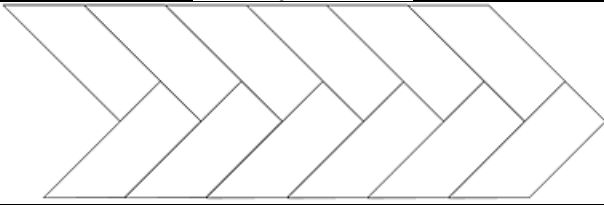
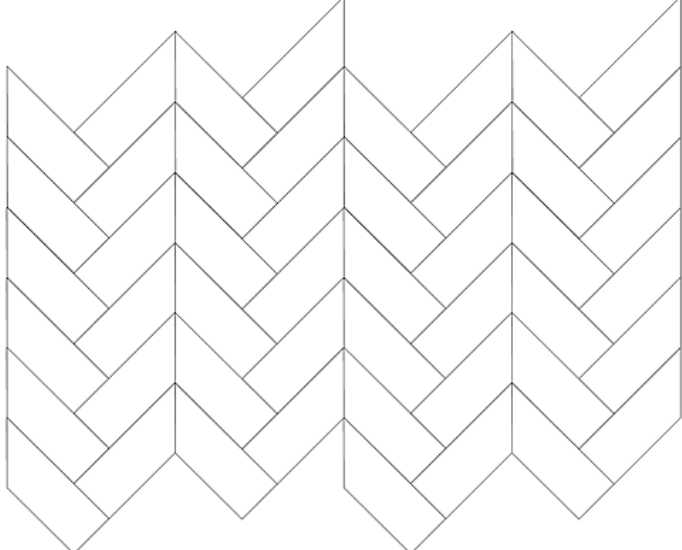
Figure 2. Cutting the charm pack.
Note the reverse of the template.
Save triangles for another project.



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Friendship Braid Quilt Tutorial

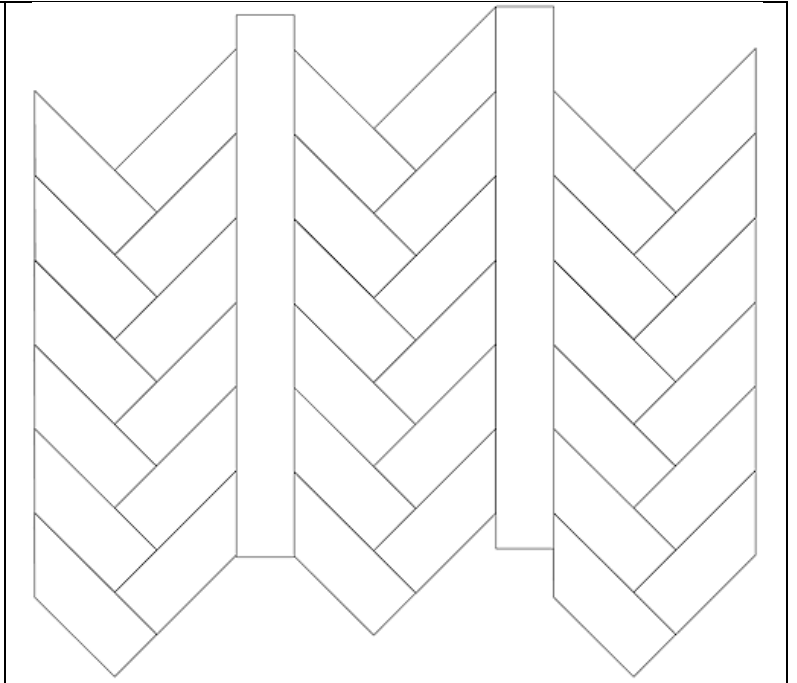
Making the Braid

<p>Cut a lot of pieces from your fabric. Remember to have as many “right” pieces as “left” pieces.</p>	<p><i>Note: One charm pack will make a friendship wall quilt that measures about 14 x 26 inches, not including any sashing or borders you add. One jellyroll should make a nice lap-sized quilt, again without sashing or borders.</i></p>
<p>Lay one right piece and one left piece, wrong sides together, as shown at right. Sew a ¼ inch seam allowance.</p>	
<p>Begin adding pieces, alternating sides, as shown at right.</p>	
<p>When your row is as long as you like, press seams in one direction and set it aside. Make more rows the same way.</p>	
<p>When you have as many rows as you like (or until you run out of fabric!), assemble them, matching where the strips meet, as shown at right. Your top and bottom will be very uneven, but you will trim the excess off in a moment. (Save the scraps for a future project.)</p>	

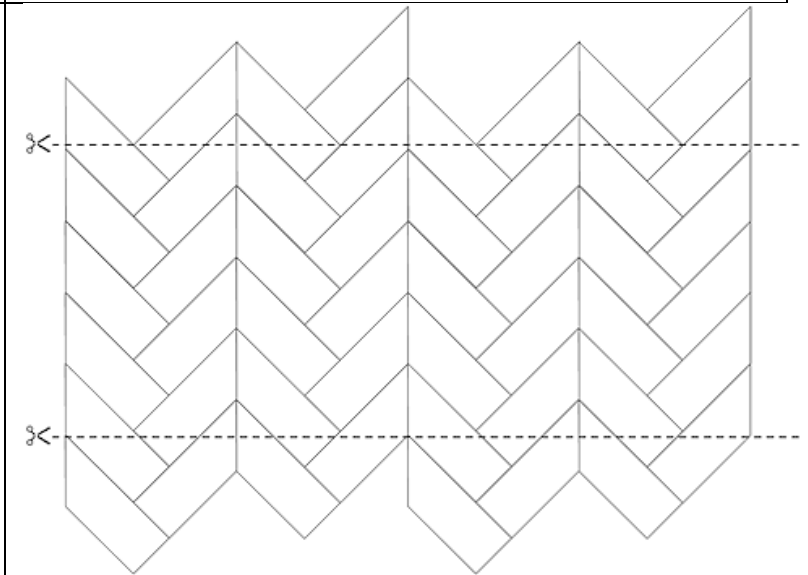
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Friendship Braid Quilt Tutorial

Alternately, you might want to put sashing between the rows.



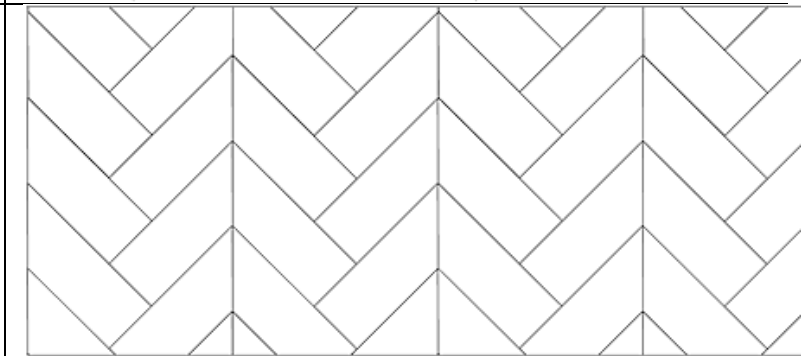
After the rows are assembled, trim off the excess at the top and the bottom. Square up the sides.



At this point you can add borders to make the quilt as large as you want, then add batting, quilt, and bind.

If you want to make a checkerboard border as shown on the first page of this tutorial, please check out my **Checkerboard Quilt Border Tutorial:**

<http://www.mirkwooddesigns.com/projects/checkerboard.pdf>



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1-inch
gauge

Use the templates below to make your Friendship Braid quilt. ¼-inch seam allowances are included in the template. Trace the template onto sturdy cardstock, vinyl, or template plastic.

Template A is designed for use with a jellyroll, and **Template B** is designed for use with a charm pack.

