

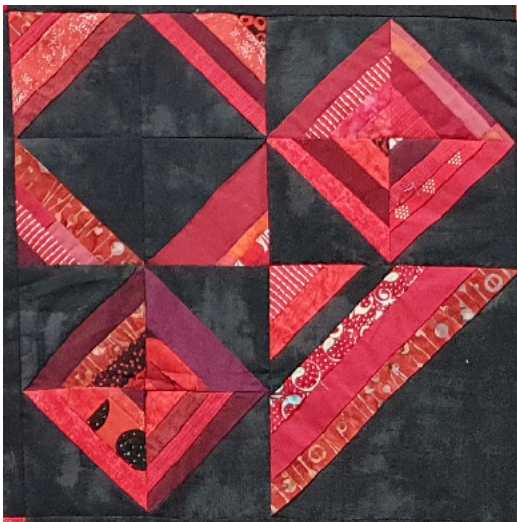
MODERN ART QUILTERS

Block of the Month



Block One - Roman Stripes

Strings!



A

Start by cutting some paper squares a little bigger than your finished block size - I started with twelve 5-inch squares which I trimmed to 4-1/2 inches cut/4-inches finished little blocks, and one 9-inch square for the eight-inch block. Cheap thin paper is best for this

Draw a pencil line from corner to corner on your paper (A)

Cut squares from your background fabric for one half of the block - again perhaps a little larger than the paper. Cut the square in half. (B)

Cut some strips of your accent colours, or use oddments from your scrap bag - these should vary a little in width and be long enough to hang off each end of the paper...

Pin your half-a background square and your first strip to the paper and sew (from the paper side) on the centre line

You absolutely do not want to unpick these, so work on not needing to...



B



C

Set your sewing machine for a short stitch and check that the tension is lovely before you start to sew. (C)

Use a toning cotton thread



D

Sew more strips to the paper till the stripey half is full, keeping your lines parallel to the centre (or not, if you prefer) Vary the widths of your strips (D)

As you work towards the edge, you can use shorter strips, but make sure they still hang off the edges of your paper. Finger-press as you go or take the block to the iron after every second or third strip



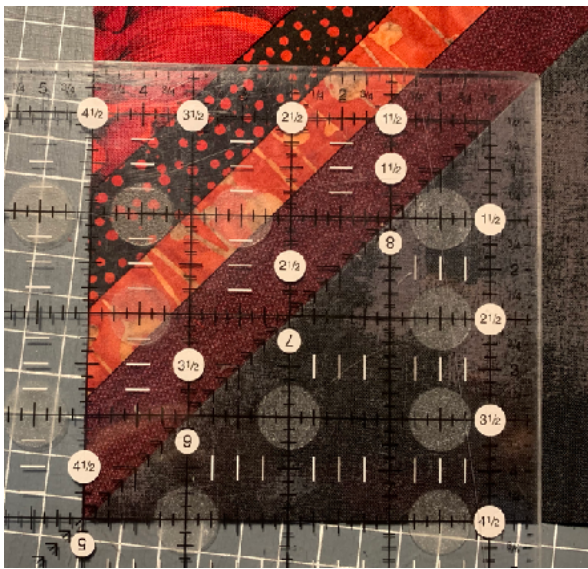
E

I usually make the last corner from a wee square, as this makes the corner easier to trim and the blocks easier to sew together (E)



F

When you have filled the paper, press nicely and tear away the paper - pull any little bits out of the seams (F)



G

Trim your blocks - Lay your ruler on top of the right side of the block with the diagonal line on the ruler exactly on top of the middle seam and, making sure you will have enough fabric all round, trim two sides. Turn the block round and trim the other two sides (G)

There are lots of different ways to arrange these...

HB made all her 16 little blocks finish at four inches square for her big block and arranged the colours carefully to make them blend across the block

HH made 12 four-inch blocks, and one 8-inch block for her big block and used a scrappy arrangement from reds only

