

Project: Columns of Color

INSPIRED BY FRENCH BRAID FROM DESIGNER BECKY COGAN FOR NEED'L LOVE (NEEDLLOVE.COM)  
QUILT TESTER: LAURA BOEHNKE



FABRICS are from the Misty Light collection by Yuko Hasegawa for RJR Fabrics (rjrfabrics.com).



Columns of bright prints stand out against darker prints for a dramatic quilt. Black squares in the centers of the columns give the columns a braided look.

## Project: Columns of Color

**Materials**

- 1 yard total assorted prints in tan, pink, blue, and green (braid rows)
- ½ yard black print (braid rows, binding)
- ⅓ yard brown print (setting triangles, sashing)
- ⅜ yard multicolor print (border)
- ⅞ yard backing fabric
- 29×35" batting

Finished quilt: 21×27"

Yardages and cutting instructions are based on 42" of usable fabric width.

Measurements include ¼" seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

**Cut Fabrics**

Cut pieces in the following order.

**From assorted prints, cut:**

- 13—3½×14" strips

**From black print, cut:**

- 3—2½×42" binding strips
- 13—1¼×7" strips

**From brown print, cut:**

- 2—2¼×22" sashing strips
- 3—4" squares
- 3—3½" squares, cutting each in half diagonally for 6 setting triangles total

**From multicolor print, cut:**

- 2—3×22" border strips
- 2—3×21" border strips

**Assemble Braid Segments**

1. Cut an assorted print 3½×14" strip in half to make two 7"-long strips.
2. Referring to **Diagram 1**, sew together a black print 1¼×7" strip and an assorted print 3½×7" strip to make a strip set. Press seam toward assorted print.

3. Lay matching print 3½×7" strip on top of strip set. Referring to **Diagram 2**, cut layered strips into five pairs of 1¼"-wide braid segments (each pair will have one short and one long segment). Keep braid segments paired for ease in piecing.
4. Repeat steps 1-3 to make 65 pairs of braid segments. (You will use 63 pairs in this quilt.)

**Assemble Braids**

1. Add a short braid segment to one edge of a brown print 4" square (**Diagram 3**). (Although you won't see the brown print square in the finished quilt—it will be trimmed off—it helps you establish the correct braid angle.) Press seam toward braid segment. Add a matching long braid segment to adjacent edge of brown square with black square adjoining short braid segment (**Diagram 3**). Press seam toward long braid segment.
2. In same manner, add 20 more pairs of braid segments to the pieced edge of Step 1 unit to make a pieced braid row. Add brown print setting triangles to last braid segments in row (**Diagram 4**).
3. Align 2¼" line on an acrylic ruler with top and bottom corners of black print squares in pieced braid row; trim off jagged edges (**Diagram 5**). Repeat on remaining long edge of pieced braid row to make a row that is 4½" wide. Trim braid row to 22" long including seam allowances, leaving a ¼" seam allowance at bottom of row.

4. Repeat steps 1-3 to make three braid rows total.

**Assemble Quilt Top**

1. Referring to **Quilt Assembly Diagram**, sew together braid rows and brown print sashing strips to make quilt center. Press seams toward sashing strips. The quilt center should be 16×22" including seam allowances.
2. Sew multicolor print 3×22" border strips to long edges of quilt center. Add multicolor print 3×21" border strips to remaining edges to complete quilt top. Press all seams toward border.

**Finish Quilt**

1. Layer quilt top, batting, and backing; baste. Quilt as desired.
2. Bind with black print binding strips.

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DIAGRAM 1

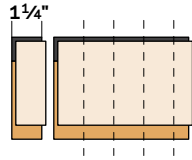


DIAGRAM 2



DIAGRAM 3



DIAGRAM 4

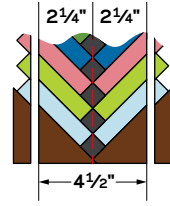
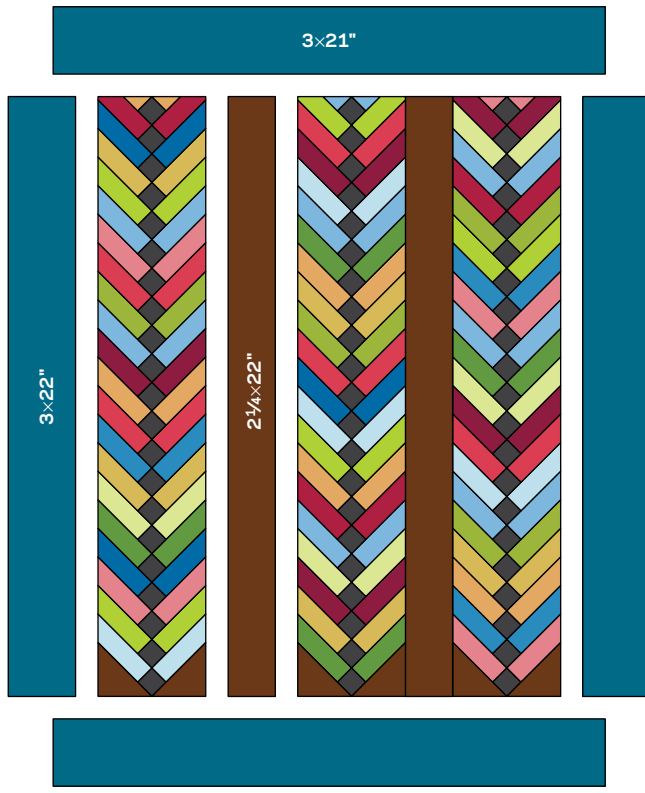


DIAGRAM 5



QUILT ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM