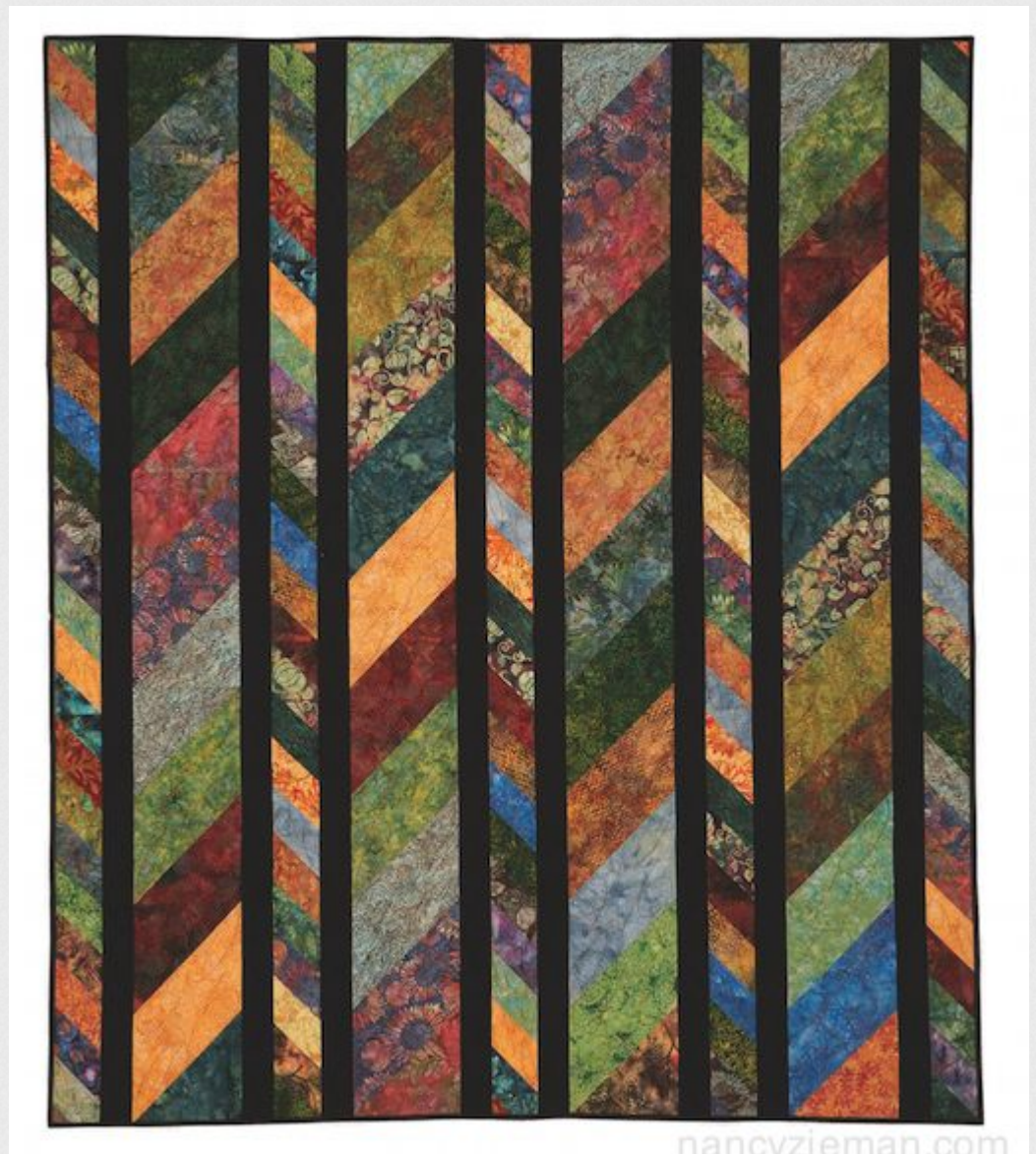


Create an Impressive Quilt Top with Simple, Straight-line Stitching



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By Kate Bashynski, Nancy's Notions Guest Blogger

It takes two ropes to jump Double Dutch, and two compatible quilt templates make the perfect pair to create the Double Dutch Twist Quilt. Use the [Strip & Twist Template](#) with 2-1/2" wide fabrics and the [Jumbo Strip and Twist Template](#) with 5" wide strips, to make a pieced top that has artistry in color and movement. This quilt is a lively exercise in design that will begin to unveil the large overall design after the first row. Let's jump right in!

For a more coordinated look, cut both strip widths from fabric yardage. If you're a bit more free-spirited, or like a "scrappier" look, combine a [2 1/2" precut strip collection](#) with coordinating fabric yardages.

Note that in some instances the directions call for scant 1/4" seam allowances, and at other times the directions simply tell you to use 1/4" seam allowances. Although it may seem to be a very minor variation, the two seam allowances are slightly different and they do make a difference. In each case be sure to stitch as indicated. We've used bold type to alert you to those areas.

You can refer to the full step-by-step directions for a complete list of supplies and notions needed to complete this project. The directions here are written for using fabric yardage, rather than a fabric strip pack. The instruction sheet gives you alternate steps for using a strip pack.

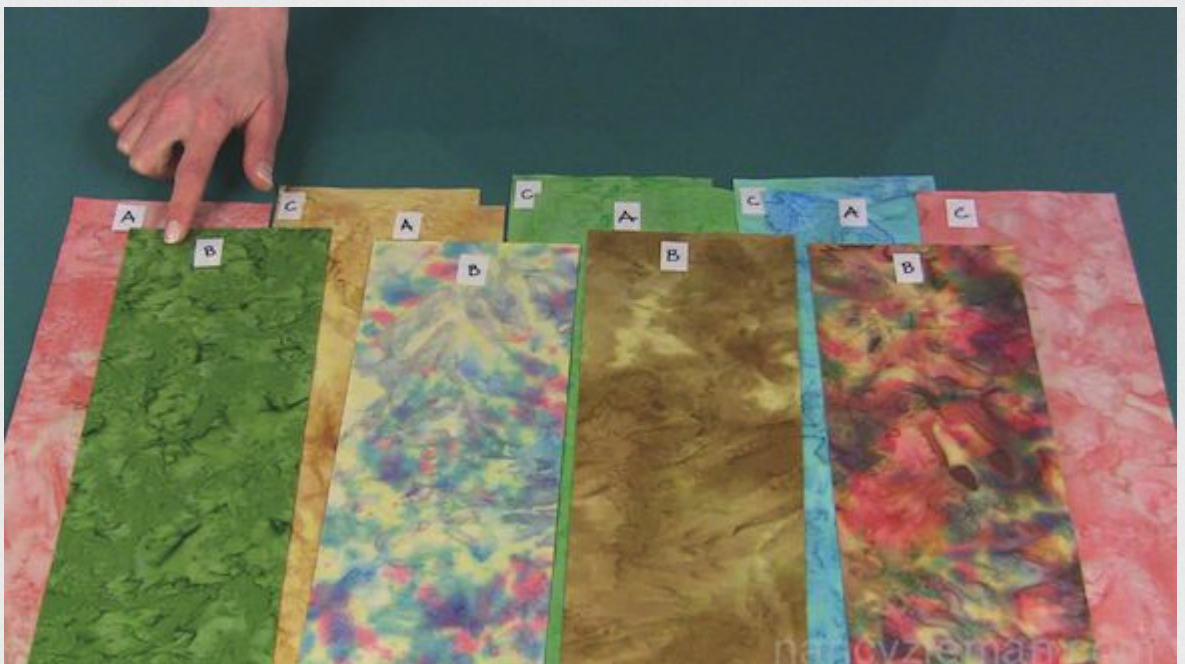
First, prepare and cut your fabrics. Stabilize all of your fabrics well using spray starch or a starch alternative, such as [Mary Ellen's Best Press](#). This is especially important for this type of project, because you'll be cutting on the bias of the fabric. Stabilizing your fabrics helps to reduce stretching and distortion of your blocks.

Cut your fabric strips as described in the directions, and trim selvage ends of all strips. You'll be cutting groups of 5" wide strips for the wide columns, and 2-1/2" strips for the narrow columns.

Starting with the 5" wide strips, arrange your strips for assembling nine strata. Alternate the nine pairs of strips with the nine single strips in a pleasing color arrangement.



Remove one strip from the first pair and place it at the opposite end, next to the last single strip. Label the strips if desired to make it easier to remember which strip goes with which set. Label all single strips as "B". Label one strip of each pair as "A" and the other as "C." (The "C" in the last strata is the same fabric as the first strata's "A" strip.)



Create strip-pieced strata using scant 1/4" seam allowances. Stitch the Fabric A strip to the Fabric B strip, right sides together. Off-set the Fabric C strip approximately 4", then stitch to the opposite edge of the Fabric B strip, right sides together.

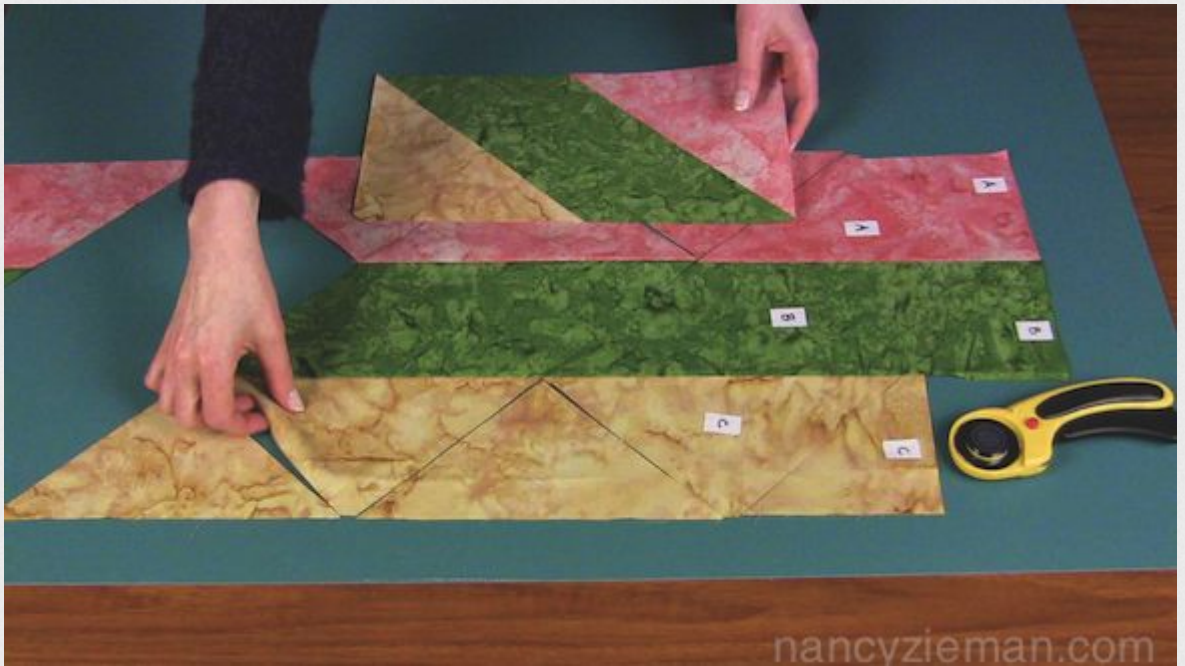


It's important to always keep the B strip between the A and C strips. Press all seams flat, then open. Repeat these steps for the remaining strip sets, creating eight more strata.

Next, cut three Jumbo Strip and Twist blocks from each strata. Place the Jumbo Strip and Twist template right side up over the strata, aligning the diagonal guidelines on the template with the seams of the strata.



Cut out the block, following outer edges of the template. Slide template down, cutting three Jumbo Strip and Twist blocks from each strata. Stack together, keeping A and C ends on top of one another.



Sew remaining strip sets into strata and repeat the process for cutting the blocks with the Jumbo Strip and Twist Template. Place stacks of cut blocks end to end, forming a long row. The "C" end of one stack should match the "A" end of the next stack.



Assemble four Jumbo Double Dutch Twist panels, using $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances. Begin on one end of the aligned stacks, and select the first five consecutive blocks. Label the sixth block—it will be the first block for the next panel.

Stitch the panel of blocks together, keeping "A" and "C" ends matched. Press seam allowances flat, then to one side. Take care not to stretch the blocks as you stitch and press. Set completed panel aside.



Select the next five consecutive blocks from the aligned stacks, beginning with the labeled sixth block from the previous set. Again, label the sixth block, as it will be the first block for the next panel. Stitch blocks end to end, maintaining proper order. Press seams flat, then to one side. Repeat these steps to complete two more Jumbo Double Dutch Twist panels.

Now you'll create the five narrow Double Dutch Twist panels. Repeat Steps 2-5 above using the 2½" wide crosswise strips and the Strip & Twist Template. This time, you'll off-set the A strip approximately 1¾" when assembling each strata.



Cut eight Strip & Twist blocks from each of the strip-pieced strata. Select 12 Strip & Twist blocks for each narrow Double Dutch Twist panel.

After all of the wide and narrow panels have been completed, add sashing strips between panels using ¼" seam allowances. Join pairs of 2-1/2" sashing strips, using diagonal seams to reduce bulk. Press seams open. You should have eight seamed strips. Place the Jumbo Double Dutch Twist panels on a flat work surface.

Measure the length of each panel. If there is a difference between the four measurements, use a measurement midway between the shortest and longest measurements. Trim the narrow Double Dutch Twist panels to the same length as the midway measurement of the Jumbo Double Dutch Twist panels. Trim the eight sashing strips to the same midway length.

Align the sashing strips with the long edges of the Jumbo Double Dutch Twist panels, right sides together. Pin and stitch. Press seams flat, then toward sashing.

Align narrow Double Dutch Twist Panels with long edges of the sashed panels, right sides together. Pin and stitch. Press seams flat, then toward sashing. Square both short ends of the quilt top, if needed.



Finally, finish the quilt by layering, quilting, and binding using your favorite methods.

Watch a step-by-step demonstration of these techniques, and **download** the free pattern instructions:



Strip and Twist Templates

Check out these links for more information on the book and template on the [Strip and Twist](#) and the [Strip and Twist Jumbo](#).



Thank you, Kate, for your great quilt design!
Bye for now,

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