

# “Sticks”

Designed by Marcia Derse  
Interpreted by Sally Keller of Sally's Angelworks  
Featuring the Palette collection by Marcia Derse  
Finished Size: 60 x 70”



Check [www.windhamfabrics.com](http://www.windhamfabrics.com) Free Project section to see if there are any pattern updates before you start your quilt

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## Supplies:

- 40 quarter yards (all SKU's in line) of Marcia Derse Palette fabric
- 6"x24" quilting ruler
- Rotary cutter and mat
- Spray starch
- 5 yards fabric for backing
- ¾ yd fabric for binding
- batting

\*\*Final quilt size 60"x70"

\*\*Use a ¼" seam allowance for all sewing!

1. Before you start cutting your "sticks", spray each quarter yard with spray starch and press. This is very important for keeping your fabric from stretching or warping when you improvise with bias cut strips.
  2. Fold each quarter yard in half, and pick four quarter yards to cut first. Stack them on top of each other with your selvages on the right and your folded edge on the left so you have 8 layers of fabric to cut through. Repeat this process for all of your fat quarters.
  3. When cutting random strips, let your inner artist out. Using a straight edged ruler, cut wonky strips straight or at an angle. Make sure you don't cut the top or bottom of the strip less than ¾" or bigger than 3 ½". If you want more wonk, cut more at an angle. If you want less (or no) wonk, cut straighter strips using a ruler to measure your "sticks".
- \*\*You want to cut at least 9 strips from each stack which is a total of 54 strips for the stack – 18 per quarter yard. If your "sticks" are thinner, cut more! If they are fatter, cut less, but keep your fabric close by in case you need more later!
4. Stack your "sticks" in color stacks with each color in a stack. You should have 40 stacks of 18 sticks each. You can organize your stacks in four color groups at this point if you want. Or you can just have random stacks from which to grab.



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5. Pick up 48-52 “sticks” in the color order in which you want your row. Let me encourage you...be free, be random, be calculated, be yourself!! You can group your “sticks” in color groups or you can just randomly pick them up. Random can be beautiful, too!!

6. It's time to sew your rows together. Sew your first two “sticks” together. As you do this, keep either the top or the bottom fairly even matching raw edges. Also, when sewing wonky strips onto the next, you want to match the big end of one stick to the small end of the next “stick”. This keeps the row fairly straight.

\*\* If you feel like there is a bit of a curve in your row, take your 6"x24" ruler and place it in the middle of your row. If you can cover a solid row of “sticks” under the 6" without going off of the row, you are good. When you trim your row later, it will even it all up.

7. Finish sewing your row together until your row measures 60 ½". \*hint: you should be able to fold your row in half and measure 30 ¼". Add more “sticks” if needed. If it is bigger than 60 ½", don't worry. You will trim it later.

8. Press your seam allowance all one direction. Because of the random seams, it doesn't matter which direction that is. You can even press them open if you want. It might take a while, though! \*hint: Do NOT use steam or spray starch at this point. It will distort your fabric! Press with a dry iron.

9. Do these steps for all 14 rows. You can see which color groups you have used for the previous row as you pick your “sticks” for the next row. Or again, it can just be random!

10.It's time to trim these rows! Grab several long rulers like a 6"x24" ruler and a 9"x9" square ruler. With your row folded on your cutting table, make sure that you have 30 ¼" of length (folded – 60 ½" full length) and 5 ½" of straight width. To do this, place your first 6"x24" ruler short edge perfectly matched to the fold and then take your other ruler and match the end of it to the end of the first ruler, matching one side exactly. This will give you the long 30 ¼" (at least) edge to cut. Rotary cut one edge.

11.Move your 6"x24" ruler to measure 5 ½" matching the end on the fold and the edge at the 5 ½" mark. Take your second ruler and measure 5 ½" to continue the edge on which to cut. Trim the row to 5 ½".

12. Make sure your row is 30 ¼" long using both rulers to measure again. Trim it down.

13.Do steps 10-12 for all 14 rows!

\*\*At this point, I put a big safety pin in my top left corner of my first row. That way I know where my top always is.

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14. Now, to sew your rows together, match the long edges right sides together and sew using a ¼" seam. When you sew, take it slowly making sure that the seam allowance stays in the same direction in which it was pressed. This makes for a less bulky quilt top back!

15. Press your long seams toward the top of the quilt.

16. After each row, make sure your ends are straight as you go. If you trimmed your rows, your ends should match up. Trim as you sew if needed!

17. After all 14 rows are sewn together, your top is done! Cut your backing fabric in half (2 ½ yd lengths) and sew together creating an 88x90 rectangle for your backing. Baste, quilt and bind!!!

Voila! You are done!! Congratulations!!

Some other hints:

- Do not skip the spray starch step. It will make you much happier in the “stick” piecing section!
- If you would rather have straight “sticks” without any wonk to them, feel free to use 2 ½” strips. Cut them 5 ½” long and vary the width of the strip from 1” all the way to the 2 ½”. You should be able to get around 8-10 strips depending on your width choices per long WOF (width of fabric) strip. The smaller you cut them, the more you will need for your row.
- If you would like to have wonky “sticks”, but would like them to be uniform, cut one out of template material (I use a cereal box!) and use that for every “stick” you cut. Don’t forget to sew them bottom to top (small end to big end) to keep your row fairly straight!
- Enjoy the process! This is art, color, expression! These fabrics have given you an avenue for expressing yourself in beauty. It will turn out wonderful!
- If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at my blog at [sallyangelworks.com](http://sallyangelworks.com). Blessings!!