



## How to Organize your Fabrics

We are so glad you are here with us for the sisterhood Quilt Along!

In this newsletter, we want to talk about cutting and organizing your fabrics.

Tammy and I are so different in how we like to organize our fabrics. Which is why we thought it would be so fun to share with you our 2 different approaches.

And Tammy also mentions lots of other options in her tips!

Whatever way you choose to organize your fabric, there are a lot of blocks AND a lot of pieces to the Sisterhood quilt. Finding a way to organize your fabrics will be so helpful as you start making your blocks! There is nothing worse than spending valuable sewing time searching for that 2 ½" square you are sure you cut!

Some BOM quilts have you cut as you go, but for the Sisterhood quilt, we wanted to make the best use of your fabric so we put all the cutting together.

**While you wait for the quilt along to start, it's a great time to pick your fabrics and get all your cutting done!**



### **Remember – you have TWO sets of cutting options.**

Basic Cutting provides the exact size cuts as well as suggested oversizing for wiggle room. The Studio 180 cutting is already oversized, as the Studio 180 approach allows for wiggle room and trim down room.

Gentle reminder – ***you must choose ONE cutting method to follow***: Basic Cutting or Studio 180 Cutting. Yardages have been carefully calculated using ONE method only.



## Tammy's Method

There are a LOT of ways to organize your fabric for a quilt project.

Some folks like to cut everything at one time. Great. But then how do you organize those cuts? You could:

- Organize by size
- Organize by unit
- Organize by block

If that's your preference, how do you store those bundles? Some suggestions I've seen include:

- Put each stack/bundle on a separate paper plate, and write on the plate what the size is
- Put each stack/bundle in a plastic baggie
- Pin or clip each stack/bundle together



For me, I like to cut the strips and then cut the individual units as needed. I label each cut with a little colored piece of paper that I pin to the top of the strip. The label has the fabric letter/number (Fabric A, Fabric 1) and the size of the strip (2 ½", 4", etc.). This way, I don't have to stop and remeasure the strips each time to find the one I need.

How do I store these strips? I like to pin them to the curtain that covers the bookcase that houses my fabric stash. Think of it as a loose design wall. If you choose to use the strip method, here are a few organization suggestions:

- Design Wall/Curtain

- o The benefit of this is that you will generally have the space to spread out and see all of your cut strips and fabrics at a glance.

- Paper plates (much like what I talked about above), labeled with the fabric and strip size

o The benefit of this method is that the paper plates are stackable. Just don't drop them!

· Open boxes/trays

o Each box/tray could be for a different fabric, but then you'd still want to label your strips by size

o The benefit of this method is that, depending upon the size and shape, the boxes and/or trays can be stackable. Because the boxes or trays have side, they may help contain your fabrics a bit better.

· Wall rack

o I've repurposed a crib rail, mounted sideways on the wall that is terrific for hanging strips on when working on a project.

o Depending upon the size of your wall rack, you will be able to see some of your strips, but many may overlap each other. The good news – because it is on the wall, the strips are secure. But you may not be able to see all the strips at one time. Labeling the strips will save you tons of time so you don't have to remeasure!

Choose the method that works best for your working style, your preferences, and your available space! No matter what method you choose, labeling is going to be key so you are sure to select the correct bundle or strip for each block.



## Kate's Method

First thing I did was label my fabrics with the letter for each one. I didn't want to accidentally cut fabric B as fabric D!

I knew I wanted to separate all the cutting by block right away. So, I grabbed 30 small clear bags. Luckily for me, since I send out a lot of my patterns in bags, I have bags here I was able to use. You could also use brown paper lunch bags or ziplock bags that you might find in your kitchen.

I marked each of the bags with the number of the block. Then as I cut, I put the pieces into the bag for that block. It was a little bit of back and forth and I realized that 30 bags laying on top of one another can start to slide around so...

I corralled them in small box so that they didn't fall to the floor and lose their pieces!

Not an unusual method for organizing but effective! Once I was done cutting, (and yes, it took a while- after all, there are 30 different blocks!) I could just grab the bag for the block I was making and all the fabrics were there for me, ready to go.



### Kit for Lap quilt

Hancock's of Paducah is kitting the lap quilt using fabrics from Island Batik- not all of them will be exactly what we used but really close!

Click below to check out the kit.

Lap Quilt Kit



### Kit for Large Bed quilt

Hancock's of Paducah is kitting the large bed quilt using fabrics from Island Batik- not all of them will be exactly what we used but really close!

Click below to check out the kit.

Large Bed Quilt Kit

***This Week's Giveaway!!!!***



**We have a great giveaway this week from Island Batik!**

This week we have a fabulous giveaway! The generous folks at Island Batik have given us 2 bundles of 12 half yard cuts- the same fabrics that Tammy and I used to make our quilts!

How cool is that!

*And the winners are.....*

***Pam and Linda!!  
Congratulations!***

*Pam's email starts with pdhill....*

*Linda's email starts with llnees....*

***Pam and Linda - you need to reply to this email with your full name and mailing address BEFORE 9am ET Sunday April 10th!!!!***

If we don't hear from you by then, we will pick another winner.

Or you can email Tammy directly: [info@tamarinis.com](mailto:info@tamarinis.com) or email Kate directly: [kate@katecollerandesigns.com](mailto:kate@katecollerandesigns.com).

Our first OFFICIAL Quilt Along newsletter will be Thursday April 21st!

See you then!

Thank you for reading our Quilt Along newsletter.

We appreciate all of you!

**Thank you!**

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## Happy Quilting!

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