

OK, lets get going. We will make a bargello.

What I have planned is to do a quilt with eleven fabrics using 2 1/2 in. strips, cut the width of the fabric.

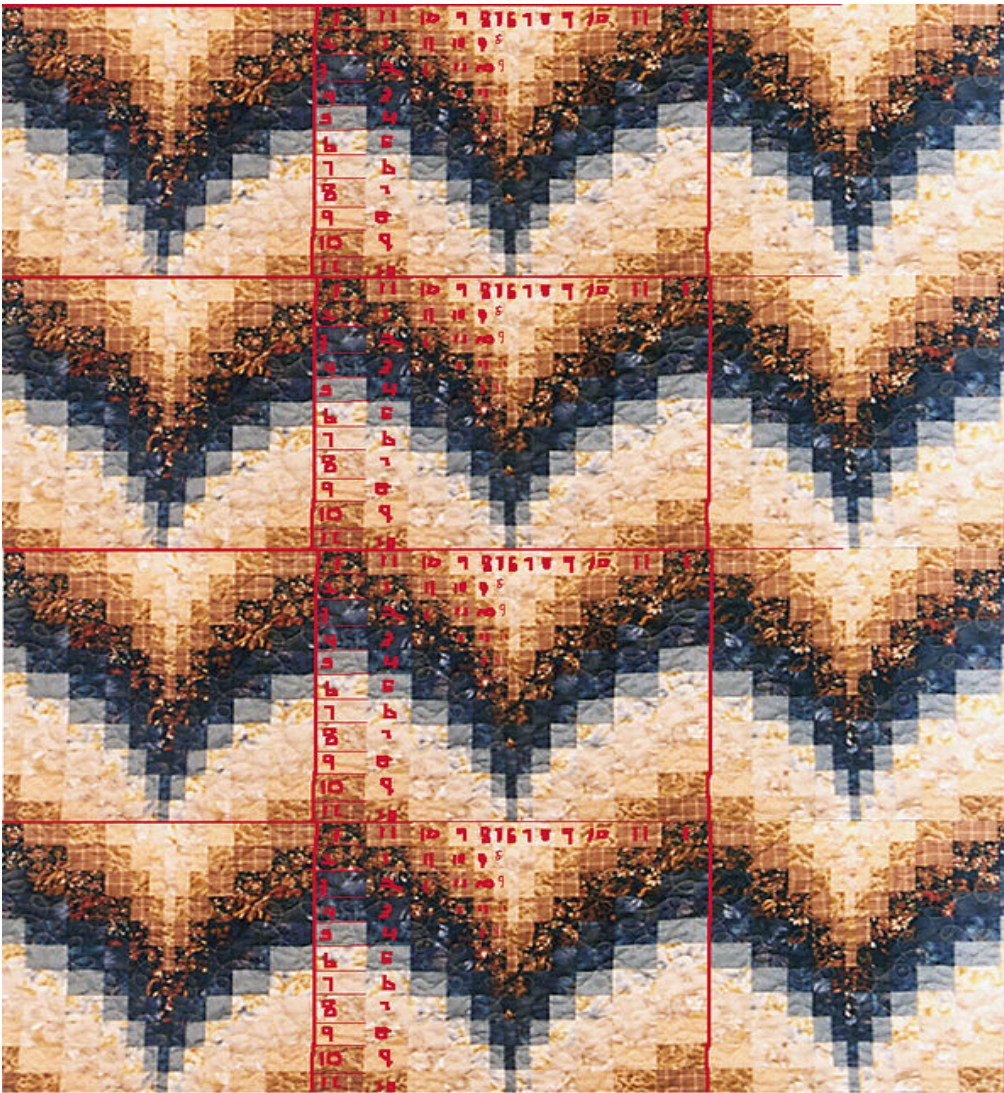
I usually chart these out and color in the spaces with crayons. I have one picture of a quilt that was taken hanging up, so I will use that to show how both the designed that I posted on page one of this thread.

I have marked up this photo to show the fabric sequence numbering, starting with #1 going down through #11. After cutting our strips we arrange our fabrics the same to construct the panels which will be cut in the next step.

11 colors arranged with the diamonds and circles



using the same four sections, instead of turning one upside down, we will stack them to get the repeats



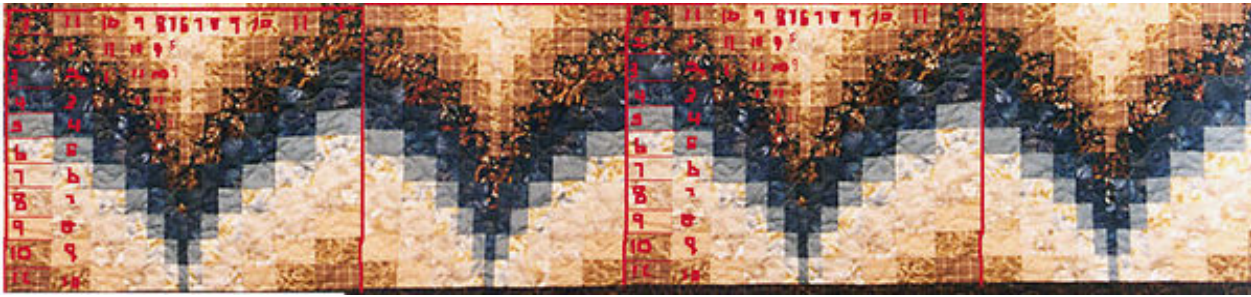
You will need at least 7/8 yd. of each of the 11 fabric, plus enough for borders and binding. If you want to be safe, buy 1 yd. That will allow for a wong cut somewhere along the way.

The pieced top before borders will be 77 wide by 88 long.

You could adjust the size of the strips and/or number of fabrics to make it shorter. Adjust the width of the cuts going across the quilt for a more narrow quilt. You could also pick out a section of the quilt and just do that part. You can click on the download link and the photo will open larger. You could print out four of these and practice arranging the to suit you taste.

I just realized that the above photos don't show all the repeat pattern across the quilt. So here is another photo of the section that will be constructed. You will make four of these. Once finished you will be able to arrange to your liking.

one section across the quilt measurement is 77 in.



Yes, you cut all 11 fabrics at 2/12 in. across the width of the fabric. Don't bulk...you need 11 strips of each fabric cut.

I know that is a lot of strip, and a lot of sewing before you can begin to see your pattern come together. But trust me, once you start seeing the design, it will be worth it.

You will need 3 sets of fab #1 thru 11

2 sets with fab # 11 taken from bottom and put on top of #1, so that would be fab #11 thru 10 and so on.

Each time you make a strip set, take one strip from the bottom of the run and put it on top.

Eleven strip sets to complete the quilt. I number the strip sets whatever fab number is to be on top.

1....2 sets....fabs #1-11.....need 72 inches to make next cuts

You will cut #1 sets into (20) 3 1/2 in strips

11...3 sets....fabs #11-10.....need 96 in. to make next cuts

Cut #11 sets into (32) 3 in strips.

#10....2 sets...fabs #10-9...need 80 in. to make the next cuts.

Cut #10 sets into (32) 2 1/2 in strips.

#9.....2 sets...fabs #9-8....need 64 in. to make next cuts.

Cut #9 sets into (32) 2 in. strips.

#8.....1 set....fabs #8-7....need 48 in. to make next cuts.

Cut #8 in (32) 1 1/2 in. strips. You can get the extra few cuts from left over from another strip set.

#7.....1 set....fabs #7-6...need 32 in. to make next cuts.

Cut #7 into (32) 1 in strips.

6..... fabs 6-5.....need 16 in. to make the next cuts.

Cut (16) 1 in. strip. You will have to get these from left overs from another set.

Yes, it does make sense..... I'm beginning to believe I should never have started this, I'm making so many mistakes!!!!

Glad you asked. The information in the lower section is correct. it is 2 sets for #1 and 3 sets for #11

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Cut #11 sets into (32) 3 in strips.

I'm not only making mistakes in my typing, the first set I sewed together last night I didn't have my machine set at 1/4" and sewed all 11 of my pieces together and came out with my panel over 1/2" too narrow! Now I have to cut more strips and sew another panel. i did get half my sets sewn and pressed thou.

Did I mention, when you press your panels, to press the seams up on the first on (#1) press down on #11. up on #10 and so on? So when you sew the 3 1/2"strips cut from set #1 to the 3" strip of #11 the seams will be laying in opposite directions?

Before you get to cutting of the panels into strips let me know, I will have a few tips for you.

here is a question i have:

1. when it says i need 72 inches .. what does that mean?
2. what is the exact measurement of a panel?

Answer to # 1 question....Well when you cut the (20) 3 1/2" that doesn't come up to 72" (only 70). No wonder I am confusing you. When you make two strip sets you will have 80+ inches to cut those 3 1/2 in strips from, so you will have a little left over. Put those aside and use those where I said you would need to get some cuts from left overs, or in case the ruler slips and you need to do another.

Answer to #2 questions: The strips sets will measure whatever the width of your shortest fabric. Since the fabric widths vary, sometimes they are 40-41 inches of usable fabric after cutting off the selvage.

Now that you have your strip sets all done, have you pinned notes to each set so you will remember what number they are? If so, you can preview what your pattern is going to look like once the strip sets and cut and pieced together.

To preview your pattern, start out with the #1 strip set. Lay #11 on top of it, showing about 3 1/2 inches of #1. Lay #10 showing 3 in. of #11, and so on, according to the size you will be cutting the strip sets.

You're not dumb, just not understanding my instruction, which I can understand.
Using 11 fabrics for this quilt, you would cut (11) 2 1/2 in strips of each of your fabrics.

Here are all my strips cut and laid out ready for sorting into strip sets.

strips cut, ready for sorting into strip sets



Once they are all cut, lay out your strips like I have in the picture below. I have my color #1 on the far left. I pick it up and hold in one hand, then pick up a strip from the next stack which would be fabric # 2 and place it behind #1...continue doing this until you have picked up the last one on the far right which is #11. pin a note on this bunch number it #1. Make two of these bunches.

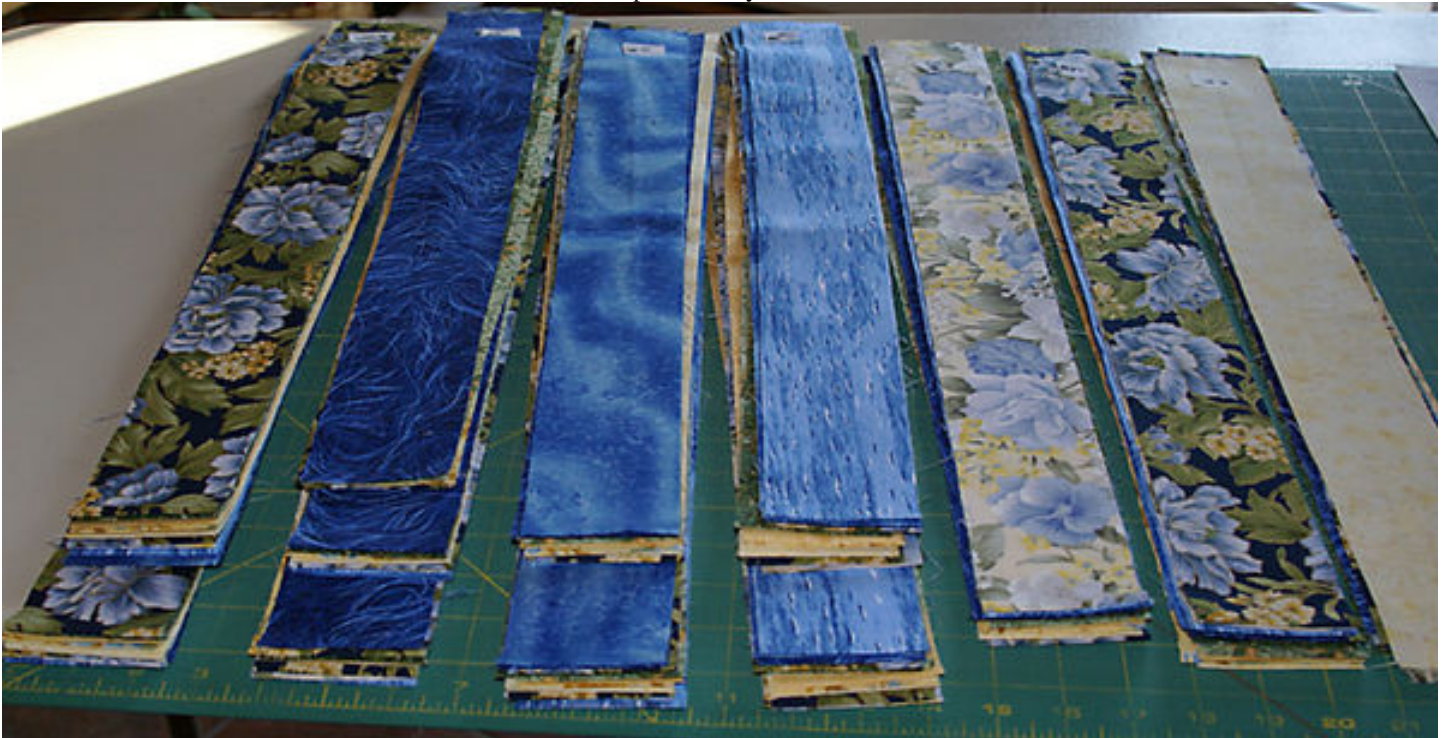
For the next bunches, pick up #11 followed by #1,#2, so on until you have #10 on the bottom. Make three of these.

next bundle start with #10 followed by #11, #1, #2 so on until you have #9 on the bottom. make 2 of these bunches.

Continuing doing these until you don't have any strips left. You will have 7 bunches. I cut one of my #11 set strips in half for the last bunch.

here are all my strips stacked ready to start sewing.

strip sets ready to sew



If you have sewn two sets done of #1, you can iron the seam. I would iron the seams up toward #1. When you get three sets of #11 done, iron those seams down.

o make a strips set have your fabric laying out in order from #1 thru #11. leave them folded just as you cut them, have the fold up at the top (makes it easier to pick up the strips, and check back through your stack if you need to.

Pick up # 1 fabric, hold on to it and pick up #2, and put it to the back of # 1, go through the whole line of fabrics until you have picked up 11 fabric and have then in your hand. Number this stack #1, If you have so good pins, might be a good idea to pin this stack so it won't get jumbled or a strip drop out of the stack.

===copied from an earlier post=====

Each time you make a strip set, take one strip from the bottom of the run and put it on top.

Eleven strip sets to complete the quilt. I number the strip sets whatever fab number is to be on top.

1....2 sets....fabs #1-11.....need 70 inches to make next cuts

You will cut #1 sets into (20) 3 1/2 in strips

11...3 sets....fabs #11-10.....need 96 in. to make next cuts

Cut #11 sets into (32) 3 in strips.

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Cut (16) 1 in. strip. You will have to get these from left overs from another set.

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note: 3 strips sets equals about 120 inches wide, I only needed 96 inches to cut all my #11 3 in strips, so I cut one in half and rearranged to use it as #6 that required 16 inches.

I'm posting another image of one section of the quilt design so you all will have a reference as to where your #1 fabric or any of the others will be and how it moves around the quilt.

If I'm making the circle & diamond pattern I pay particular attention to Fab #1, Fab #11 and Fab #6. look on the patten and see if you can tell why I think the placement of these fabrics are important.

One section of the quilt...Make four of these



Anyway, as to arrangement, you can arrange them any way you want. I like my #1 fab to be the eye catcher. #1 is the one that really defines you pattern. It creates the outline for the diamonds and circles.

Number 11 will be the middle on the circles, followed outward with 10, on down to #2. Number 11

immediately moves up to be 1st to fill in the diamonds, followed by #10, 9, 8, 7 & 6. Numbers 2, 3, 4 & 5 always stay inside the circle.

Iron your strip sets in opposite directions. For strip sets #1 you can iron the seam up toward #1 fab. Fab #1 has two sets, iron both of those in the same direction. Then on the next set (#11) iron all of them down. Alternate the up and down ironing.

Once I get a set ironed, I lay it down with the wrong side facing up....and at a glance over to it reminds me if I need to iron the next set up or down.

Since we have already talked about cutting the strips and sewing them into sets. Before I go on to adding the new message thread for cutting strip sets & sewing them together, I wanted to add a couple more things here.

Some of the things I have told you to do may seem elementary to you....you have already done lots of strip piecing and ironing your seams. You have chained pieced many quilts, so have I. With 11 fabrics and 11 strips from each, you have to develop a method so you will not make the mistake of picking up two strips and sewing them together on the wrong side...say getting fab #1 on the left and #11 on the right when it should have been the opposite. Or sewing half your quilt together and find that you left out a fabric in your strip set.

Or, cutting all your set that should have been 3" you cut them 3 1/2" because you didn't have your note on them telling what size to cut.

I've done all these things.

Next message, with pictures, I'm going to recap the process of getting your strips ready to make your strip sets, and sewing those together and ironing them.

After you have cut all your fabrics you should have them stacked and arranged in order left to right fab #1 through fab #11 as in Photo #1

From these fabric stacks you sorted according to earlier directions for your strip sets.

Notice I had the fold at the top...I did that because it makes it easier for me to pick up a strip from the stack and I want to keep them folded until I take them to the sewing machine.

You will have seven stacks now, ranging from 3 sets to a stack to 1 set as in photo #2

You only have seven strip sets because that is all the colors that will ever appear at the top fabric in your quilt sections.

Notice that strips are still folded and the fold at the top.

Take one stack at a time to the sewing machine. I have an old sewing machine in an old cabinet, so I have space to lay my stack right there beside me. At the sewing machine you should lay the stack down, this time have the folds at the bottom.

At the folded end pick up two strips, fabric # 1 & fab #2, grasp the cut ends with other hand and drop the

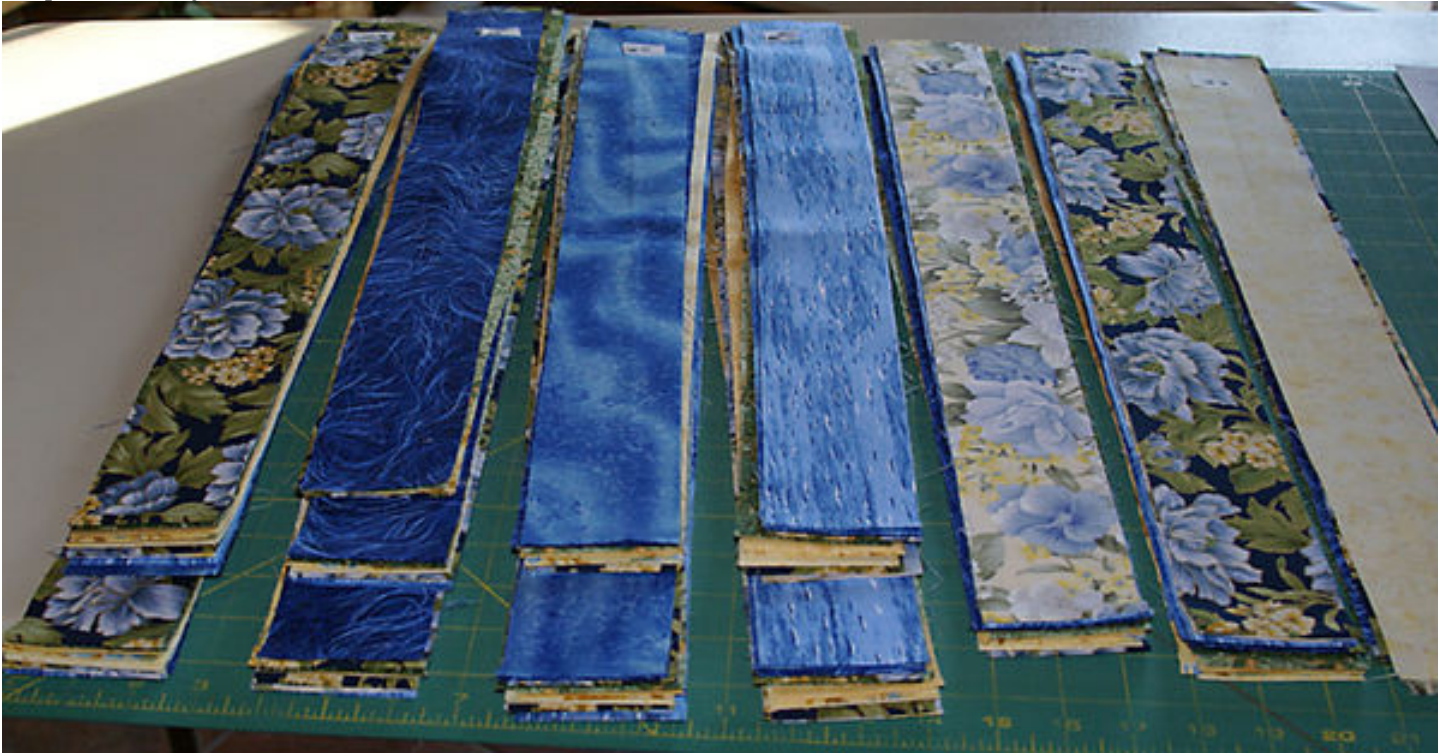
folded end. Now work your fingers in (photo #3) and take hold of the inner two ends. You will have your two strip right sides together, you can let the other cut ends drop down, one to the back and one to the front (Photo #4). Give it a little shake to straighten the strips and you are ready to put it under the presser foot. You will chain piece through the end and have fab #11 left. Cut your chain from the machine and open out the last on and turn it over right side to fab #11 and sew together (photo#5)

Now cut the chain off the machine....don't cut these apart or iron them. I pull the chain from the back of the machine and start letting it fall to the floor on the right side of me. I drape the chain over my lap and cut the first set off the chain and open it up and place it right side to the one that is in my lap. Place those under the presser foot and sew to the end.. After you've sew a few stitches you can cut those off your chain and leave the rest in you lap for the next set. Any time you have an extra in your lap at then end, cut the chain from the machine and sew it to the one in your lap.

Strips stacked and read to organize



strip sets ready to sew



getting hold of the inner ends of two strips



drop the outer two end, now strips are right side together ready to sew



Adding the orphan strip to the last set on the chain



Yes, the next step is at <http://www.quiltingboard.com/t-43226-1.htm> titled Barb_MO's Bargello Tutorial
-* Cutting strip sets

Barb - correct me if this is not right - The STRIP SETS are the one's you have created by sewing the 2 1/2 strips together. After that step is completed is when we are going to cut the "different" size strips?
Thanks Bevster

That is correct Bevster.

There is a lot of strips and different sets, I'm even getting confused in what to call them. Usually when you sew the 2 1/2" strips together, it is called a strata, but i'm not overly fond of that word, so don't use it.

I just posted message on completing one section of the quilt

All four parts of the tutorial on making a bargello can be found in the virtual section
http://www.quiltingboard.com/virtual_section.jsp?vsnum=1012

Bargello tute started by Kyiav10 (Discussion about doing a tutorial, fabric choices, design and layout)
Barb_MO's Bargello Tutorial -* Cutting strip sets
Barb_MO Bargello Tutorial -* Arranging cut strip sets for sewing
Barb_MO Bargello Tutorial -* Sewing one section

When changing machines, I always put a sewn piece under the presser foot, next to my seam gauge and lower the needle to see if it will be in the exact same place. If not, then move the needle over one way or the other.

I do this when if I have changed my machine to a differnt pattern from the straight stitch. I have to set my needle position a smidge off from where it would normally hit when I turn the knob to straight stitch, so I can't just select straight stitch and start sewing if I want it to be an exact 1/4" seam.

It does take a long time to sew the section together because there are so many seams to match. You not only have to worry about getting the seams nestled in close together, you have to make sure the seams don't get flipped the wrong direction.

A lot of times when I'm sewing the strips together and the one that is on the bottom has the seams press up, they will get caught when passing across where the slide out window is for putting in the bobbin, or else when the seam gets to the presser foot, it pushed the seam down instead of letting go up if it needs to. If you have a seam ripper, you can place it on the seam before getting to the presser foot, so it will be going in the right direction.

Another problem when sewing the strips together could be that the strips aren't cut at a 90 degrees angle to the seams in your piece, so the seams in the strip run up or down hill a bit instead of straight across.