

## Cupboard to Creativity June 2025

### Straight Cut Seminole Patchwork

Following the theme of Looking back to move forward, I have decided that the June Challenge should be based on Straight Cut Seminole.

Back in 1999 I ran workshops based on this technique, and angle cut styles too. One project was a quilt made from many different designs using various Seminole patterns, while another was a quilt and pillow case in a scrap version of the technique.

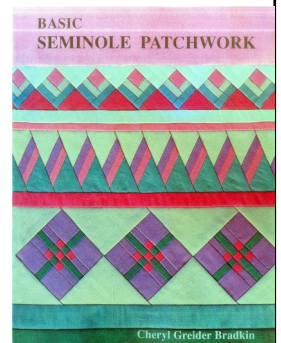
I have had for a year or so now had another project partly made then put aside, & I think it is time to try and get it finished, so I will see what this month brings.

Seminole Patchwork is based on designs that the Seminole Indians in American used to decorate clothing and household items adding interesting patterns to otherwise plain fabric. The designs are produced in long bands that can then be applied to various uses, and they are perfect for use in quilts.

This photo shows examples of these bands.

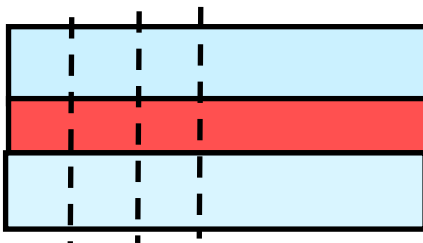


There are several publications showcasing this technique, one of them I have is Basic Seminole Patchwork by Cheryl Greider Bradkin which has many lovely designs and the instructions of the exact cutting and placement to create the patterns. →

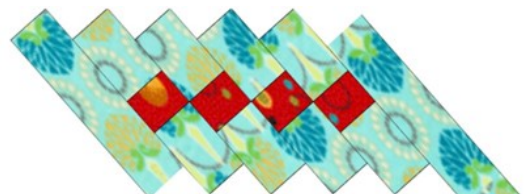


There are angle cut designs, and very complicated looking patterns you could create, however the focus for this month is the simple straight cut designs which can still create lots of different patterns and will give you an idea of the technique should you wish to explore it further.

Here is an example: Cut strips  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ' blue,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " red,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " blue & sew band.



Cross cut same width as centre ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ ') strip width then off set as shown, sew together then trim to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. The outer edge of this strip will



be bias, so handle with care — maybe spray starch a little to help with management so as not to stretch the edges. OR These strips can be framed or edged with a straight strip as seen in this example below, Use these strips as a sashing or border, or create a row by row quilt with different designs.



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### Straight Cut Seminole Patchwork

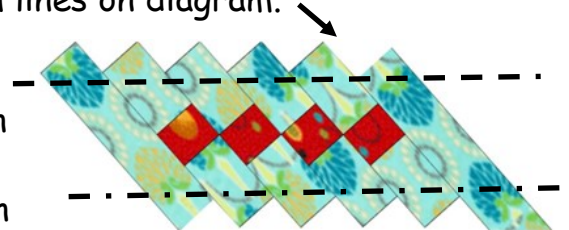
Many quilters may already be using the Seminole technique when creating borders for quilts, but may be unaware of where the ideas come from.

You may like to explore the idea further.

The basic concept is we sew together strips of fabric ( sometimes the same and other times different widths — I usually suggest the outer edge strips are cut  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wider than the other strips if you are making an on point style of design as this will help when trimming the design — shown with dash lines on diagram.

Sew the bands ( you may need two or more sets in different colours to create some designs) are pressed then cross cut the width you need—often this will be the same as a centre strip if you want to create a square in the pattern.

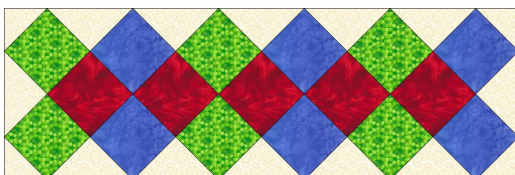
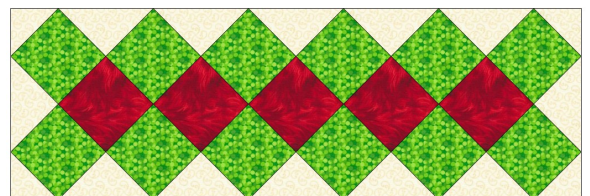
The units from the same 3 strip band of colours can be used to create on point squares as shown above—off set each unit 1 seam and re- join the units, then trim to a seam allowance of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the points.



To add bit more of a challenge, try sewing 5 bands - the outside edge ones cut  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ".

The middle 3 cut at  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ". This will create a bigger band due to strip size and the

increase in strips used. Play with your colour combinations there could be a centre colour and balance with same colour each side, or have three different colours, try them all laying the same then turn every second one upside down to see the different design that creates.



### Straight Cut Seminole Patchwork

Not all straight cut designs need be off set to create the on- point patterns. Many great designs are made by using bands of different colours and sizes that are used together to create the design such as these examples found online.



Try creating your own design to add to a quilt as a border or sashing, or create some blocks using different patterns as your own unique Seminole Quilt.

Here are a few ideas I found online for you to use as inspiration and explore making new designs of your own



I will share with you at the end of the month and see how much I can get done. Happy quilting everyone.

Jan P.