

Braids in a Nutshell
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MQSC Round Robin
January 20, 2021

French Braid with a Center Square based on a 76" X 85" finished quilt (with Chevron Separators) With regular separator bands 70" X 90"

(Standard)

½ yard each of 12 fabrics for the braid run, usually gradient colors (fat quarters ok)

½ yard for accent squares (fat quarters ok) The color on these need to "accent"

¼ yard for center squares

½ yard non directional fabric for ending triangles, If your braid ends in a dark color, use a lighter triangle and if it end in a light color, use a darker triangle color.

Later:

1 ¼ yard for separator bands, center strips (unless doing a variation chevron 4" X 2 ½" OR a pieced band 3 7/8 " X 3 ½"

1 ¼ yard for separator bands and outline strips

2 ½ yards for outer border

5 ½ yards for backing

¾" binding

74" X 97" Batting

CUTTING:

BRAIDS: From each of the 12 fabrics cut a strip 8 ½" X WOF (Width of Fabric) Then cut each strip in half at the fold OR from each fat quarter (FQ) cut two strips from selvage to center 8 ½" wide

ACCENT: Cut 6 strips 2 ½" X WOF then cut the strips in half OR from FQ cut 12 strips from selvage to center 2 ½" wide

CENTER SQUARES: Cut 4 squares *8 ½" X 8 ½". (I prefer to make my squares slightly smaller 8-8 ¼" depending on my fussy cut design. Smaller gives more trimming room)

*You can alternate these measurements if you have a smaller center square or larger by adjusting your strips to the same length as the sides of your square (or slightly larger ¼") You must also adjust your other pieces, too, though.

ENDING TRIANGLES: Cut 8 squares 7"X7", then cut diagonally to obtain 16 half square triangle pieces. "

SEPARATOR BANDS, OUTLINE STRIPS: 12 strips 1 ½" X **Length** of fabric (LOF)

SEPARATOR BANDS CENTER STRIPS: Cut 6 strips 2 ½" X LOF

INNER BORDERS: Cut 8 strips 1 ½" X WOF

OUTER BORDERS: Cut 4 strips 6 ½" X LOF

Choose a Center piece. You may fussy cut something so long as you can place it on a diagonal because the center is a diamond shape

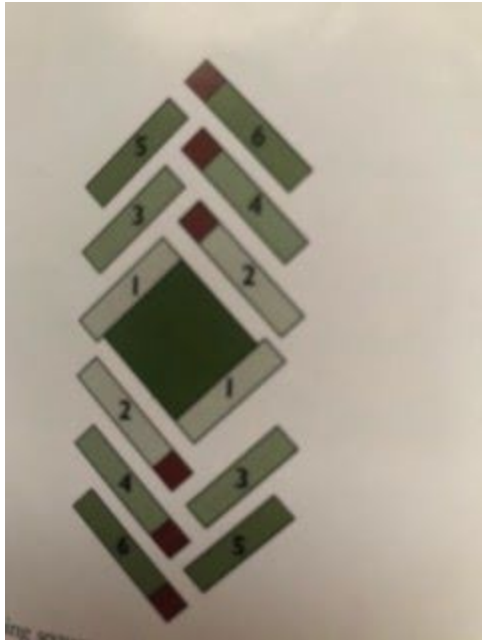
Choose coordinating colors for the braid usually 12 from light to dark.

1. Separate the braid pieces in two piles in order of your chosen sequence.

2. From one pile cut 8 2 ½" strips

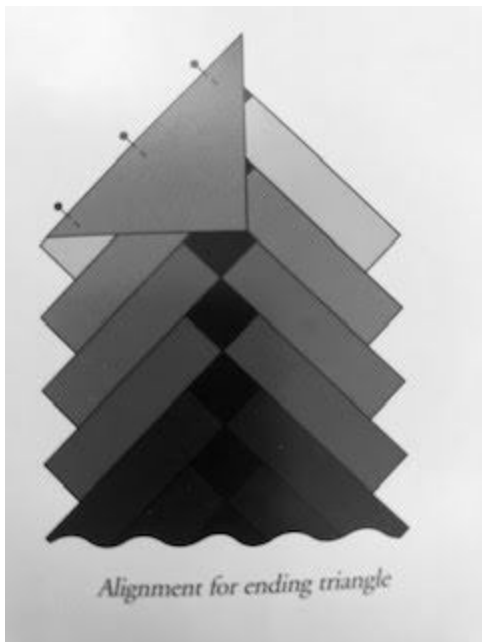
3. Sew an accent strip to each fabric in the second pile. Subcut into 8 2 ½" strips

4. Construct the braids following diagram

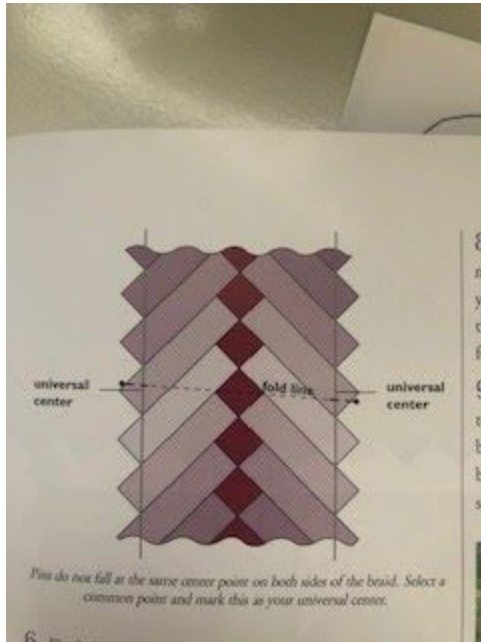


Start with the center square and add strips without the accent first to opposite sides of the square. FOR THE FIRST SQUARE DO NOT LINE UP THE TOP OF YOUR FABRIC. Line up the bottom edge so you have a small tail under your needle. Then add the same color braid with accent squares this time line up your top edge, which is the accent square.

When the braid is complete, add the ending triangle. Place the ending triangles right sides together lining up it's long side with the left side of the top of the braid. LEAVE ABOUT $\frac{3}{4}$ " OF THE TRIANGLE HANGING OFF THE THE EDGE OF THE TOP OF THE BRAID.



TRIM BRAIDS: Find the center of your braid. Measure an even distance out from the center to create a cutting line. On a standard braid I find it to be pretty consistent at $5\frac{3}{4}$ " from the center.



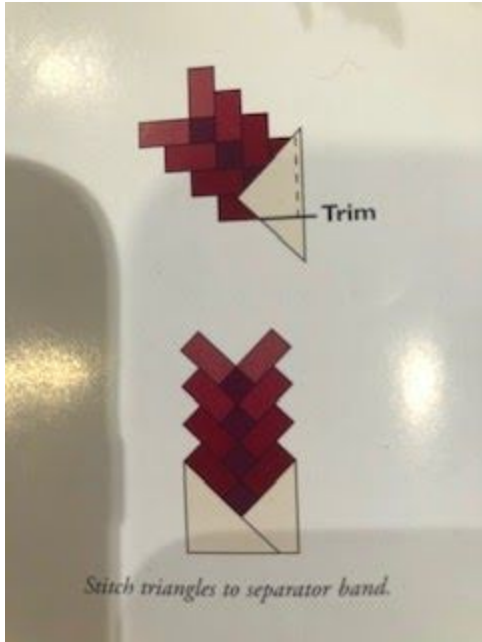
Don't cut right up to your edges because there are bound to be a couple that are not straightly aligned and you do not want a hole on your finished quilt.. Also make sure you have at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " from your center square point on each side.

Sew your outline strips to your center strips to create the separator band. . Add separator band. You can do many variations here. Notice on the quilts pictures I did a gradient strip band with the placement of colors opposite of the braid sequence.. I have also made a mini $2\frac{1}{2}$ " braid and a chevron for the separator bands.

Add borders and then prepare to quilt your project. Binding last.

BRAIDS ALSO MAKE A GREAT BORDER!

For the Chevron separator, follow basic braid but make your fabric $4" \times 20"$. Accent squares are still $2\frac{1}{2}"$ strips, Sub cut in $2\frac{1}{2}"$ strips same as basic braid. To center square out the chevron, make your fussy cut square $3\frac{7}{8}"$. End with two over sized triangles using $8\frac{1}{2}"$ square cut Diagonally.



Chevron end caps

Call me or email questions :) Denise (707) 758-7932 djragozzino@yahoo.com







here for a border

No Center square