

## TIMELESS PATCHWORK

### Fabrics thrown into the mix!

Thinking of patchwork as a technique to simply use up fabric scraps for sewing patched bedspreads is so yesterday! Mixing and matching fabrics is great fun and offers a wide variety of creative expressions.

Out-of-the-ordinary fabric and color combinations often make the best mix. Even beginners can achieve fast and beautiful results – with the right accessories on hand! For quiltwork, the sewing of patches is always the first step to fascinating works of art. Patchwork, however, can easily turn into a passion. Once started, the majority is hooked on this fun-filled activity for life!



The specialist for stunning patchwork:

### THE QUARTER INCH FOOT

There's one thing we all agree on: Patchwork looks best with the corners of all fabric pieces precisely aligned – hence accurate cutting and piecing is essential. Using the SINGER® Quarter Inch Foot, it's a hassle-free affair. It provides an accurate 1/4 inch (approx. 6 mm) seam allowance generally used in patchwork. The markings on the foot are also ideal for precise top stitching, quilting and sewing of narrow seams. Accurate straight cutting is the only thing you need to worry about!

**Important:** When using the Quarter Inch Foot, the needle must always be in its left position to align with the foot's opening. The round opening only allows straight stitched seams, however, provides extremely beautiful results!

### Materials Required for Patchwork:

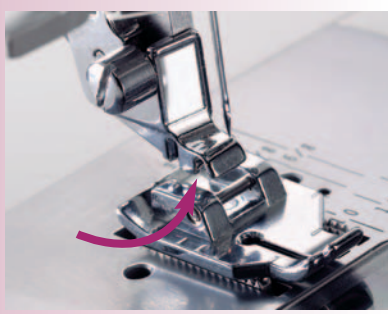
- > Any fabric you like, e.g. cotton, linen, silk, velvet, etc.
- > SINGER® Quarter Inch Foot
- > SINGER® needle, size 70-80
- > Construction thread
- > Fabric-marking pen or tailor's chalk
- > Cutting tools like rotary cutter and quilting ruler, if desired

## 1 Preparing the Sewing Machine:

Select a straight stitch, length: 2-2.5 mm

**!** Important: Don't forget to set the needle in its left position. Otherwise, the needle will hit the foot and break!

**1** Attach (snap-on) the Quarter Inch Foot. Thread the needle with a matching thread and set the upper thread tension to »sewing«.

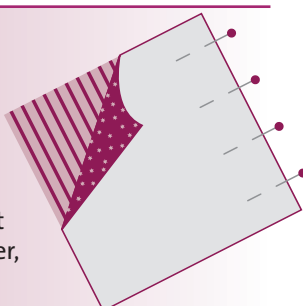


## 2 Preparing the Fabric:

The most important step when doing patchwork is precise cutting of all pieces. We've used simple square blocks, joined together, but there is a myriad of design variations to choose from. You'll find an endless array of templates in special patchwork books and magazines.

Remember that the 1/4 inch (approx. 6 mm) seam allowance is always included in the fabric piece measurements. Cutting the pieces to size is a breeze with pre-cut paper or cardboard stencils for each design shape used. For large-scale projects involving a large variety of single pieces, these stencils are particularly useful!

**2** For patchwork projects, most commonly fabric pieces are sewn as blocks, joined together into fabric strips that are later pieced together. We recommend to place the pre-cut squares to one side, in pairs, and as later used in your pattern. Place right fabric sides together and pin together, if necessary.

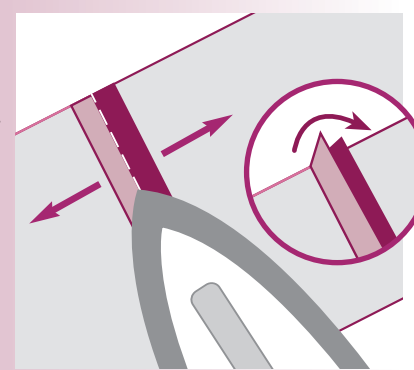


## 3 Let's Start Sewing:

**3** Join the pre-cut fabric pieces using a straight stitch. While sewing, keep the fabric's edge even with the foot's left edge. There's no need to tie off at the seam ends.



**4** Iron the seams flat. This ensures precision of your work and better alignment of all corners. All seam allowances should be positioned in one direction and preferably be placed under the darker-colored material, so they cannot be seen on the right fabric side.



**5** Joining together the finished fabric strips is the next step. Place matching strips together as desired, and pin together at each corner. This ensures accurate alignment of all corners. Remember that even the smallest discrepancies will add up and distort your design. Quilters are known to be eagle-eyed! Join together the strips and iron the seams.



On completion of your patchwork design, iron again on the right fabric side and use it as part of a quilt, for a cushion or pillow, casual bag – anything you like.

**!** Tip! There is a number of useful cutting tools for accurate straight cutting: A rotary cutter enables continuous, precise cutting of fabric edges, even through several fabric layers. When used on a self-healing cutting mat with incorporated measuring grid, nothing can go wrong! A variety of special quilting rulers with commonly used quilt measurements are equally time-saving. Ask your SINGER® Dealer for the special range of quilting accessories.



### Tip! A Different Approach: Crazy Quilting!

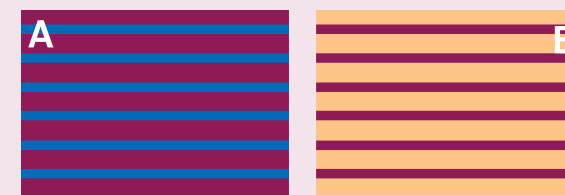
Patchwork doesn't always have to look geometrical: Try the crazy quilting technique for a change, where fabric pieces are joined together without using design templates. An ideal technique for those who don't want to be too fussy with straight lines and corners.



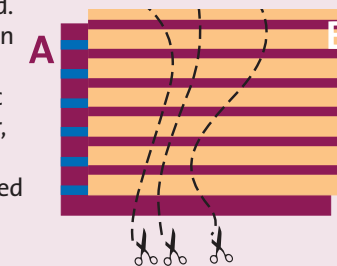
## Striped Contemporary Art!

Have you ever thought of creating stunning contrast effects simply by cutting out and joining fabric strips? Thanks to the "Interchange Technique" beautiful results can easily be achieved!

> Having a closer look at the two diagrams will give you a first impression of the Interchange Technique's basic idea. All you need are three different fabrics in contrasting colors, and not too strongly patterned.



> Cut to size several strips in a width of 2 cm and 6 cm. All strips should have a minimum length of 45 cm, letting you achieve more effective results. Sew two blocks with the fabric strips as shown in the diagrams. Place the finished blocks, with wrong on right fabric side, on top of each other, making sure that all narrow and wide fabric strips of top and bottom fabric layers are precisely aligned. All corners must also be in alignment. Draw three curved lines on the fabric and, using a rotary cutter, cut through both fabric layers following the curved lines.



> Interchange all pieces as shown in the diagram. Pin together the fabric pieces ensuring that all strips are precisely aligned. Then join together all pieces. Iron – and your "piece of art" is ready to be finished off as placemat, table runner, wall hanging ...

