

## Scrappy “Illusion” Placemat Tutorial by Barb Segal

Inspired by a Pinterest photo and later discovered the Illusion Quilts by Caryl Bryer Fallert. Instructions are my own and a work in progress.



The placemat (on left) will be created by sewing 2 panels (on right). Colour choice is very important to create the illusion. Search online for images of Illusion quilts by Caryl Bryer Fallert to assist in your choices. I have also saved photos to my Pinterest account in a folder called “Illusion Quilts”. I can show you the folder or you can access it through your own Pinterest account.

**Supply list for each placemat:** The list includes 2 panels needed to create each placemat.

- 2 triangle pieces (base and height of triangle = 3inches) Pattern included in separate PDF; be sure to print at “actual size”.
- 16 assorted 1.5 inch strips to create design; lengths vary from 12-30 inches (If you want the pyramid to be surrounded by a single fabric on one panel as shown above, reduce strips to 12 and eliminate fabric scraps below. Instead you will need a piece of fabric measuring at least 18x18 inches.)
- 2 fabric scraps to complete the upper corner of each panel. (Approximate measurement 3x10 inches)
- 14x21 inch batting
- 14x21 inch backing fabric
- Thread

**Supplies for tutorial:** sewing machine in good working order, preferably with a walking foot available for final QAYG; cutting mat, blades and rulers; small iron and ironing board if you have it

## **Illusions NICU Quilt**

Finished size 40x40 inches

**Supply list for each NICU quilt:** The list includes 2 panels needed to create each placemat. Each panel will measure 40 inches wide by 25 inches high.

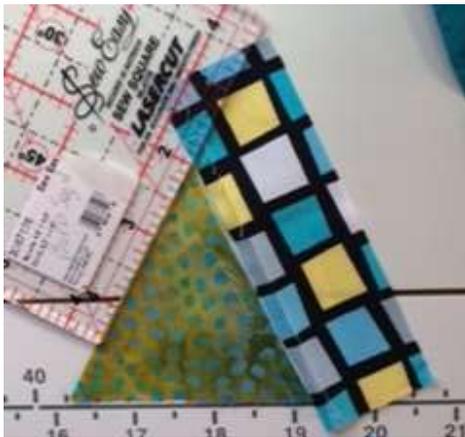
- 2 triangle pieces (base = 7.5 inches and height of triangle =  $4 \frac{5}{8}$  inches). Pattern included in separate PDF; be sure to print at "actual size".
- 20 colours of 3 inch strips to create design – 2 of each colour for a total of 40; lengths vary from 15-35 inches (If you want the pyramid to be surrounded by a single fabric on one panel, reduce strips to 15 colours and eliminate fabric scraps below. Instead you will need a piece of fabric measuring at least 27x44 inches.)
- 2 fabric scraps to complete the upper corner of each panel. (Measuring at least 13x7 inches for both)
- batting
- binding and backing fabric
- Thread



**Placemat Instructions:** Seam allowance –  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (Pattern allows for  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch around the placemat that will be obscured by the binding.)

**Creating the pyramid for each panel:**

1. Collect all the strips and scraps of fabrics that you think you might need. Creativity is messy. (The photo on the left is what my work area looked like.)



2. Check the measurements of each triangle. The base and height of the triangle should measure 3 inches for a placemat. Mark the base of the triangle on the center front so you recognize it without having to measure or get out the pattern.

3. Select the 4 strips to be used in creating the pyramid. Start with the shortest and sew it to both sides of the triangle. Make sure the strip extends well beyond the ends of the triangle's side. (The strip in the photo should be slightly longer.) Press each strip and trim before sewing the second piece.



4. Continue to add longer strips to the sides until you complete your desired pyramid.

5. Repeat for second pyramid.

Two options exist for completing the panel, a) or b) below.

**a) Completing the panel with more strips:**

6. Continue to sew 4 more fabric strips to the sides of the pyramid. The first strip should extend at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch beyond the top point on the pyramid. It can also be trimmed at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch beyond bottom corners of the pyramid. (See photo at right. The light blue was added to the pyramid.)
7. Continue adding the 3 remaining strips, trimming each even with or slightly beyond the ends of the first strip.
8. The final corner needs a wider scrap to finish the panel. Use the 3x10inch scrap to complete the panel.



**b) Completing the panel with one single fabric:**

- 6b. Using the 18 inch square, cut fabric in half in one direction.
- 7b. Stack the resulting pieces of fabric with wrong sides together. Place the pyramid on top of these fabric rectangles, lining up the pyramid base parallel to the lower narrow edge of the rectangles (as shown in photo). Fabric rectangles will extend above and below the pyramid. They will also extend beyond the top point on the pyramid and at least an inch beyond the lower point on one side of the base.
- 8b. Use the pyramid as a guide to cut the angled edge of the fabric, cutting through both layers of fabric.
- 9b. Sew the resulting triangles to the pyramid to complete the panel.





### Quilt At You Go Placemat:

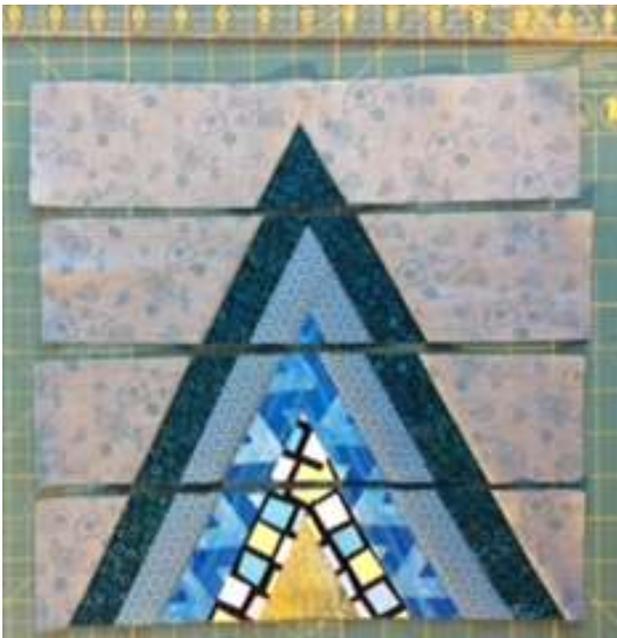
1. Each panel needs to be trimmed and squared. Your panels may be slightly different in size and may differ from the measurements that I used. My final panel measured 12x13 inches. 13 inches across the pyramid and 12 inches in height, including an extra  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch allowance beyond the pyramid design for binding.

2. Use the points of your pyramid as the center of the panel and measure the first side out from there. My panel's width across the pyramid was 13 inches so my first side was  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the center.

3. I then squared the base with the first side so that all fabric edges were even. (My base needed trimming on one side only, so somewhere in the sewing it became skewed.)



4. Trim and square the second panel to match. If strips are not matching at the bases, do not worry. They will never be together again. However, center points should be aligned if you were careful in your cutting.



5. My panel was 12 inches high, so I used 3 inches to cut 4 strips starting at the base of the pyramid. (I could also have used 2 inch strips but the final placemat would be 2 inches shorter.)

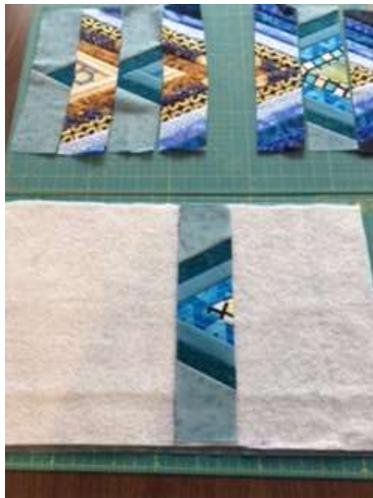
6. Repeat with second panel.



7. Arrange strips from each panel as shown in preparation for quilt as you go.

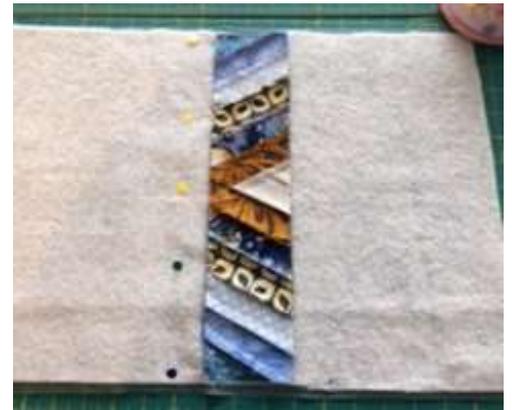
8. Center batting on wrong side of backing.

9. Draw a line  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the center across the batting from one longer side to the other. (A second line running the length of the batting and exactly on center may also be helpful to line up centers of the strips.)



10. The cut edge of the first strip will be lined up with the line drawn on the batting so that it covers the exact center of the batting.

11. Lay the matching center strip right sides together over the first and stitch through all layers  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the cut edge. The seam will fall on the center of the quilt batting and backing.



12. Press seam open.

13. Continue to add strips until you have all 8 strips sewn to the batting and backing.

14. Add additional quilting to complete the placemat.

15. Trim edges of placemat and apply binding as desired.

