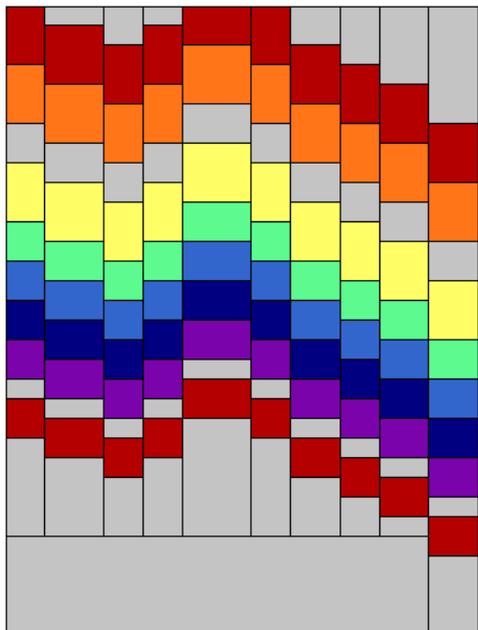


Northern Lights

12 by 16 inches finished ($12\frac{1}{2}$ by $16\frac{1}{2}$ end to end)



This is a little piece of Bargello - it looks complicated, but it is really quite easy and fun to do.

In the sampler quilt, I used the colours used in the rest of the quilt randomly to form the waves of colour, but for the blocks for the draw - let's make a rainbow!

Go through your stash and see what you have. You could trade with someone else for colours you don't have!

For the sampler quilt, we used two blocks, but to keep your strata (strip set) straight, I recommend you make 2- 20 inch strip sets instead of one the full width of the fabric.

Background: all strips must be at least 20 inches long (half the width of the fabric)

We are going to be very wasteful with this one - we are going to trim it in the end!

2 - $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch strips

1 - $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip

1 - 1 inch strip

1 - 3 by $11\frac{1}{4}$ inch rectangle

We have Newton to thank for the seven colours of the rainbow - he wanted to match the seven notes in the standard English musical scale so he added Indigo. There aren't really seven colours, all colours are represented as it's a continuum of colour!

Back to our block:

Sew your strip set in order with one $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch background strip at the top and bottom:

Background $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip

Red - 2 inch strip

Orange - 2 inch strip

Background - $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip

Yellow - 2 inch strip

Green - $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip

Blue - $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip

Indigo - $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip (well - any dark blue will be fine)

Violet - $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip (violet is the 'official' name for purple)

Background - 1 inch strip

Red - $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip

Background - $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip

Now you should have a strata 18 inches wide by somewhere around 20 inches long. Press all the strips towards the top. If you need to press the occasional strip in the other direction, do it as you sew the strips back together again.

So here we go -

Cross cut your strata into the following strips:

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 2 inches, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches and 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Keep these very carefully in the order they were cut or your block will not look like the rest when you are done.

To reassemble the strips, first remove the background at the top of the first strip. This will be the top of the block.

Sew strip 2 to the first strip so that the first red/orange seam is $\frac{1}{2}$ inch down from the same seam on Strip 1.

We are going to continue to move this seam up and down to form our bargello.

Strip 3 - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch down from Strip 2

Strip 4 - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch up from Strip 3

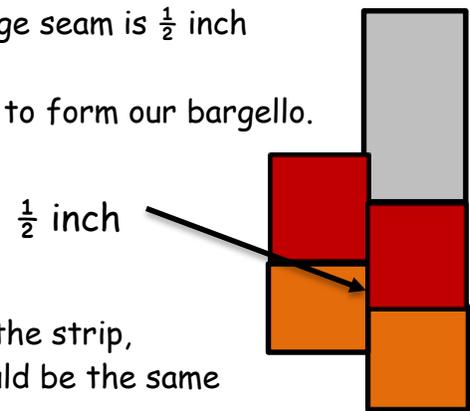
Strip 5 - 1 inch up from Strip 4

Strip 6 - first remove the background from the top of the strip, then sew it $\frac{1}{2}$ inch down from Strip 5 (it should be the same as the first strip).

Strip 7 - 1 inch down from Strip 6

Strip 8 - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch down from Strip 7

Strip 9 - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch down from Strip 8



Now, we have to pause here and trim the block. Press it well first.

Trim the top level with the first strip. Trim the bottom level with strip 5. It should measure 14 inches by 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches at this point.

Sew the 3 by 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch rectangle of background on the bottom of the block

Sew the last strip of your strata to the right, with the top even with the block, and trimming the bottom to match the block,

You are done! Don't you feel triumphant - and you can now tackle any bargello.

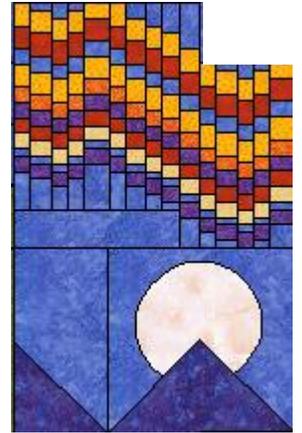
For the sampler, I wanted the Northern Lights to come quite close to my right hand mountain/ On the second block I removed the background from the bottom of strip 10. Then I sewed strips 6 - 10 together (sewing strip 10 1 inch down from strip 9), and trimmed the bottom to the bottom of strip 10. I trimmed 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches off the top of my right hand mountain, and sewed the strips 6-10 to the top of the mountain. I removed the background from the bottom of Strip 3, then sewed Strips 1 - 5



together. I sewed this set (1 - 5) to the right of my full bargello block, matching the bottom and leaving 2 inches unsewn at the top, so that I could add a strip of background at the top later.

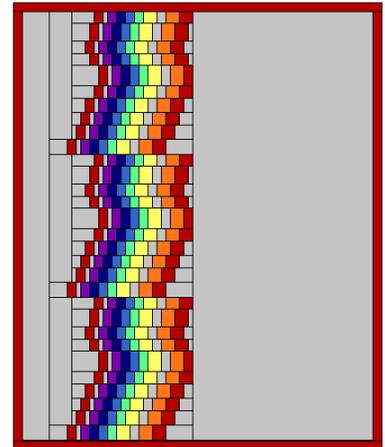
I sewed my left mountain to the centre, and sewed the bargello on top of it.

I sewed the two sections together, then added a 4 ½ inch strip across the top to fill in, and sewed the unfinished seam.



One more block and you will have your sampler done!

Aren't you proud of yourself.....



What to do with all those bargello blocks?

