**String Block Swap**

From March – October we will have a string block swap. Each month you can bring in as many 8.5” string block as you would like. A record will be keep of how many blocks you bring in. All of the blocks will be collected until our joint October meeting. During our October meeting for each block you have brought in during the year you will be able to draw one block out of the box of collected blocks.

A string block is made on a foundation. It can be fabric such as muslin or a lightweight interfacing or it can be paper. For our swap we will use paper cut 8.5 square. The string can be any width from ¾” to 1 ¾” . For this swap the strings will be sewn on the diagonal with half of the block light (cream, cream on cream, white, white on white, shirting, etc. ) the other half can be any medium to dark.

To make your block:

First cut your paper 8.5” square of paper. You can use any paper you wish. Old phone book pages are ideal. Newsprint or copier paper can be used. Use a larger needle than you typically use. Set your stitch length to 1.5 -1.8 (This will make it easier for you to remove the paper)

1. Fold your paper on the diagonal from corner to corner. This is your first sewing line.
2. Draw a line that is ¼ “ away from that line. You will line your first two strips up to that line.
3. Place your first light fabric strip right side up so the edge is on the drawn line. .
4. Place a dark/medium strip on top with right sides together. I pin these strips
5. Sew your first seam along the center diagonal. (I turn my paper over and sew right on the folded diagonal line. This is the only time I sew on the back side. ) Open the strips and press. It is faster if you add one strip to each side before you press.
6. Continue to add strips on either side pressing after each strip.
7. When the paper is covered in strips turn the block over and trim the block to an 8.5” square.

Leave the paper on. The person receiving the block will take the paper off.

There a lot of videos on YouTube showing how to make string blocks.