

## ABOUT THE BLOCK LOTTO

The Block Lotto has been a monthly online activity for quilters since January 2002.

It began as an activity on a quilting message board and moved into blog land in 2007. In 2012, we moved to our own site and group blog at [blocklotto.com](http://blocklotto.com)

The Block Lotto is open to all quilters at any level of experience.

No commitment is required: make blocks and enter them when you want; otherwise sit on the sidelines, read along, and

Join us!



## SHOW US YOUR QUILT

If you use the Star-Crossed block pattern in a project, please share a photo of your work. You can:

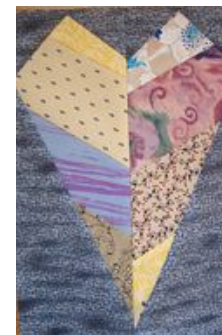
- Email photos and the story of your quilt to [jeansophie@gmail.com](mailto:jeansophie@gmail.com)
- Add your photo to the Flickr group pool [Lotto Block Quilts](#)
- Join the block lotto and add your quilt and its story to the Gallery

I can't wait to see what you make from this block.

---

FIND MORE BLOCK PATTERNS AT [BLOCKLOTTO.COM](http://BLOCKLOTTO.COM)

## FEBRUARY 2013 BLOCK LOTTO



## String Heart Quilt Block Pattern

© 2013 Jean - sophie Wood

## ABOUT THE BLOCK



## STRING HEART

We made string hearts for the Block Lotto in 2011—this month, the blocks will be taller, to fit the 6 x 9 rectangle block size for 2013, and made in a completely different color-way using low-volume fabrics.

The photos in the block directions are from the original String Heart block and don't reflect the February 2013 fabrics.

## FABRIC GUIDELINES

## CHOOSING FABRICS FOR YOUR LOTTO BLOCK



Each block is made from LOW-VOLUME fabrics:

**String Fabric**— Strings pieced onto woven foundations should contain at least 4 different fabrics.

**Background fabric**—background fabric is a low-volume fabric that will contrast with your string heart.

**Low Volume Fabrics** are characterized by subtle colors and delicate designs. When putting together fabrics for your block, value will be less of a differentiator—in fact, high value contrast should be avoided—and color, design and scale will become more important. See the February 1 blog post for more examples

© 2013 Jean-sophie Wood

## CREATE STRING FABRICS



## NOTES ON STRING PIECING FOUNDATIONS

For each block, you will need 2 string-pieced rectangles, 9 ½-inches high by 3 ½-inches wide. The strings should be added at an angle (approximately 45 degrees) and the two rectangles should be mirror images of one another.

You could cut foundations this size and make them one at a time, or cut larger foundations and then cut the string fabric to size.

I made string fabric onto foundations which were cut 10-inches tall by 11 inches wide. I pieced them 2-at-a-time to make sure I was creating mirror image pairs.

For my blocks, I used “strings” that were between 1 and 2-inches wide. There will be links and more information about string piecing on the web site, but the basic process goes like this.



Lay your first string, right side up, diagonally across the foundation fabric. Put a second string on top of it, right side down with one long edge aligned. Stitch along the aligned edge and through the foundation. Press the attached

seam open and repeat until the foundation is covered. ALWAYS press these seams to prevent folds in your finished string fabric. Cut your finished foundation to the required size, 3 ½ – inches wide by 9 ½-inches tall.



## CUTTING FABRICS

### FOR ONE BLOCK

- Two string rectangles 3.5 x 9.5 (1 Left-leaning and 1 Right-leaning)
- Four 2-inch squares of background
- One or Two background rectangles 4 1/2 x 9 inches—cut ONE back ground rectangle if your fabric is solid or dyed and looks the same on both sides (no right side). Cut TWO if your fabric is printed and/or has a right side and a wrong side.



NOTE: the block construction photos are from the original, February 2011 string block, which was slightly shorter and definitely NOT made from low-volume fabrics.



### PRESSING TIP

For this block, pressing each seam is essential. Be sure to press each seam as you create the string fabric and during the construction of the block. Consider pressing seams in the block OPEN for a flatter finished block.

FIND MORE BLOCK PATTERNS AT [BLOCKLOTTO.COM](http://BLOCKLOTTO.COM)

© 2013 Jean-sophie Wood

## BLOCK CONSTRUCTION

### CREATING THE LARGE BACKGROUND TRIANGLES

To create the large mirror image rectangles you need, slice the rectangle diagonally. If you are using a print fabric, stack the two rectangles, right sides together—you'll create two mirror image pairs. (Use the second pair for a second block). If your fabric is solid or dyed and both sides are the same, you can use both halves cut from a single rectangle.



## BLOCK CONSTRUCTION



## SEWING THE BLOCK

1. Align a square, face down, with the top left corner of each of the string rectangles.
2. Sew across the square, diagonally from corner-to-corner. You can draw the line before you sew if that makes it easier—remember you are going to sew ON the line.
3. Trim the excess fabric (in the corner) away,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from your seam.
4. Press.



5. Repeat with the other two squares in the top right corners of the string rectangle.



6. Lay out your block, placing the triangles on top for reference.

FIND MORE BLOCK PATTERNS AT [BLOCKLOTTO.COM](http://BLOCKLOTTO.COM)

© 2013 Jean-sophie Wood

## BLOCK CONSTRUCTION

7. Flip one over and align the long edge of the triangle so that:
  - it is even with the intersection of the seam at the outside edge of the rectangle
  - it crosses the bottom edge of the string rectangle  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch away from the point (so your seam will go through the point).
8. Sew the triangle in place.
9. Repeat on the other side.
10. Fold back the triangle after it's sewn and MAKE SURE that the triangle covers the rectangle underneath. DO NOT trim or press anything until you have checked.



Note: The placement of the triangles does NOT have to be exact. Remember this is supposed to be fun. If you are having problems, try sliding the triangle up or down on the rectangle ... or cut a larger rectangle to start.

11. Fold back the triangle and trim the excess string fabric away ... but DON'T toss it.
12. Sew the two halves of your heart block together.
13. Press and square up and trim to  $6\text{-}12\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and  $9\text{-}1\frac{1}{2}$  inches tall.

