String Quartet

Block basics:

- This is an easy block to use up your scraps.
- Finished block size is 9 1/2" square. (The size when you turn it in, before it is sewn into a quilt.)
- Use whichever neutral thread color makes the most sense.
- All seams are scant 1/4" seams unless otherwise indicated.

Choose your fabric:

For the strings, fabrics can be any combination. Bright fabrics work especially well, both prints and tone-on-tone fabrics. Mix it up. Basically, anything goes. For the rectangles choose a medium color fabric in solid or tone-on-tone. A print will be too busy with the strings. The square can be anything you like. Since the string sections are on the bias, using a muslin foundation helps keep them square.
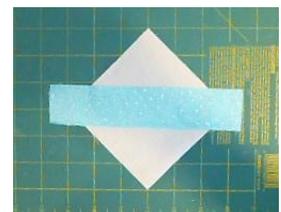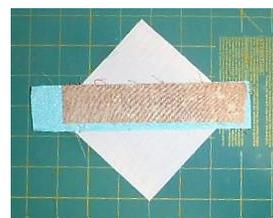
Cut the following fabric pieces:

1. Four muslin 4 ¼" squares.
2. Strings measuring from 1" to 2" wide, and from 4" to 6 ½" long, plus chunks for the end, about 2 ½" square.
3. Four rectangles, 2" by 4 ¼". Medium solid or tone-on-tone.
4. One 2" square.

Construct the block:

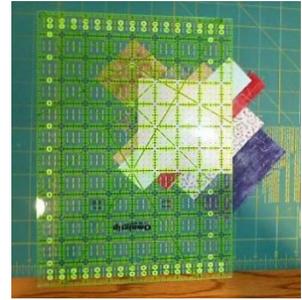Sew the strings to the muslin. Start with a piece about 6 ½" long, placed face up on the diagonal.

 Put another string on top face down next to it and sew them together with a ¼" seam.

Finger-press them open and add strings until the end, where the last piece should be a "chunk" a bit wider so it doesn't get caught in the seams when the block is assembled.

Press, then square up to 4 ¼" cutting from the back. Use your ruler, because the muslin could get pushed or pulled a bit while sewing.

Lay out the block as shown. Sew the pieces in the rows. Press away from the strings and away from the middle square.

Sew the rows together. Press away from the strings. Here's the final block.

These can be assembled with or without sashing. I think it would be interesting set on point.

Bring your finished blocks to the guild meeting April 30th to participate in the drawing.

Questions? Suggestions for future blocks? Feel free to email me, Judy Johnson, at judygrayj@live.com