Frequency

by Stacey Day
**Frequency** is a large scale “improv with intent” modern quilt. The quilt can be sewn together quickly, and is suitable for all experience levels. The layout is very flexible—no two quilts will look the same! For my *Frequency* quilt, I used a selection of rainbow color prints from my stash. My theme can be replaced with a favorite collection of prints, or try a group of monochromatic solids ranging from light to dark.

**Editor’s note:** “Improv with intent” is a concept popular today with quilters in the modern quilt movement, where the quilter works toward a specific goal, improvising as she/he goes.

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**Materials**

*Note: Requirements are based on 42” usable width of fabric.*

- Light grey print – 2¼ yards (background)
- Charcoal grey tone-on-tone – 1¾ yards (borders & binding)
- Golden yellow print – ½ yard
- Yellow print – ½ yard
- Yellow-green print – ½ yard
- Dark green print – ½ yard
- Green-blue print – ½ yard
- Blue-green print – ½ yard
- Blue print – ½ yard of blue
- Dark blue print – ½ yard
- Blue-violet print – ½ yard
- Violet print – ½ yard
- Red-violet print – ½ yard
- Red print – ½ yard
- Red-orange print – ½ yard
- Orange print – ½ yard
- Yellow-orange print – ½ yard
- Backing – 76" x 96"
- Batting – 76" x 96"

**Cutting**

*Note: All strips are cut across the width of fabric (WOF).*

- From the light grey print: 30 strips 2½" x WOF
- From the charcoal grey tone-on-tone: 8 strips 4½" x WOF for borders 9 strips 2¼" x WOF for 322" of continuous binding
- From each of the colored prints: 2 strips 4½" x WOF

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**SKILL** Easy  
**SIZE** 68" x 88" finished
Making the columns

Select one strip of each color. Sew together lengthwise in the order given in the materials list, starting with a golden yellow print strip and ending with a yellow-orange print strip. Press all the seam allowances away from the golden yellow strip. Make 2 identical strip-sets. Cut the strip-sets into 30 columns 2½" wide. Tip: Fold the strip-set in half, from top to bottom, to make cutting easier.

Sew a light grey print strip to the top end of the golden yellow segment of each rainbow column. Press seam allowances toward the yellow segment.

Assembling the quilt

Now is the time for improvisation. Lay out the columns beside each other, matching the color segments. Move columns up and down randomly to make peaks and valleys of color across the quilt. As you do this, make sure that the colors on each column touch the same color on the columns on either side. For example, the yellow segment of column two should touch the yellow segments of column one and column three. The seams do not have to match, only the color.

Check the placement of the columns, making sure you are able to trim the height to 80½" across the width of the quilt, as measured from the bottom of the highest yellow-orange print strip colored segment. If a pieced strip is too short, use the background trimmings from another of the pieced strips to add to the length as needed. See figure on page 5.

Join the columns in order, one at a time, until all 30 are sewn together. Press the seam allowances open.

Trim across the top and bottom of the quilt so it measures 80½" in height. Tip: Save the trimmings to piece into the backing.

Sew the charcoal print border strips together into 4 pairs. From two of these, cut 2 strips 80½". Sew to the sides of the quilt. Press seam allowances toward the border. Measure the quilt top from side to side through the center of the quilt. Cut 2 border strips to this length. Sew to the top and bottom of the quilt. Press seam allowances toward the border.

Quilting & finishing

Layer the backing, batting, and quilt top. Baste to secure. My FREQUENCY quilt is quilted with an allover flame design.

Sew the binding strips together for 322" of continuous binding. Finish the edges of your quilt with double-fold binding.
Editor's note: This figure and quilt assembly diagram show a different layout of the strips than in the quilt in the photo, which is only 15 strips wide.