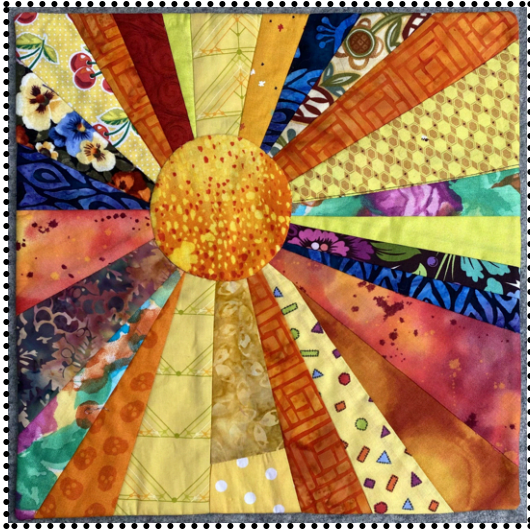


BOM/MOM #2 July CQA 2025,
to display in AUGUST



Catching Rays

QAYG (Quilt as You Go)

By Tedi Patterson, tedi.Vta@gmail.com

finished 12" - 13" square

Lessons: QAYG and Faced Binding

Inspired by

[Quick and Easy Rainbow Sunset Mug Rug Tutorial](#)
[- Ameroonie Designs](#)

Fabrics

- 20+ Scrap strips various widths (2"-5" and about 6"-12" long, choose your palette: rainbow, bright warm colors, anything you like. You can also piece scraps together lengthwise or widthwise for some of the strips for a very interesting effect.
- Sun - one 6" square, Yellow or Orange
- Back of sun- one 6" square of scrap, any color.
- 14" square of batting, cotton, bamboo, or 80/20, not polyester.
- 14"-15" square of backing
- Facing/Binding strips, scrap fabric - 4 pieces at 2.5" x 14" each
- Sleeve, scrap fabric - one piece at 2.5" x 12"

Other Supplies

- 3" - 4" Circle template - a jar or other round object for your Sun
- Non-disappearing pencil or pen
- Seam Roller (optional)
- Spray baste (505) or safety pins
- Add a Quarter ruler (optional)
- Sewing machine, and basic sewing kit
- Fabric starch
- Corner tool - such as a chop stick or crochet hook
- Hand sewing needle and thread

Directions

Block Set-Up

1. Divide the **batting** square into 4 equal quadrants.

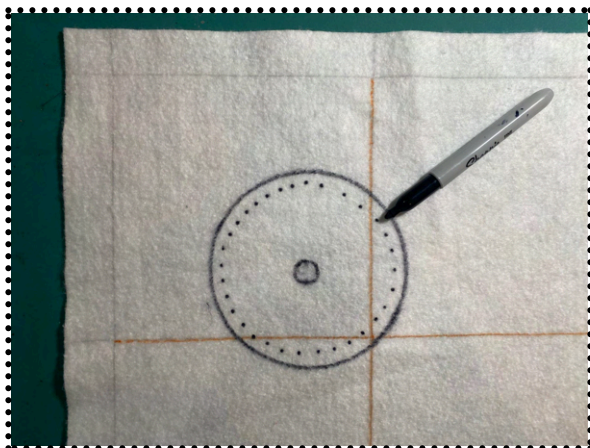


2. Sun placement mark - Place the jar lid upper left quadrant of your batting square.

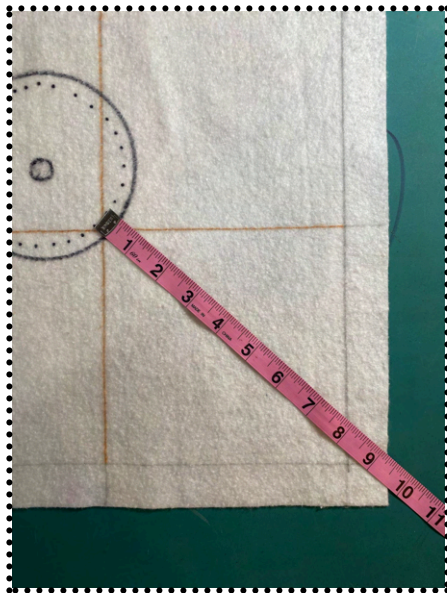
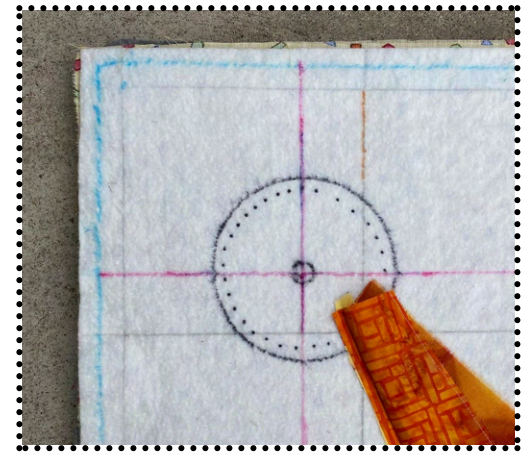
3. Trace around the lid with a non-erasable pen for your **outer Sun Ring**.



4. Draw a dime-sized circle in the center of the traced circle for a "**bullseye**." This is where you will be aiming your rays towards. Then draw a dotted line $\frac{1}{4}$ " within the circle for your **Sun Inner Ring**.



5. Mark **Crosshairs**, perpendicular intersecting lines from the sun's center to the batting's top to bottom and side to side edges (see pink lines). This will indicate where the rays change direction.

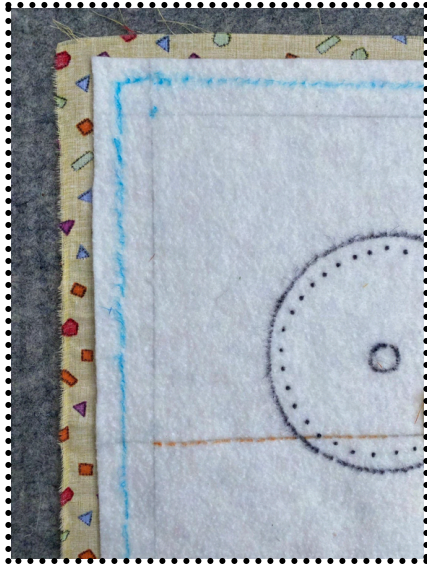


6. Measure the distance from the inner $\frac{1}{4}$ " mark (black dotted line) to the longest outer batting edge plus $\frac{1}{2}$ ". This is the minimum length of strip needed for the long strips. Mine needed to be at least 10.5" long.

Audition the Rays & Sun

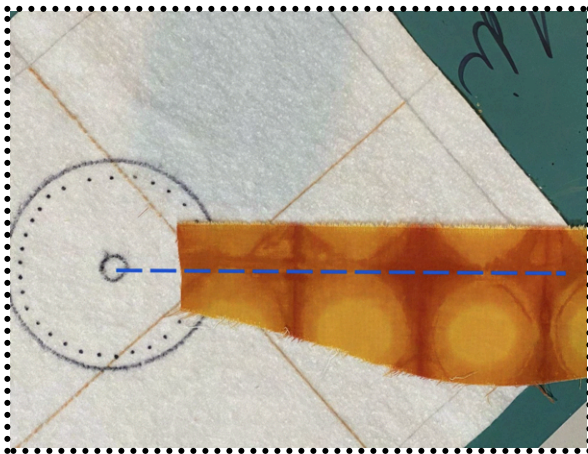
- Lay out fabric in the order you want your rays to go around the sun.
- Choose a 6" square for the sun.
- Take a picture for reference if desired.
- Set aside.





Place your batting on top of the wrong side of the backing square. Spray or pin baste.

FABRIC RAYS PLACEMENT



1. Place the FIRST strip, **right side** up, towards the bottom right corner and **AIM** it towards the bullseye.

2. You want each strip to come in at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " within the Inner Ring (black dotted line) and overhanging off of the sides of the batting edge by at least a half inch.

The extra overhang will be trimmed off after all strips are sewn on.

QAYG - QUILT AS YOU GO

- Second ray and subsequent rays (excludes the very last ray).
- Sewing the rays QAYG method.
- You will be sewing through all three layers: the strips, batting, and backing.

AIM & PIN, SEW & TRIM, FLIP & PRESS (with seam roller or iron).

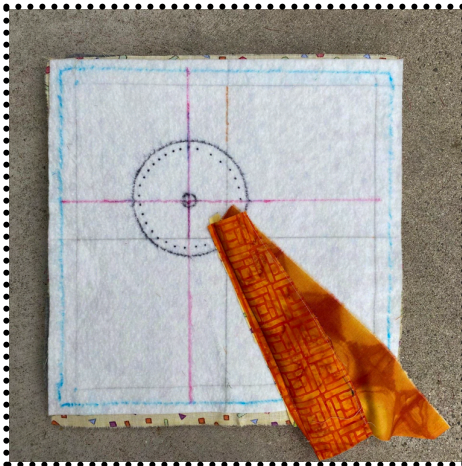
Place the next strip on top of the first strip, right sides together.

AIM one end of the strip towards the bullseye, and the other end hangs over the batting edge. **PIN** in place to prevent shifting.

SEW - Seams are about $\frac{1}{4}$ " - $\frac{3}{8}$ ". **Perfect seams are unnecessary.**

You will repeat these steps for every strip around until you get to your final strip.

AIM & PIN



SEW & TRIM



FLIP & PRESS

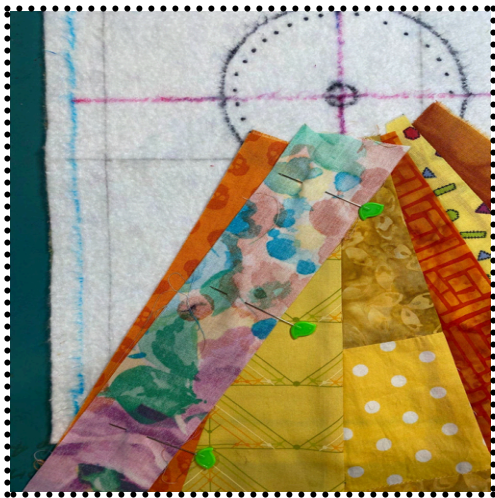
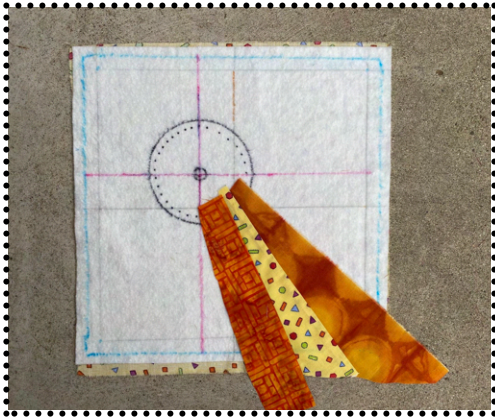


Alternative trimming method.

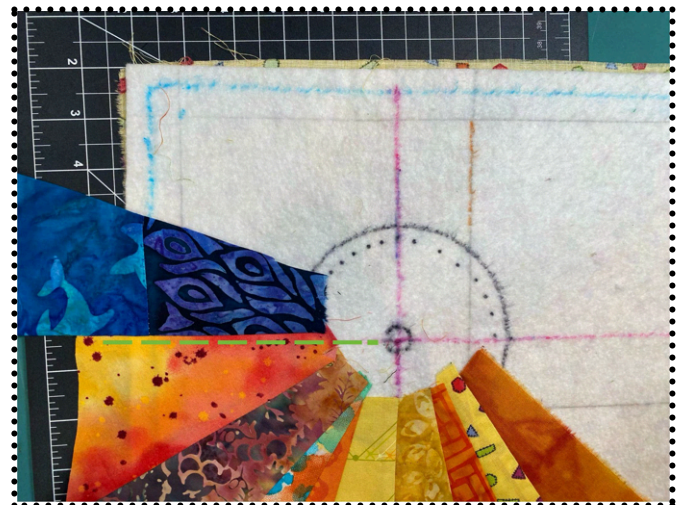
Flip block, wrong side up. Fold back at the seam. Use an Add a Quarter ruler or a quilt ruler and a rotary cutter to cut $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the fold.

CHANGING RAY DIRECTION

- When you get to one of the Crosshair lines (shown with **pink** lines), you will place, pin, and sew a seam close to that line. It doesn't have to be exact.
- Fold the 2nd strip back before stitching it to ensure that the "ray" end is within the 1/4" dotted line on the sun.
- Then, continue adding rays as before until you come to the next Crosshair line. Repeat until you get to the last strip.



See how the strips are changing direction as you continue to aim them towards the bullseye.



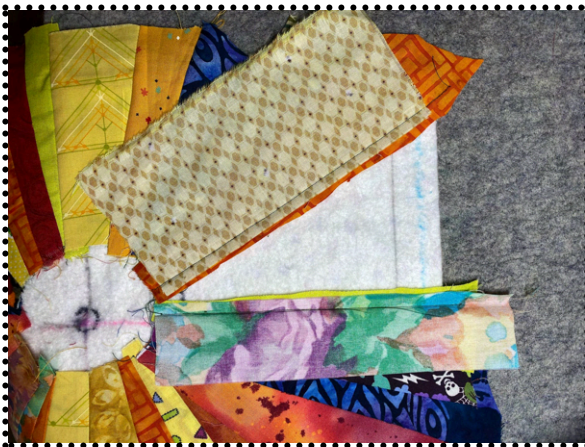
The **Green** line shows where the next crosshair line is underneath.

Re-Audition Strips at the halfway point



Do you want to shift, add, remove, or change any remaining ray fabrics?

LAST RAY STRIP



1. Press open your very first strip so it is right side up. Select a final strip that will cover the exposed batting plus at least a $\frac{1}{4}$ "

2. After sewing on the last strip, fold it over the first strip, with the fold aiming at the bullseye.



3. Trim off $\frac{1}{4}$ " over the edge of the first strip.



4. Fold it under, then overlap the first strip by $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

5. Topstitch close to the folded edge with matching thread. I used dark thread so you can see it.

NOTE: If you want to add additional quilting on your rays, do it NOW before trimming and attaching the binding.



6. From the backside of the block, trim to $\frac{1}{2}$ " larger than your desired finished size: 12.5" for a 12" finished block or 13.5" for a 13" finished block.



MAKE THE SUN



1. Place 2 of the 6" circles right sides together.

2. Trace around your circle template/lid on either fabric.



3. Sew within that traced circle, overlapping stitches.



4. Trim about $\frac{1}{8}$ " around the circle.



5. Pinch the **back** fabric circle layer and pull it away from the front fabric circle.

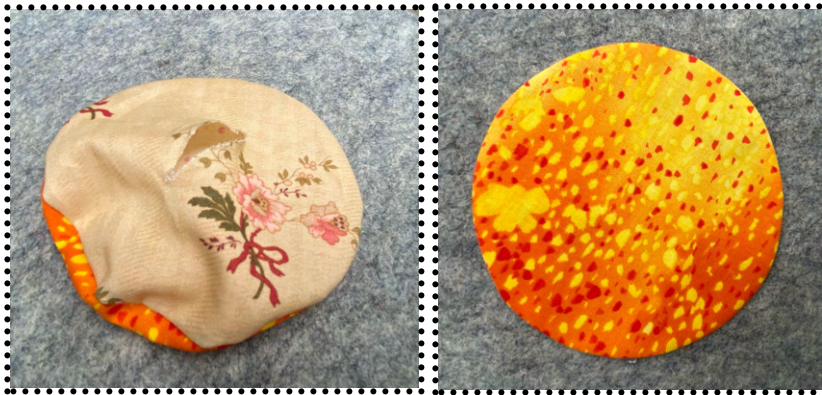


6. Snip about a 1" opening in the back fabric only.





7. Carefully, turn right sides out.



8. Smooth out the circle by inserting your turning tool and gently pushing around the seam.

9. Press flat. Make sure you do not see the back fabric from the front.

10. Pin or glue to your block, covering the raw edges of the inner rays.



11. Hand or machine stitch the sun in place.

FACING

- This is a simple binding technique that I like to use on my art quilts, but you can face any size quilt.
- It doesn't compete with your quilt top because it doesn't create a frame as traditional binding does.
- This binding technique will not show on the front, which makes it another opportunity to use your scraps.



- Cut 2 binding strips 2.5" by the width of the trimmed block for the top and bottom binding.
- Cut 2 binding strips that are 2.5" wide and 1" shorter in length than the top and bottom strips you just cut, for the two side bindings.

Attaching Top and Bottom Binding Strips

1. Press all four binding strips in half lengthwise with the wrong sides together.



2. On the **RIGHT SIDE** of your block, place one of the longer facing strips on the **top**, matching raw edges. The **fold** of your binding faces **toward the center** of your block.

Trim the binding strip flush with the side edge if needed.

3. Pin or clip on the long edge and sides.

4. Sew edge to edge with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, start with a backstitch at the beginning and end of the strip.

5. Repeat with the **bottom** of your block.



Attaching Side Binding Strips

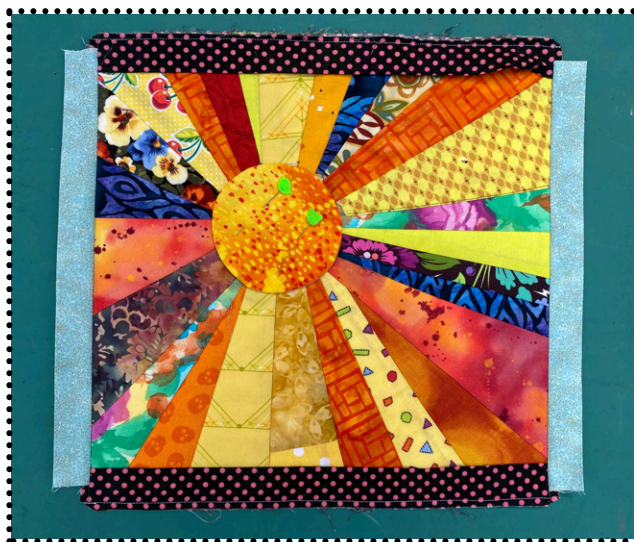
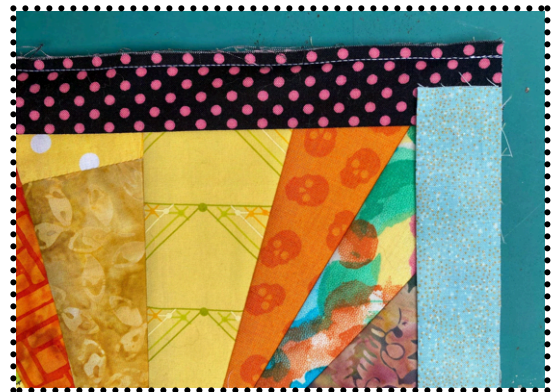


1. On the **RIGHT SIDE** of your block, Center one of the two remaining shorter binding strips on one side. The **fold** of your binding faces **toward the center** of your block. Pin or clip.

2. Sew edge to edge with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, start with a backstitch at the beginning and end of the block.

3. Repeat with the other side.

4. Trim each of the 4 corners to reduce bulk. Being careful not to cut through stitching.



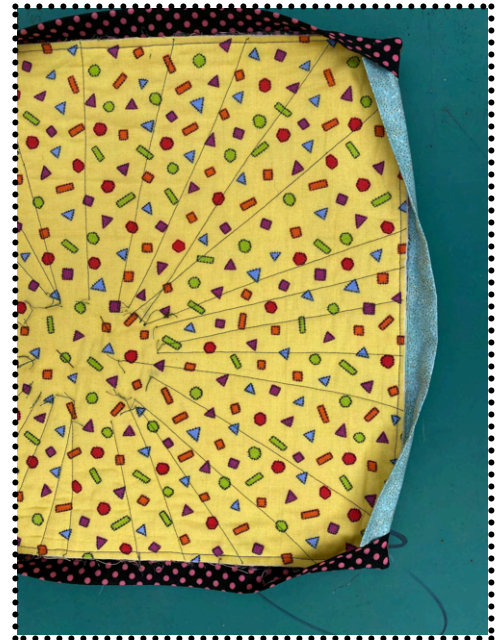
5. With your block **RIGHT SIDE** up, iron the side strips outward. Lightly spray with starch or water, then press again.

6. Flip the block over so that the **backside** is facing up.

- Fold all the strips over to the back, including the seam allowance.
- Spritz with a little starch and iron.
- Check to see that you don't see any of the facing on the front of your block.



- Pin or clip the facing strips to the back of the block.



7. Hand-stitch the facing to the back fabric to keep stitches from being seen on the front side.

Yay, you just faced a quilt!

- Add a hanging sleeve if you like.
See Block 1.



Congratulations, you completed another mini quilt!

Email a photo of your mini to Joey Strait, and she will post it on the CQA website. JoeyStrait50@gmail.com

Or Bring it to me at the next meeting.

I can take a picture, then send it to her for you.

You will receive an entry ticket for the May 2026 drawing to win one of three gift certificates from a Local Quilt Shop!

Contact me with any questions.

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