

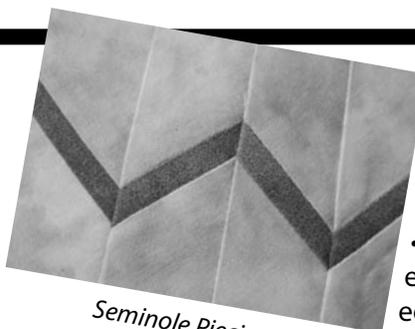


Seminole Piecing

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When Florida's indigenous people acquired sewing machines and colored cotton fabrics, they developed a unique and colorful patchwork technique based on strip-piecing principles.



Seminole Piecing

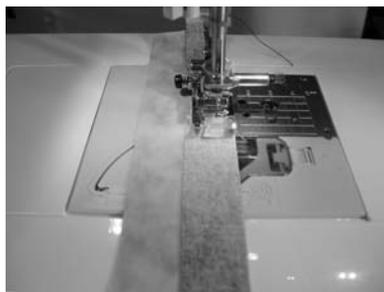
For a quick introduction, make a zigzag patchwork border to decorate a towel or tote bag and, most importantly, learn to make very narrow strips of consistent width.

Cutting

To begin, cut two 1 1/2"-wide strips from light-color fabric and one 3/4"-wide strip from dark fabric. Both can be cut across the fabric width, and accuracy is extremely important, so use a well-marked ruler and a sharp rotary cutter.

Piecing

Join the dark strip to one light strip using a 1/4"-wide seamline (1); press the seam allowances toward the light strip (2).



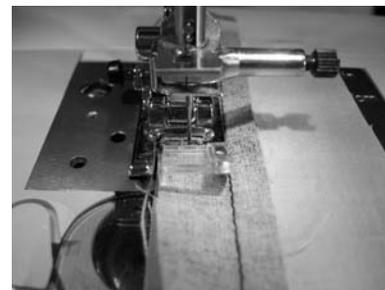
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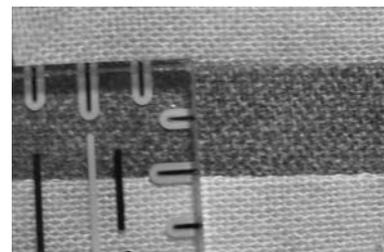
Seam the second light strip to the dark strip opposite side. To maintain consistent width on such a tiny strip, follow these tips:

- Set the machine so the needle is exactly 1/4" from the presser foot right edge, or use a 1/4"-wide straight-stitch presser foot designed specifically for piecing.
- Position the strips under the presser foot with the bulk to the right. This is opposite the normal sewing position.
- Stitch the new seam with the presser foot right edge against the previous seam (3).



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Press the seam allowances in the same direction across the strip set. One will be pressed toward the light fabric, one toward the narrow dark strip. It may be helpful to trim the seam allowances to 1/8" behind the light strip to alleviate show-through. The finished dark strip should measure exactly 1/4" wide (4) if cutting and stitching were accurate.



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Cutting

Fold the strip set in half so you can cut through two layers at one time. Position the rotary ruler on the strip at a 45-degree angle and trim from one end (5). Move the ruler along the strip set, cutting 1 1/2"-wide segments. Each cut will produce a pair of segments that slant in opposite directions (6). Handle the segments carefully to avoid stretching, as they now have bias edges.

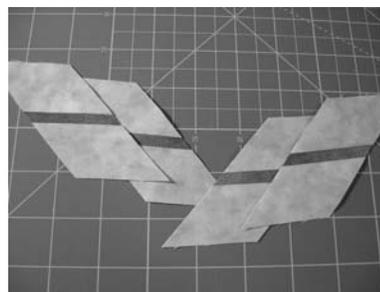


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Reassembly

Sew the segments together, alternating slant directions and nesting seam allowances together. Take care not to stretch the bias section edges.

The resulting band showcases zigzag patchwork that can be used to embellish a project or attached to other strips to make Seminole patchwork fabric. 🖨️



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