



Weekly Whimsy Week 37

Straight Settings

Congratulations!

The hard part is done. You have completed all 72 individual blocks. You have mastered many new techniques. Persevered through errors and mis-cuts (at least I did!). I am so proud of you!

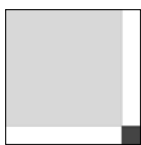
All you have left is building one last super BIG block. That is really all the quilt is; webbing together all 72 units into one.

The Layout:

I like to lay out all my blocks to see how they “play” together. Sometimes, the patterns are spot on and sometimes the colors I choose are just different enough that some changes need to be made. Since I was building this quilt along with you, I discovered that I was not very pleased with the placement of some of the colors. For instance, I found that the dark pink that I chose for Color 12 was a bit darker than the pictures and was not evenly placed among the blocks. So I simply rearranged until I like the placement. The easiest way to do that is to lay everything out, step back and squint a little. I also take a picture and send it to my daughter and a couple of trusted quilting sisters. It is so much easier for them to see things as they are not nearly as emotional attached as I am. If possible, I will leave the quilt laid out for a day or two just to see what it says to me. I will often find my own twisted blocks, but if I don’t they will!

Now it is time to sew.

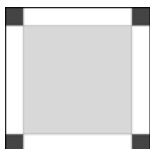
If you have been adding your sashing as you go, you will see that you are only missing the top row and the left side. I find it easiest to add these sashing strips to the individual blocks before I begin webbing. It just makes things a little less cumbersome at the end.



This is what your blocks look like now.



Add another sashing and cornerstone to 15 so they look like this.



You will also need one that looks like this for the top left corner.

Lay out the blocks back out in rows. Double check your placement again.

Row 1



Rows 2 – 9 (Make 8)



Time to start sewing the rows together. Webbing is my favorite technique for this so that I don't get anything turned or out of place.

With this many blocks, webbing is all about organization. Begin by picking up your blocks in this order: Row 1 block 1 on top of Row 2 block 1 on top of Row 3 Block 1, etc...Keep them in the same orientation that you began in, it is easy to turn them at this point. I like to put a pin in the top right corner of the stack so that I know which side I will be attaching to the next stack. Mark your stack as Column 1.

Repeat for Columns 2-8. Always putting a pin in the top right corner and marking the Column #.

Take the Column 1 stack and the Column 2 stack to your sewing machine. Lay column 1 on the left of your needle and column 2 on the right. Make sure the pin is still in the top right corner of each.

Flip Column 2 block 1 RST with Column 1 block 1 and sew. Do not cut the thread. Flip Column 2 block 2 RST with Column 1 block 2 and sew. Continue to the end of Columns 1 and 2. You will now have 18 blocks webbed together. Bring Column 3 to the sewing machine. Start back at the top of Column 2 and add Column 3 block 1. Continue with all of the blocks in Column 3.

Keep going until you have all 72 blocks webbed together. Time to press. The path of least resistance is pressing towards the sashing. This will make matching the cornerstones a bit tricky, but you will use your glue pen if necessary when sewing the rows together.

If you begin at the bottom of your quilt, you will have the "block" on the top and the sashing on the bottom. This will help you to hit the points in the blocks easier and thus having much better points when you are done.

Nest the cornerstone seams when possible and use your glue pen when it is not. Continue sewing rows together until you have them all sewn.

Give it a good press, towards the sashing. Get ready for borders next week!

Here is mine. Can't wait to add the borders!

