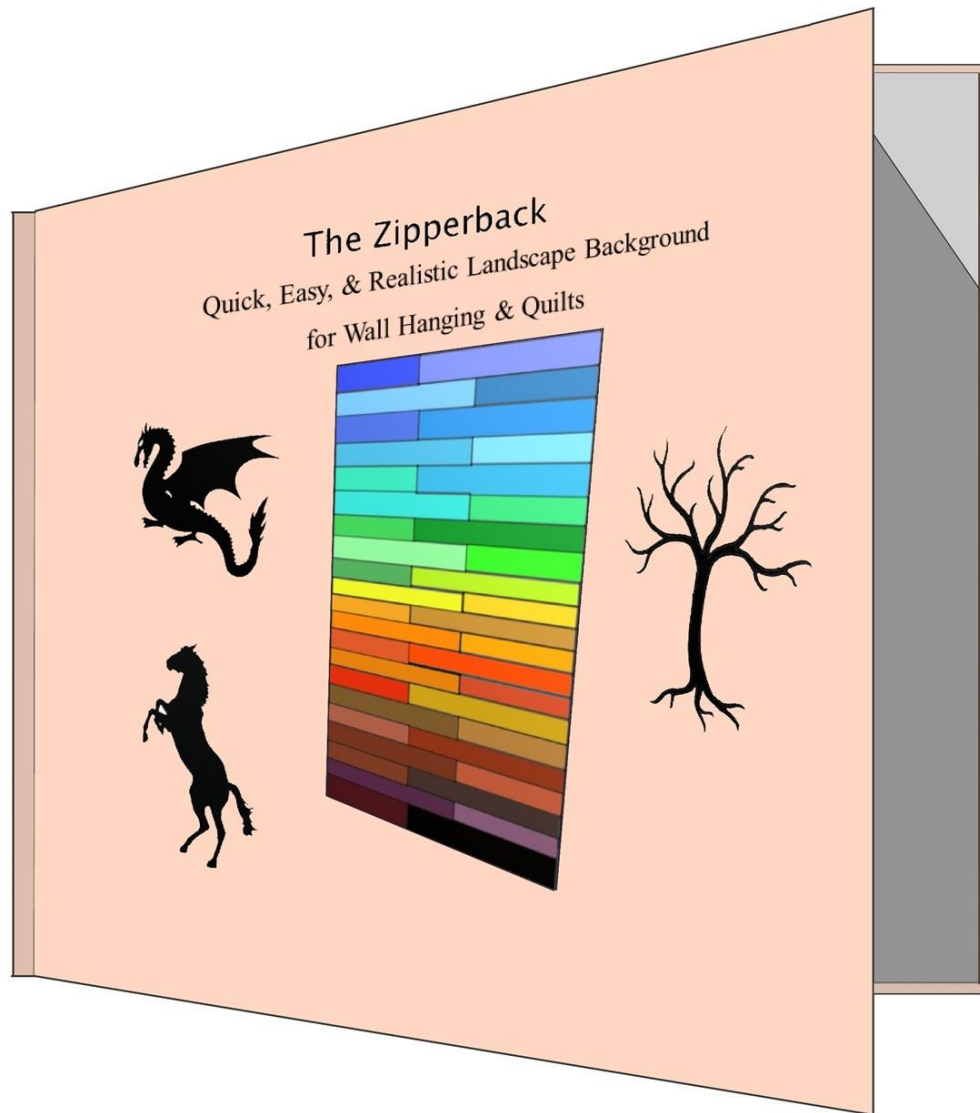


Princess YellowBelly Designs Presents:



The “ZIPPERBACK”

Quick, Easy, & Realistic Landscape Background for Wall Hanging & Quilts



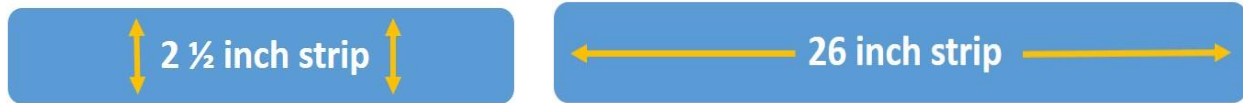
www.pybdesigns.com

This pattern is the quickest and easiest way to create an abstract background for any landscape wall hanging or quilt.

Whether you are using the fabrics in our kit or supplying your own, you will need to spray starch and iron them all before cutting. Because the background is made up of strips, each strip needs to be as precisely straight as possible.

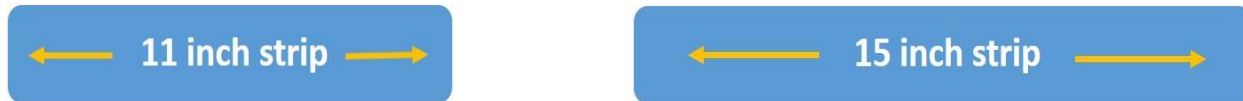
Cut

Cut strips 2 ½" X 26". You will need at least 24 of these, but the more the merrier!



Once all of your strips are cut 26" long, turn them sideways and cut each strip at the 11" mark. This will give you 2 strips from each fabric:

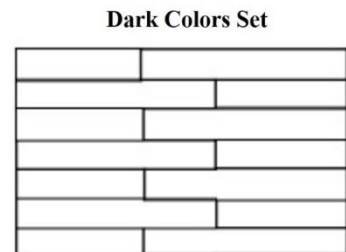
- One strip will be 11" X 21/2"
- The other strip will be 15" X 21/2" long



Sort

Sort your long & short strips into separate piles.

On a surface that will accommodate all of your strips – I typically use my kitchen counter – start matching different colors of your short and long strips in a ladder arrangement.



Shadow or Usually "Earth" Layer

Mix & Match

Starting at the bottom and using mostly dark fabric strips, mix & match 8 levels. You could also start from the top, but I find it usually works out more quickly if I start with the dark colors.



Repeat for the medium strips & then the light ones.

Once you have all of your strips laid out, switch out a few of the medium and dark strips so that the colors are drawn through your background. Do the same with your medium & light fabrics. This gives the illusion of movement, draws the eye through the background, and looks a lot more realistic than 3 sharply delineated sections.

Once you are satisfied with your strip placements (making sure your middle – which is the “zipperback” – seams alternate on every layer, begin sewing.

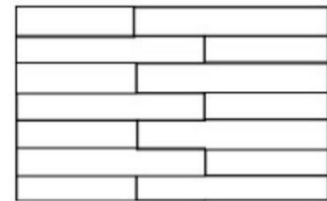
Sew

Hint: After doing a bunch of these, I would recommend that you leave your strip arrangement where it is, and sew the middle seam on each strip set individually and then lay it back in place after ironing open the seam. Even though this is a simple background, it is easy to get lost with 48 separate strips floating around.

Sew the reconstructed strips to each other, making sure the zipperback arrangement continues. I like to sew 4 strips together, iron open the seams, and lay them back down. Then I sew the 6 sets together.

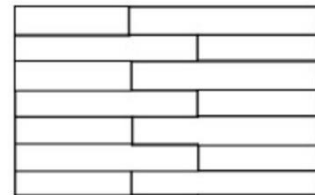
Hint: In the interest of keeping your seams as straight as possible, alternate the start on each seam. Sew from left-right on one seam, and then start the next one from right-left. This helps pull out the contortions in the natural weave of each fabric and the contrasting pull will keep your background much flatter and straighter overall.

Medium Colors Set



Meeting of “Earth” and “Sky”

Light Colors Set



Usually Top or Sky Piece



Straighten Edges

Trim the long sides now, if needed. Sometimes the zipperback doesn't waw-waw very much at all, and you don't need to bother trimming until you've added the front-image appliques and quilted the whole thing.

Add Landscape Imagery Now

Now you have a long zipperback background that you can put any kind of applique over to create a magical landscape. You could do this with a black silhouette, creating a romantic or powerful image, or you could completely construct a nature scene – like a tree, which we do with our maple tree patterns.

You can check out our website for ideas on constructing a landscape wall hanging – or let your own imagination run wild.

Variations

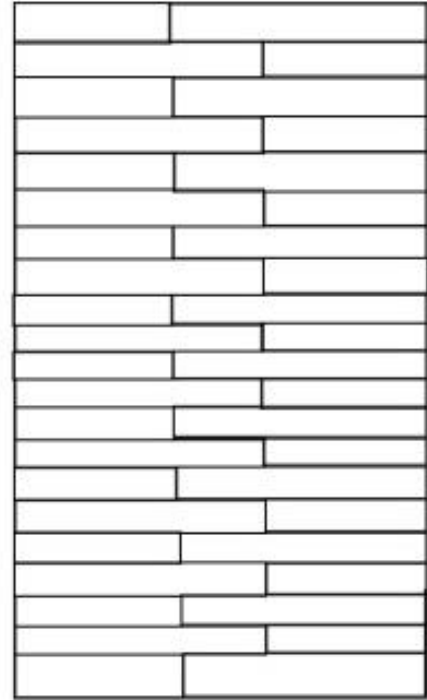
The zipperback is one of the easiest, and most versatile, of all patterns.

You can use a jellyroll or scrap pieces to make the panel. You can add any appliques you want, including ribbons and buttons for extra sparkle. Here are some easy and fun variations on our original design you might want to play with:

Shape:

We generally create long, skinny zipperbacks because they work well with odd landscape items, like trees. However, we've also used zipperbacks that go the other way – wider than they are tall, for sunset images. This works really well with oil-painting reminiscent silhouettes. Or you could make a square. You could even use the basic pattern and create a fairly easy twin sized quilt, etc.

Simply figure out the dimensions you would prefer, divide the strips in half, and then add a few inches to your long strips to create a new offset size.



Strip Sizes

We chose these lengths because a 2 ½” strip turns into a 2” strip when it’s sewn on all sides. The 11” X 15” parameters work to create a staggered effect that tricks the eye – and it’s easy to remember the cuts as we work. But there’s no reason you couldn’t make 1 ½” strips, or make your lengths 10” X 16”, etc. Especially if you change the sizing of your panel.

Variate Strip Widths

One technique that we often use when strip-piecing water or sunsets is to alternate the matching widths within a 2 ½” parameter.

What I mean by that is that I’ll start with one 2 ½ strip, and on the opposite side, I sew a 1” strip



to a 1 ½” strip, then match those ends to the original 2 ½” strip. This creates a powerful wavering effect that simulates the movement of clouds or water with light.

