

# Gee's Bend Quilting Bee Instructions

## Before the Program

---

- If you have a quilting kit provided by the BMA, go to **Section A**.
- If you don't have a BMA quilting kit and are using your own materials, go to **Section B**.

### Section A – Quilting kit

- Set an iron to the cotton/linen setting and use it to steam press your fabric.

#### Additional materials:

- A ruler, pair of scissors, and a marking tool (e.g., tailor's chalk, dress makers pencil, or lead pencil)
- Optional: Feel free to use a sewing machine if you have one. If not, you can hand sew.

### Section B – Using your own materials

- Choose two different colors of fabric from your personal collection. If you only have one color, that's okay.
- Set an iron to the cotton/linen setting and use it to steam press your fabric.
- Cut your fabric into five strips that measure 15 by 3 inches. If you are using two colors, you will have two of one color and three of another.
- You will need a ruler, a pair of scissors, pins, and a needle and thread.

## After the Program

---

- **Complete the form below and mail your completed quilt square to the BMA. Be sure to include this form when returning your quilt square.**

- **Mail To:**  
The Baltimore Museum of Art – Education Department, 10 Art Museum Drive, Baltimore, MD 21217

#### Please Print

**First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**All quilt squares must arrive at the BMA by April 21, 2021**

The Community Quilt will be constructed by the expert artists and quilters of AAQB. The resulting quilt will be displayed at the BMA from June to August 2021 in Fox Court. During that time, visitors to the Museum will have the opportunity to win the quilt. Entrants will have the opportunity to support Black Women Build, a home-ownership and wealth-building initiative that trains black women in carpentry, electrical, and plumbing by restoring vacant and deteriorated houses in West Baltimore.

**If you have questions, contact us at [bmasocial@artbma.org](mailto:bmasocial@artbma.org)**

## Gee's Bend Quilting Bee: Sewing Instructions



Lay out your fabric strips according to the diagram above. If you are using your own fabric, arrange the fabric strips like one of the patterns above.

1. Determine the correct side of the fabric; this is usually the side with a rich, vibrant color or, if the fabric is printed, the side with the clearer design.



2. With the correct side of the fabric facing up, arrange the strips according to the diagram above (Block A, Block B, or Block C).

3. Thread your needle with about 2.5 feet of thread. Tie a knot at the long end of the thread and leave the short end free.

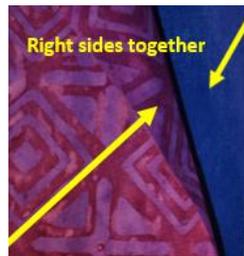


4. Starting on the left, select fabric strips 1 and 2. You will sew these first.



5. With the correct sides facing each other, place strip 2 on top of strip 1.

6. Pin the strips together along the length of the right cut edge of the fabric strips.



7. Mark a line  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the right cut edge of the fabric strips.
8. Start stitching along the line you marked in Step 7. If you are hand sewing, knot at both ends of your stitch line; if you are machine sewing, use a back stitch.

9. Now strips 1 and 2 are sewn together. Open the pair of fabric strips with the correct side of the fabric strips facing up.

10. Repeat Steps 5–8 with fabric strips 3 and 2.



11. Open the pair of fabric strips you just finished sewing. Make sure the correct sides of strips 1, 2, and 3 are facing up.

12. Repeat Steps 5–8 with fabric strips 4 and 3.



13. Open the pair of fabric strips you just finished sewing. Make sure the correct sides of strips 1, 2, 3, and 4 are facing up.

14. Repeat Steps 5–8 with fabric strips 5 and 4.

15. Using an iron on the cotton/linen setting steam press the seams on your quilt block flat. Be sure to press all seams in one direction.

16. Now that your block is complete. Place it in an envelope along with the completed form on Page 1



Mail to:  
Baltimore Museum of Art - Education Department  
10 Art Museum Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218