

Rotary Cutting

Part 1: Rotary Cutting



One

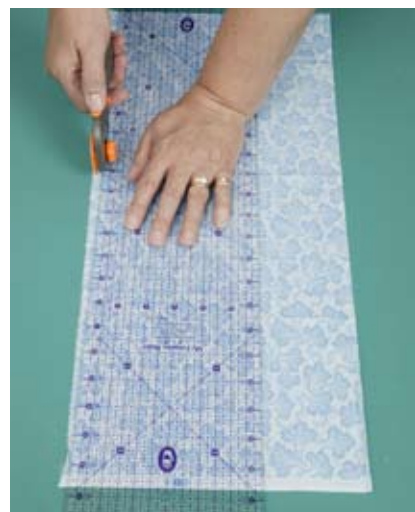
One

After being cut or torn at the store and then washed and ironed at home, fabric is almost never straight and ready for rotary cutting. It is imperative that you start with a straight edge across the width of the fabric.

Bringing selvages together, allow fabric to drop in front of you. Keeping selvages even, scoot fabric along with your fingers until it falls perfectly straight. The raw edges where fabric is torn will probably not match up.

Two

Lay fabric on cutting mat with folded edge toward you and raw edge to be straightened to the right (left-handers to the left).



Two



Three



Four

Rotary cutting has revolutionized quilting! Were it not for these wonderfully handy gadgets, millions of quiltmakers would not have joined the quilting craze. Using cutting tools safely and accurately is very important, so we want to share a few tips for beginning rotary-cutters in hopes that you will get optimum advantage from the projects in *Quick Quilts!*

Place 6" x 24" rotary-cutting ruler on fabric, aligning one of the crosswise measuring lines precisely along the fold. Pressing down firmly on the ruler with your left (right) hand, cut away from yourself along the ruler edge. Some people prefer cutting part way, stopping the cutting motion but not lifting the cutter, moving the left (right) hand up, then finishing the cut.

Three

Turn cutting board around so that newly straightened edge is to the left (right). To cut strips, find line on ruler to match width of strip desired. Place this line exactly on cut edge of fabric and cut strip.

Four

To cut perfect squares: Align 1 or more strips of the same width and trim ends to get an even starting point. Make cuts the same width as strips were cut.

Five

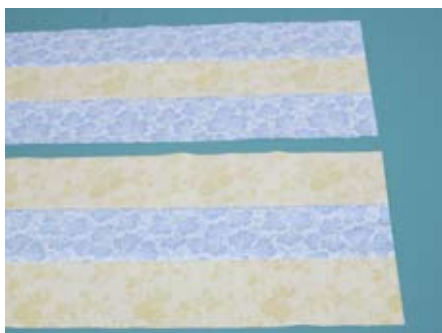
Frequently used shapes are half-square and quarter-square triangles. A square cut once diagonally makes 2 half-square triangles; a square cut twice diagonally makes 4 quarter-square triangles.



Five

Part 2: Strip Piecing

Strip-piecing refers to rotary cut strips of specified widths being sewn together on long edges to make strip-pieced units (photo A).



A

When creating simple strip-pieced patchwork (nine-patch squares, for example), press seam allowances in opposite directions (photo B) so that long units can be layered for cutting quickly and will later be easy to sew. In the photo, seam allowances were pressed toward the light floral fabric on both strips.



B

Strip-pieced units are cut apart, segments positioned to make patchwork, and sewn together (photo C).



C