

Row Quilt Tutorial

By Karen Feltner

These are instructions on how to create a row quilt using strips of fabric, batting and a backing fabric. There are many variations of row quilts-true scrappy, planned scrappy or even a two fabric row quilt. I find it a good way to use leftover strips of fabrics. I like to do "theme" quilts such as the farm and butterfly quilts below.



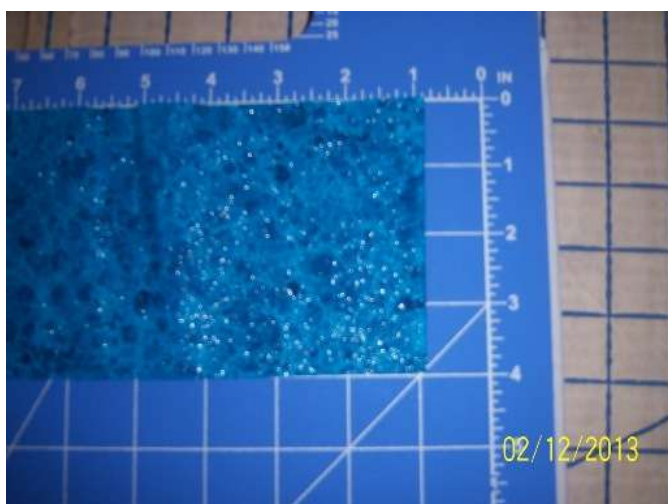
1. Determine the desired length of the quilt. If using width of fabrics the quilt will be approximately 40 inches wide. I often use width of fabric strips and a backing that is 54 inches long ($1 \frac{1}{2}$ yards). You need batting the same size-batting is 45 inches wide. A queen size batting can be cut into four pieces of batting that are 45 x 54 inches. You can make the quilt longer or shorter-whatever you want.

You can also make the quilt narrower if you have a selection of fabric strips that are not width of fabric (WOF).

This is the batting and backing for the tutorial quilt. Notice I do not trim the selvages off the fabric at this stage of the process. You can if that is how you have your fabric prepared.



2. Next you need strips of fabric (WOF) to cover the batting. This will be the quilt front. Remember you will need to allow for seam allowances when choosing the number of the strips. This is the selection of strips for this quilt. The strips should be a combination of prints and/or blender fabrics-solids, tone on tones, small prints such as stars, stripes, or dots. The strips can be varying widths or consistent widths-it is your quilt and your preference.



These are some of the strips for the tutorial quilt. You see the widths range from 4 inches to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Exact measurements of the strips is not essential to success but they do need to be straight (or as close as you can get it).

Since I don't make all strips the same width, I just use as many strips as I need for the length of the quilt. If you prefer more control/consistency, you could use strips cut 5 inches wide—for a 54 long quilt, I would have at least 14 strips to allow for seam allowances. If your seam allowances are an exact $\frac{1}{4}$ inch—you could use 12 strips.

3. Next you determine your layout or what order do you want the strips to appear in the finished quilt? I usually lay the strips out on the batting/backing sandwich. The batting/backing sandwich is made by laying the batting out and putting the **WRONG** side of the backing against the batting. If using 45 inch wide batting, the batting will probably be slightly wider than your strips and backing.



This shows the difference between the width of the backing and batting. Make sure your backing and batting are SMOOTH without wrinkles or you will have a problem when sewing.



This picture shows how I chose to layout this particular quilt. You see the prints and blender fabrics are distributed between through the quilt. Row #1 is placed at the top of the batting and so on.

The picture below shows the rows numbered using masking tape-but you can also just stack up the rows in top to bottom order and pin or clip if not sewing right away.



4. Now we begin sewing the quilt together. Lay the first row of your quilt, starting at the top, **RIGHT SIDE UP** on the batting/backing sandwich. I align the first row-left hand edge with the end of the backing/batting. The right hand edges may be not match-fabric is often different widths.



5. Next lay row the second row of your quilt on top of first row, right side to right side. Line up the edges of the first row and second row-see below. Pin the rows together-through ALL layers-rows-batting and backing. I usually place pins parallel to the edge that I am sewing out of the way of the presser foot.



6. Sew through ALL layers-rows, batting and backing. Remember your bobbin thread will show on the back of the quilt-you may want it to match or blend into the backing fabric. As you can see from the picture below-I used a thread to match the backing fabric. The top thread will not show on the surface of the quilt.



7. After you have sewn the seam across the width of the quilt, remove pins. You will need to smooth out the second row. Make sure it is flat against the batting before repeating step 5-pin the third row face down, right side to right side on the second row. You can iron the row if you prefer.



8. You will continue the process with all your rows.



9. The last step is to trim the edges even. Then apply your binding.

More examples-these two are not bound.



Finished examples

