

It's Pre-Cut Party Time!

- Simple Rail Fence Block

Project size: 53" x 65" Skill:



This series of free patterns has been designed to inspire and encourage you to get out those precious pre-cuts and get sewing! This week I wanted to show you how the simplest quilt block, in this case the Rail Fence block, can create such a striking effect with clever fabric placement.

You will need:

- 20pc jelly roll made up of 10 designs (or ten fat quarters)
- 2m contrasting solid or blender for background
- 40cm binding fabric
- 57" x 69" wadding and backing

Skill Level:

 = Easy   = Intermediate

   = Advanced

Notes:

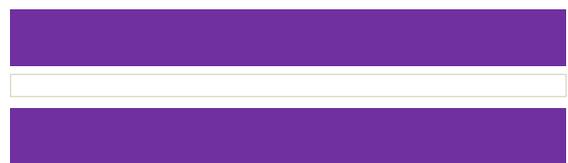
- Read through instructions before you start
- WOF = Width of fabric
- Always use a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance unless otherwise stated.
- Take your **stitch length** on the sewing machine down to around **1.8** so when you cut across the seams, your stitches will not become loose.

1. Whether you are using jelly roll strips or fat quarters, cut **four $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 21"** strips in each fabric so you have forty strips in total.

2. From your background fabric, cut the following;

- **Twenty-two $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x WOF strips**, cut into;
 - Twenty $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x 21" strips for the Rail Fence blocks (from ten strips)
 - Forty $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x $5\frac{1}{4}$ " strips for the thin sashing (from five strips)
 - Twenty $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x $10\frac{3}{4}$ " strips for the thin sashing (from seven strips)
- **Ten $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF strips**, cut **five only** of these into;
 - Fifteen $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $10\frac{3}{4}$ " shorter main sashing strips
- **Seven $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF strips** for the borders.

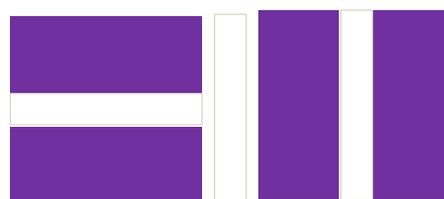
3. Take your first two identical coloured strips, place a $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x 21" background strip between them and sew together along their lengths. Press seams towards the coloured fabrics.



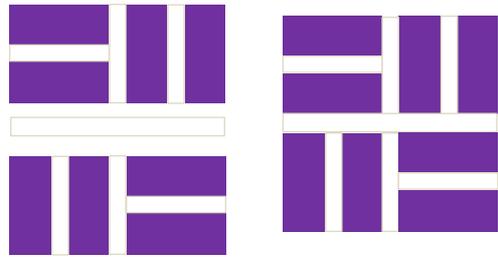
4. Cutting across the seams, cut your sewn strip into **four $5\frac{1}{4}$ " square units**.



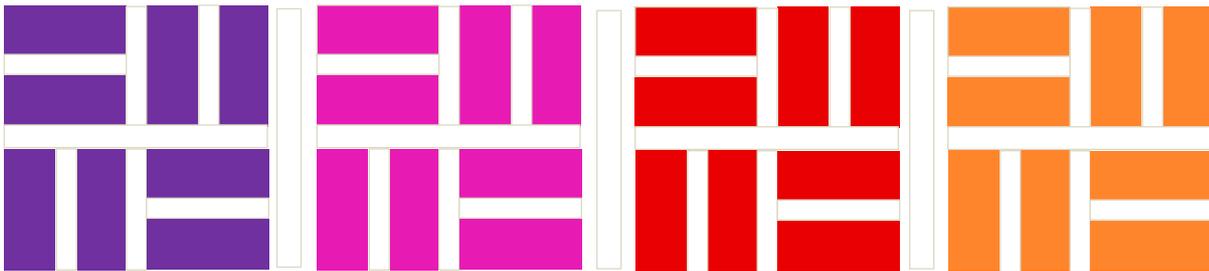
5. Take two of your squares, turn one 90 degrees so the 'Rails' are going in the opposite direction, and sew a $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x $5\frac{1}{4}$ " **thin sashing strip** between the two units. Press seams towards the blocks. Repeat with the other two squares.



6. Now place a **1¼" x 10¾" thin sashing strip** between these two units and sew together to create your first finished block, which should measure **10¾" square**. Repeat this process with your remaining strips until you have twenty blocks in total, two in each colourway.



7. Find a clean flat space and lay out your blocks in a pleasing pattern, check that no identical ones are next to each other, you can follow my layout below substituting your fabrics for mine, or do your own thing. Starting with the first row, place a **2½" x 10¾" sashing strip** between each block and sew them together, press seams towards the blocks. Repeat with remaining four rows.



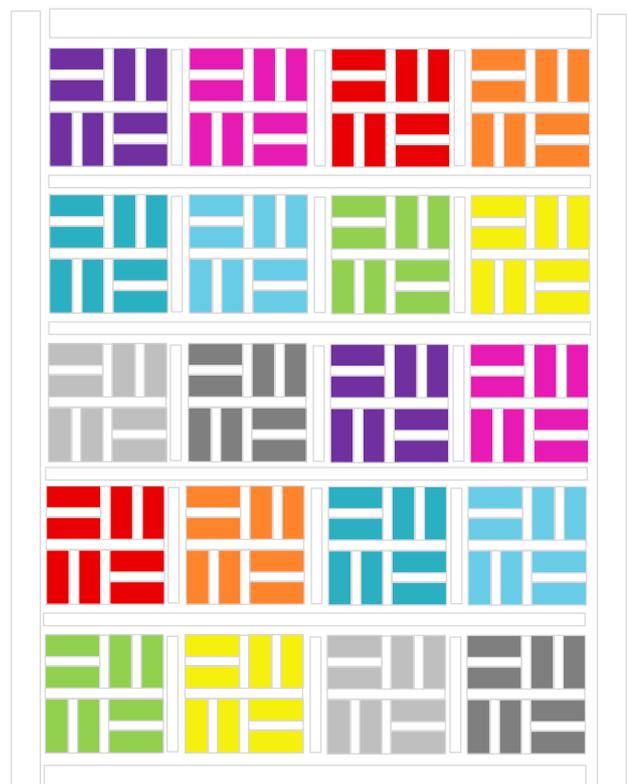
8. Now sew your **five 2½" x WOF strips** together into one long length using diagonal seams and cut down to **four 47½" sashing strips**. Place one of these in between each of your rows, then sew these all together to complete your centre panel. Press seams towards the blocks.

A Helping Hand

When pinning your row of blocks to the long sashing strips, line each block up with those on the preceding row, this will ensure your blocks are lined up vertically as well as horizontally.

9. Now to attach the borders. Measure across the middle of your quilt, it should be **47½"** (if you're slightly out, don't panic, just go with your own measurement). Sew three of your **3½"** border strips into one long length using diagonal seams and cut down to two **47½"** strips (or your own measurement). Attach these to the top and bottom of your panel. Press seams outwards.

10. Now going down the centre of your panel, measure the length taking in your new borders. It should be **65¾"** (again, don't panic if you're out, just go with your own measurement). Sew your remaining **3½"** strips into pairs and cut down to two **65¾"** strips, attach these to the sides of your panel and press seams outwards again. Your quilt panel is now complete!



11. Now to quilt, layer your quilt sandwich – backing face down, wadding, then your quilt panel face up, squarely on top, and baste using your favourite method. Quilt as desired. You could choose to do some stitch-in-the-ditch around the main blocks and down each wider sashing, you could use your walking foot to stitch wavy lines across the whole front (my personal favourite) or what about a free motion swirl across the top to contrast with the straight blocky design? Whatever you choose, enjoy the process!

12. Once your quilting is complete, trim and square up the edges of your backing, wadding and top. Cut your binding fabric into **six 2½" x WOF strips**, sew them into one long length using diagonal seams, fold and press in half and attach to your quilt. Turn to the back and hand stitch in place. Add a name and date label and your *Rail Fence Quilt* is complete.

A Helping Hand

For a guide on attaching your binding, check out my Beginners Quilt tutorial on sewmotion.com/the_binding.html

I would love to see your creations so if you wish to share your Rail Fence Quilt with the world please tag **@sewmotion**. If you have any queries or comments, please contact me at **sewmotion.com**. And if you're hungry for more cushion and quilt kits, patterns and inspiration you can follow me on **Facebook** and **Instagram**, full details are on my website.



www.sewmotion.com

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