

Quilt as You Go: Row by Row

Tutorial by Konda Luckau





Walking Foot



Supplies Needed for this project:

10 to 12 -- 1/8 yard cuts of fabric

1 1/4 yard backing fabric

1 1/3 yard COTTON batting -- if bought from a roll,
this will be enough for two quilts,
or you can get a crib size cotton batt
(batting off the roll will lay flatter than from a package)

Quilt basting spray

Sewing Machine with a Walking Foot

Thread to coordinate with the backing material

Pins

Rotary cutter

Ruler

Cutting Mat

Shears

Preparation:

Take all of your 1/8 yard strips of fabric and press them and “square them up.” This means to trim them so they are cut straight and have no crooked edges. 1/8 yard is technically 4 1/2.” You will find that most of your fabric will not be exactly 4 1/2.” It doesn’t matter how wide your strips actually are; they just need to be cut straight.

How many strips to use:

Use 10 if your 1/8 yard cuts end up about 5.”

Use 11 if your 1/8 yard cuts end up 4 1/2” or even a little smaller.

Use 12 if you want to cut some of your strips into 2” - 3” strips to add variety. (See the Dick and Jane fabric quilt and the blue and green and brown quilt on the front page.)

Press your backing fabric.



Step 1: Lay batting out flat on the ground. LIGHTLY spray top -- about 8 inches -- of batting with basting spray. (If you have a helper, spray all of the batting at once and with two of you, lay the backing fabric carefully on top of the batting with right side facing up.)



Step 2: Carefully place the backing fabric on top of the batting right side up. Smooth out the top part.



Step 3: Move backing that has not been sprayed down out of the way. Lightly spray about 8 more inches and smooth backing fabric on top of the batting that has been sprayed. Work your way down in the same manner.



Step 4: When done, smooth out backing fabric.

Wrong



Right



Step 5: Layout the rows in the order you want. Order does matter. On the right, the rows are dispersed in a pleasing manner. On the left, the quilt looks off balanced. This is because dark fabrics are placed together, light fabrics are placed next to each other, plaids are placed next to each other. When putting fabrics in order, separate lights, darks, and medium value fabrics. Also separate large print fabrics and small print fabrics.



Step 6: Trim the batting on one side even with the backing fabric.

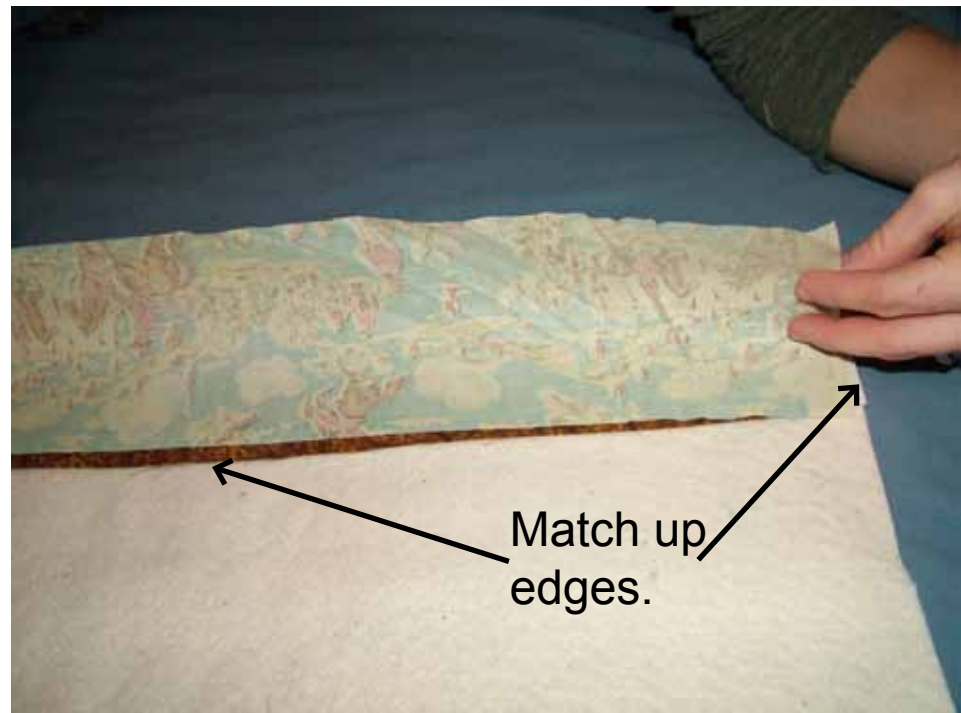


Step 7: Trim the batting on the top side even with the backing fabric.



The white color here is the selvedge of the fabric, not batting.

Step 8: Lay the first strip down so the top and side matches up evenly with the batting and backing fabric that were trimmed in steps 6 and 7. You can use some basting spray if you would like.



Step 9: Take the 2nd row of the quilt. Place it upside down (so right sides of the fabric are together) on the 1st row of the quilt. Line up the top and bottom edges.



Step 10: Take at least four pins and pin along the bottom edge.



Step 11: Starting at the bottom of the quilt, carefully fold up the quilt. Leave the end unfolded so it can be sewn.



Step 12: Sew a 1/4" seam through all layers. Take out the pins as you go. The walking foot of the sewing machine is essential to making the fabric be sewn evenly. With this many layers and a regular presser foot, the bottom layer will get pulled by the feed dogs and the top layer will not. The walking foot pulls through the top layer as well so everything feeds through nice and evenly.



Step 13: Open up the 2nd row and carefully smooth it out. Don't hurry this step, get the row as smooth and even as possible. Make sure the end is still lined up with the edge of the batting and backing fabric.



Step 14: Place the 3rd row on top of the 2nd row upside down so right sides are together. Pin along the bottom edge through all layers of fabric and batting. Sew with a 1/4" seam. Carefully unroll the bottom of the quilt as you go. Unroll it just enough to be able to sew the next seam.

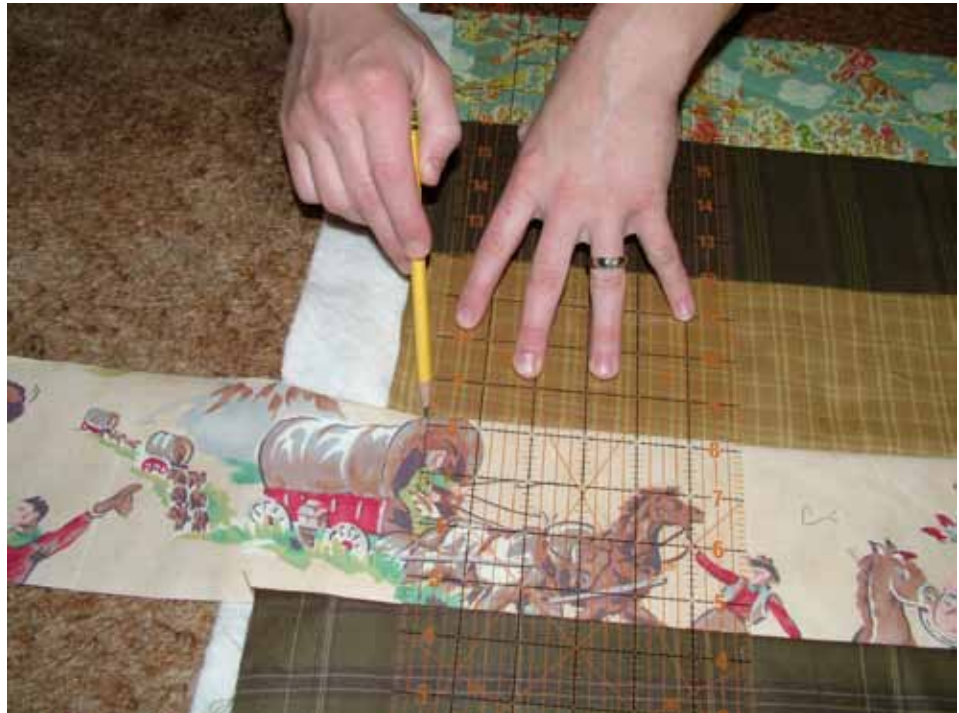


Step 15: Just keep sewing. Just keep sewing.



Step 16: Trim the backing and batting even with the bottom of the quilt.

You may notice that I added an extra row. I started out with 10 rows, but I had trimmed them all to 4 1/2" so I had room for one more row. Also, my quilt ended up just a little bit wider than it was long. I prefer my quilts to be longer than wide so I added an 11th row. If you randomly cut some of your 1/8 yard cuts into smaller rows, you may want to even start out with 12 strips. To make the quilt fun for a larger child, or even an adult, you can use 1 3/4 yard for the backing and 15 strips that are each 1/8 yard. That will make a quilt about 40" x 60."



Step 17: Even up the sides of the quilt. (The top is already even and the bottom was just trimmed up.) There are several ways to do this. One way I like to do it is to use a large ruler (a yardstick works great) and draw a light pencil line to mark a straight line.



Step 18: Cut on the line.

Without Binding



With Binding



Step 19: Step back and admire. Yeah! But it isn't quite done. Now for the binding. I have another tutorial for that.