twiddletails

Strippy Runner Tutorial

Makes a runner approximately 17½" x 50"

Fabric Requirements:

4 coordinating fabrics, 11" x 18" (half a fat quarter/ a fat eight) each
18" x 22" (a fat quarter) solid fabric
Backing fabric
Binding Fabric

Diagram A

1. Cut the solid fabric fat quarter in half widthwise, resulting in two 11" x 18" sections.

2. Cut each 11" x 18" fabric section (including the solid) in half length-wise, resulting in two 5.5" x 18" sections.

3. Cut each of these sections in half lengthwise at an angle.   You don't need to measure, just estimate. You want a variety of sizes and shapes. Try to keep the narrow ends no narrower than 2" and the wide ends no wider than 3.5".
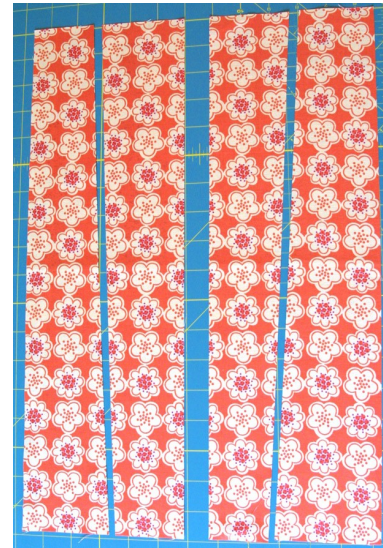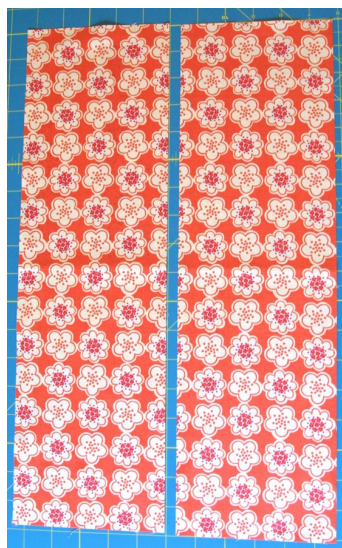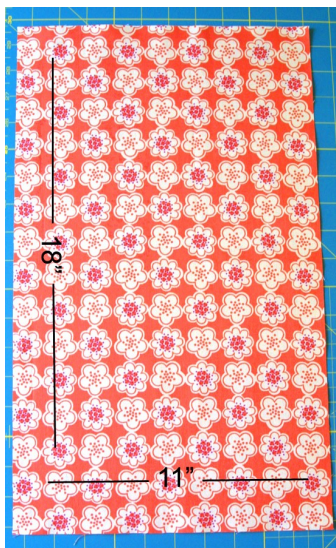

Diagram B

4. You will now have 16 print fabric strips (4 in each print) and 8 solid fabric strips.

5. Lay out the strips in a sequence pleasing to you. Try to space the solid fabric strips relatively evenly, but don't follow a specific pattern. Don't lay more than three patterned strips next to each other before adding a solid strip.

Diagram C

6. Take the strips to the sewing machine, keeping the layout sequence.

7. Sew the first strip and second strip together along the long edge, having the narrower end of one strip on the same side as the wider end of the other. (See Diagram D)

8. You will be starting all your seams on the same side of the runner. **This is very important**. (Diagram D)

9. Attach two more fabric strips, alternating narrow and wide ends.

10. Press the seams.

wide   narrow

start all seams on this side

Diagram D

11. Place the block section you just assembled on the table, lining up the end where you started your seams with the edge of the table. (The long end of the first strip will be at an angle, but you'll straighten this up when you complete the top.)

12. Check the long edge of the section (the fourth strip you sewed on). You want this edge to be as close to 90° to the edge of the table as possible. (Diagram E)

check angle of this edge

Line up with table edge

Diagram E

13. If the angle is smaller than 90°, the next strip should be placed with its narrow end toward the table edge (the side where you start your seams). (See Diagram G)

14. If the angle is larger than 90°, the next strip should be placed with its wide end toward the table edge. (See Diagram F)

15. NOTE: Because not all the strips are cut exactly the same, this may mean that sometimes two adjacent strips will end up with both narrow or wide ends on the same side. This is fine. The most important thing is to keep the runner straight.
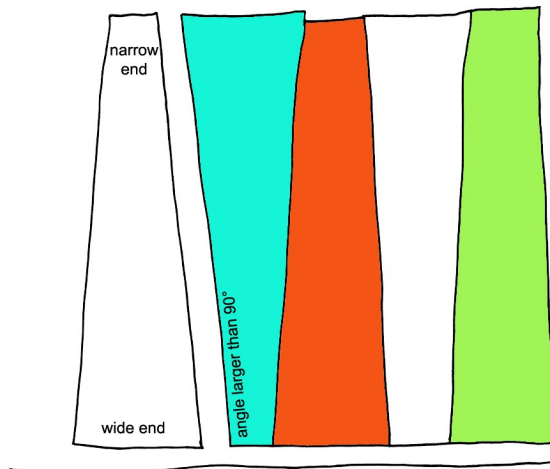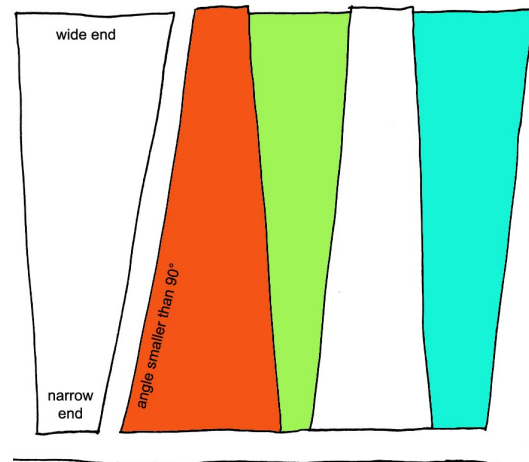
Diagram F

Diagram G

16. Keep sewing strips to the runner top, keeping an eye on the angle of the edge. Check the angle against the table edge every four strips or so and adjust as in steps 13 and 14 if needed.

17. At this point you don't need to worry about alternating wide and narrow ends too much. Not having them alternate perfectly will give a little more interest to the runner top. Just keep an eye on the edge to make sure the angle stays close to 90°.

18. When the edge parallel to the table edge starts curving away or towards the table edge (which it will), move the next strip up or down a little to adjust. You do not want your runner top to curve or you'll have to cut away a lot of width to straighten it out in the end.

Diagram H

19. Continue in this fashion until all strips have been sewn on.
20. Do not trim the top at this stage.
21. Measure the top at its longest and widest points.
22. Cut a piece of batting 2" wider and 2" longer than your measurements.
23. Cut or piece a back 2" wider and 2" longer than your measurements.
24. Make a quilt sandwich as you would with any other quilt and baste.
25. Quilt as desired.
26. Trim edges straight. The runner will be approximately 17½" x 50" in size but it will vary slightly depending on how you cut and arranged your strips.
27. Bind.

Voila! A Strippy Runner!