

pellon®

*The Magic
in the Middle*

Rail Fence Quilt

Designed by Alexandra J. Henry

Skill Level: Beginner

The rail fence quilt is a traditional quilt that is excellent for beginning quilters. This project would be great for a family and friends of all ages to gather together to help a child make her or his first quilt. The quilt shown is lap size, 36" x 42". You can make it bigger if desired by adding more blocks. Recalculate fabric needed to resize.



Quilt sample made by Charlene, age 6.
This quilt was exhibited in the Dallas
Quilt Show in Dallas, Texas

Materials Needed to make this Lap Size Quilt

Light Fabric	3/4 yard
Medium Fabric	3/4 yard
Dark Fabric	3/4 yard
Backing	1 1/2 yards
Binding	1/2 yard
Batting	
Pellon® Fleece #988	Lap/Crib Size 45" x 60"

Tools Needed:

Sewing Machine	Thread
Rotary cutter	Pencil
Rotary Mat	Standard Sewing Supplies
Rotary Ruler	

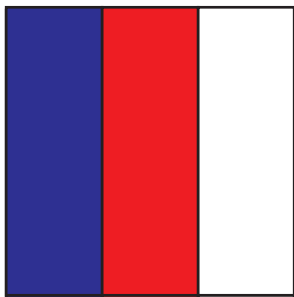
Charlene says "I had a blast making this quilt with my grandmother and am having fun doing other projects now."

RAIL FENCE CONSTRUCTION

IMPORTANT: It is highly recommended that a parent or other adult do the rotary cutting. A six year old child is too young to be cutting with a rotary cutter, even with adult supervision.

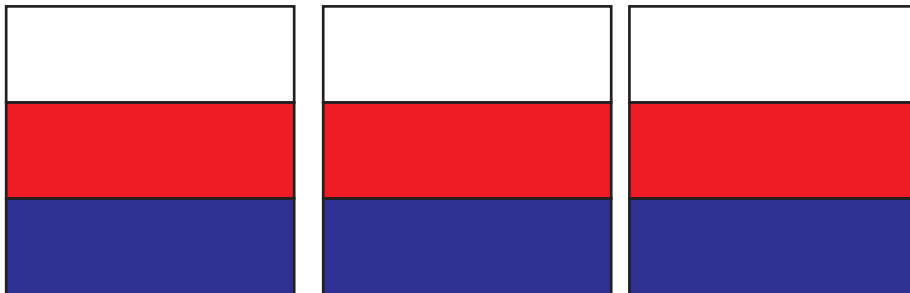


Cut eight (8) strips of the three fabrics, dark, medium and light, 2 1/2" wide across the 40/44" crossgrain (not selvage edge) width of the fabric. (See rotary cutting instruction page if you need more instruction on rotary cutting.)



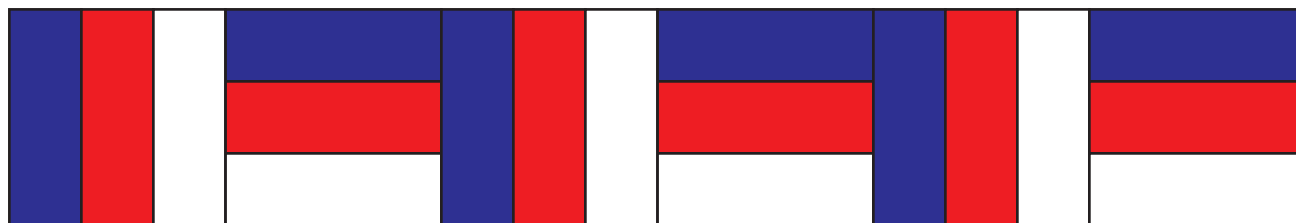
Sew strips together lengthwise: using one dark, one medium and one light. Your medium fabric should go in the center. Press in one direction. This will make your rows "pop" out at the viewer.

Keep your stitching as even as possible with a 1/4" seam. This is an important skill to learn because it will make all your quilting blocks match up perfectly.

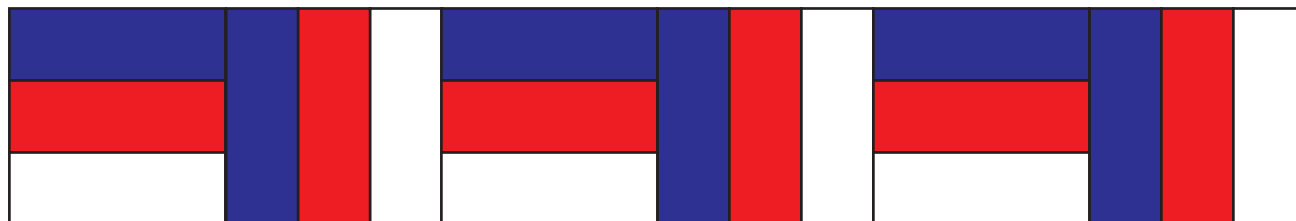


Cut these eight 40" long units into 6 1/2" squares. You need 42 squares for this lap quilt.

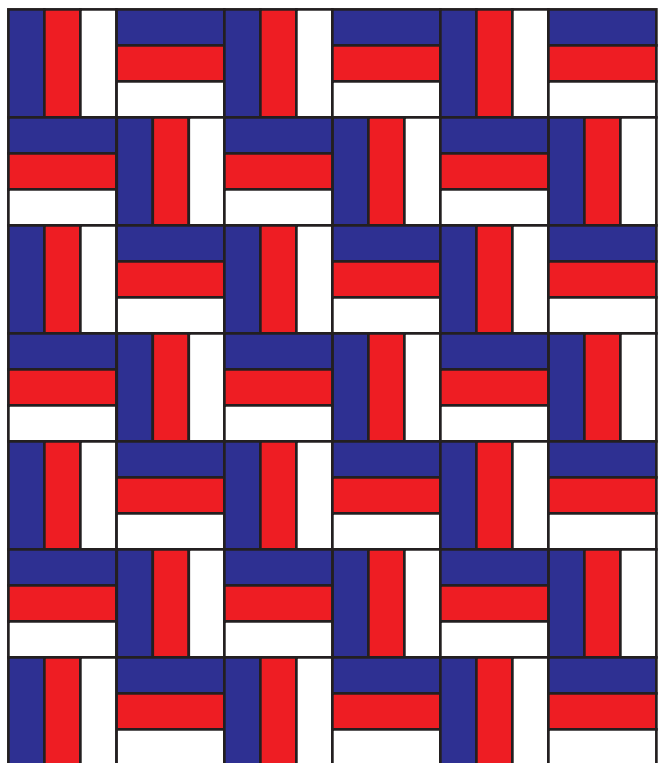
After cutting squares, stitch them into rows:



Row 1 - Sew four



Row 2 - Sew three

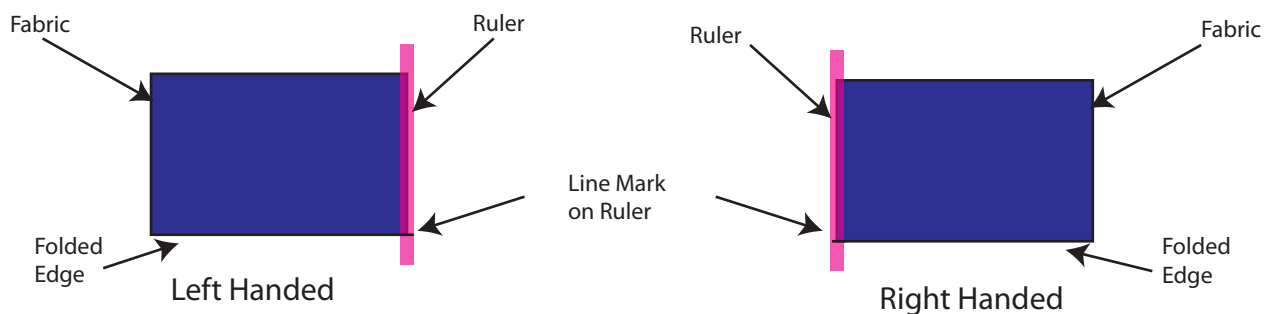


Sew rows together, alternating row 1 and row 2 as shown at left.

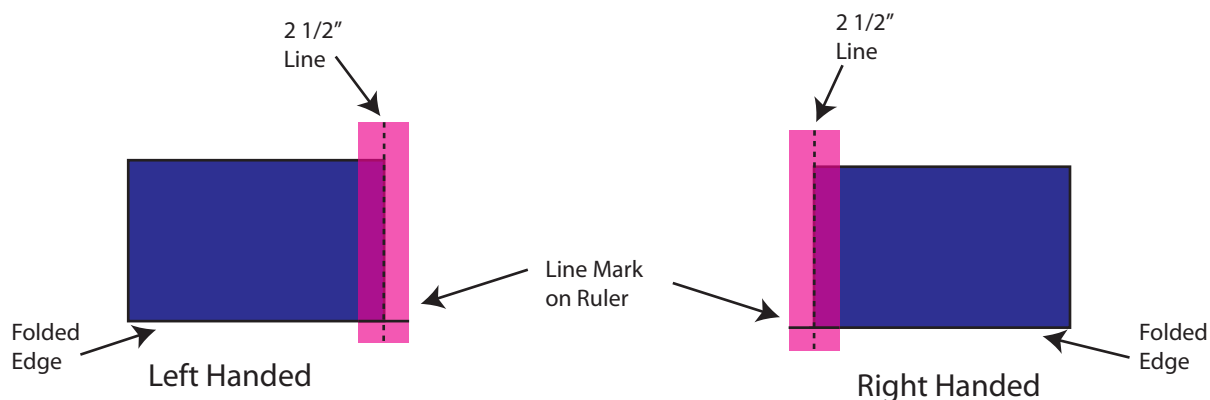
Rotary Cutting Instructions

Under no circumstances should children be allowed to use rotary cutters without adult supervision. Rotary cutters are extremely sharp and an injury could occur if a child uses one without adult supervision. For very young children, the parent or other adult should do the cutting for them.

First, "square" up the fabric. Press the fabric with it folded once and lay on your cutting mat. Line up the ruler with the folded edge on one of the marks and cut along the edge. Fabric is now squared up 90 degrees. Always try to keep your fingers outside the 1" line on the ruler; that will help protect you from being too close to the sharp blade. Sandpaper dots or invisigrip™ on the back of the ruler will help you hold the ruler in place.



After squaring up the edge, lay your ruler on the fabric, lining up a line mark on the ruler with the folded edge of the fabric. Move the ruler into position with the size strip you want to cut. Cut along the edge of the ruler, keeping your fingers well away from the edge. Press down firmly on the ruler to keep it in place.



Local quilt shops are always happy to assist you in using rotary cutters and rulers.