

8" x 14" Ruler Guide

Cutting Strips

We like to cut with our fabric folded in fourths because it is easier to hold a ruler steady for a relatively short cut, rather than a 20"-long cut.

1. Begin with the fabric folded in half as it comes off the bolt. Hold the fabric along the selvage edges and align these edges. The cut ends of the fabric may be uneven. Check to see that the fabric hangs smoothly and adjust the alignment of the selvages as needed so fabric is smooth (Photo A). (You may find that you need to press out the center fold if the fabric was twisted as it was wrapped on the bolt.)



Photo A

2. Lay the fabric on your mat with the fold away from you. Bring the selvage edges up to meet the fold (Photo B). Fabric will be folded in fourths with the side with two folds nearest you. Check to be sure that the fabric is smooth.



Photo B

3. Square off the end of the fabric. If you cut right handed, square off the left end. Square off the right end if you are left-handed.

Tip: I like to square off the end of my fabric at the same time as I cut my first strip with a method I call over cutting. First, I determine what size strip I want to cut; then, I begin by cutting a strip that is wide enough to also include the uneven ends (Photo C). For example, if I want a 2 1/2" wide strip, I begin by cutting a 3 1/2" wide one. I leave the main fabric in place that has now been squared off. I pick up and turn the extra-wide strip and trim it to the correct width, eliminating the uneven edges (Photo D). I never have to turn my cutting mat or move the bulk of my fabric! — Marianne



Photo C



Photo D

4. Lay the ruler atop the fabric so it measures off the correct strip width. Position one of the horizontal lines on the ruler along the side with two folds. This helps ensure that you will make cuts that are exactly perpendicular to the folds and eliminates "bowed" or "bent" strips. Cut along edge of ruler (Photo E).



Photo E

Cutting Squares and Rectangles

1. Cut a strip 1/2" wider than the desired finished size of the square or width of rectangle. Square off the ends of the strip.
2. Turn the ruler perpendicular to the strip to make subcuts up to 8" wide (Photo F).
3. For rectangles longer than 8", lay the length of the ruler along the strip, aligning the measurement for rectangle length on the cut edge of strip (Photo G).



Photo F



Photo G

Cutting Diamonds

1. Cut a fabric strip the width listed in your project instructions.
2. To cut 45-degree diamonds, begin by trimming the strip end at a 45-degree angle. Align one of the 45-degree angle ruler lines along a long edge of the strip. Trim end of strip along edge of the ruler.
3. With the 45-degree angle line along one long edge of strip, align the measurement of your strip width atop the angled edge. Cut along edge of ruler (Photo H). For example, if your strip is 4 1/2" wide, align the 4 1/2" line on ruler atop the angled edge.
4. Cut 60-degree diamonds in a similar manner by using the 60-degree angle lines on the ruler.



Photo H



Photo I

Tip: When I'm cutting diamonds, I do a quick check for accuracy by folding my diamonds in half to see that they are symmetrical (Photo I). — Liz

