

## It's Pre-Cut Party Time!

- Rainbow Strip Quilt

Project size: 60" x 60" 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 month we are all about the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " strip, and using a clever 'tube' technique to create these colourful squares which are then sewn on-point.

### You will need:

- Twenty-four  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF strips made up of 12 different colours in the rainbow spectrum.
- 2.3m of Background fabric, cut into;
  - \* fifteen  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF sashing strips
  - \* two  $9\frac{1}{4}$ " x WOF strips for setting triangles
  - \* Six  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF border strips
- Template plastic or freezer paper.
- 40cm co-ordinating fabric for the binding.
- 1.6sqm (64" sq) backing and wadding.

### Notes:

- Read through instructions before you start
- WOF = width of fabric
- Always use a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance unless otherwise stated. This needs to be spot on for this quilt, so before you start, check your seam allowance is an accurate  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and your completed tubes measure  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " high.
- You could also use a jelly roll with 24 different designs for a more scrappy look.

1. Sort your 24 strips into sets of four following the colours of the rainbow. So in your first set you may have a dark blue, medium blue, turquoise and green. In your second set you may have lime green, yellow, orange and red, and in your final set you may have a magenta, purple, dark pink and light pink. You should have six sets in three different colourways.

2. Take each set and sew each of your four strips together along their longest length, alternating the direction you sew each strip to avoid 'bowing' seams. Press seams in one direction.

3. Then fold in half, right sides together and sew along the top seam to create a tube. You can chain-piece this stage - see right. Press seam to seal. Your strip set should be  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " high, including seam allowances.



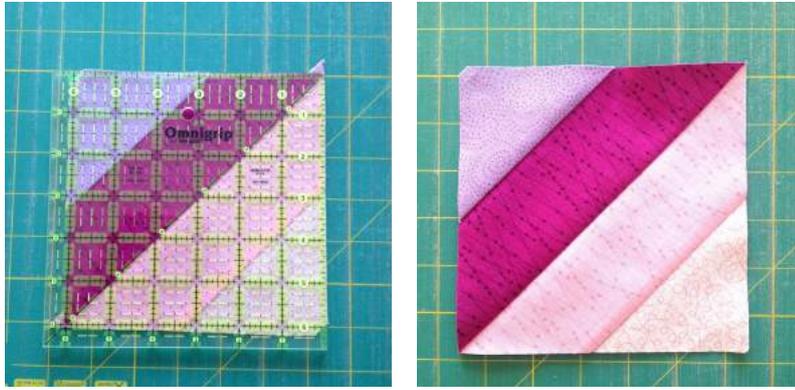
4. Print the template at 100% and trace onto either template plastic or freezer paper. Place your template on top of your first strip at the right end just up from the selvedge. If you are using freezer paper, press this in place with a hot iron to hold it still while you cut. Place your quilter's ruler on top, lining it up against the right-hand edge of the triangle template, and cut. Now turn your strip set 180degrees so you can now work from the left end.

5. Line up your template with the diagonal and the top edges, (if you are using freezer paper, this will still be in place) and cut your first block - see below. Then turn your template around and line up against the bottom edge for your next cut. If you are using freezer paper, simply peel it off your first triangle and iron it in place for the next one.



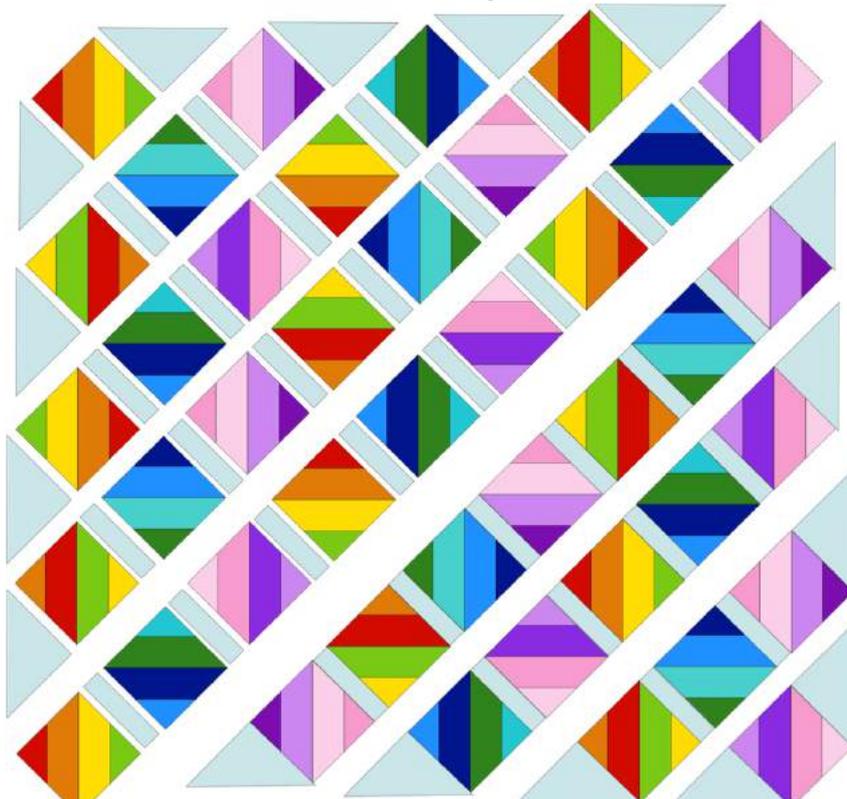
Skill Level:  = Easy  = Intermediate  = Advanced

6. Unpick the few stitches at the top of each square, open out and press seams in one direction from the front. Use a quilter's 24" or 6½" ruler to trim your block to measure 6x6" square. Lay the ruler on top of the block, making sure that the diagonal mark on the ruler runs along the middle diagonal on the block and the 6" lines lie within the fabric edges – see below left. Then trim the right edge and the top – you shouldn't have much to cut. Rotate the block 180degrees, line up the 6" marks with the bottom left corner and trim the right and top edges again, which should give you a perfectly trimmed 6" block as below right. For more on trimming blocks, see my tutorial on the blog here <http://bit.ly/2hPrvZD>



7. From five of your 2½" Background strips, cut thirty-two 2½" x 6" sashing strips. From your two 9¼" strips cut five 9¼" squares, then cut each square across both diagonals so you get four triangles from each one, giving you 20 setting quarter-triangles. These are cut like this to avoid having to work with bias edges on the outside edges of your quilt.

8. Find a clean, flat space and lay your blocks out as in the diagram below, notice you are working on-point, so your rows will be on the diagonal. Insert a 6" sashing strip between each of the blocks, plus a setting triangle at the end of each row (except Row 5, and note the change in direction of the triangles in Rows 6-9). When attaching the triangles, line up the 90degree corner with the bottom of the neighbouring block, letting any excess to be at the pointy end. Sew into rows. Press all seams towards the sashing.



9. For your longer sashing strips use the remaining  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " strips to cut as follows;

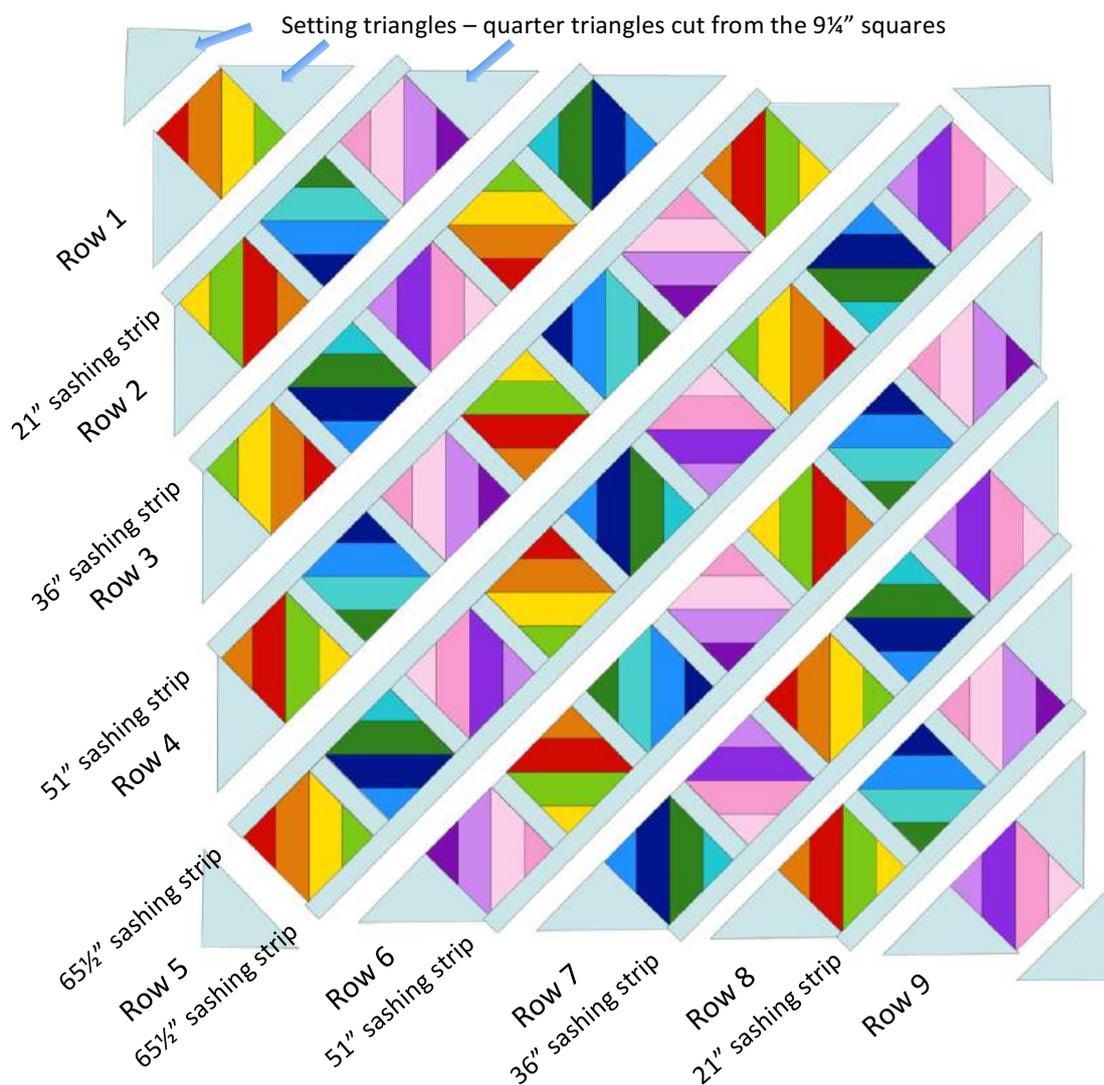
\* From one strip, cut two 21" lengths.

\* From two strips, cut two 36" lengths.

\* Sew three strips together, then cut into two 51" lengths

\* Sew your last four strips into pairs, then cut each one into a  $65\frac{1}{2}$ " length.

10. Follow the diagram below to attach the relevant sashing strip to its row before sewing them all together. Note, you will attach a  $65\frac{1}{2}$ " sashing strip to both sides of Row 5. Be aware you are working with bias edges here, so be gentle when handling your blocks, try not to pull them around too much. When pinning your sashing strips, pin the two ends first, then the centre, then the rest. As the sashing strips are the correct lengths, they should help you to keep your quilt nicely squared up. Press seams to the sashing.

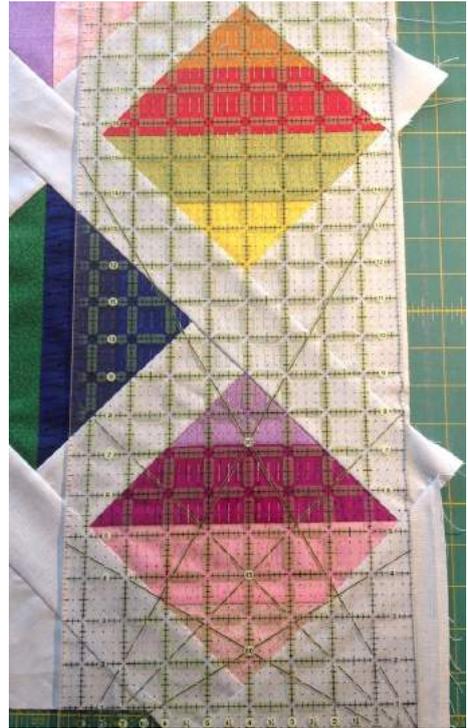


11. To sew these rows together, you need to accurately match up the blocks' seams on each row to keep them in line. So each time you pin two rows together, pull back the top row to check that the seams are sitting on top of each other before pinning – see right.



12. Once your rows are all sewn together into one unit, take your last four setting triangles and sew one to each corner to square off your quilt top. To get these centred, fold each triangle in half along its longest length and crease the centre, then do the same with the block, and match the two centres up when pinning.

13. Now you need to trim down your quilt panel before attaching the borders. Use a long quilter's ruler and rotary cutter to trim  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the points on your square blocks – to make it as square as possible, line up horizontals and verticals on the quilt with those on your ruler before cutting – see right.



14. Sew three  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " border strips together using 45 degree angles as you would for binding, press seams open, and cut into two 51" lengths, sew these to the two sides of your quilt top.

15. Sew the other three border strips together, along with the remnant from your 51" lengths, and cut down into two 61" lengths, sew onto the top and bottom of your quilt panel. Press seams towards the borders, then press the whole top from the front. Your quilt top is complete.

16. Trim any loose threads, layer your quilt sandwich – backing, wadding and quilt top – and baste. Then quilt as desired – you could simply stitch-in-the-ditch around each of the square blocks, or maybe use your walking foot to sew wavy lines across the width, or as I did, some free-motion loops or hearts across the whole top.

17. Once quilted, trim your edges neatly. Cut six  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF strips from your binding fabric, sew into one long length, fold and press in half, and attach to the quilt. For more on how to attach your binding, check out my free tutorial <http://bit.ly/2j9yYYX> Finally add a name and date label, and your Rainbow Strip quilt is complete!

I do hope you've enjoyed making this quilt. For more free patterns visit my Pre-Cut Party page <http://bit.ly/2h@jgZ3>



[www.sewmotion.com](http://www.sewmotion.com)

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# Template for Rainbow Strip Quilt

Print this page at 100%, and trace this triangle onto either template plastic or freezer paper (if using freezer paper, you will need to cut out a few templates as the sticky bond will eventually wear out) and use it to cut out your triangles using a ruler and rotary cutter.

If this page is printed at the correct scale, this box should measure 1in square – if it does not, adjust your printing set up to accommodate – also make sure the ‘fit to paper’ option isn’t ticked.

