

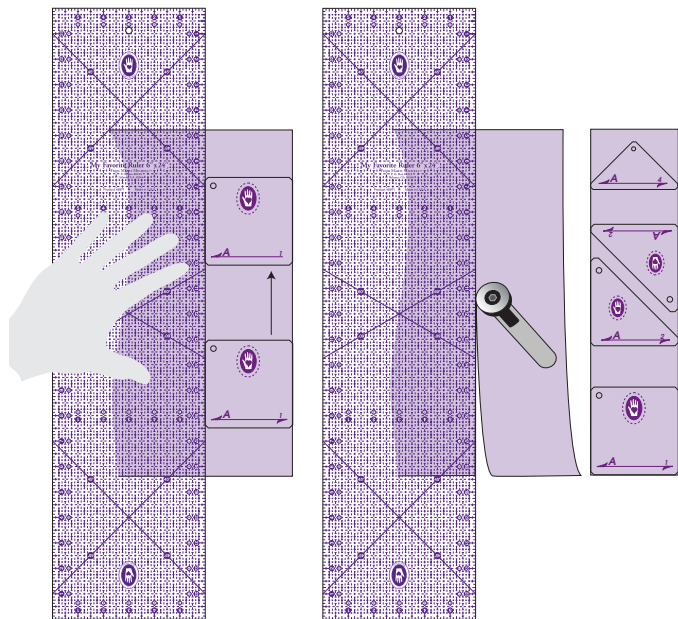
Strips + Templates = Quick Cutting & Accurate Piecing

A Better Way to Measure and Cut Strips

The strip cutting charts on the inside covers of Volumes 1 and 2 feature measurements and assume the use of a standard 6" x 24" acrylic ruler to measure and cut strips. Necessity truly is the mother of invention! When the strip widths on Set L came out to sixteenths and thirty-seconds of an inch, it caused an obvious realization – Use the template to measure the width of the strips! It is the exact size, and it is a measuring tool. It just isn't what we are used to calling a ruler. The technique is shown below, illustrated with templates from Set A.

Use Templates to Measure Strip Width

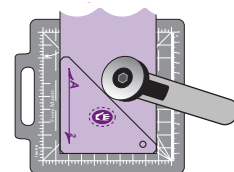
Straighten the edge of the fabric. Align one side of the template with the straightened edge. Place your ruler against the other side of the template to mark the cutting edge. Slide the template along the raw edge to be sure the ruler is aligned correctly, then remove the template and cut the strip.



Use Template 1 to measure and cut strips to use with Templates 1, 2 and 4 (Set A). To conserve fabric, rotate triangle template as you cut. Illustrated for right-handed cutters; reverse for left-handed.

Use Templates to Cut Shapes from Strips

Slip a smaller cutting mat or rotating mat under the strips. Rotate it to cut the shapes and nip the corners easily. Place the template on the strip to cut the shape.

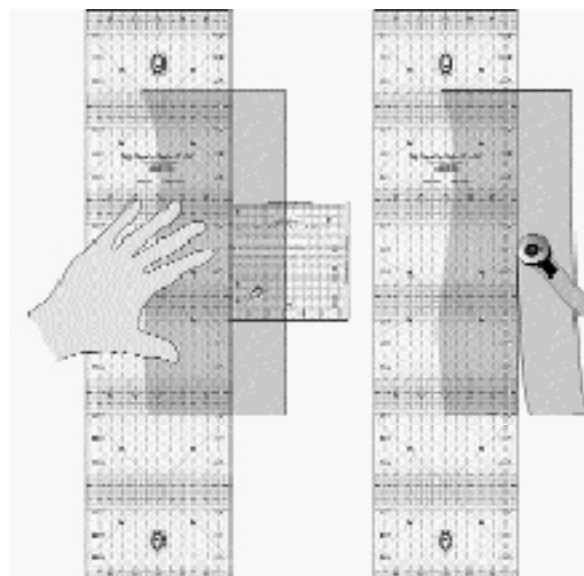


Added Benefits of Cutting Strips This Way

Because of the added benefits of using the templates to measure strip widths, I have switched to this approach with all the template sets.

1. Measuring this way means I use the same edge of my ruler to straighten the fabric and cut the strips, eliminating the need to move around the table or rotate fabric.
2. The ruler is flat on the fabric, not rocking between the levels of the mat and the fabric.
3. The large ruler is on the uncut fabric. You can move the cut strip and assure a complete cut before you move the ruler. If two or three pesky threads did not get cut, the ruler is still exactly where it needs to be!

Even when you aren't using templates, try measuring the desired strip width from the trued-up edge with that edge closest to your preferred cutter hand—right side for right handers, left for lefties. Our 6½" Squaring Up Ruler is perfect for measuring strips up to 6½" wide.



Best Way Set A