

Yikes! Stripes!

Goal: Show three different ways to make blocks using striped fabric.

Tools and supplies needed:

- At least 1 yard of striped fabric or 10 fat quarters of striped fabric or a “layer cake” of 10 inch striped squares
- At least 1 yard of complementary fabric to be used as filler triangles or sashing
- Sewing machine and sewing tools and supplies
- Walking foot for easier sewing of bias fabric if not using starch or interfacing
- Thread to match fabrics or a neutral tone
- Fusible interfacing or other iron-on interfacing or spray starch or liquid starch
- Rotary cutter and board
- Triangular rulers – equilateral 60 degrees or right 90 degrees
- Camera, either cell phone or digital

Steps:

If using a yard of fabric or fat quarters:

- Find the repeat in rows and determine how wide the strips you cut will be. If 6”, 8” or 4”
- Determine whether you want hexagons or rectangles
 - If rectangles, you will use the right angles triangle tool to cut your fabric strips
 - If hexagons, you will use the equilateral triangle tool to cut your fabric strips
- Layer your strips making sure to align carefully so the rows match up as closely as possible
 - Use pins and push them through all layers of your fabric (2 to 4) at several matching spots
 - Carefully place your strips on the cutting mat and check alignment again after removing pins
- Cutting:
 - Space the triangle tool $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the edge of the fabric and cut your first piece
 - Flip the tool upside down and cut the next piece
 - Flip the tool upside down again and cut the third piece
 - Repeat the two steps above until you run out of fabric
 - Set aside the end pieces for they can be sewn together if extras are needed

If using a “layer cake” or fat quarters that you cut into equal-sized squares:

- Cutting:
 - Match the squares into groups of two and turn them wrong sides up with the stripes going in the same direction
 - Cut strips of interfacing into 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch strips by the length of the diagonal minus 2 inches
 - Place the interfacing across the diagonal going in the same direction on both squares
 - Iron and let rest and repeat for the next set of squares
 - Take a set of squares and lay one with the stripes going across and the other going lengthwise right sides together
 - Pin the squares together

- Start in the upper left corner and sew down the left side after back stitching at the top, then pivot at the lower left corner and sew along to the right lower edge and back stitch again
- Check that the top and right sides are open (not sewn)
- Cut the square in half diagonally from the sewn corner to the open corner across the interfacing
- Iron the seams open
- Turn over and align the pieces so the interfacing is on the outer edges of the square
- Sew together and iron open the seams
- Cut the piece to a standard size that you want the blocks to be

Laying out the pieces:

- Sort through your pieces and lay them out in a pleasing pattern
 - Align them to match
 - Align them to be opposites
 - Photograph your layout so you have a copy and can view it through a small lens which gives a different perspective
 - Rearrange until you have a pleasing layout
 - Photograph this one more time
 - Pin pieces together to begin sewing
- Sewing:
 - Striped squares
 - Sew your rectangular pieces together into squares
 - Add sashing and corner stones if desired
 - Sew all pieces together
 - Hexagons
 - Sew your pieces together into halves (3 triangles together)
 - Keep them together as matched sets, DO NOT sew them together yet
 - Arrange in a pleasing pattern either as a whole group or with spaces in between
 - Cut additional triangles from a complementary fabric to place into spaces as needed
 - Pin and sew together by rows (either horizontal or on an angle) for easier sewing
 - Line up and pin the center points of the triangles together carefully so the centers will meet better
 - Add as many borders as desired

Some sewing tips:

- Use spray starch or liquid starch diluted with water and painted on the fabric to give it stiffness which will minimize stretching the bias edges
- Use thin paper from old phone books as backing while sewing if starch is not available
- Align edges either by careful pinning or use a glue stick to spot glue areas to prevent them from shifting as you sew
- Use a walking foot when sewing will also help keep the edges better aligned
- Start sewing on the full end of the triangle and end at the tip
- Overlapping the triangle tips $\frac{1}{4}$ inch helps in sewing from one V area to the next when adding the third piece
- Use a starter piece of scrap fabric when sewing from the tip down
- Iron all seams open