

RECTANGLE FUN QUILT-ALONG

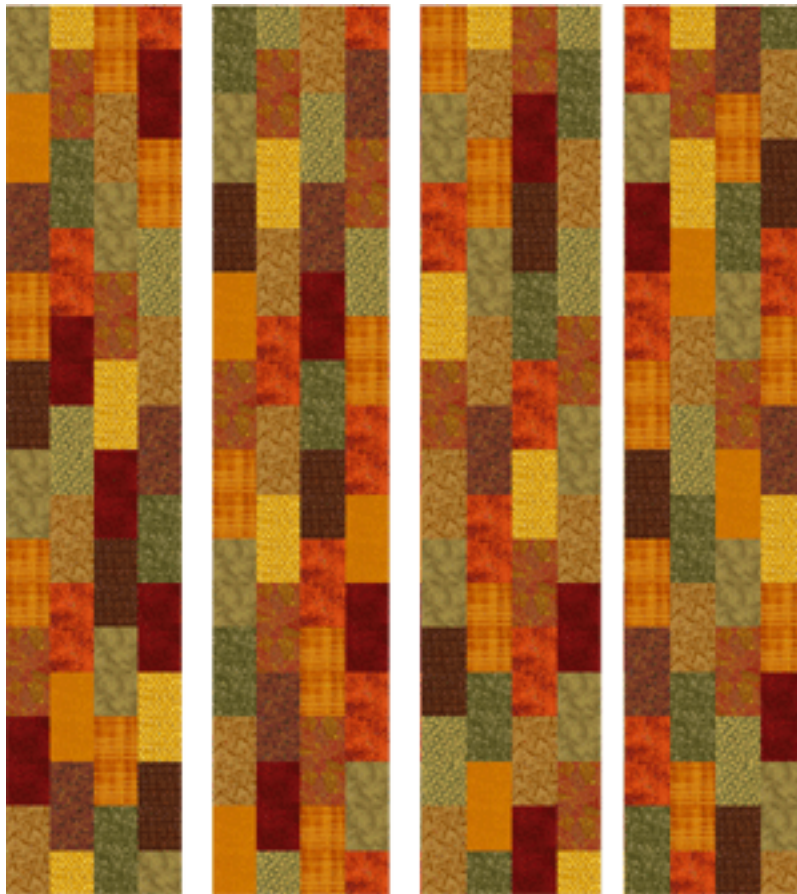
Sewing the Top

Now we have all our pieces cut out, it's time to piece our top. If you are as lucky as I am and have a large table where you can spread your work out, it's time to clear it off now. Otherwise, a bed will do. As you will see, this top sews together quickly, so you won't be cluttering anyone's space for too long.

We will join our pieces in a completely random manner. Yet there will be some order to our madness, in an effort to avoid having rectangles of the same fabric repeat next to each other.

NOTE: For the purposes of this tutorial, I am using my own quilt to point out the different steps. If you have chosen to work with a different size, you will have to "adapt" according to your needs. In all cases, the concept is the same.

1. Since I am working with a large quilt, I am going to divide my work in fourths. For simplicity sake, we will call them "panels." Each panel is made up of four vertical strips. The first and third strips consists of 10 rectangles. The second and fourth strips are made with 9 rectangles and 2 squares sewn on each end. (You will find illustrations for the other quilt sizes at the end of this pdf file, with suggestions of how many panels to work with.)



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2. I start with all my stacks of rectangles next to my sewing machine, right at my fingertips.



3. I will randomly pair them together, and sew eight sets of four rectangles together (2 per strip in my panel). No need to press seams yet. I now lay my sets of four on the table and play around with the arrangement. I will need to add two rectangles to the first and third strips, and one rectangle to the second and fourth strips, along with a square on each end. By working with sets of four sewn rectangles, this allows me to play around a bit. I can move the strips around and place the additional rectangles on the ends, or in the middle between the sets.



4. Once I am happy with my arrangements, I finish attaching the rectangles and squares to the strips, until I have four complete strips. At this point, my strips are longer than my table, so I have placed a folding table at one end so I am able to view the entire length of the strips at any given moment.



5. I now press the seams (to one side), and sew the strips together to form the first panel. I continue to press after sewing each seam.



6. With the first panel laid out on the table, I repeat this same process with the second panel. This allows me to view the layout without having to work with too many strips at a time.

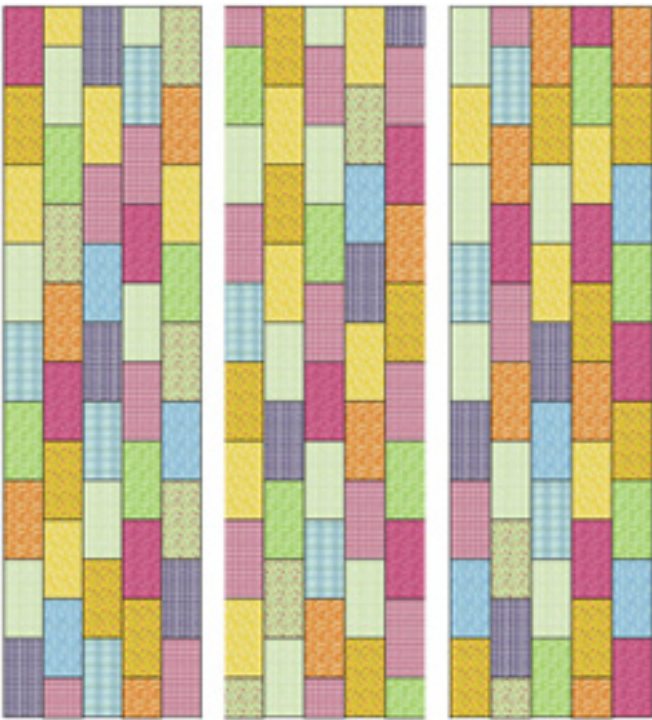


7. Once I have finished with the second panel, I stack it onto the first panel, and continue in the same way with the third panel. And when that one is finished, I stack it onto the second panel, and put together the fourth panel.



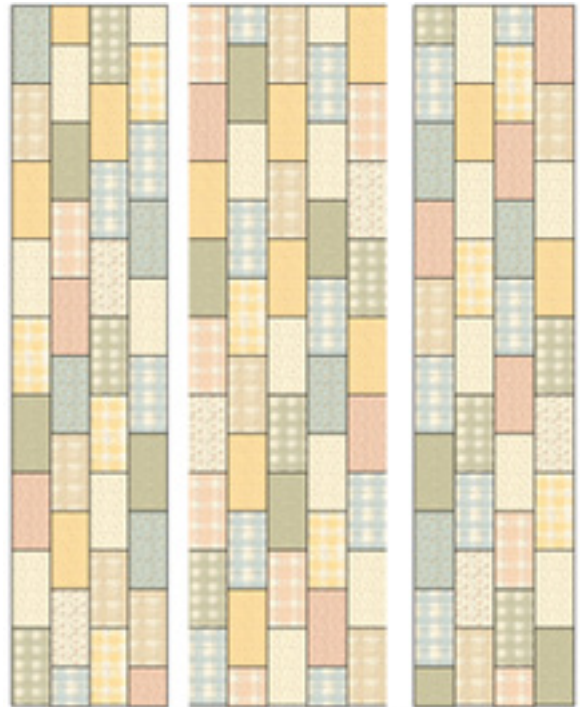
8. With all four panels sewn, I will then join the first and second one to form one half, and the third and fourth to form the second half. And, quite obviously, I sew the two halves together for my finished quilt top.

Full



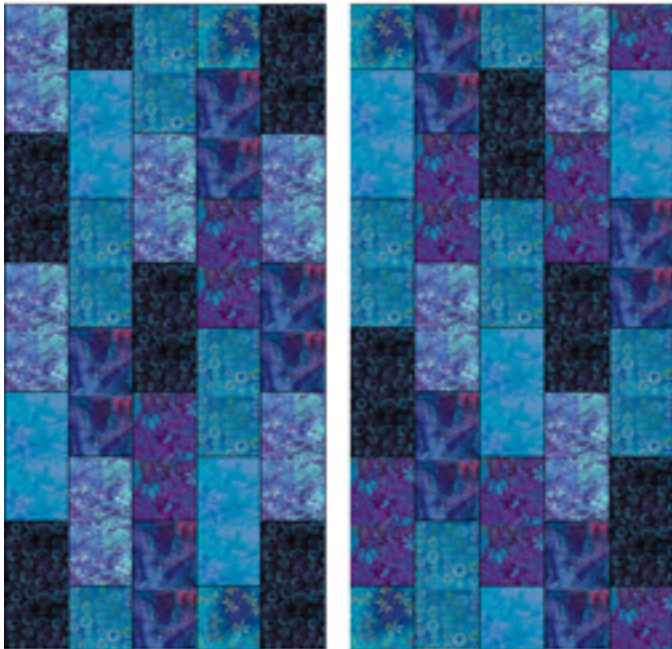
3 panels with 5 vertical rows each

Twin



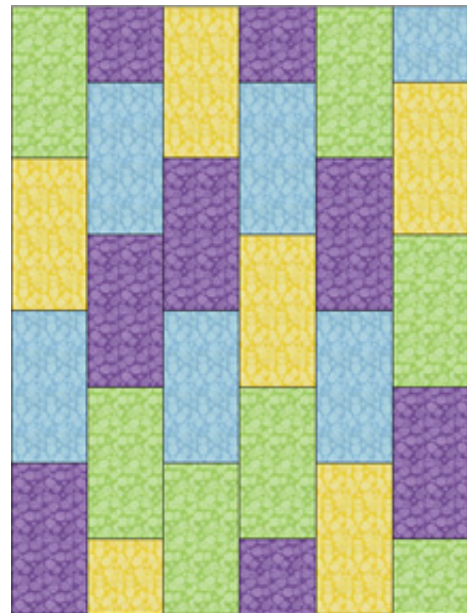
2 side panels with 4 strips;
1 central panel with 5 strips

Lap



2 panels with 5 strips each

Crib



No need to divide in panels