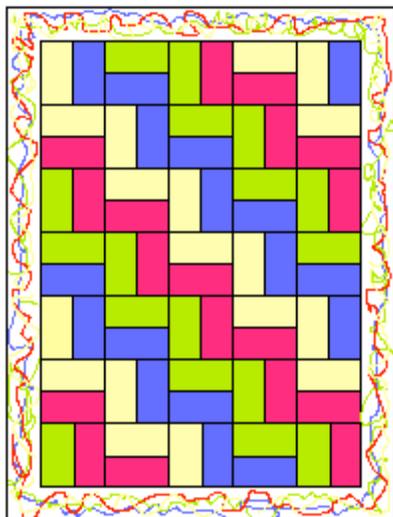


Rail Fence Quick Quilt for Soldiers in Afghanistan



35 Blocks

Set 5 blocks by 7 blocks with 4" (finished) borders = 48" x 64" quilt

Choose a focus/theme fabric with lots of contrast and at least 4-5 colors in it. You will need a useable $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of this fabric to make your borders.

Choose 4 colors from the theme fabric be sure they are not large prints [2" across] You will need a useable $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of each of these 4 fabrics to make your blocks. These colors should be of varying values (e.g., very light, light, medium, medium dark, dark) to provide the best visual interest. They do not have to be blendy-blendy!

Cutting:

Set aside your border fabric for now.

From each of the four contrast fabrics, cut 4 long strips @ 4½" wide by the length of the fabric (usually this is about 42")

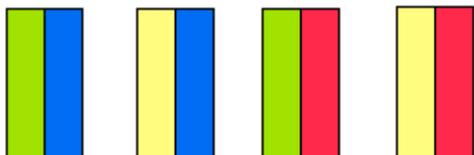
Sewing:

You have 4 pair strips of each color.

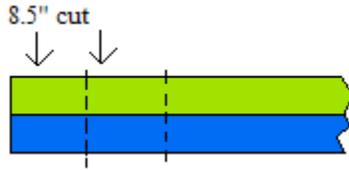
In the sample above, green pairs with 2 colors, and yellow pairs with the remaining 2 colors.

Decide how you want your fabrics to pair; place the strip sets of these pairs beside your machine with right sides of fabric together.

Sew your strips together into pairs. You will have 4 sets, as below. Press the seams to one side.



Subcut sections from the sewn strips sets @ 8½” sections.



****At this point you are finished making your blocks! Easy-peasy!!****

Now a design wall comes in very handy, almost a necessity; whatever surface you use, do it now to lay out your blocks in a stair step pattern.

The most difficult part of this particular pattern is getting the blocks in the correct placement before sewing them together! After you lay it out, here are a few tricks to make sure you've gotten it correct:

1. Walk away from it for several hours.
2. Turn your back to it and look at it over your shoulder through a mirror.
3. Use the wrong end of a pair of binoculars – this is my personal favorite!
4. Ask someone else to look at it for you to find any blocks turned askew.

HELPER HINT: First block upper left should be **vertical**



The block next to it is from a **different set** and is **horizontal**



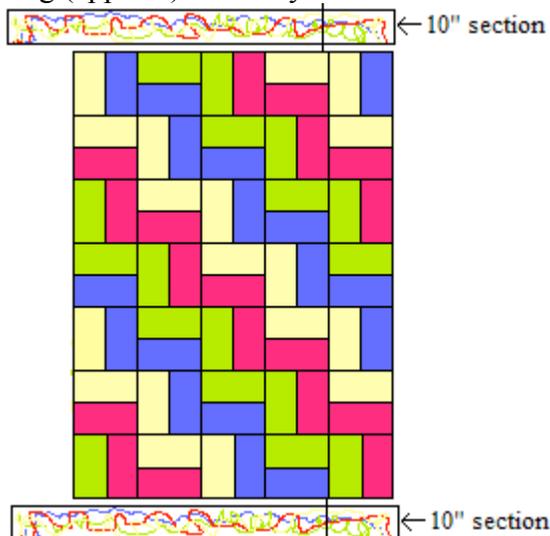
Sew your blocks together in rows, matching your corners.
Set up is 5 blocks across, 7 blocks down.

Borders:

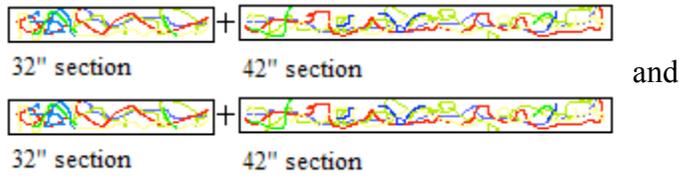
Cut your border fabric into 6 strips @ 4½” wide by length of the fabric.

From two of these strips, cut a 10” length.

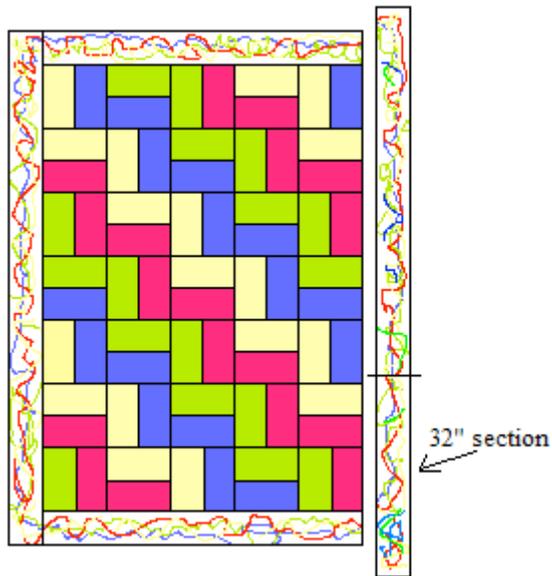
Sew these two 10” lengths onto an end of two other strips = two strips now 4½” x 52” long (approx.). These you will use as borders for the short ends of your top.



Sew the remaining two short and two long strips together into 2 pairs (72" approx.).



These will be your borders for the long sides of your quilt.



Trim off excess.

Send your top off to me for batting, quilting, and binding. (Although you are encouraged to any or all of that yourself if you wish!)

If you have binding strips you could include that would be awesome.

They should be cut @ 2.75" wide for these particular quilts.

We will need enough to go around the quilt with at least 18" extra for mitering corners and joining ends on the bias.

Thank you so much for your participation. May you be richly blessed as you bless our servicemen with the labors of your heart.

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