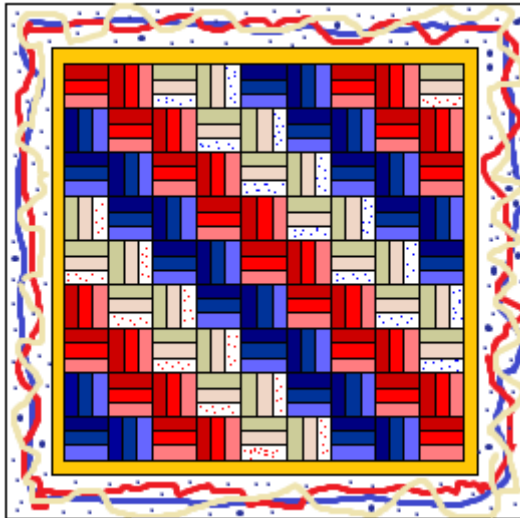# TRIPLE RAIL QUILT PATTERN
## By Jan Bennett-Collier



9x9 block setting = approx. 47.5" before bordering

FABRICS:
This pattern uses 3 different color "families", (9 different prints – 3 in each color "family").
(Borders are discussed at the end of these instructions)

The triple rail pattern forms stair steps across the surface of the quilt.  To make the best use of this effect, each series of "stairs" should be one color family.  My quilt used red/neutral/blue.

Pick **red and blue** prints that have noticeable "movement" or textural interest within the design but are also tone-on-tone.
Pick **red and blue** prints whose design elements are less than 1" in size.
Pick **white/neutral** prints that have noticeable "movement" or textural interest within the design, or that contain flecks of reds or blue within the design.

After you have pulled your fabrics, fold and line them up in rows and look at them from across the room.  Do they look "flat"?  All the same?  Too contrasting?   Too little contrast?  Read as solids?  Make adjustments where you can to give the project interest.  Remember that looking at these fabrics in the finished quilt is a very interesting exploration for the recipient.

CUTTING:
From each chosen fabric, cut at least 5 strips @ 2 ¼" x 42" (Length of Fabric).  You may need more strips depending on the number of blocks you are able to get from each strip.  You'll have 45 strips to start and will need 81 blocks.

Separate them by color/print….reds in one collection, blue in another, neutrals in another.

1.  Sew 2 red strips together along their length.   Make 4 of these units.
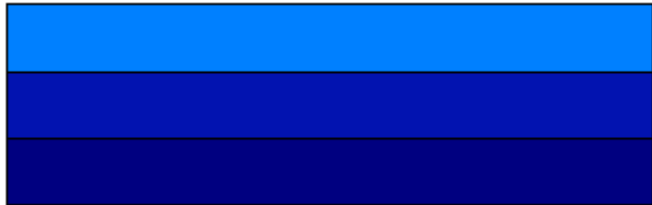
Carefully press all seams in one direction. I always press before adding the third strip for ease and for better seam accuracy.
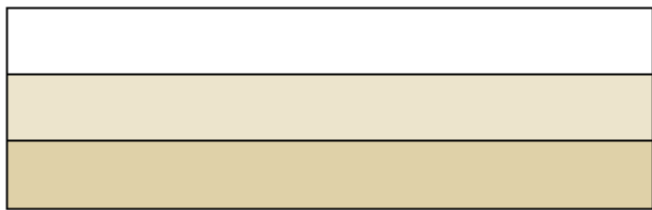
2.  Sew a third red strip to the pairs sewn above.  Make 4 of these units.  Again press in same direction.

3.  Sew the blue strips together in pairs as before; press first; then add the third strip.

4.  Sew the neutral strips together in pairs as before; press first; then add the third strip.

5.  Measure across several of the strip sets to determine EXACTLY how wide they have been sewn. Your seam allowance will probably have given you something between 5 ½" and 6" wide. Cut the strips into square segments using the measurement you found.   Remember that a square has 4 equal sides!  If your strip set is 5&5/8" wide, your subcut measurement will 5&5/8".

In order to keep the block segments on the straight grain, carefully line up one cross-line on your ruler along a seam line each time you cut a segment as in the graphic below.  You may have to trim a smidge each time you cut a segment in order to keep the strip set straight.

Place crossline of
ruler on seam line in
the strip before
cutting segment.
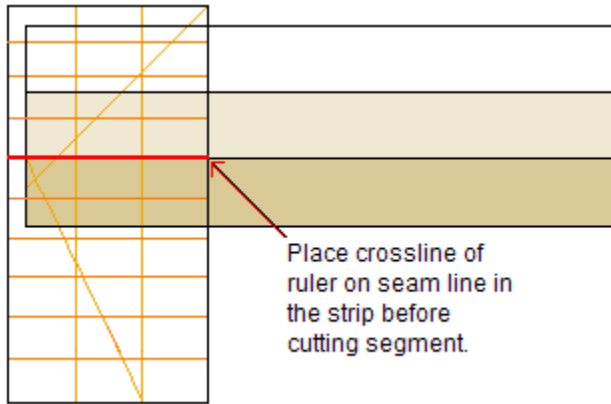
6. Cut into squares at the determined size, shown here by dotted lines.
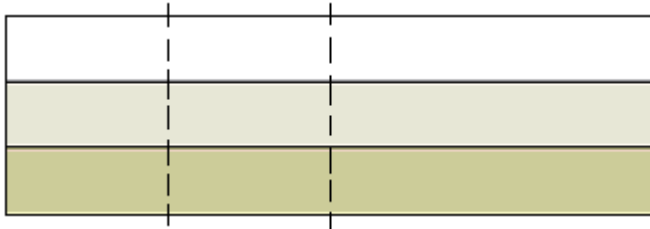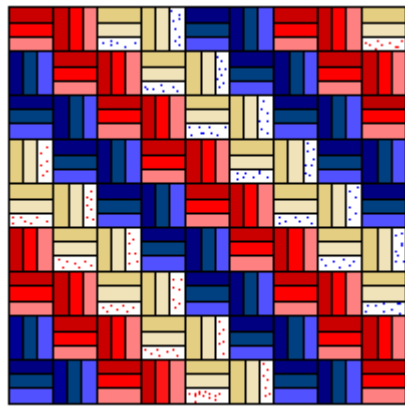
7. Use this same cutting direction on all 9 strip sets.
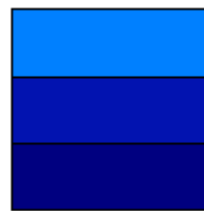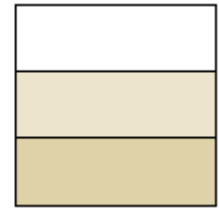
Your resulting square blocks will look like this:

Make 27            Make 29            Make 25

8. Lay ALL the blocks out on the floor or a design wall before beginning to sew them into rows.
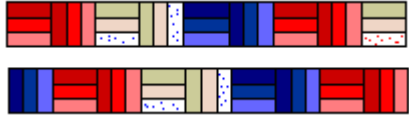
** Notice that the layout of the blocks has a pattern:

------horizontal/vertical/horizontal/vertical and so forth across the first row.
The next row is the opposite…vertical/horizontal/vertical/horizontal and so forth across the row.**

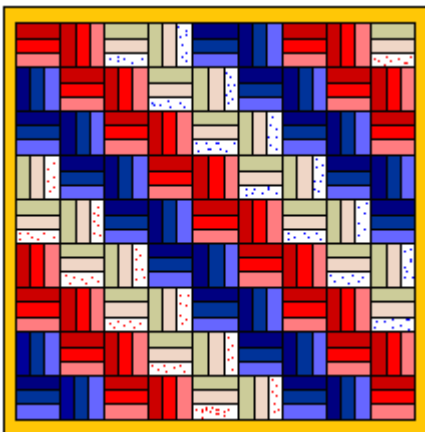9.  Sew the blocks together in rows, matching the abutting seams carefully and pinning.

etc.

10.  Add a "stopper" border of a fabric NOT used in the blocks, shown here as gold.
Cut the strips for it at 2"x the Length of Fabric.

11.  Then add a 5-6" border of a larger print fabric, something that perhaps contains all the colors of red/white/blue/neutrals, but is a larger print.  The finished size of your quilt will be close to the recommended 60" square.