

ROTARY TIPS

Using Rotary Rulers

1. Use **rulers with a smooth surface** on the bottom. Rulers with raised grids, grips or sandpaper on the bottom get in the way when you are cross-cutting squares into triangles.
2. Press down on the ruler **using your finger tips**, not the palm of your hand.
3. When rotary cutting, **use the same rulers throughout** to gain consistent accuracy.
4. Use the **lines on the ruler to measure** and not the lines on your rotary mat.
5. Use the **plain side of the mat to cut** on and you will find ruler lines easier to read. It will be less confusing on your eyes.

QUILT BORDERS

Squaring up the Quilt

1. **Measure thru the center of the quilt** to gain border strip measurements — measure lengthwise for side borders and widthwise for border tops.
2. **Attach side borders first** — measure length thru centre of quilt and cut two strips to that measurement (preferably on the lengthwise grain for added strength). Fold border strips in half and press at ½ way mark. Fold quilt side in half and press at ½ way mark. With right sides together, match and pin at 1/2 way marks and ends. Ease to fit if necessary.
3. **Add top borders last** - measure width thru centre of quilt and cut two strips to that measurement (preferably on the lengthwise grain for added strength). Fold border strips in half and press at ½ way mark. Fold quilt side in half and press at ½ way mark. With right sides together, match and pin at 1/2 way marks and ends. Ease to fit if necessary.

FABRIC

Choosing Fabric

1. For best results, select **lightweight, closely woven, 100% cotton fabrics** measuring 112cm wide (selvage to selvage). If your fabric is not 112cm wide then you'll require more fabric than is stated.
2. Please wash all fabrics before you come to class to **test shrinkage, remove excess dyes and chemicals** and, very importantly, to **straighten the grain** that may have moved in the fabric printing process.
3. Most of the quilts we make at Quilting Matters are **'multi-fabric' or 'scrap-bag' quilts** where we use a variety of **fabrics from a colour family** rather than just the one fabric. This adds 'sparkle' and interest!
4. **Fat Quarters (56cm x 50cm)** are a great way to build your **'fabric stash'**. If you find choosing fabric daunting, simply select a bundle of colour coordinated Fat 1/4s. Use this group of fabrics as the basis for an effective colour scheme — purchasing additional background fabric, and more of any fabric you wish to feature in your quilt.

Quilting Matters

discovering creativity thru quilting

Fat Quarters

Fat quarters are pre-cut pieces of cotton cloth, taken from one metre of fabric, cut in half lengthwise, and in half widthwise. This is often a more useful shape (56cm x 50cm) than a normal quarter-yard (112cm x 25").