



Pattern of the Month - June 2014

By Evelyn George

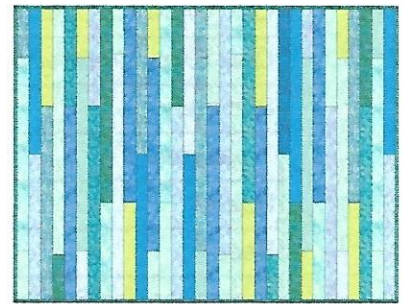
Jelly Roll 101, 102, 103 and more—

Jelly Roll = A cute, irresistible, rolled-up set of assorted $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF strips (typically 40 to 42 of them, one or two of a kind, depending on the manufacturer's collection).

The colors are already coordinated for you, so you can use all of them together, to make a quilt approximately 50" x 64". *Synonym: "Fun!"*

Jelly Rolls are great for a group making charity quilts. One popular method is called the "jelly roll race". Each person starts with about 40 assorted strips, using this basic method

101 (The "Race")* - Unroll, don't separate, just start sewing strips together end to end as they come off the stack (using either straight or diagonal seams, your choice). Have a basket on the floor nearby and just let the joined strips pile up, until they are all connected (~1600" long)! As you get started, use masking tape to stick starting end to edge of basket, then let the connected strips cascade into basket. This will make it easy to find the "beginning" to match it to the "end" after you get them all sewn into one long strip.



At **ONE** end of your long string, cut off about 20" (and discard it). **IMPORTANT: don't cut any off at the other end.** (The purpose is to stagger seams, so they won't end up right next to each other.) Then bring the two extreme ends together, and sew the two strips right sides together lengthwise, to make a very long double strip (now it's ~800" long). Repeat 4 more times: 4 strips wide = 400" long; 8 strips = 200"; 16 strips = 100"; 32 strips = 50" long by about 64" (with strips going across the short way; see illustration).

That's it, you're done! Unless you want to add borders to make a bigger quilt.

**(It's because everyone is sewing so fast that it feels like a race!)*

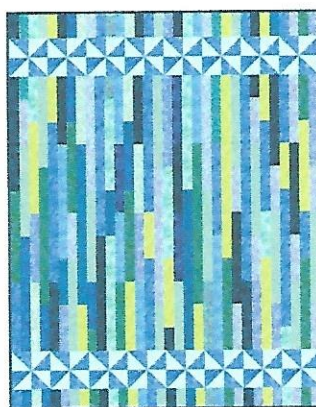
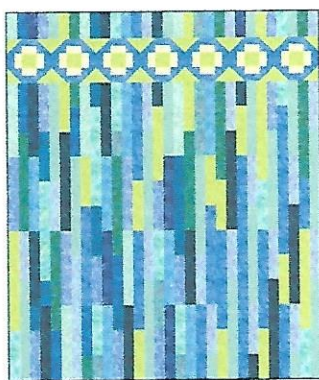
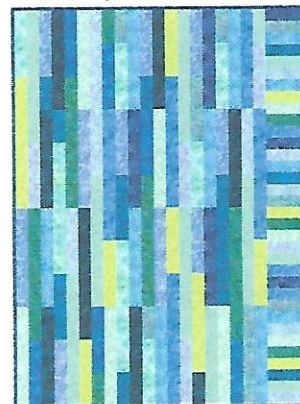
But maybe you're wondering, "What else can I do with $2\frac{1}{2}$ " strips, something really easy but just a bit different? Lots of creative jelly roll quilts have been popping up lately, and here are a few ideas (all using the above basic technique) to get you started thinking about your next quilt.

102 (Simple Variations)

For an even scrappier look, cut half the WOF strips into 2 pieces and the other half into 3 pieces; toss or tumble in dryer briefly to mix them up. Combine them randomly as you sew the ends together to make the beginning long strip. (This method makes the quilt a little smaller, because there are more seams; if you want a bigger quilt, you could start with more strips.)

You can make it up as you go along, and just see what happens. If you add more strips or insert blocks, it might make the resulting panel an odd size. If that happens, don't stop there, just keep improvising!

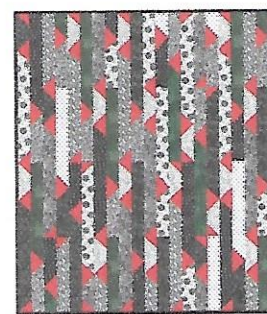
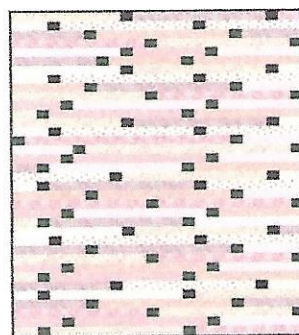
For example -- if the piece becomes too long and narrow to be practical, just cut some strips off one end and sew them to the side! →
--If it's not long enough, divide it into two pieces (one long, one short; cut wherever you want) and insert a strip of fabric (or a row of pieced blocks) to make it longer. You could insert several strips; they could be different widths, or the same. Here are some examples:



--Or you could just add a plain border on one or more sides to make it bigger. ↗
Improvise!

103 (Add-ins)

Sew contrasting squares, rectangles or 90 degree triangles between the strip ends when you join them initially. These will show up best if they have strong contrast, such as black, white, or bright colors. →

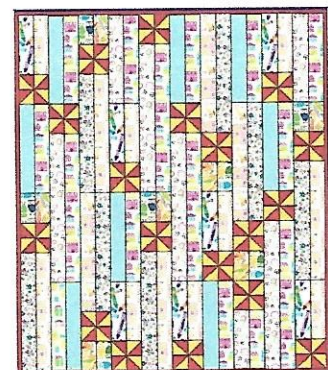


Leftover blocks can be inserted at the double- or quadruple-strip stage.

For example, $4\frac{1}{2}$ " unfinished blocks can be inserted into the double strips, which measure $4\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Cut across the double strip and sew the block into the strip. Add blocks randomly, depending on how many are available. (Pinwheels are nice!) →

If you have $8\frac{1}{2}$ " unfinished blocks, they can be inserted into the rows that are 4 strips wide. Or, instead of pieced blocks, insert plain squares or rectangles. Add just a few, as occasional accents, or a lot, which can make the quilt grow quickly, both in size and complexity!



(Oh, my goodness—there's more—so we'll continue this theme next month!)