



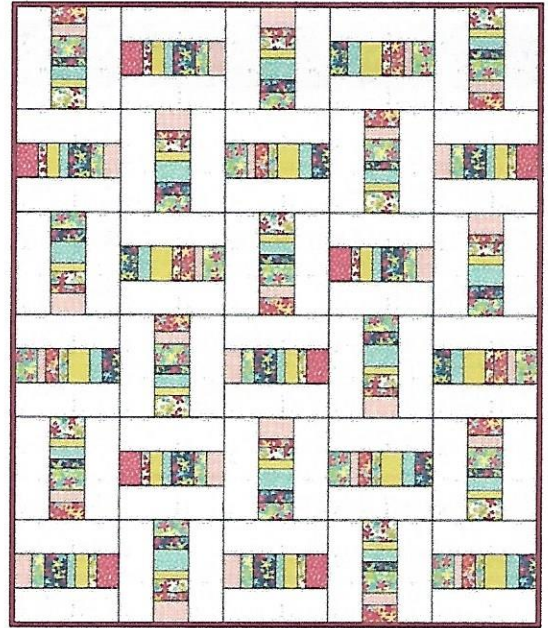
Pattern of the Month - May 2018

By Evelyn George

Fat Quarter Revenge

You've adored them, collected them, sorted and re-sorted them, questioned them, and now what? It's time to just cut them up and make a quilt! Turn 8 FQ's and about 2 1/2 yards of background fabric into a 60" x 72" lap size quilt in no time! These 12" blocks are quick and easy to make, from strip sets. The look might be modern, juvenile, floral, or a totally scrappy, eclectic blend -- depending upon the FQ's in your stash.

Start by selecting 8 FQ's and lay them out in a line, in the order you think looks the best. They don't all have to love each other --Switch them around until everyone is happy with at least their neighbors left and right. If there's one that won't play nice with any of the others, replace it with another FQ! If you are careful to keep them in this relatively friendly order while cutting and stacking, they will end up this way in the strip sets, and in the blocks (although their *location* in blocks will vary).



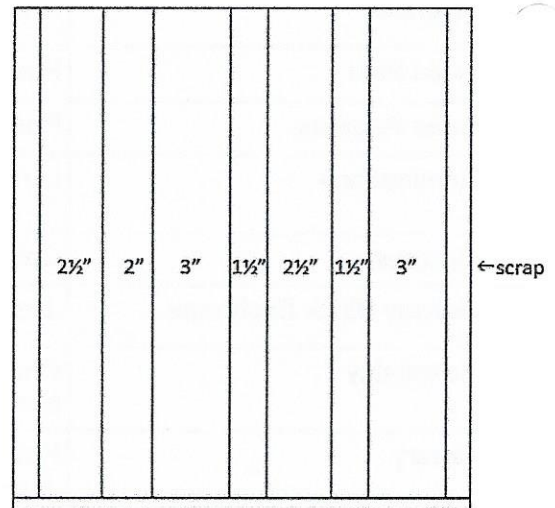
CUT STRIPS:

Starting with the first FQ in your line of FQ's, bring it to the cutting mat and lay it with the selvedge aligned along one of the horizontal lines closest to you. Take the second FQ in line and lay it on top of the first. Add the third FQ on top, and then the fourth one, to make a stack of 4 FQ's with their selvedges matching. Trim off selvedges, and trim to straighten the *left hand* vertical edge. Then, starting at the left, cut 7 vertical strips, in this order:

2 1/2" 2" 3" 1 1/2" 2 1/2" 1 1/2" 3" *Trim edge* →

Keeping the cut strips stacked, and in the same order, carefully slide them to one side. Continuing in order, stack and cut the remaining 4 FQ's the same way. Stack the second set of strips directly on top of first set, keeping them in the same size order.

Cut a stack of 4 FQ's ↓



Trim off selvedges ↑

SHUFFLE STRIPS AS FOLLOWS:

Starting with the 1st stack (on the left), remove the top strip of fabric and carefully place it under the stack. From the 2nd stack, remove the top 2 strips, keeping them in order; place them under that stack. From the 3rd stack, remove the top 3 and place them underneath; from the 4th stack remove the top 4 and place them underneath; from the 5th stack, remove the top 5 and place them underneath; from the 6th stack, remove the top 6 and place them underneath. For the 7th stack, DO NOTHING; leave it in its original order.

MAKE STRIP SETS (use $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance):

Keeping them in the order they are arranged, stitch together the 7 strips in the top *layer* (i.e., take the top strip from each stack). This makes the first strip set.

(Actually, you could rearrange them if you like! But you do need all 7 strips in each set so they will turn out big enough to make the blocks).

Sew the next *layer* of 7 in the same manner, to make a second strip set. Continue until all 8 layers of strips are made into strip sets. Each strip set measures somewhere around 13" x 20" - the exact sizes aren't important.

Press the strip sets, pressing all the seams in one direction.



Example of strip set

SLICE THE STRIP SETS:

One at a time, lay each pressed strip set on the cutting mat, strips aligned with horizontal lines on mat.

Trim off uneven strip ends on one side, checking to be sure you keep at least 18" of usable width; cut four $4\frac{1}{2}$ " wide strips, as shown at right:



BACKGROUND FABRIC:

Cut background fabric into 20 strips $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF; trim off selvedge ends. From each strip, cut 3 pieces $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x 13"; total of 60 pieces. You'll need 2 background pieces for each block.

MAKE BLOCKS:

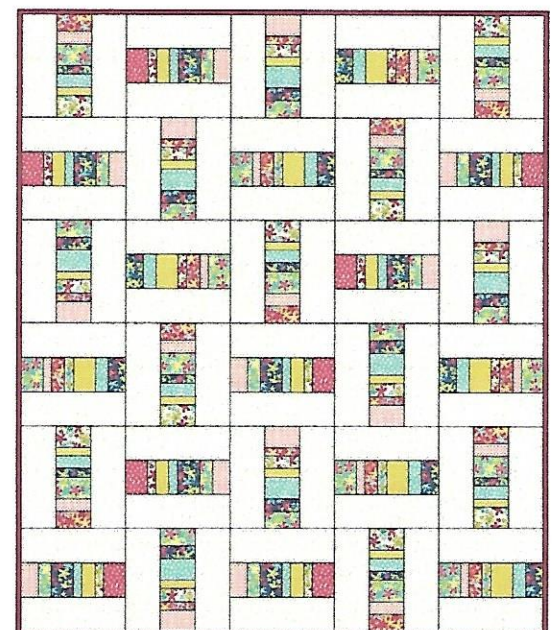
Sew one background strip on each long side of a pieced strip; square up block to $12\frac{1}{2}$ ".
(In case the pieced sections are a little shorter or longer than the background pieces, just center them between the background strips; and after all the blocks are made, square them all up to the same size --the quilt might turn out a little smaller, but no problem, right? It's still Fat Quarter Revenge!)

Make 30 blocks.

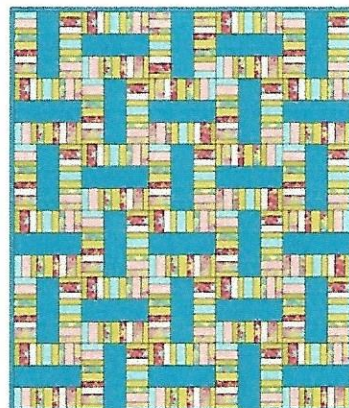


ASSEMBLE QUILT:

Arrange the blocks to match the quilt diagram, making 6 rows of 5 blocks each, and alternating the direction of the blocks to make the design shown (or arrange as you wish). Sew blocks into rows and sew rows together to make the quilt top (approximately $60\frac{1}{2}$ " x $72\frac{1}{2}$ ". (Add borders if you'd like it bigger.) Layer, quilt and bind using your favorite methods.



TIP: To use up even more FQ's (and less background fabric) use two pieced strips and one background strip for half (or all) of the blocks. →



Also, you could use up random scraps for the strip sets - then it's Scrap Revenge!