

Prepare the Fabric Strips

Use leftover 2 ½" strips from a project or cut your own from fabric. This project is a great way to combine leftover fabrics that you would not necessarily place together. Choose fabrics more by color than design for maximum effect. Make a color plan from the cut fabric strips and arrange them in order. The number of strips depends on the finished project. When making a striped rug as in the video, determine the length of the rug and then the desired width. Each folded strip yields about a 5/8" wide strip. For example, a 25" long rug that is 20" wide will require about 810" (22.5 yards) of strips. Here is a formula:

(Desired Width in Inches) ÷ (5/8") .625 = (Number of Strips)

(Number of Strips) x (Desired Length) = (Approximate Length of Strips)

(Approximate Length of Strips) + (Several Inches for Seam Allowances)

Or, just keep making strips and sewing them together until you have the rug size you want.

Sew the short ends together and make sure the seams are all on the same side of all the strips. The strips can be seamed with a diagonal seam or a straight seam. Sewing the strips on the diagonal reduces bulk in the strips. The seams, either diagonal or straight, should be pressed open to avoid bulk in the finished strip. The assembled strips will be a very, very long. Control the strip by winding it on a sturdy cardboard base so they don't twist while sewing.

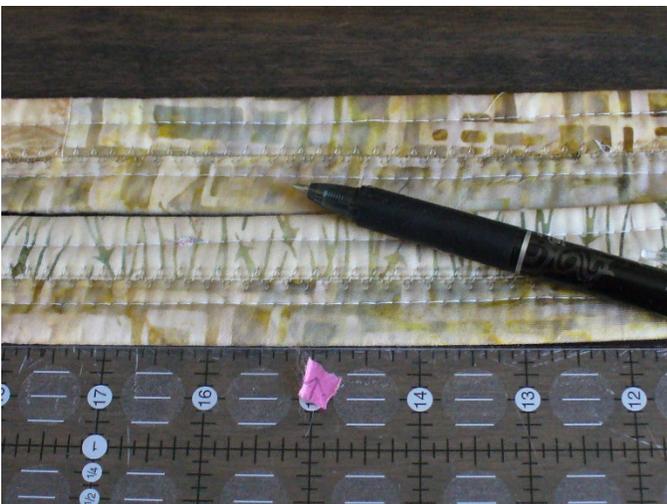
Set Up the Machine and Make the Folded Fabric Strips

Join and pre-sew fabric strips and the batting into a "flat rope" by folding and stitching the long strips a few inches at a time as shown in the video. Lay the fabric strip on the batting with the wrong side of the fabric strip. Work with about a foot of the fabric/batting at a time. Fold the long sides toward the middle and then fold again in half. You will have a piece with a single folded edge on one side and a double folded edge on the other side. Use clips to hold the first few inches together.



Attach the Digital Dual Feed to the machine. Snap on the sole with the ¼" guide. Thread the machine with needle and bobbin thread to blend with the color of the fabric strip. Choose a straight stitch and increase the stitch length to 3.0 to 3.5 mm. Place the folded strip under the presser foot with the open edge against the guide on the foot. Reposition the needle to catch all the fabric and batting layers roughly in the middle of the folded strip. Start sewing the folded strip together by stitching a few pre-folded inches and then stopping to fold the next few inches. Engage the needle down and auto presser foot down feature to hold the sewn strip securely in place while you fold the next section. Continue sewing all the fabric/batting into "ropes" until a few inches from the end of the batting roll or when enough strips to complete the project are sewn.

Cut the Strips Into Lengths and Begin to Assemble



Determine the direction the strips (width or length) and cut the long strip into segments of that length plus about an inch. Use a ruler to measure each strip individually and cut as accurately as possible. Lay the strips in the color order desired. The long sides of the folded strips will be sewn in pairs and then the pairs will be sewn together to form units. Take the first two strips and lay them with a single folded side against the double folded side. Make the raw edges on the sides even and mark across each strip in the middle.

Change the foot on the machine to the Stitch In The Ditch sole. Change thread color if necessary and insert a size 90 quilting needle. Select the 3 Step Elastic Zig Zag stitch (#1-15 on the Baby Lock Anthem) and increase the stitch width to 7.0 mm and leave the length at 1.0 mm. In the Settings of the machine, increase the digital feed to +3 or +4. Increasing the digital feed setting helps pull the thick folded strips through evenly. Place the first two strips side by side and under the foot. Position the center guide of the foot



between the strips with both strips touching the guide. Begin to sew the strips together. After a few inches, match the center marks of the strips and clip. Keep checking while continuing to sew the strips together that both strips are feeding evenly and the raw edges at the end align.

Play with Color and Complete Sewing the Rug



Look at the sewn together strip pairs and decide on the layout. Sew the strip pair together with the adjacent strip pair to form a set of four strips by matching and marking the centers as sewn before. (Remember to keep the single folded edge next to the double folded edge.) The strips will probably look distorted. Spray the set of four strips with Best Press 2 and press them flat and as straight as you can. Using an iron with a steam setting will probably really help. Layout the

pressed strips to re-determine the correct order. Sew the pressed sets of four together to make sets of eight and then sets of sixteen, etc. to finish the body of the rug. Always keep the raw edges and centers as matched as possible! See photo above for chalk marks alignment while sewing.

Lay the finished rug on a large flat surface (ironing board also works) and lightly spray with Best Press 2. Press to flatten the rug as much as possible. Steam the rug if necessary and allow the rug to dry under a weighted acrylic ruler to really flatten an unruly rug. To finish the raw edges of the rug, use a rotary cutter and long ruler to trim the edges even. Piece together enough 2 ½” strips to finish the edges all the way around the rug or just on the raw edges. Bind the raw edges as you would a quilt. Remember that the rug will be thicker than a standard quilt and use a single layer of binding not a double fold binding to encase the edge of the rug.