



From  
Marti Michell

# The Best Way to Measure and Cut Strips

## Quick-cut Strips and Pieces with Perfect Patchwork Templates

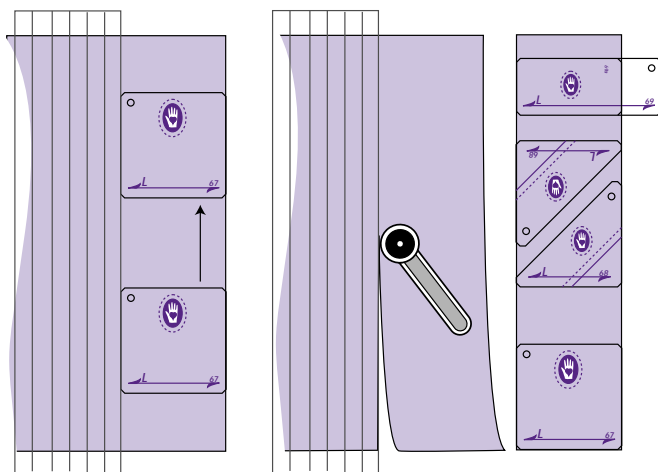
### Try it, You'll Like it!

The strip cutting charts on the inside covers feature measurements and assume the use of a standard 6" x 24" acrylic ruler to measure and cut strips. Necessity truly is the mother of invention! When the strip widths on Set L came out to sixteenths and thirty-seconds of an inch, it caused an obvious realization – Use the template to measure the width of the strips! It is the exact size, and it is a measuring tool. It just isn't what we are used to calling a ruler. The technique is shown below, illustrated with templates from Set L.

Because of the added benefits of using the templates to measure strip widths, I have switched to this approach with all the sets, not just L and M.

For example:

1. Measuring this way means I use the same edge of my ruler to straighten the fabric and cut the strips, eliminating the need to move around the table or rotate fabric.

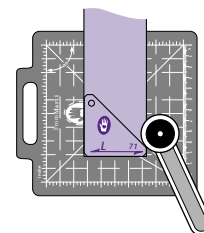


Use Template 67 to measure and cut strips to use with Templates 67, 68, and 69. To conserve fabric, rotate triangle template as you cut the shapes. Illustrated for right-handed cutters. Left-handed cutters will reverse the procedure.

2. The ruler is flat on the fabric, not rocking between the levels of the mat and the fabric.
3. The large ruler is on the uncut fabric. You can move the cut strip and assure a complete cut before you move the ruler. If two or three pesky threads did not get cut, the ruler is still exactly where it needs to be!

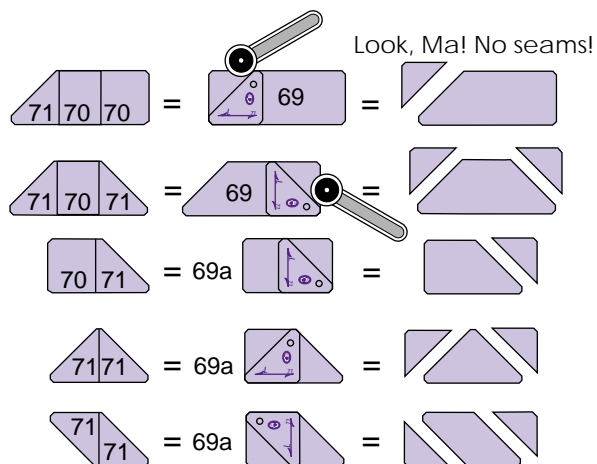
**General Instructions:** Straighten the edge of the fabric. Align the template with the raw edge. Place your ruler against the template to mark the cutting edge. Slide the template along the raw edge to be sure the ruler is aligned correctly, then remove the template and cut the strip.

Place the template on the strip to cut the shape. Slip a small cutting mat under the strip as you cut the shapes and rotate it to nip the corners easily.

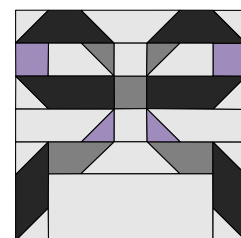


### Cut Away to Create New Shapes

Use the templates to cut shapes for which there are no templates, too. This often begins with a rectangle; the final shape is defined by the templates used to cut away excess fabric. This technique is illustrated below using templates in Set L. Cut rectangles using Template 69, then use triangle Template 71 to cut away excess fabric to make a variety of new shapes.



Practice this trick with Set L and Satin Bow. You will find it on page 19 of the *Encyclopedia of Patchwork Blocks, Volume 4*.



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