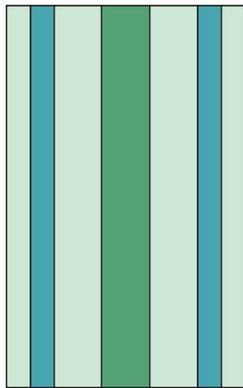
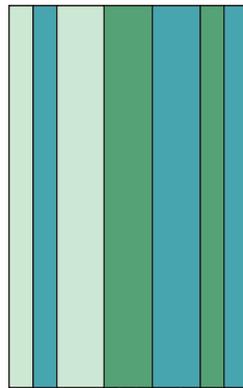


Working with Stripes

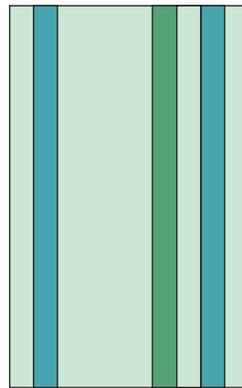
I love stripes - they're perfect for a companion fabric, and make a great quilt border. Additionally, striped fabrics make great pillowcases; they make a great simple quilt; and when fussy cut, they can be spectacular. How can you not love stripes?



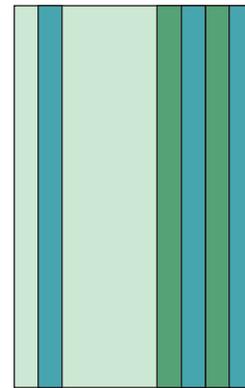
symmetric stripe,
symmetric colors



symmetric stripe,
asymmetric colors



asymmetric stripe,
symmetric colors



asymmetric stripe,
asymmetric colors

If you are making your own striped fabric, try to cut your strips along the lengthwise fabric grain - it stretches less, and will prevent unwanted puckering. The size of your stripes, and the number of stripes in the sequence (the sequence is repeated) will have an effect upon your finished project. You also need to note that the color placement will effect the way that the stripe looks. Whether you press the stripe seams open, or all in the same direction will have an effect on your finished piece, so you will want to consider this prior to pressing.

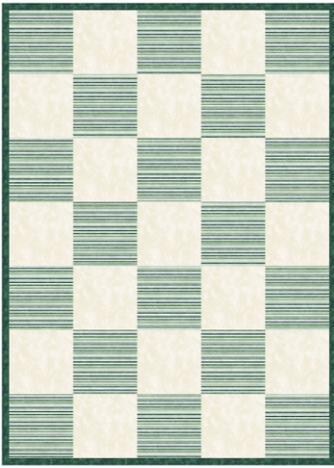
If you don't want to make your own striped fabric, you're in luck. Many fabric lines have striped companion fabrics, and this is where the fun begins! Stripes come in 3 directions: Horizontal (which you will seldom see), Vertical, and Diagonal.



Vertical Stripe



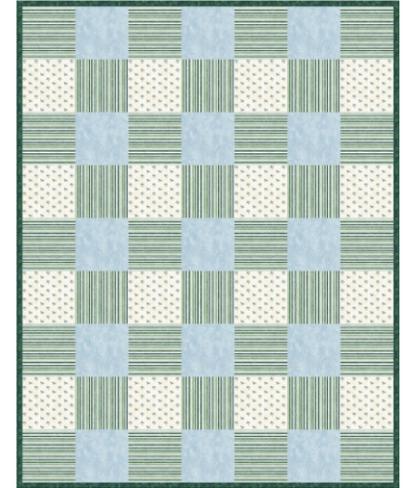
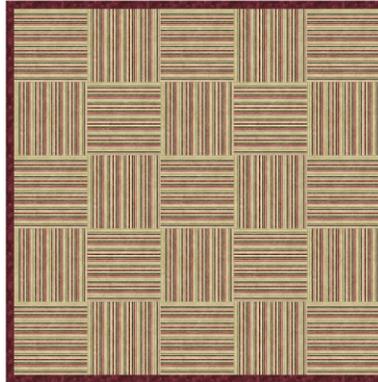
Diagonal Stripe



One of the simplest ways to use a striped fabric is to alternate striped and plain squares. The orientation of the stripe can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. What ever you choose to do, the results are always visually pleasing.

The unstriped squares don't have to be the same fabric -----

Or, you could just use the same stripe, and alternate its direction.

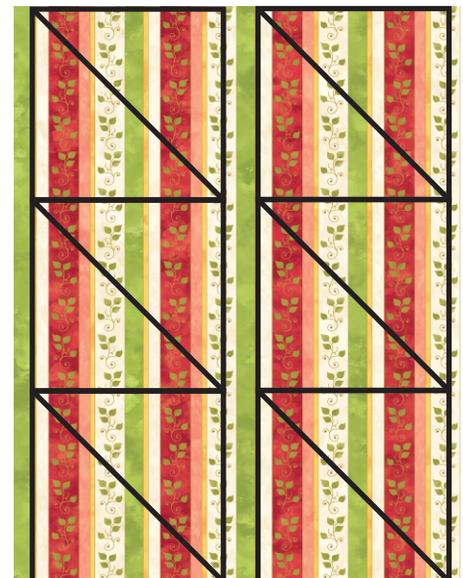


Stripes placed diagonally are very attractive. Some striped fabrics have the stripe on the diagonal to begin with, so you don't have to deal with the "bias stretch".

Don't forget that stripes make a great border!

But there's more that you can do with a stripe. **Fussy Cutting** opens up a new realm of possibilities!

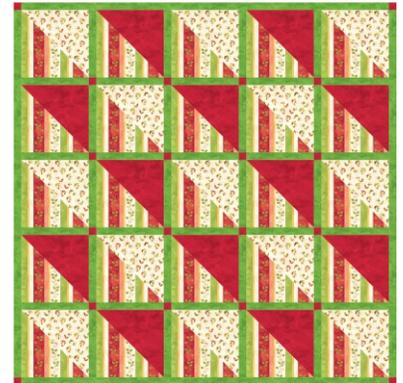
One of the simplest ways to fussy cut is to cut squares that have been oriented along the same vertical line. Don't worry if the stripes are asymmetrical - just orient the cutting line to a left hand (or right hand) stripe. The squares are then cut in half diagonally.



You'll be surprised what can be done with such a simple square.



The striped triangle can be paired with a triangle of a compatible fabric. Remember, that it doesn't always have to be the same fabric. Even when the orientation of the triangle block is the same, the result is lovely. Don't forget that sashing and corner squares can also be added.



Sometimes the simplest pairings can be extremely attractive. The striped triangle and a plain triangle can be sewn together. This block can then be alternated with a plain fabric square.



Or, it can be alternated with a plain square and a striped block. Don't forget that the orientation of the triangles in the triangle block can change.

Want some more ideas? Don't forget that you don't have to just use squares!

What would happen if the triangle squares were cut on the diagonal?



What would happen if the direction of the diagonal lines for the triangles alternated?



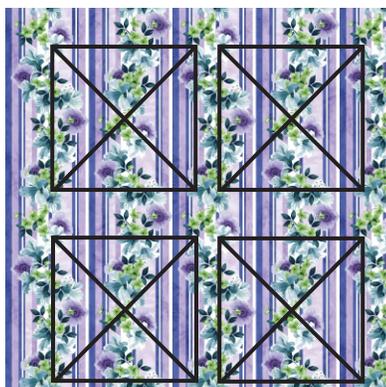
Both of the above quilts use the same block orientation. The over-all design looks different because the color placement is different.

Quarter Square Triangles

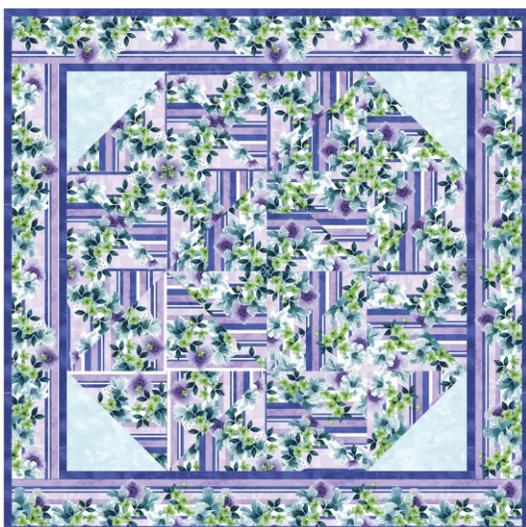


If you cut a striped fabric into quarter square triangles, some interesting things begin to happen. You will get 2 triangles with the stripe vertically oriented, and 2 with the stripe horizontally oriented.

triangles can be re-assembled to create a unique block. In this example, the top block used the triangles from the light green shaded area, and the bottom square came from the dark green shaded area. Because the bottom block triangles came from very different portions of the stripe, the effect is very different. The top square, could have had the same effect, but as luck would have it, this is the result.



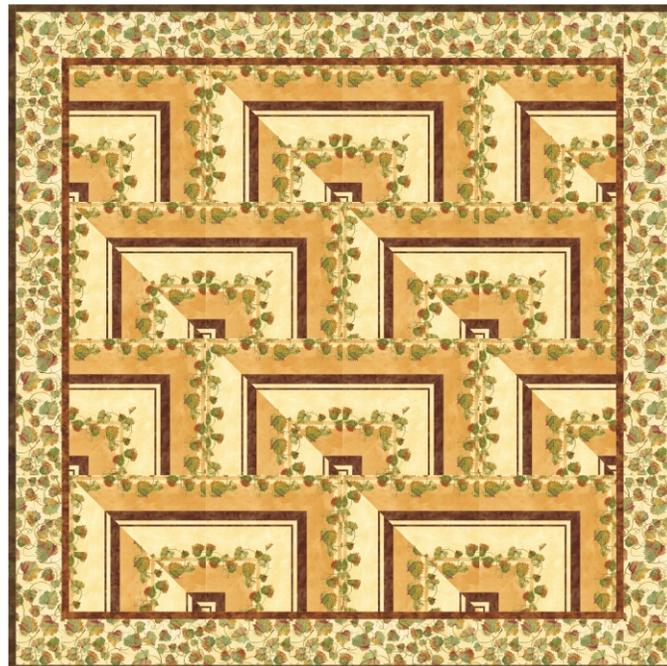
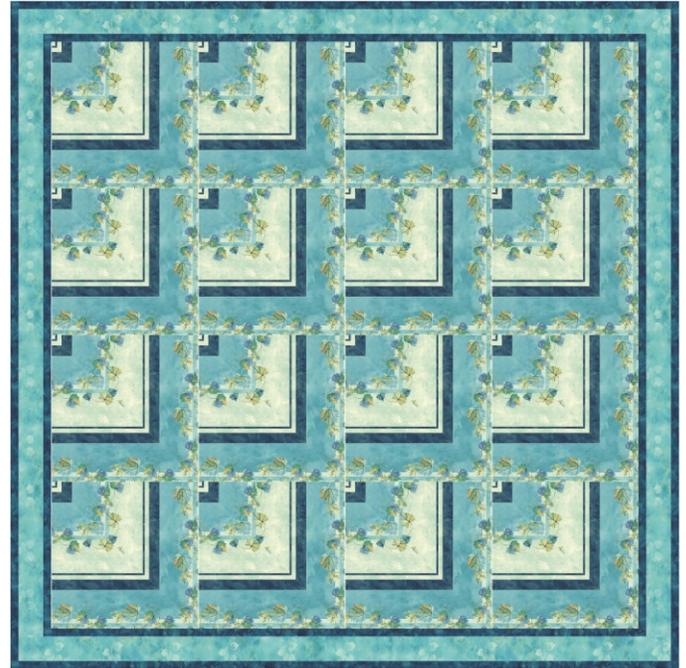
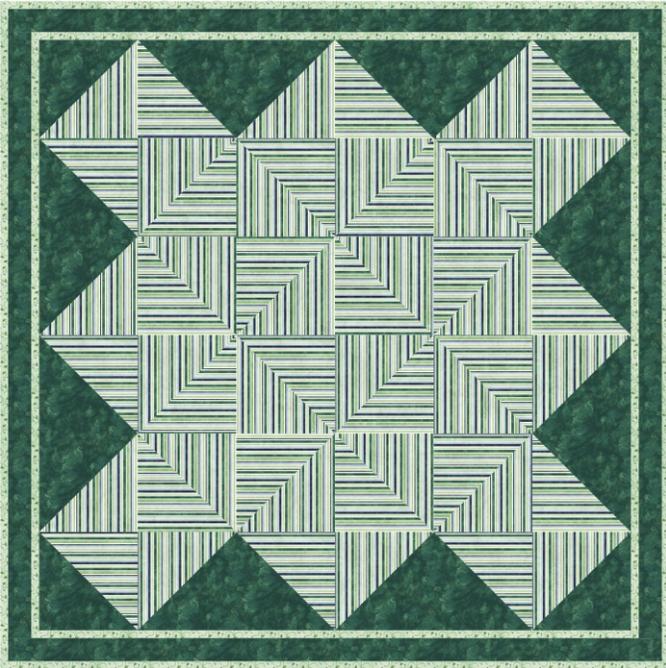
Or, you can fussy cut the quarter square triangles. This is most easily done by using the upper left (or upper right) corner of the square. (In this example, I've placed the upper left hand corner in the throat of a lily. You will need to cut 4 squares. Once cut, place the 4 left hand triangles together, the 4 right hand triangles together, the 4 top triangles together - you get the idea. Sew the triangles from each group together, and you will get a beautiful block. Each block will look different, because it's from a different portion of the stripe.



These fussy-cut blocks can then become part of a quilt. In these examples the blocks are on point, but you can orient them any way that you want.



So..... what would happen if you fussy cut a 60 degree triangle and made hexagons? What would happen if you used different size blocks all in the same quilt? How did I cut the triangles to make these quilts?



Now you know why I love stripes! Send me some pix of your striped quilts, and I'll put them on my Face book page!