

Stripped Ease

By Barb Mayfield
APQS Northwest/The Mind's Eye



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42" x 55" Finished Quilt (approx.)

Fabric Requirements:

- 20 - 2-1/2" strips (portion of a jelly roll or cut from yardage)
- 1-1/2 yds background fabric (I used black fabric)

All measurements assume 44-45" WOF (width of fabric)

Instructions:

Arrange 2-1/2" strips in a visually pleasing order; piece together along the long edge using a scant 1/4" seam. Press seams as you wish.

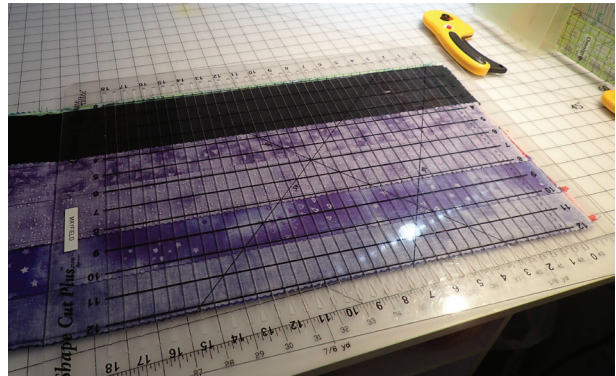


Cut 2 strips - 4" wide x WOF of background fabric (black fabric in sample below). Sew to the top and bottom outer edge of your strip set. Press seams as you wish.



Fold the strip set over so that you can cut across the entire unit. Align the horizontal lines on your ruler with the seams on the strip set to keep it square to the cut edges. I used a slotted strip cutting ruler as shown, but you can use a standard rotary cutting ruler. Cut the following sub-strips from your strip set:

- 3 strips – each cut 4" wide (Reserve two of the 3" strips for use in a later step.)
- 5 strips – each cut 3" wide
- 6 strips – each cut 2" wide



On your design wall or on a flat design surface, arrange your strips in a visually pleasing order, moving strips up and down and alternating the various widths. To help visualize how the strips may look, place your strips on top of the background fabric, spacing them about an inch apart. (In the photo to the left, I've pinned my black background fabric to my design wall first, then placed the strips over the top.) Use pins or other markers to note the top of each strip for reference.

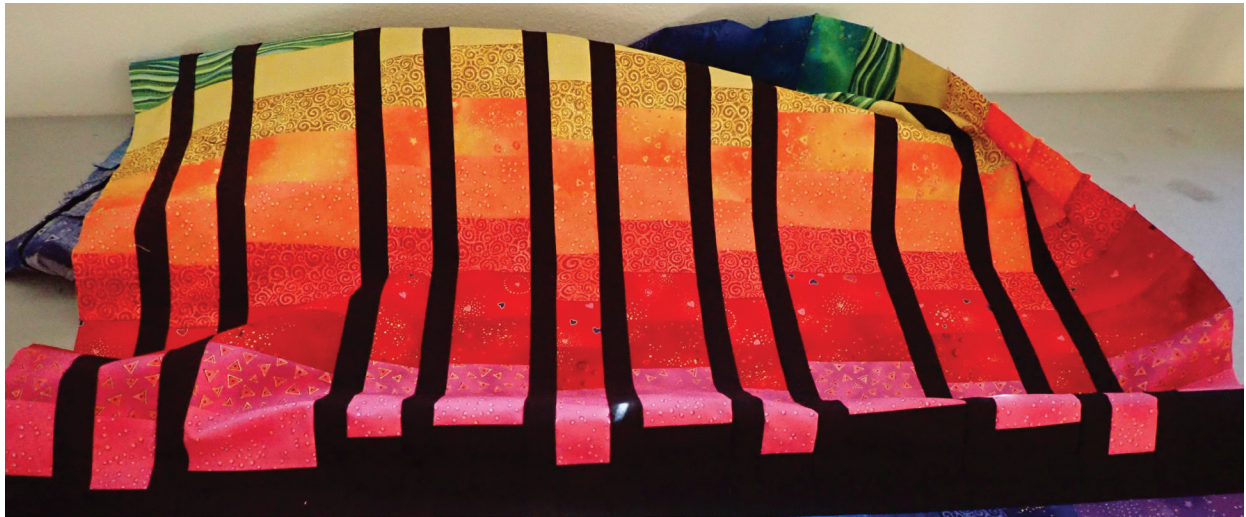
Cut 14 strips measuring 1-1/2" x WOF from background fabric for sashing strips (the number of total strips needed will depend on how much you have staggered your strip sets and the WOF of your background fabric). Sew these strips end-to-end, using a diagonal seam, as you would a quilt binding.

Sew sashing strips to **one side** of each of your strip set "strips," except the outer edge of the left and right outer strips. Do this one strip at a time so that you can place the strips back on your design board to maintain the staggered arrangement you created. Press seam towards sashing strip.

Sew these strips together, first in pairs, then in larger sets. Press seams towards sashing strips.



Once all strips are sewn together, press carefully and trim the upper and lower edges to align with the shortest strip. Optional: Add an additional 1-1/2" strip of background fabric to the top and bottom of your combined strip set so that it will "float" in the background as shown below.



Add the remaining 3" pieced strips horizontally to the top and bottom of your assembled strips, centering or staggering as desired. Press seams towards background fabric. Trim the sides even with body of the quilt.

Cut 5 - 3" x WOF background strips for the outer border - 2 (two) for the bottom and top borders and 3 (three) for the side borders. Cut one strip in half and sew each half to one full strip for the longer side borders.

Add border strips to top and bottom, press seam to the border fabric, trim. Add border strips to the sides, press and trim.



The quilt top's finished size will be about 42" x 55", but it may vary due to amount of stagger in your design.