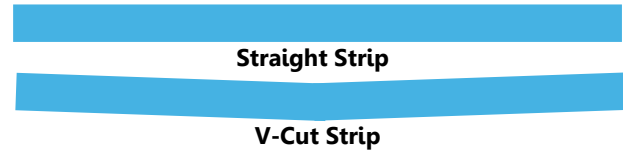


## AVOIDING THE V-CUT STRIP

Cutting **Straight Strips** are critical to sewing straight seams. The very unpopular **V-Cut Strip** can really make a mess including warped, skewed, and misshapen quilt blocks or strip sets.

### *What's a quilter to do?*



### Careful folding and squaring are key.

Before you begin, analyze your work area. You should be able to alternate your position from one side of your cutting mat to the other. If this is not possible, choose a mat that you can easily rotate 180 degrees. The goal is to always cut away from you and **NOT** move the fabric once you begin cutting. Move either yourself or the mat only.

Place your blade on the mat and even with the ruler's cutting edge about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch away from the fabric before you begin your cut. Stabilize your ruler with your thumb and fingertips and cut only to the end of your fingertips. Do not lift the cutter from the fabric. Move your thumb of the non-cutting hand to your fingertips and reposition your fingertips forward on the ruler. Continue "inch-worming" and cutting the entire length of your fabric as needed. Cutting in this manner your ruler is less likely to slip.

Follow the step instructions below for cutting straight fabric strips.

1. Press and fold your fabric selvage to selvage.
2. Smooth out any wrinkles or puckering while keeping the selvages even. The width of the fabric ends may not line up as you smooth out the fabric. You'll need to square the fabric.
3. Place the fold of the fabric away from you on the cutting mat. Your cut will begin at the selvages and end at the fold.
4. Align the top of the ruler with the fold. Cut the fabric until you have cut through the fold. Toss the trimmed edge away. Your fabric is squared.
5. Move to the other side of the cutting surface or rotate the mat, align your ruler, and cut the first strip from the fold to the selvage. Fabric is only "in square" with the fold for the width of the cut (or ruler). Therefore, you **must** "re-square" your fabric before cutting the next strip.
6. Move to the other side of the cutting surface or rotate your mat and re-square your fabric.
7. Move again to cut another strip.

Thank you so much for visiting our website. We hope this information was helpful for you. We really appreciate your referrals. Please consider us for your quilting group's workshop or guest speaker needs.

Have a lovely quilting day,

Cheryl A. Matzen  
Owner, Quilt-N-A-Flash LLC  
512-915-7555