
Rainbow Jelly Roll Quilt Top with Heather Jones

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(upbeat music) - Today, I'm gonna show you how to make this jellyroll rainbow quilt using a jellyroll, which is a precut bundle of fabric that's cut in two and a half inch strips. It's very easy to construct. We're gonna do some simple straight line stitching, some straight line quilting. The great thing about this quilt is it's really easy to construct, but it has great visual impact.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- To make our rainbow Jelly Roll quilt, you need a Jelly Roll. And a Jelly Roll is a precut bundle of fabric, usually has anywhere from 35 to 45 strips of fabric. Though what makes it a Jelly Roll is the fact that each strip is precut in 2 1/2 inches wide strips of fabric. This one's by Robert Kaufman and this is their bright rainbow Jelly Roll, I believe. But they come in different palates, different color waves, so you can choose whatever you would like. You'll also need 1 3/4 yard of backing fabric, and I'm using white to offset all the colors that are in the front of our quilt. We're gonna use a rotary cutter. We're gonna use a pair of scissors to snip our threads. And then since we're using the rotary cutter, we'll need a acrylic ruler. This one is six inches by 24 inches, which is a good, standard size to have. And then you need a cutting mat to keep the surface of your table from getting cut. Pins are optional, but they come in handy in this project, so you might want to have some pins. You'll also use a sewing machine for the project, and I've got mine threaded with some white thread. I use a cotton poly blend, and I've got white thread in the machine, but you can certainly use thread to match our fabrics, if you'd like. And you also need an iron and ironing board.

Chapter 3 - Make Quilt Top

Edit jellyroll

Piece strips

- Once you've got your 30 strips of fabric from your jellyroll set, the 30 strips that you wanna use, we will start sewing them. And, you can use pins if you want, but really this one is so simple to construct with the strips of fabric that I don't even usually pin them together. I like to have them right next to me, near my sewing machine, so that it's easy just to grab the strip. Typically when you construct a quilt you sew the fabric right sides together. The printed side, if you're talking about patterns. They have a difference in grain. Since we're using solid it's not that big of a deal but it's just a good thing to practice when you're constructing quilts. So we put the right sides together, the top of the fabric together and we line up our edges. And we're sewing with a quarter inch seam allowance and a basic straight stitch. I usually start by sewing a backstitch to lock the threads together for my stitches. I think that comes from my background in garment construction so it's, again, if you're comfortable doing that, feel free but it's not necessary. We'll start sewing our strips together. Since we're not using pins, I stop periodically to make sure the strips of fabric haven't shifted while I'm sewing them together. And you can see they shifted a little bit. So just keep stopping if you're not using pins to readjust as necessary. And just stopping to make sure nothing

has moved too much and readjust if needed. And when I get to the end, I backstitch again. So we've got two strips of fabric together, so we can now add our third. And a good thing to remember is just to keep adding on the same side. So we're adding, we're sewing a strip to my right side. So we've got our next strip just from the order of the jellyroll. Right sides together and we're ready to sew. We'll press our seams open at the end, so right now we're just sewing the strips of fabric together. Again I just backstitch to lock those stitches together. It really helps so that the seam doesn't unravel. And just stop periodically to make sure nothing has shifted. So again as we get to the bottom, at the end of the strip just, we'll backstitch again to lock the stitches. And then take it off the machine and snip our threads. So we've got our three strips of fabric sewn together and you continue sewing each strip of fabric in the same manner til you've got all 30 strips together. And once that's done, your finished, completed quilt top looks like this.

Press seams

- Now that the top of the quilt is constructed we've got all 30 strips sewn together. It's time to press. And I always start by, um, finger-pressing the seams open. So, finger-pressing just means to, just that, press open with your fingers. And I actually open up the seam with my finger and then run my fingernail over it. And do that, it really helps, by finger-pressing, it really helps to get a nice, flat seam with your iron. I press my seams open, a lot of quilters press to the side but I think that pressing the seams flat as opposed to the side, makes the seams more flat. And it also reduces wear, if you press the seams to the side you get a lot of bulk from that double layer and triple layer of fabric that you would have, where the seam is pressed. And as you're working adjust the quilt top so that you can get to the seam easier. And continue to press the seam open and follow up with the iron. I'm using steam also, I prefer to use steam rather than iron dry. One thing to keep in mind, though, is if you iron and move the iron back and forth, you run the risk of shifting things, shifting your seam and moving your fabric too much which could effect the design of your finished product. So you really wanna just press and hold the iron in place and then lift and move to the next section. We've got one strip, a seam of one strip, pressed open. And we just continue along the top. In the same manner as we did before, first finger-press the seams open, opening up the seam with your fingers and then running your fingernail to flatten everything out and open everything up and take the iron to it. And remember to press and place. Then lift the iron and press down. I hold the iron down for, I don't know, maybe three or four seconds. Just depends on the iron that your using so you just want the seam to be nice and flat. Go back over any spots that you need to. Some people think that ironing might not be an important step but I think it is, it really adds to the construction, the quality of the construction of your finished quilt. Just continue pressing the rest of the quilt top as we've done, finger-pressing open first, and then going back with the iron.

Chapter 4 - Finishing Quilt Top

Finishing

- Now that we've got the top all pressed, all of our seams pressed open, it's time to square up the quilt. If you look you might notice some of the edges on this side are different lengths. Theoretically quilting fabrics are supposed to be 44 inches wide but there is a little variation, so the squaring up of the quilt top right now will take care of all of that. Because this is a significant length of a quilt, it's 60 inches, that's a lot of fabric to deal with cutting. So I fold the quilt top in half and actually fold it in half again. Just make sure that you line up the edge on one side of your quilt, to keep the line straight when your cutting. And smooth out any wrinkles as well. That will help keep things straight

even when you're cutting. The pattern requires us to cut the width of our quilt to 42 inches so we're going to use our rotary cutter and acrylic ruler. Gonna line up everything along the bottom edge. We're gonna cut this end of the fabric off, this is the salvage edge. So we're gonna line up the ruler and make our cut with the rotary cutter. Just go slow, you're cutting through four layers of fabric. And depending on the sharpness of your blade, you may have to go over it another time to make sure you get all of the layers and make sure you get an even cut. Let's check to see. Nope. If you've got some stubborn things, you might even grab a pair of scissors to cut through but I think we are good. Lets see, sometimes they catch. So we've got one edge cut. Our quilt top measures 42 inches. It's gonna be cut to 42 inches but our cutting mat is 36 inches so we're gonna have to take a measurement and move the fabric and then measure again and cut, so that we get the correct width. So we need to measure 20 inches. And then we slide it down and put your finger where it was at 20. Now put it at zero and then go to 22 inches because 20 and 22 equals 42. So we put our ruler at the 22 inch mark. Hold it tight in place. And then again, use your rotary cutter to cut through all of the layers of fabric. And remember we're cutting through four layers of fabric, so you might have to go over it again to make sure you get all of the layers cut. We've made our cuts, and with that the quilt top is finished. So a great thing about this pattern is the fact that it is 42 inches wide which means you don't have to piece the back. You can use just a width of fabric, right off the bolt. You want it a little bit longer than the top, a little bit longer on the edges but you just use one length of fabric for the project. So here's my finished quilt and I've done white binding and a white back. And I machine stitch my binding on to the quilt. There are lots of ways that you can finish a quilt and do the actual quilting. I did straight line quilting with a walking foot. I don't recommend lots of expensive gadgets for quilting, I prefer to do things with simple objects and simple products but one thing I would recommend is investing in a quilting foot for your sewing machine. A walking foot helps move the three layers of fabric together easier through your machine. The quilt top, the batting and the back. And it really gives you a nice stitch quality. For batting, I typically use a cotton or a cotton bamboo blend. It's a low loft batting for the quilt and it gives it a nice finish as well. This is a great example of a modern quilt because it's bold and graphic. It's really striking in its design, yet it comes together really quickly.