

Notes for 60 degree ruler class for tumbling blocks

Directions for cutting are for right-handers (2.5" strip Dark,Medium; 3" strip Light; 7" strip Background)

The light-medium-dark strips used to make half-hexagons

Make strata of med-light-med and dark-light-dark. Press so darks are pressed away from light; mediums are towards light (center). This will help nest the seams. Use a scant 1/4" and you should end up with a 7" wide strip overall.

NOTE: Once the strata are made and pressed, you will subcut them into strips, which are cut again into half-hexagons that look like "pup-tents".

Cutting the dark-light-dark (cuts will lean towards the left)

- A. Cut the upper right corner off at 60 degrees (straight edge of ruler along the seam). Turn fabric around so that cut edge is lower left. Cut 2.5" strips, aligning the bottom edge and cut edge along the 60 degree angle
- B. Continue cutting 2.5" strips at the 60 degree angle (6 of each will suffice for now ==> gives 11 "pup tents")
- C. Now you will subcut the strips from B. Align the straight markings to a seam and cut at 60 degrees to the opposite corner/seam. It is more accurate to align the straight markings to the seam and cut at 60 degrees, rather than cutting from corner to corner, in case some of the strips are not true 60 degrees.

Cutting the medium-light-medium (cuts will lean towards the right)

- D. Cut the lower right corner off at 60 degrees. Turn fabric around so that cut edge is in the upper left.
- E. Continue cutting 2.5" strips at the 60 degree angle.
- F. Subcut as you did before (step C) to make half-hexagons.

For left-handers, cut the 'wedge' at the lower left (Dark strata); and upper left (Med strata), then turn to subcut.

The background color pieces (half-hexagons and half-triangles)

- G. Cut the upper right corner off of the 7" strip (above the half-way mark of the strip itself). Turn the fabric around so that cut edge is at the lower right.
- H. Cut 2.5" strips as with the M-L-M and D-L-D strata - align the bottom straight edge to the ruler edge and 2.5" width.
- I. Now check the size of the pieces ("pup tents") to find what lines will be used to cut exactly the same size for background pieces. On my ruler it was the 2" line at the top and 4.5" line at the bottom. Make that one cut and you'll have 2 identical half-hexagon fillers). Depending on the pattern you use, you may need only 2 strips (4 half-hexagons) or several.
- J. Take a 2.5" strip of fabric (either cut another 2.5" piece of fabric, or subcut the 7" fabric strip you have at its 90 degree end). When there's a 90 degree edge (vertical), you line up the "outer" seam line and cut at 60 degree edge (you should have about a 3/8" straight top). For the next cut, align the middle line on the ruler to the top edge with a 90 degree angle at 3/8" from the angled cut.

Once you have the various pieces, you can design your pattern. Just line up the pieces into columns for sewing. Rearrange as much as you want until you get the pattern you want (I show at least 3 variations, each needing differing amounts of background half-hexagons). Now sew the segments into columns and press - you want to press one side up, the next down, etc. to have nested seams.

Now sew the columns together by twos (col 1&2, 3&4, 5&6, etc), then sew those pairs together until you have one unit complete. Now press all [column/vertical] seams in one direction. You are ready for adding borders, which are all straight pieces now.

Note: The light strip is always 1/2" wider than the dark or mediums to account for seams. The wide Light strip should be the same width of your strata (you may measure the strata to confirm width needed for light).