

How to make flat sashings for quilt-as-you-go strips and blocks



Instructions are for chevron lap-crib quilt (*left, finished size approx. 36" x 44"*). However, this technique may be adapted for any size block or strip set. For the quilt, as shown, you will need:

3-1/8 yards of fabric for backing, sashing and binding
Approximately 1-1/4 yards of scrap strips, cut in various widths between 1-3/4" to 2-3/4" (and up to 3" for fussy).

Beware: You are not sewing a quilt top; you are actually quilting as you sew. This means your bobbin thread will show on the back of the quilt and once you top-stitch the first sashing down, the top thread will also show. Make sure your machine is set up to use the thread you want for the finished quilt before you sew anything.

For backing, sashing and binding, cut:

- (4) Strips, 6-1/2" x 39" each (= backing for 4 pieced chevron strips)
- (6) Strips, 2-1/2" x 39" each (= front and back for 3 sashings)
- (8) Strips, 3-1/2" x 39" each (= front and back for each border side)

From Batting, cut:

- (4) Strips, 6-1/2" x 39" each (for chevron strips)
- (3) Strips, 2-1/2" x 39" each (for sashings)
- (4) Strips, 3-1/2" x 39" each (for borders)

Open batting and spread it out to breathe before starting this project!

1. Lay one backing strip (6-1/2" wide), face down on table top; cover with one matching (6-1/2") batting strip; loosely baste.
2. Place one scrap strip FACE UP at one end of basted strip, **at an angle** to cover top of one strip. Place second scrap strip FACE DOWN and aligned to bottom edge of previous strip; sew together with 1/4" seam; fold open and finger press.
3. Continue to build onto the scrap strip by placing next scrap atop previous and sewing together through all four layers (two fabrics right sides facing, batting and backing). Flip open and finger press seams before adding next scrap strip; use iron every fourth or fifth scrap strip if desired, checking angles and backing.
4. Prepare four strips, two each with /-slash and two each with \-slash.

Sashings create a nice, flat quilt!

Line scrap strips up as you want them to appear in your quilt (1, 2, 3, 4; from left to right). Take the left most strip set (1) and add a sashing strip to the **right side** of it by placing layers as indicated below:

1. Back Sashing, **Wrong Side Down.**
2. Strip set, **Backing Side Down.**
3. Front Sashing, **Right Side Down.**
4. 2-1/2" Batting strip.



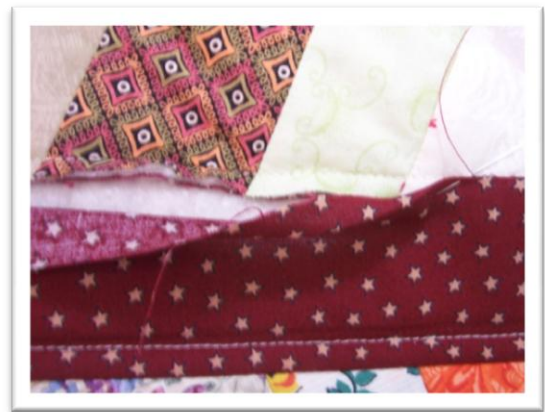
Pin together, every 4"-5" and check that all four layers are even; sew a long basting stitch through all layers (roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " away from edge) to keep a nice, even edge.

5. Sew the basted materials using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam with **Batting UP** (*do not* attempt to sew with batting down against the machine plate).
6. Pull out basting thread. Trim batting from seam line if you feel the thickness is too much although it isn't necessary unless you are going to put this into a judged quilt show ☺. Press sash open, being careful not to distort the shape/edge. Sew a topstitch line $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the seam.

Attach next scrap strip set by folding and separate layers of sashing, as needed:

1. Back Sashing, **Wrong Side Down**.
2. Next String set, **Backing Side Down**.
3. 2-1/2" Batting strip (from sashing); flap Front Sashing out of your way.

NOTE: You need to layer pieces pretty much like you did when attaching the sashing, *except* you are using the batting strip already in the sash; and you do *not* sew the Top Sashing strip down until the sets are attached in back.



4. When two strip sets are attached by a sashing strip on the back, turn under the Front Sashing strip $\frac{1}{4}$ " and whip-stitch to scrap strip, catching threads just beyond the seam line (so it doesn't show). Press and sew a top stitch (again, using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam to match previous stitch line).

Repeat until all four string sets and (three) sashes are sewn together.

Add borders: Using 3-1/2" fabric and batting strips, **add a border to each side** of the quilt using the same method as adding a sash. Trim to match length of quilt; press open. **Add a border to the top and bottom** of the quilt, again using same method; trim and press open.



5. Top-stitch completely around the quilt, $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the pieced scrap sets.
6. Round corners and prepare/attach bias binding.

Binding used was 2-1/4" – if you want a ‘fatter’ or ‘puffier’ binding edge, use a generous $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam (i.e., $\frac{3}{8}$ " or use a 2" binding and scrunch in fabric).

Instructions provided for Allamanda Chapter of The Quilting Guild of The Villages, 2013.