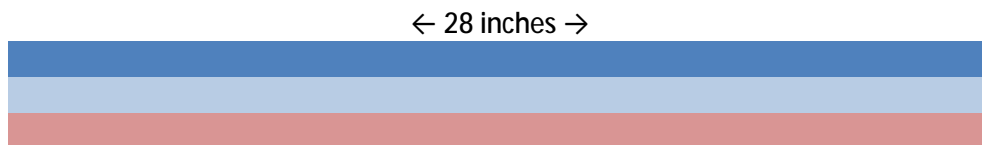


## Block of the Month - First Block – Rail Fence

The first block is the rail fence which is stripped pieced patchwork. Quite a simple block to start off with, but this will test your accuracy with a quarter inch seam. Choose three different coloured fabrics, either all one colour way, ie all blues or greens, or different colours. If you are making a scrappy quilt, (one that has different coloured fabrics), it is best to have one fabric that will appear in each block, in this way the quilt will look more coordinated

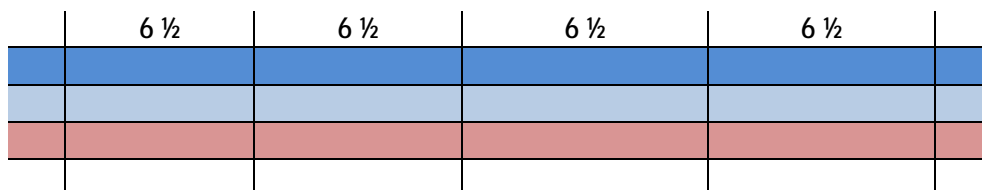
You will need three strips, each  $2\frac{1}{2}$  by 28 inches. If you don't have the length you can cut two strips  $2\frac{1}{2}$  by 14 inches instead.

Join these together lengthways as example below.

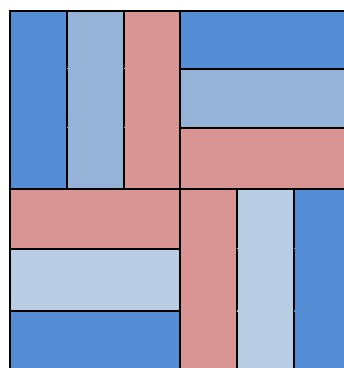


Set your machine stitch length slightly smaller than usual, this will prevent the seams coming apart when you cut across them. Start sewing at one edge and stitch down to the end, then turn the material and start to stitch from the end to the top. If you stitch your strips in one direction only the fabric will "bow". Alternate the direction of stitching. Carefully stitch a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam. Press the seams all in one direction or press the seams open, whichever way suits you. If you have joined the strips correctly your fabric band should now measure  $6\frac{1}{2}$  by 28 inches.

Place your joined band on your cutting board and using your rotary cutter and ruler, cut four sections each  $6\frac{1}{2}$  by  $6\frac{1}{2}$  as per the example below.



Arrange your four  $6\frac{1}{2}$  squares as follows:



Sew each square together with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam. Your block should now measure  $12\frac{1}{2}$