



## Prepping the Jelly Roll Strips



### Do the Fabric Strips need to be Prewashed?

No, the Fabric Strips do not need to be prewashed.

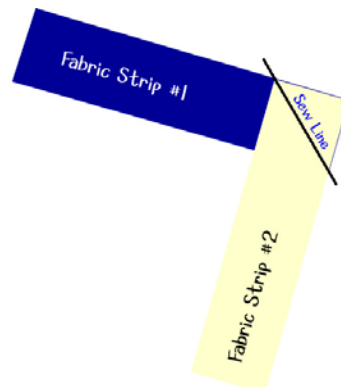
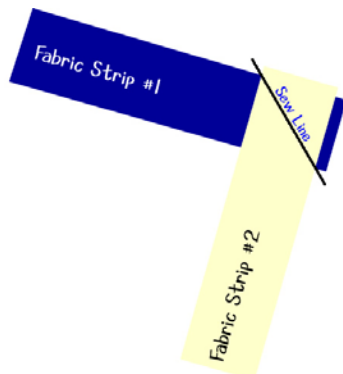
If you are cutting your own Fabric Strips and prefer to prewash your fabric, that is totally acceptable. Prewash all the fabric before cutting the Fabric Strips.

### Do the Selvage Ends need to be trimmed before sewing the Fabric Strips?

No, it is not necessary to trim the Selvage Ends before sewing each Fabric Strip. Either way is acceptable, it just comes down to a personal preference.

Leaving the Selvage Ends on the Fabric Strips will actually help in guiding where to sew. Sewing between the 2 Vs will give you a straight sewing line as seen in the 1<sup>st</sup> picture below.

Cutting the Selvage Ends off of the Fabric Strips leaves a cleaner edge for sewing a trimming. Instead of using the V as a guide you will need to sew from point to point as seen in the 2<sup>nd</sup> picture below.



## **Understanding Thread Weight**

In sewing, thread weight refers to the thickness of the thread. The lower the weight number on the thread the thicker the thread will be. For instance, 30wt thread is thicker than a 40wt thread or 50wt thread. The 50wt thread will be the thinnest of the three different weights. Thread that is 30wt is best suited for thicker and heavier fabrics, decorative stitching, and projects where a strong, prominent stitch is desired. Thread that is 40wt is a versatile medium weight all-purpose thread, suitable for a variety of sewing projects to include quilt piecing and general sewing. Thread that is 50wt is a lighter thread and ideal for delicate fabrics, fine seams, and detailed embroidery, particularly when a subtle stitch is preferred.

## **Understanding Thread Types**

Polyester, Cotton or PolyCore Thread? Choosing the type of thread to use will depend on the individual project and the intended use of the project. Generally, Polyester Thread is more durable than Cotton Thread. Polyester Thread is significantly stronger, resistant to wear and tear and has the ability to withstand frequent washing and use. Polyester Thread typically resists fading, shrinkage and creates less lint, along with being less expensive.

Spun Cotton Thread is best suited for lightweight fabrics, quilting or embroidery, along with other general sewing projects. Cotton Thread can be hand dyed to match any sewing project. Cotton Thread will produce more lint when stitching and can breakdown over several years compared to its counterpart.

PolyCore Thread, also known as core spun thread, is a sewing thread which is made with a polyester core wrapped in a cotton or polyester outer layer. PolyCore Thread construction combines the strength of Polyester with the look and feel of Cotton. The core of the thread is typically made of high-tenacity polyester, which provides the strength and durability. This blend makes PolyCore Thread suitable for a variety of sewing application, including quilting, general sewing and projects where a cotton look is desired.

## **Understanding the different Thread Plies**

A Ply is considered a single strand of yarn that is twisted together with other strands to form a thread. Threads are often described as 2-ply, 3-ply, or 4-ply, indicating the number of strands that are twisted together.

The more plies a thread has, the heavier and thicker the thread will be. Threads with more plies generally offer greater strength and durability. A spool of thread will indicate the Thread Weight and the Thread Ply. For Example: 50/2, The first number indicates the Thread Weight and the second number indicates the Thread Ply, meaning that this thread has 2 strands of size 50 weight thread that are twisted together. If the spool indicated 50/3, then this

thread has 3 strands of size 50 weight thread that are twisted together making the 50/3 Thread thicker and heavier than the 50/2 Thread.

### **Which Thread should be used for a Jelly Roll Rug?**

The Jelly Roll Rug by RJ Designs recommends using 50wt thread. The pattern does not specify the type of thread to use.

My personal recommendations would be to use either a 40wt 3-ply Thread, such as Aurifil 40wt 3-ply Egyptian Mako Cotton Thread, or Superior Threads 40wt 3-ply King Tut Thread.

Another option is using a 40wt 2-ply PolyCore Thread, such as Superior Threads Omni-V Thread.

I have personally found that these 3 Thread Types work great when making a Jelly Roll Rug. All 3 Thread Types have sewn very well and have stood up to the use and washing of the rugs.

### **Which way do you sew the Fabric Strips together?**

Do you sew the Fabric Strips together Diagonally or Straight? Either way is fine! All depends on each person's personal preference.

Sewing the Fabric Strips diagonally will give a gentler transition from one strip to the next strip.

Sewing the Fabric Strips straight will give a more abrupt change from one strip to the next strip.

### **Do I have to iron the whole length of the sewn Fabric Strips?**

No, it is not necessary to iron the whole length of the sewn together Fabric Strips. It is best to press open each of the joining strip seams once they have been trimmed to ¼". Again, pressing the whole Fabric Strip is a personal choice.

### **Jelly Roll Rug Tip**

Once you have decided the type and color of Thread to use on your Jelly Roll Rug, pre-wind 6-7 bobbins. This will aid in not having to stop and wind bobbins during the sewing of the Fabric Tube and sewing the Jelly Roll Rug.

For more information on Prepping Jelly Roll Strips for a Jelly Roll Rug, visit my YouTube Channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@GingerberryCreek>