

## August 2023 Block of the Month – the Rail Fence

This Month's Basic Block is the **Rail Fence Unit**. The foundation of this block is learning to sew strata units (strip piecing) accurately so that you don't end up with wonky units. I have heard many different tips to help with sewing accurate strata units so that you end up with perfectly straight strips and the one that has helped me the most is to make sure you sew with:

1. An ACCURATE Quarter inch seam and
2. Sew the strips in opposite directions.



By this I mean that when you sew one strip onto the next, from this point you just flip the unit and begin sewing the next one from the end you just finished. I have sewn units together all from the same end, and have quickly learned that the fabric wants to curve. I have found that by alternating the ends when you sew, it helps even out the strips and stops any potential stretching from happening. What is your favourite tip?

Our Block will be 12 inch Finished (12 ½" unfinished). There are many designs you can make from a rail fence – its' all in how you lay them out.

Here are the cutting instructions for one 3 colour block:

- Colour 1, 2, and 3 – 2 ½" strips 26" in length

Build the strata unit by laying out the strips in the colour order you want and sewing long sides together. Press to the dark side for easy nesting of seams. Sub-cut into 6 ½" lengths. Be sure to measure that you now have 6 ½" squares!

Layout as desired and have some fun! Lisa has continued with her soft yellow and light blue as pictured above. Cherie's quilt (to the right) is much loved and almost worn out in green and white.

For a tutorial, you can visit

<https://scissortailquilting.com/quilt-block-library/category/patterns/basic-units/page/5/>

Or to see the Friendship star made to look like a shadow quilt -

<https://www.quilterscache.com/F/FriendshipStarBlock.html>

Happy Stitching! Lisa and Cherie

