

Fields and Fences

Learn to cut and sew accurately

From ***Piecing the Piece O' Cake Way, Revised Second Edition***

By Becky Goldsmith and Linda Jenkins

This book was designed to be a teaching tool. The information on pp. 1–34 includes things that every quilter should know. Please do refer your students to this information and tell them as much as you can in class.

Class Description:

There is no time like now to learn how to cut accurate strips and sew a precise ¼" seam allowance! This quilt showcases two sizes of the fast and fun Rail Fence block pattern, and students will sew both of them. This class is suitable for any skill level. Beginners will sew at least two large blocks and four small blocks. Quilters with more experience could finish all of the blocks.

Class Length:

This can be taught as a 1-day class. If you are targeting beginners, it would be good to teach it in two sessions, focusing on accurate cutting in the first class.

Class Supply List:

- Book: ***Piecing the Piece O' Cake Way, Revised Second Edition***
- Fabric, as listed on p. 39.
- Rotary cutter, ruler, and mat. Ruler should be 6½" × 24½"
- Sewing machine in good working order
- Matching thread
- Scissors

It's a good idea to make a fabric-choosing date with your students before the day of the class. Beginners especially like to have help with this step. We recommend that fabric be washed and dried before using and that will give students time to do that.

Classroom Preparation:

Each student needs room to cut. Cutting is an important part of this class, and it's hard to do on a tiny mat in a cramped space. They also need room to set up their sewing machine. Cutting continues during the class. Once the sewing begins, students will need to iron. Two to three students could share an iron.

Class Agenda:

1. Teach how to cut strips accurately. Refer to pp. 35–37. Also refer to *Using Rotary Tools*, pp. 18–21.

2. If the class is moving along well, cut all of the strips described on p. 39. If you have students who are slower, cut 1 of each of the fabrics for the large and small blocks.
3. Follow the instructions for the Large Center Block assembly, pp. 39–40.
4. Follow the instructions for the Small Border Block assembly, pp. 40–41.
5. If there is time, set the quilt together.
6. Discuss how to finish the quilt.