



Fast, Fun Summer Rag Quilt Lesson Plan

Step-by-step guide to offering this project as a class

Suitable for a 3-hour class if students use Layer Cakes or pre-cut squares, don't stitch diagonals and finish clipping at home.

Suitable for a 6-hour class if students cut squares in class from yardage, stitch diagonals on all pairs, and/or want to finish clipping in class

The Summer Rag quilt can be used to teach foundational sewing skills while producing a fast, usable project.

Decide on Fabric:

Begin by deciding if you are offering pre-cut 10" squares or yardage.

1. If you're offering Layer Cakes or your own pre-cut squares advertise the class as a skillbuilder focused on: "Learn accurate stitching tips & tricks."
2. If you're offering yardage, include that this class teaches accurate rotary cutting with easy squares, plus stitching and assembly tips.

Order notions & review schedule provided in Marketing Plan. Adjust as needed for your students & schedule.

Day of Class:

- Welcome students to class. Either individually as they arrive or in the group setting, poll students to determine experience level.
- Highlight that this is EASY sewing. The goal of the class is to ensure people are comfortable understanding how to set up a seam allowance and adjust stitch length on their machine; how to sew patches together accurately; how to assemble rows of blocks; how to clip to create a rag quilt.
- Start by covering fabric selection.

- If you offered a kit, talk about your choices. ○ If your students used pre-cut Layer Cakes, talk about whether to arrange fabrics in a random layout or whether to plan a color progression or a radiating color layout.
- If your students are sewing the “X” across fabric pairs, start with that step. Note: It’s easiest to pair the same fabric together, wrong sides together, to stitch the “X”. The front & back of the quilt will then be the same. If you’re pleased with the front layout, you’ll like the back, too. Demonstrate how to set up Diagonal Seam Tape on the machine to assist with accurately stitching the diagonal lines from corner to corner.
- Have students arrange their squares on a design wall. Once pleased with the layout, stack the fabric pairs up in order starting with the last block of the row and moving across the row to the left, adding the fifth block and so on until the first block of the row is on top. Use numbered clips to keep track of what row the blocks go to.
- Explain how this quilt features the seam allowance sewn on the outside—the reverse of most patchwork.
- Demonstrate how to set up an accurate ½” seam allowance using a seam guide and more seam tape positioned as a guide.
- The students can then move to their machines and sew the blocks for Row 1 together in order. Press seams open. Leave the numbered pin in the first block to identify the row.
- Continue in this method until all rows are pieced.
- Then, assemble the rows, again using a ½” seam allowance.
- Sew around the outer perimeter of the quilt, using a ½” seam allowance. Repeat this process to reinforce the outer edge.
- Use scissors or snips to clip the seam allowance approximately every half inch. Be careful not to clip into the seam allowance.
- For maximum fray, fabrics are not pre-washed so consider talking about using a dye magnet to catch any loose dye.
- Clean lint traps often during the drying process.