

Pre-cut Quilting Fabrics

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When you visit a quilt shop, you're captivated by the array of fabric colors and prints available and tempted to buy something of everything for your stash. One of the displays sure to attract attention is the one offering pre-cut fabrics in various sizes and shapes.

The pre-cut groupings offer multiple pieces in a given fabric line, so you really can sample it all. Buying pre-cuts is an easy way to get a variety of fabrics in a single size, ready for instant piecing, or to cut into other shapes and sizes.

Warning: *Purchasing pre-cut fabrics can be addicting! Be sure to weigh the cost of pre-cuts vs. purchasing off the bolt, depending on how much fabric you need and the size of your quilt pieces.*

Go-togethers

If you're the least bit hesitant about coordinating fabrics on your own, buying pre-cuts solves that dilemma for you, as they're already made to go together. Print groupings are usually from the same designer and in similar colorations. Sometimes the assortments are pulled together by theme instead—for example, children's prints, or Civil War reproduction prints. Solid groupings are also themed either by the fabric line, or by color way, like naturals, rainbow brights, or single color offerings (i.e. assorted blues).

Size Matters

There are many pre-cut sizes and bundles available. Here's a list of some common sizes. Note that there can be variation in name and size depending on the fabric brand, and not all companies offer all sizes. Some companies die cut the shapes using pinked edges, other are simply cut straight and can ravel as they're handled.

- **Fat Eighths:** 11" x 18"

- **Fat Quarter:** 18" x 22" Because of the configuration you can get more (and larger) pieces out of this shape than a standard quarter yard which is 9" x 45".
- **Charm Pack:** 5" x 5" squares; quantity can vary depending on the number of fabrics in the line
- **Twice the Charm:** 5 1/2" x 22" strips
- **Dessert Roll:** 5" x 45" strips
- **Honey Buns:** 1 1/2" x 45" strips
- **Jelly Roll:** 2 1/2" x 45" strips
- **Layer Cake:** 10" x 10" squares
- **Turnover:** 6" triangles
- **Half Yards:** Pieces can be 18" x 45" or 22" x 36"
- **One Yard:** 36" x 45"
- **Fat quarters, half-yards and one-yard cuts** can be sold individually, or bundled into a fabric line grouping of coordinates.



Charm Squares



Fat Quarters

Many stores purchase pre-made fabric bundles from manufacturers, but some cut their own groupings. Look for scrap bags, bags of selvages, etc. in addition to the cut sizes listed above.

When you purchase pre-cuts, be sure to read the label to know exactly how many pieces you are getting and if that will be enough for your project. Also note how many of each print or solid you get in the assortment.

Quick Cut-ups

All pre-cut fabric sizes and shapes are easily cut into other sizes, depending on the quilt you're making.

Since fat quarters are the most common pre-cut fabric size available, here's what just one can yield:

2" squares: 99	2 1/2" squares: 56
3" squares: 42	3 1/2" squares: 30
4" squares: 20	4 1/2" squares: 16
5" squares: 12	5 1/2" squares: 12
6" squares: 9	6 1/2" squares: 6

Die Cuts

If you're looking for rabbits, bears, trains, apples and other common shapes for quilt appliques, check out the die-cut offerings. Usually bagged with a certain number of pieces, these shapes eliminate tedious patternmaking and cutting.

Some companies back their die cuts with fusible web, so they're ready to iron in place on the block background. Non-fused shapes can be satin stitched in place or hand turned.

Be sure to purchase enough shapes for all the blocks that need them, or alternate with solid or print blocks between the appliquéd ones.

Pattern Plays

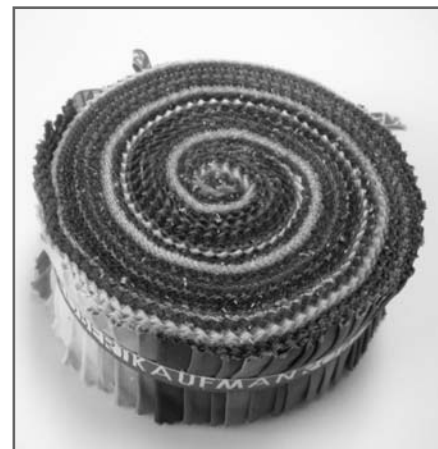
There are many books and patterns specifically designed for use with pre-cut fabrics of all sizes. Some are written by independent authors, others by the fabric companies selling the assortments. Also, search online for free patterns specific to a pre-cut size. 🖨



Die Cuts



Twice the Charm



Jelly Roll