

# Quilting Rulers

9.205

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Like fabric, quilters can never have too many—rulers, that is. These handy tools are critical to proper measuring and cutting of the intricate pieces for fabric artistry.

### Seeing Clearly

Most quilting rulers are made from 1/8"-thick clear acrylic, though a few are metal or wood. Some brands of rulers are frosted to allow for better visibility on dark fabrics, and others are slightly tinted for easier use on light color goods.

Because they're commonly used as guides for rotary cutting, acrylic rulers provide a rigid edge as a blade guide during the cutting process.

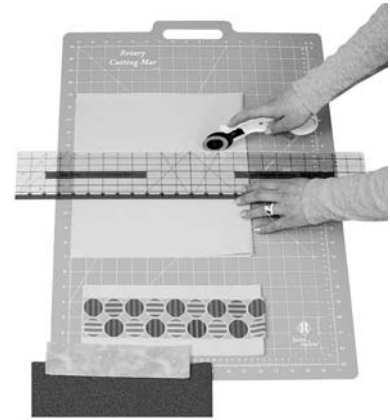
Lines on rulers can be printed or laser etched, and come in a variety of colors including yellow, white, neon green, pink, red and black. The color greatly affects the line visibility against dark and light fabrics, and some reversible rulers offer one color lineage on one side and another color on the flip side, in perfect alignment, of course.

Lines and calibration may be in one direction or multiple directions depending on the ruler's intended use, and they may also differ on various edges.

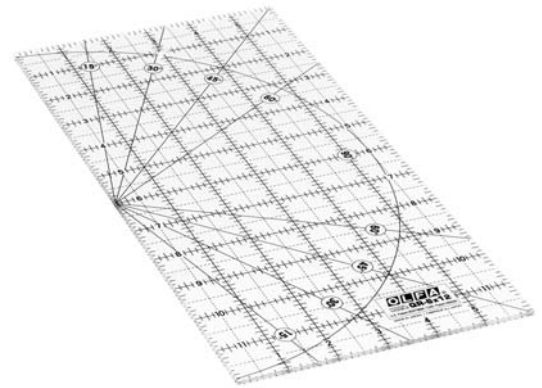
Rulers may be marked with lines in increments down to 1/16", but more commonly in 1/8" or 1/4" spacings. Rulers are available in metric and American measurements; some offer both on the same tool.

Some rulers include 1/4" seamlines in their calibration, sometimes shaded for visibility. This feature saves any math errors in figuring block sizes.

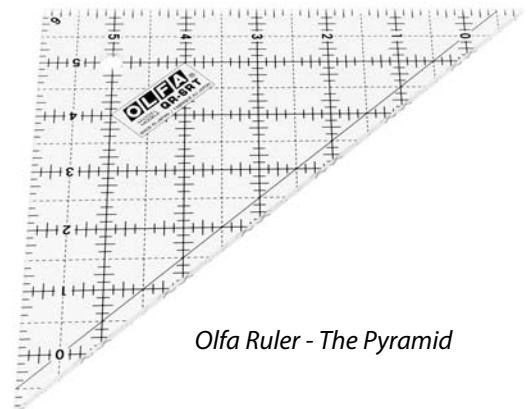
Many rulers are marked with angles in addition to linear measurements, making it easy to cut a 30°, 45° or 60° triangle.



*June Tailor Precision Quilting Ruler*



*Olfa Frosted Advantage Ruler -  
The Traveler*



*Olfa Ruler - The Pyramid*

## Shaping Up

Quilting rulers come in hundreds of variations, from tiny 2" squares to yardstick lengths, and in myriad shapes.

One basic size most quilters use frequently is a 6" x 24" ruler, allowing strips to be cut easily across a folded 45"-wide fabric.

In addition to straight rulers of all widths and sizes, look for square, circular, triangular measuring tools and combination shapes in a variety of configurations. Many quilt designers make rulers specific to their own systems and patterns.

## Staying Put

Look for non-slip backings to hold rulers in place during the rotary cutting process. Some have little abrasive circles on the underside or a textured backing to hug the cloth surface. On other rulers, optional non-skid disks can be adhered to the underside to serve the same purpose.

A few rulers come with handles, again for secure holding; some are permanent, others are removable with suction cups or recessed screws. For rulers that don't have handles, add-ons are available in the notion department.

Some rulers offer a lipped edge to help hold them in place and square with the fabric cutting path—essentially forming a mini T-square.

## Special Effects

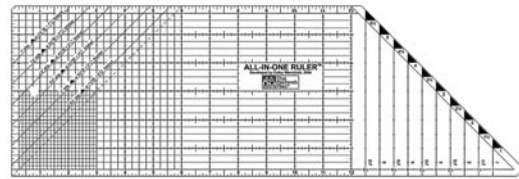
In addition to those mentioned above, there are a number of specialty rulers. Look for scallop and wave edges, wedge shapes, slotted rulers for cutting fringe, mitering rulers to help with cornering, and centering rulers for accurate placement.

Adhesive rulers can be applied to any sewing or cutting surface, including the sewing machine needle plate for easier seam guiding.

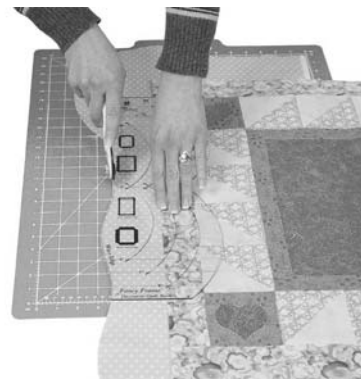
Roll-up rulers are good for travel, and for easier storage. They "snap" out flat for use.

For curves and drafting, consider a flexible ruler that can be easily shaped as needed.

Chances are good if you have a need for a specialty ruler, you can find one made just for the task. 🖱



*That Patchwork Place All-in-One Ruler*



*June Tailor Fancy Frame Ruler*



*EZ Roll-up Ruler*