



## FEBRUARY 2007 BLOCK OF THE MONTH

### *Roman Stripe Block*

Turn in at March meeting

**Techniques:** Making multiple blocks from strip-piecing, avoiding having to cut triangles

**Block size:** *approximately* 8-1/2 unfinished; use 1/4 inch seam throughout

**Colors:**

- For the three stripes, three (3) different pastels
- For the background, one (1) cream or beige: plain, tone-on-tone, or lightly figured

**Cutting:**

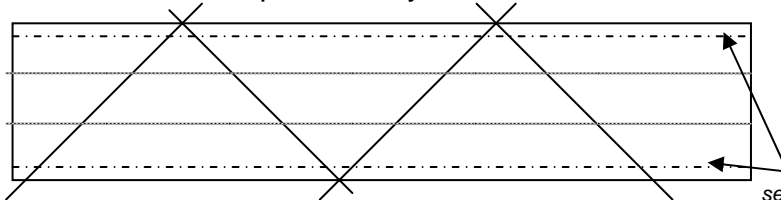
- Cut one (1) strip 2-1/2 inches wide from each pastel for a total of three strips. How long? One width-of-fabric (WOF) will make 5 completed blocks. A fat-quarter will make two blocks (recommended, so you learn the whole technique)
- From the background fabric, cut one (1) strip 6-1/2 inches wide

**Construction of Strip-Set:**

1. Sew pastel strip 1 to strip 2 on long edge. Press the seams to one side. Add strip 3. Your strip-set should measure 6-1/2 inches wide. If your strip-set has selvages at one end, cut off the selvages, to prevent accidentally including selvedge in the finished blocks
2. Place the strip-strip RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER with your background strip
3. Sew a 1/4-inch seam down BOTH long sides of the strips, to make a tubular strip-set

**Cutting Your Blocks:**

1. Place the **45-degree** line on a ruler *ON ONE OF THE SEWN SEAMS* and cut diagonally across the sewn strip-set
2. Reverse the ruler, placing the **45-degree** line on the opposite *OUTSIDE EDGE*, and line up to cut back across the strip set, keeping the corner sharp. Think of it this way: you are cutting out a perfect half-square triangle. Continue cutting, switching back and forth across the strip-set until you have the number of blocks you're making



*seam lines; corner stitches to remove are where the points touch the outer edge of the strip set*

3. NOW, remove the few stitches at the corner side, open each block and press toward the dark (strip set) or press open, if you prefer. VOILA! You have created Roman Stripe blocks without ever sewing a triangle.
4. Because sewing long strip sets often involves a bit of inaccuracy in the 1/4 inch seams, the finished blocks will be *approximately* 8-1/2 inches square. The winner of the blocks will need to square up all the blocks to match the smallest size block received.