

Fabric Cuts

Charms	5" square of fabric, usually sold in packs that include one of every fabric in a collection, or a group of coordinating fabrics.
Collection	A group of fabrics designed to work together
Custom Cuts	Fabric that is not pre-cut, instead it is cut to your preferences. At Connecting Threads, we cut any length in quarter yard increments, including fat quarters.
Fat Eighth	Half of a Fat Quarter, usually 9" x 22"
Fat Quarter	One quarter yard of fabric, but cut to be more usable for quilters – measures approx 22" x 18". Fat quarters are cut by starting with one half yard, cutting it in half.
Jelly Roll Strips	Strips of fabric that measure 2 ½" x width of fabric, usually sold in packs that include one of every fabric in a collection, or a group of coordinating fabrics. Also known as Strips
Kits	Generally a kit includes all of the fabrics you need complete a quilt top or project, often including the pattern. This varies widely depending on where you purchase a kit, so read the contents carefully.
Layer Cake	10" square of fabric, usually sold in packs that include one of every fabric in a collection, or a group of coordinating fabrics.
Linear	Refers to the way the fabric is cut from a bolt. A linear cut is the width of fabric x the measurement. For example, a 0.5m linear cut is 0.5m x width of fabric
Pre-cuts	A pre-measured cut of fabric, such as a Strip rolls, Fat Quarter or Charm sampler, usually sold in packs that include one of every fabric in a collection, or a group of coordinating fabrics. Generally, every fabric in a pre-cut pack is the same cut.
Sampler	A group of fabrics that either coordinate or are from the same collection.
Stacks	10" square of fabric, usually sold in packs that include one of every fabric in a collection, or a group of coordinating fabrics.
Strips	Strips of fabric that measure 2 ½" x width of fabric, usually sold in packs that include one of every fabric in a collection, or a group of coordinating fabrics. Also known as Jelly Rolls.

Acronyms

BOM	Block of the Month
FQ	Fat quarter
HST	Half square triangle
JR	Jelly Roll
LAQ	Long Arm quilter
LC	Layer cake
LQS	Local quilt shop
PhD	Projects half done
PIGS	Projects in grocery sacks
RST	Right sides together
TOT	Tone on Tone
UFO	Unfinished object
WIP	Work in progress
WOF	Width of fabric
WOFQ	Width of fat quarter
WOW	White on White
WOMBAT	Waste Of Money, Batting, And Time
WST	Wrong sides together

Glossary of Terms

Appliqué	a piecing process using small amounts of fabric which are then sewn onto a background fabric in a decorative design. Appliqué can be done by hand, machine or with fusible web and is often combined with pieced blocks or placed in the border to frame a pieced quilt. Appliqué is a great technique to cover stains, rips or other problem areas.
Backing	the back layer of a quilt that covers the middle batting section. Also see Quilt Sandwich. A backing could be a single piece of fabric, or pieced into a unique design.
Basting	very large stitching used to temporarily hold fabric layers together. Could be machine or hand basted.
Batting	also called as wadding or stuffing .The middle layer of a Quilt Sandwich, intended to provide warmth & thickness to the finished quilt. Can be made from cotton, wool, polyester, bamboo, silk, or a blend of any of these.
Batik	a method of dyeing fabric where some areas are covered with wax or pastes made of glues or starches to make designs by keeping dyes from penetrating in pattern areas. Multicolored and blended effects are obtained by repeating the dying process several times,
Bias	the diagonal of fabric is known as bias. Strips cut from the bias of fabric are extremely stretchy with plenty of “give.” Excellent for appliquéd stems, binding, etc.
Binding	the finishing touch on a quilt. After a quilt is quilted, a narrow piece of fabric is sewn all around the perimeter of the quilt, covering all raw edges and providing a protective layer at the edge. Binding can be made from bias, cross grain or straight of grain fabric. It can be one fabric, or many fabrics pieced together, end to end. It traditionally is double folded to provide extra strength around the edge, where a quilt often gets more wear and tear.
Blanket Stitch	embroidery stitch done by hand or by machine that works well to finish an appliquéd edge. Also known as Buttonhole Stitch.
Block	one component of a quilt top, often the key focal of the design. A block is often a pieced design in a square or rectangle shape.
Block Printing	a hand printing process where the motifs have been carved on wooden blocks. The dye is applied to the fabric from these blocks.
Bolt (Fabric)	a bolt is a unit of measurement used as an industry standard.... the length is usually 15yards (13.7m) , but varies depending on the fabric being referred.
Border	the outer segment of a quilt top. A border is not required for a quilt, but is often used to frame the blocks and increase the size.
Buttonhole Stitch	embroidery stitch done by hand or by machine that works well to finish an appliquéd edge. Also known as Blanket Stitch.
Chain Piecing	a time saving piecing technique where block components are sewn on to their blocks at the same time without cutting the threads. See our tutorial for Beginner Log Cabin blocks.

Cornerstones	generally a small square piece of fabric used at the corner of blocks or sashing sections of a quilt top
Cross grain	fabric as measured from selvage to selvage. Cross grain fabric has more natural stretch or “give” than straight of grain.
Calico	in the 19th century, calico referred to any type of cotton fabric. It is still used in that sense in England and Australia. A lightly woven cotton type fabric with an all over print, usually a small floral pattern on a contrasting background color.
Challenge	a competition to create a block or quilt using specified fabrics or patterns
Cheater's cloth	fabric printed with an all-over quilt block design, made to look like a pieced or appliquéd quilt top.
Cotton	<p>is a vegetable fibre that grows in a boll, or protective case, around the seeds of the cotton plants. The fibre is most often spun into yarn or thread and used to make a soft, breathable textile.</p> <p>Cotton has a lot of characteristic as – Soft, Good absorbancy, color retention, prints well, machine washable, dry-cleanable, good strength, drapes well, easy to handle & sew.</p>
Crazy Quilt	a block assembled from irregular and often scrap pieces, with no set pattern or design overall. A popular pattern during the Victorian period, it was made with silks and velvets and embellished with much embroidery.
Design Wall	a space to hang your segments and preview the design before piecing hem together.
Directional print	fabric with a printed pattern that has a definite direction or grain.
Elasticity	the ability of a fibre to return to its original length, shape, or size immediately after the removal of stress.
Fabric Type	<p>to determine unknown fabric or batting type, there are two methods to find out what it is. The most reliable method is to examine the fibre under a microscope. Cotton has a twisty, round which looks like a straw, wool has scales, silk is smooth and round like spaghetti and linen has little horizontal joins.</p> <p>There is also the burn test. Hold a match to a small piece of the fabric and observe the results.</p> <p>Cotton burns steadily and smells like burning leaves or toast. The ash is soft and crumbles easily.</p> <p>Linen is very similar but it takes longer to light and smells like burning paper.</p> <p>Silk burns slowly and smells like hair or feathers burning. It burns slowly with a grayish ash which crumbles easily. It is delicate when wet.</p> <p>Wool smolders and sputters when near flame. It doesn't burn easily and smells like burning hair. It produces a crisp, dark ash which crushes easily and turns to powder.</p>

Manmade Fibers (acrylic, nylon, polyester, rayon, etc.) will melt when exposed to a flame and has an ash like a hard bead (except rayon which disappears.)

Fabric width	typically measures between 42(107cm) and 44(112cm) inches from side to side, called "selvage to selvage" in sewing terms.
Flannel	flannel is a soft fabric which can be made from cotton, wool or synthetic fibres. It is usually loosely woven and slightly furry and is very warm. As flannel is loosely woven, it does shrink about 5% in the first wash and will continue to shrink with each wash until it is no longer loosely woven.
Freezer Paper	freezer paper is a wrapping paper that has a light coating of a wax-like plastic on one side. Quilters like to use it as a template for appliqué by drawing the design on the paper side, cutting it out and ironing the template to the fabric using a very hot, dry iron. If your freezer paper doesn't stick well, it can be attached to fabric using silk pins, basting stitches or a glue stick.
Fusibles	various webs or interfacings which can be ironed onto a fabric for easier appliqué or to support the fabric.
Embellishment	the addition of trims, buttons, thread, beads etc to the surface of a finished block, quilt or project. Could also be embroidery or appliqué.
Embroidery	hand or machine stitching to create a unique design on top of a finished block, quilt or project. It is considered an embellishment.
Elastane	<p>lycra or elastane (Spandex in USA) is a synthetic fibre known for its exceptional elasticity. It is stronger and more durable than natural rubber.</p> <p>Lycra is a product of DuPont for spandex fiber. Lycra® is trademark and Brand name of DuPont Company. Spandex is synonyms of elastane fiber.</p> <p>There is no difference in fabric properties, fabrics made of cotton/spandex, cotton/Elastane and cotton/Lycra blend. Fabric properties will vary based on what percentages of elastane (spandex) are used in the fiber.</p>
English Paper Piecing	found in 18th and 19th century English quilts, this method of hand piecing uses paper templates inside the block elements to guide where the edges are turned under. These papers are later removed.
Feed Dogs	the mechanism on a sewing machine that is under the plate and moves forward and backward when the sewing machine is engaged. This assists the fabric movement.
Finished size	this is the measurement of a block or quilt or section, after all of the seams are completely finished and no raw edges remain.
Free motion	free form sewing that can be quilting or thread embellishment. Feed dogs are lowered, or dropped, on the sewing machine so the quilter is in control of where the fabric is moved. For accurate stitch length, the quilter then must achieve a balance of how fast the stitching goes vs how much the fabric is moved.
Fusible Web	a product that is applied with heat (like an iron) to fabric. Fabric bonded with fusible web is then used to embellish or appliqué projects.

Fussy Cut	to select a specific area of a motif when cutting fabric, instead of allowing random cuts.
Grain	the lengthwise and crosswise threads of a fabric. The lengthwise grain are parallel to the selvage.
Griege goods	refers to woven textiles as they come from the loom, before they are dyed or printed and sold as finished goods. It is pronounced "gray goods".
Label	usually placed on the back of a finished quilt, the label includes information such as who made it and when, who was the recipient, perhaps what is special about it. Especially important for dating heirloom quilts 100 years from now! Can be written in water soluble ink or embroidered directly on the quilt, or on a piece of fabric that is then finished and appliquéd onto the back.
Lap quilting	first used in the 19th century, this method of making a quilt by finishing the blocks individually and putting them together.
Layout	the arrangement in which blocks are sewn together to make a quilt
Length of Fabric	this is the measurement that runs along the selvage.
Linen	is a textile made from the fibres of the flax plant. The fibre is very absorbent and garments made of linen are valued for their exceptional coolness and freshness in hot weather. Linen fibres are stronger and more lustrous than cotton. Linen textiles appear to be some of the oldest in the world: their history goes back many thousands of years.
Long Arm Machine	a large free motion sewing machine used to quilt the three layers together on a quilt. Allows the Long Arm Quilter to stitch 24" or greater sections at a time.
Long Arm Quilter	a quilter that uses a Long Arm Machine to stitch the layers of a quilt together. See Long Arm Machine.
Lycra	(see elastane or spandex)
Metre	Meter, or metre (symbol: m), is the unit of the length - equal to 100cm or 39.4inches
Mid Arm Machine	same as a Long Arm machine, but generally with a 15-20" throat. Allows the quilter to stitch larger sections of a quilt than on a traditional machine.
Mitered corner	corner (usually of a border) that is joined at a 45 degree angle, like a picture frame.
Motif	an patch used for appliqué.
Muslin	an inexpensive, medium weight, plain weave, low count (less than 160 threads per square inch) cotton sheeting fabric. Muslin in it's unfinished form, it is commonly used in fashion design to make trial garments for preliminary fit. It gets its name from the city of Mosul, Iraq, where it was first manufactured.
Natural Fibre	any textile fibre manufactured from an animal or vegetable source. Cotton, linen, silk and wool are the foremost examples.

Ombre	a fabric made by laying in wefts of yarn that are closely coloured hues that after weaving created a shaded effect.
On Point	A block or section of a quilt that has been turned on its side (at a 45 degree angle), so the points of the square are facing north, south, east west.
One Patch	a single shape used repeatedly in a quilt or a section of a quilt. For example, a hexagon one patch is used in a Grandmother's Flower Garden quilt.
Patchwork	an older term, still used in England, for piecing quilt squares together to make blocks. Sometimes pieced quilts are referred to as patchwork.
Piecing	The act of stitching two pieces of fabric together to form a new design.
Quilt Sandwich	a traditional quilt is comprised of three layers. Before the three layers are "quilted" together, a sandwich is created: The top which might have been pieced, the batting in the centre, and the backing, which is traditionally one large piece of fabric, or a few large pieces of fabric pieced to slightly larger than the top. The "sandwich" is then basted together as a temporary hold until the quilting is completed.
Quilt Top	top layer of a quilt (see quilt sandwich for all three layers). This layer could be pieced or whole cloth.
Quilting	a fabric construction in which a layer of down or fibrefill is placed between two layers of fabric, and then held in place by stitching or sealing in a regular, consistent, all over pattern on the goods.
Quilting – Free Motion	free form stitching of the three layers of a quilt. Feed dogs are lowered, or dropped, on the sewing machine so the quilter is in control of where the fabric is moved. For accurate stitch length, the quilter then must achieve a balance of how fast the stitching goes vs how much the fabric is moved.
Repeat	the measurement of fabric before the design is repeated.
Right sides together	fabric units are sewn together with the finished side of the fabrics together. Some fabrics have a "right" side and a "wrong" side that is usually obvious. Solids and batiks generally can be used on either side.
Round Robin	a quilt project for a group. Each member of the group sews a "round" onto the centre block.
Row Robin	a quilt project for a group. Each member of the group adds a row to the project.
Sampler Quilt	a quilt that is comprised of many different block designs.
Sashing	strips of fabric used between blocks
Satin Stitch	a machine zig zag stitch used to cover a raw edge appliqué piece.
Seam Allowance	the measurement used to stitch two fabrics together, leaving this amount of space raw on the wrong side of the fabric.
Selvage	the edge on either side of a woven or flat knitted fabric, woven or weave, so finished to prevent ravelling. You will usually find manufacturers information in the selvage.

Setting Triangles	triangles of fabric used between blocks that have been set on point to frame the design of the blocks, generally around an edge to form a border. See On Point.
Sleeve	a tube of fabric added to the back of a quilt, used to slide a rod through for hanging.
Spandex	lycra or elastane (Spandex in USA) is a synthetic fibre known for its exceptional elasticity. It is stronger and more durable than natural rubber. When introduced in 1962, it revolutionized many areas of the clothing industry. (See Elastane)
Square Up	a final trimming of a block or section to ensure the measurement is exactly as directed. Also see True Up.
Stash	the pile of fabric hidden in a quilter's closet...and under the bed, and in the pantry and behind the shoes. Quilters are known to collect fabric with no real plan for a project. This is known as a stash.
Stitch in the ditch	straight stitching, either by machine or by hand, directly into the seams of a quilt top. This is generally used when quilting the three layers together of a quilt. See Quilting.
Straight of grain	<p>fabric has three grains, the lengthwise, the crosswise and the bias.</p> <p>The lengthwise grain follows the warp thread parallel to the selvage.</p> <p>The crosswise grain follows the weft thread and has slightly more give.</p> <p>The bias is a 45 degree angle to the selvage and has lots and lots of give.</p>
Strip Piecing	a timesaving technique that calls for sewing long premeasured strips of fabric together, then cross cutting into geometric shapes, like triangles, squares and rectangles.
Templates	a shape used as a guide to cut fabric pieces prior to piecing into a block. Could be made from plastic, acrylic, paper, etc.
Tied Quilt	a technique for securing the three layers of a quilt together by hand. Yarn or thread is pulled through the layers with a needle, then knotted. These knots are sprinkled throughout the quilt. The knots are often left with the yarn or thread hanging loose for a decorative effect. See our video on How to Tie a Quilt.
Thread count	threads per inch (TPI) is a measure of the coarseness or fineness of fabric. It is measured by counting the number of threads contained in one square inch of fabric or one square centimetre, including both the length (warp) and width (weft) threads.
True Up	a final trimming of a block or section to ensure the edges are straight and the measurement is exactly as directed. Also see Square Up.
Unfinished size	the measure of a block, section or quilt before all of the edges are sewn into seams. This will mean the piece still has raw edges when it is measured.
Whole cloth quilt	this is a quilt top that is one solid piece of fabric – no piecing or appliqué is used. The design is all in the actual quilting of the layers.

Width of Fabric	current day quilting fabric is 44" - 46" wide, from selvage to selvage.
Warp/weft	the woven threads in the fabric. Warp threads are long and run parallel to the selvage. The selvage is actually formed when the warp threads turn to go back across the loom. Weft threads run from side to side and are therefore shorter.
Woven	woven fabrics are produced from virtually all types of textile fibres and threads. The fabric is produced by weaving the perpendicular threads, the warp and weft.
Yard	symbol: yd - is a length unit in the imperial and US customary systems. A yard is equal to 3 feet or 36 inches (91cm).
Yarn	a continuous strand of textile fibres created when a cluster of individual fibres are twisted together. These long yarns are used to create fabrics, either by knitting or weaving.
Zig Zag Stitch	Z shaped stitch usually done by machine to secure or finish raw edges. Also see Satin Stitch.