

How to Make a Baby Blanket Quilt

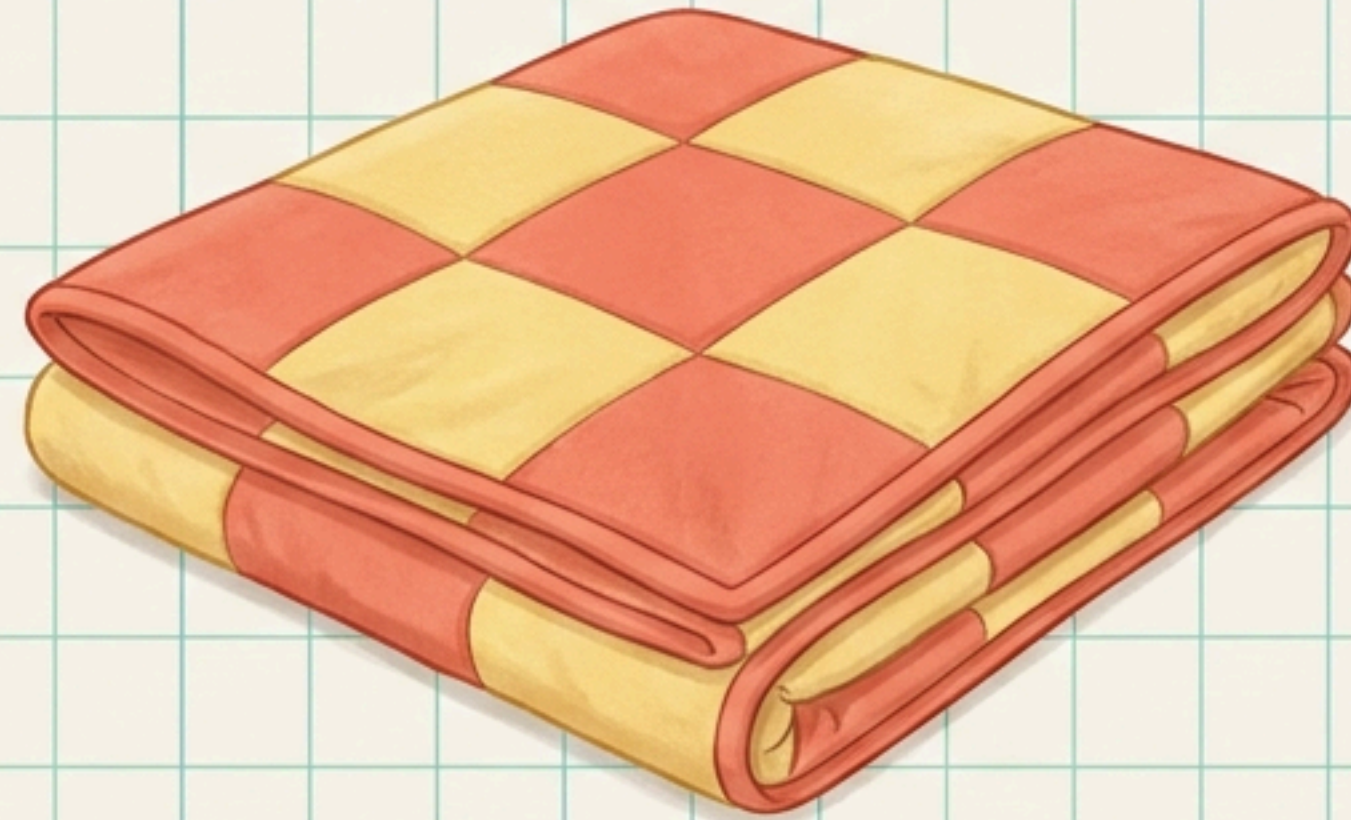
A step-by-step beginner guide from first cut to finished quilt.

Project Specs Box

Finished Size: 36 inches by 42 inches

Skill Level: Beginner

Active Time: 6 to 8 Hours



The Six Universal Quilting Skills



A baby blanket quilt teaches every quilting skill at a forgiving scale. Every future quilt uses these same six steps.

FABRIC & SUPPLIES

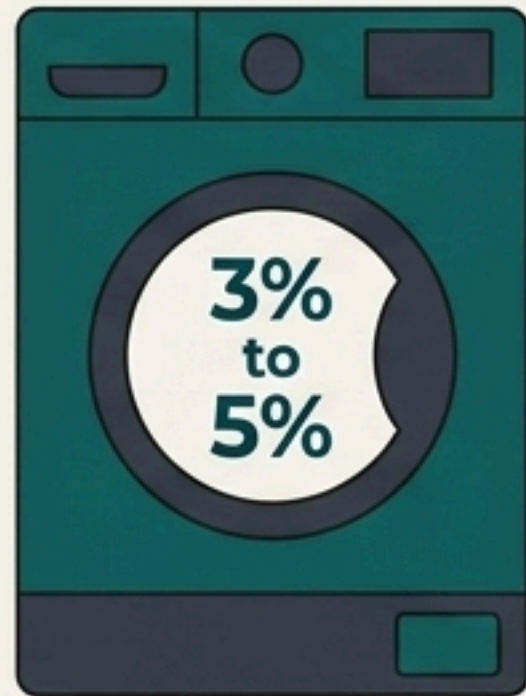
- Quilt Top: 1.5 yards quilting cotton (or 1 charm pack + 0.5 yard solid)
- Backing: 1.25 yards quilting cotton (42 to 44 inches wide)
- Binding: 1/3 yard quilting cotton
- Batting: 1 package crib-size (45 by 60 inches), cotton or cotton-poly
- Thread: 50-weight cotton, neutral color
- Estimated Cost: \$25 to \$45

TOOLS CHECKLIST

- Rotary cutter (45mm) and Self-healing mat
- Acrylic quilting ruler (6 by 24 inches)
- Walking foot attachment (\$15 to \$30)
- Machine with straight stitch and fresh 80/12 needle
- Iron, seam ripper, and curved safety pins

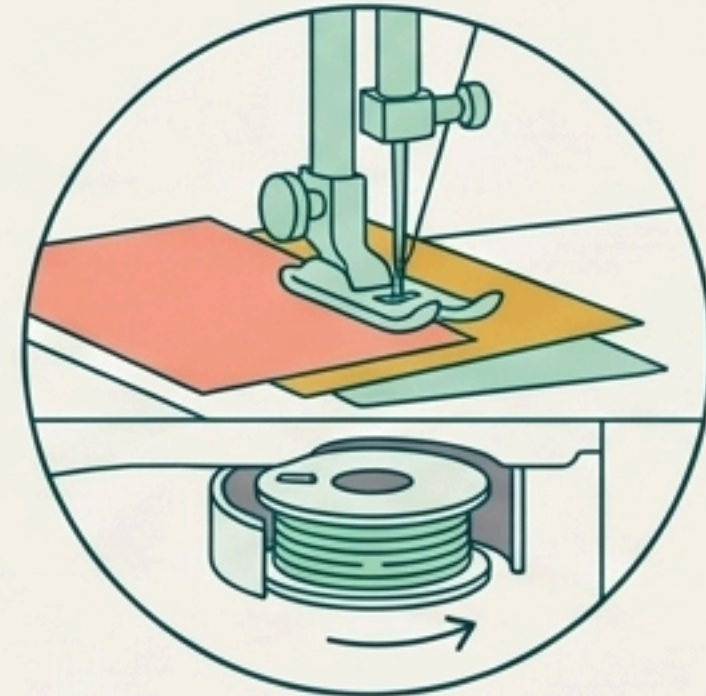
Crucial Prep Work (Do Not Skip)

Pre-Wash



- Pre-wash all quilting cotton before cutting.
- Cotton shrinks 3 to 5 percent in the first wash.
- An unwashed quilt will pucker permanently after laundering.

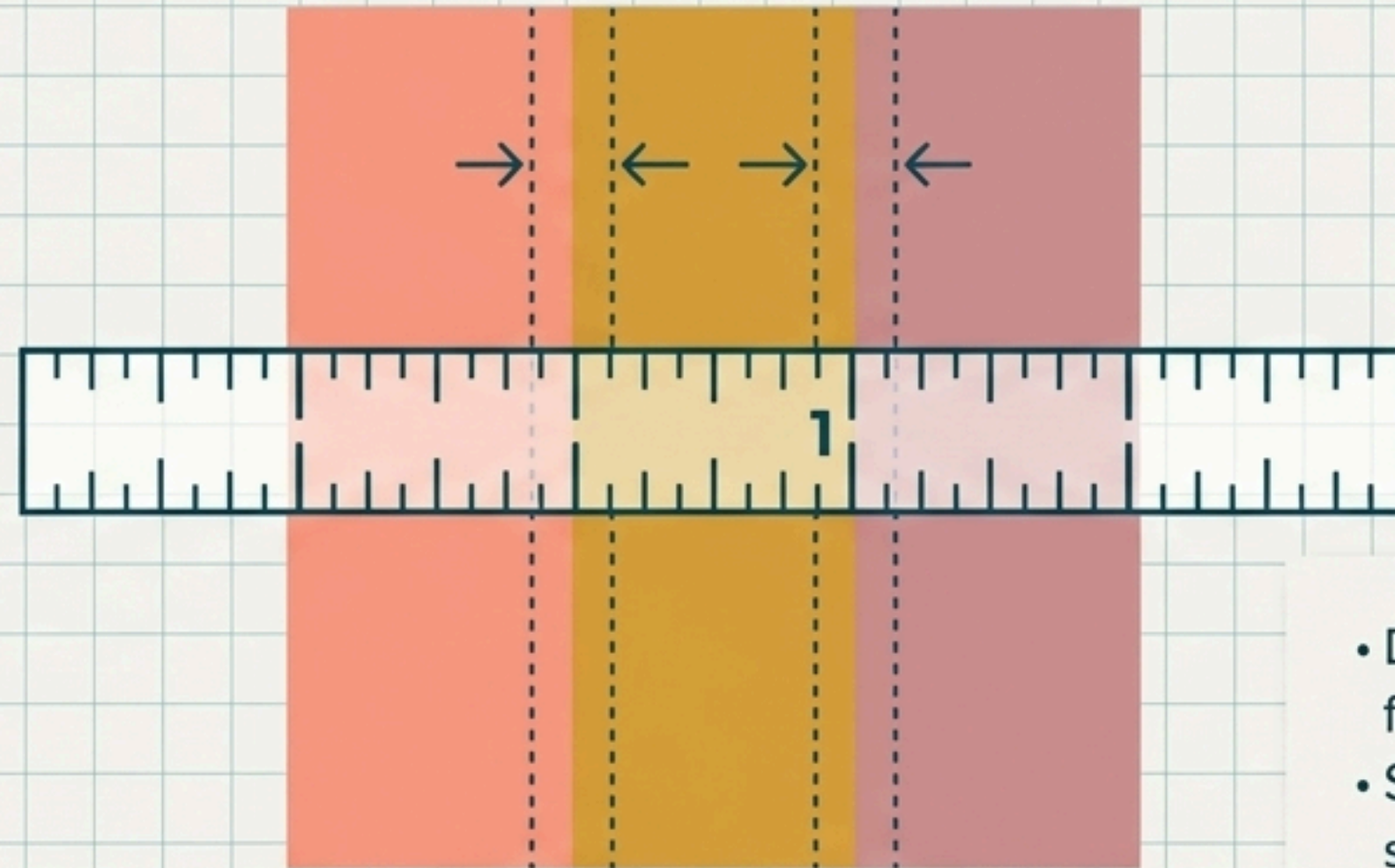
Machine Pre-Flight



- Install a fresh 80/12 universal needle.
- Clean the bobbin case and wind a fresh bobbin.
- Test tension on scrap fabric. Top thread looping underneath means you must increase top tension.

The Quarter-Inch Seam Test

SEAM ALLOWANCE TEST (Do This Before Cutting)

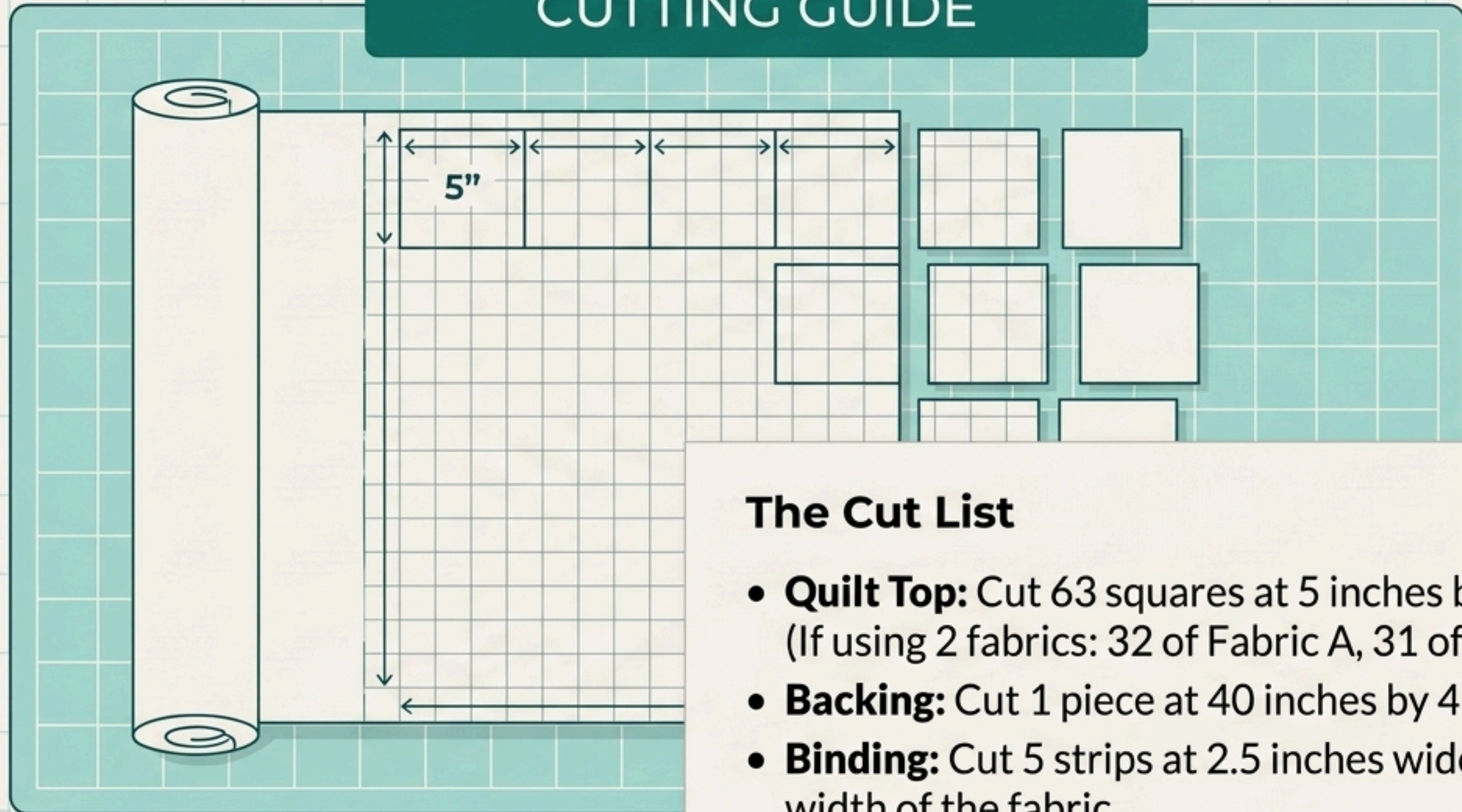


**1.5-inch strip + 1.5-inch strip + 1.5-inch strip
= Exactly 1 Inch Center**

- Do this test before cutting project fabric.
- Sew three strips with a 1/4-inch seam and press.
- If the center is not exactly 1 inch, adjust your needle position or add a tape guide to your machine plate.

Skill 1: Cutting the Pieces

CUTTING GUIDE

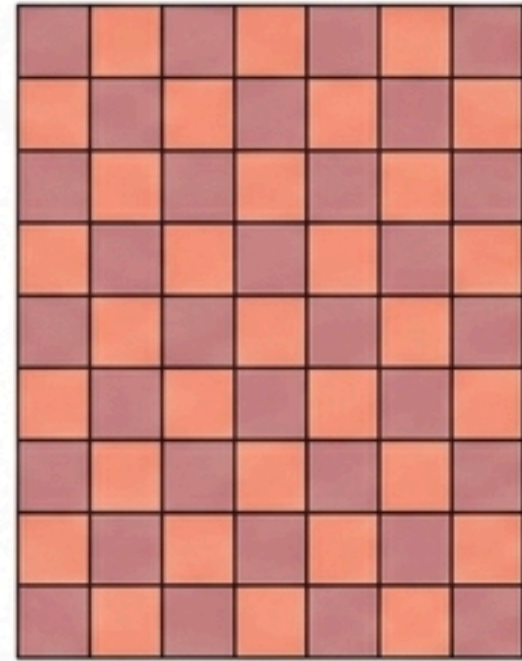


The Cut List

- **Quilt Top:** Cut 63 squares at 5 inches by 5 inches (If using 2 fabrics: 32 of Fabric A, 31 of Fabric B).
- **Backing:** Cut 1 piece at 40 inches by 46 inches.
- **Binding:** Cut 5 strips at 2.5 inches wide by the full width of the fabric.

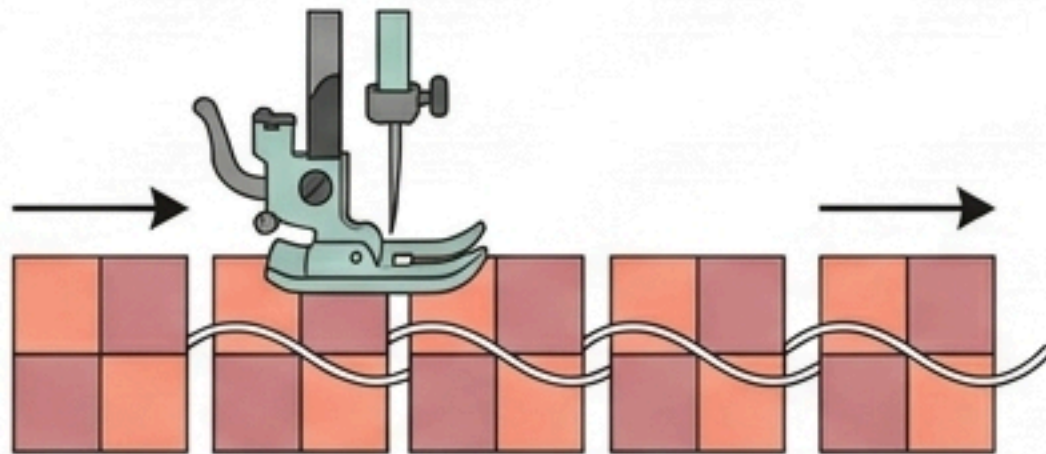
Skill 2: Layout and Chain Piecing

1 Arrange



Lay out all 63 squares in a 7-by-9 grid. Alternate fabrics in a checkerboard pattern.

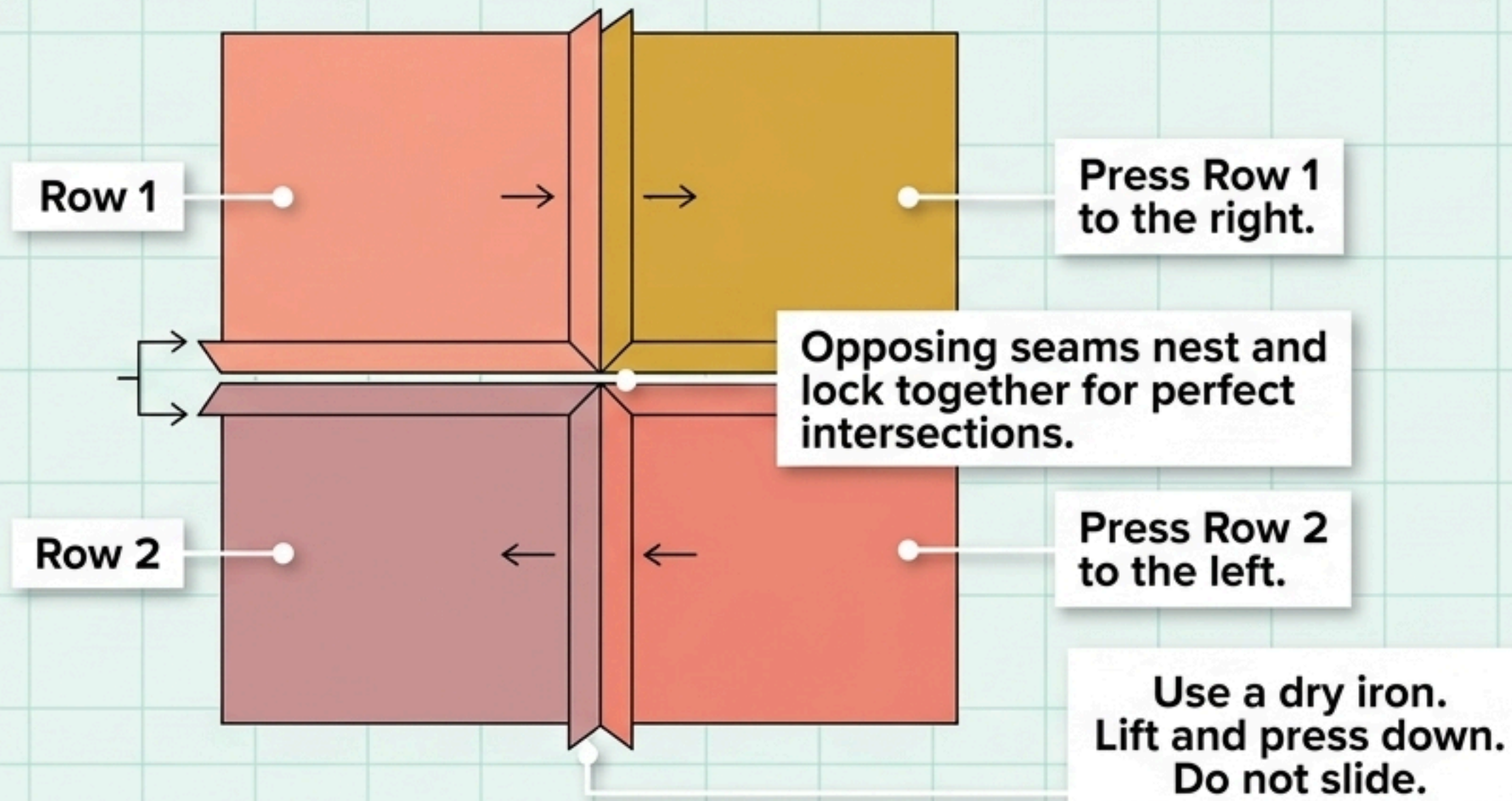
2 Sew



Chain piece to save time. Sew the first two squares right sides together. Without cutting the thread, feed the next pair through. Build rows left to right.

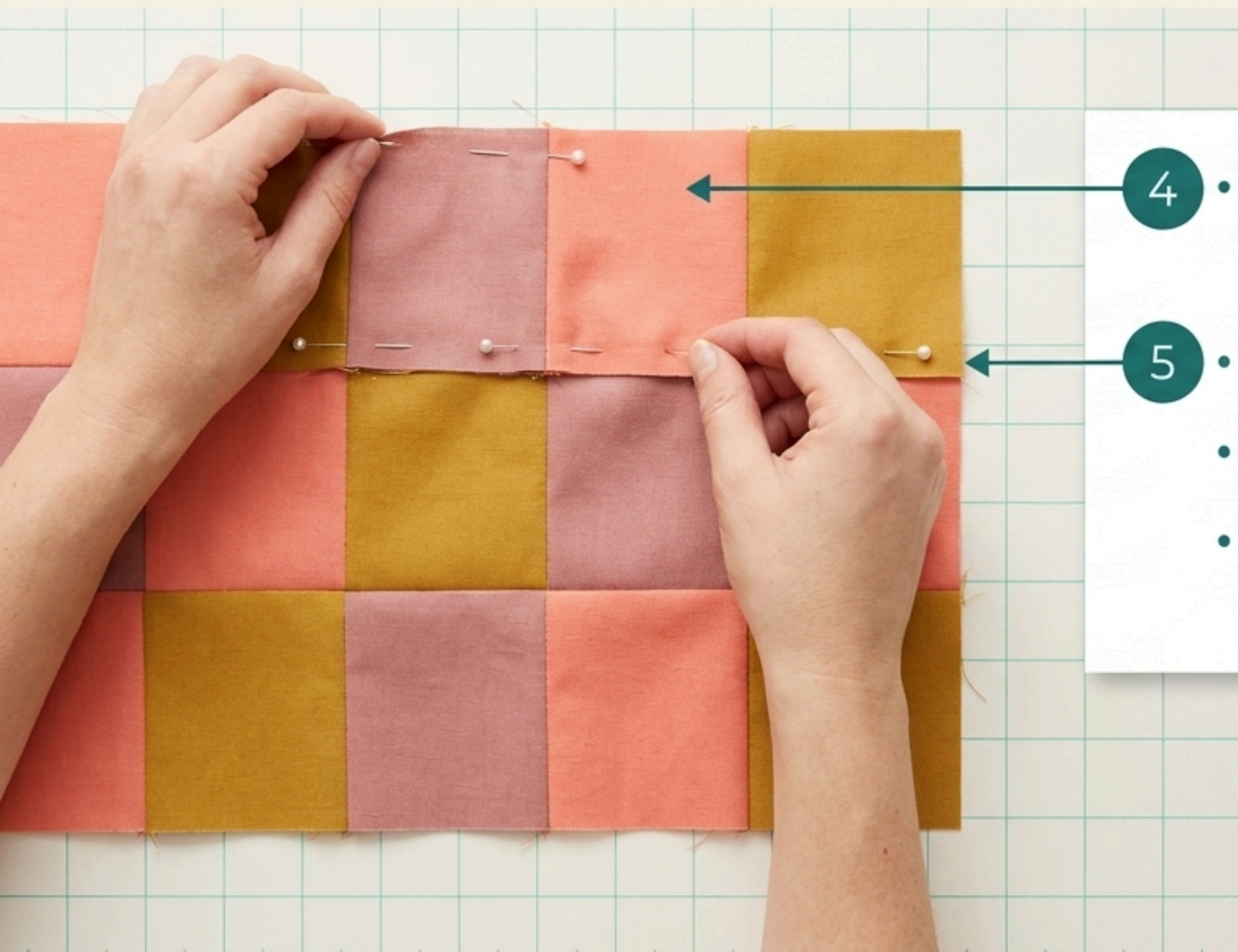
Skill 3: The Pressing Protocol

PRESSING PROTOCOL QUICK REFERENCE



Press every row seam **before** joining rows. This separates a **flat quilt** from a puckered one.

Joining the Rows



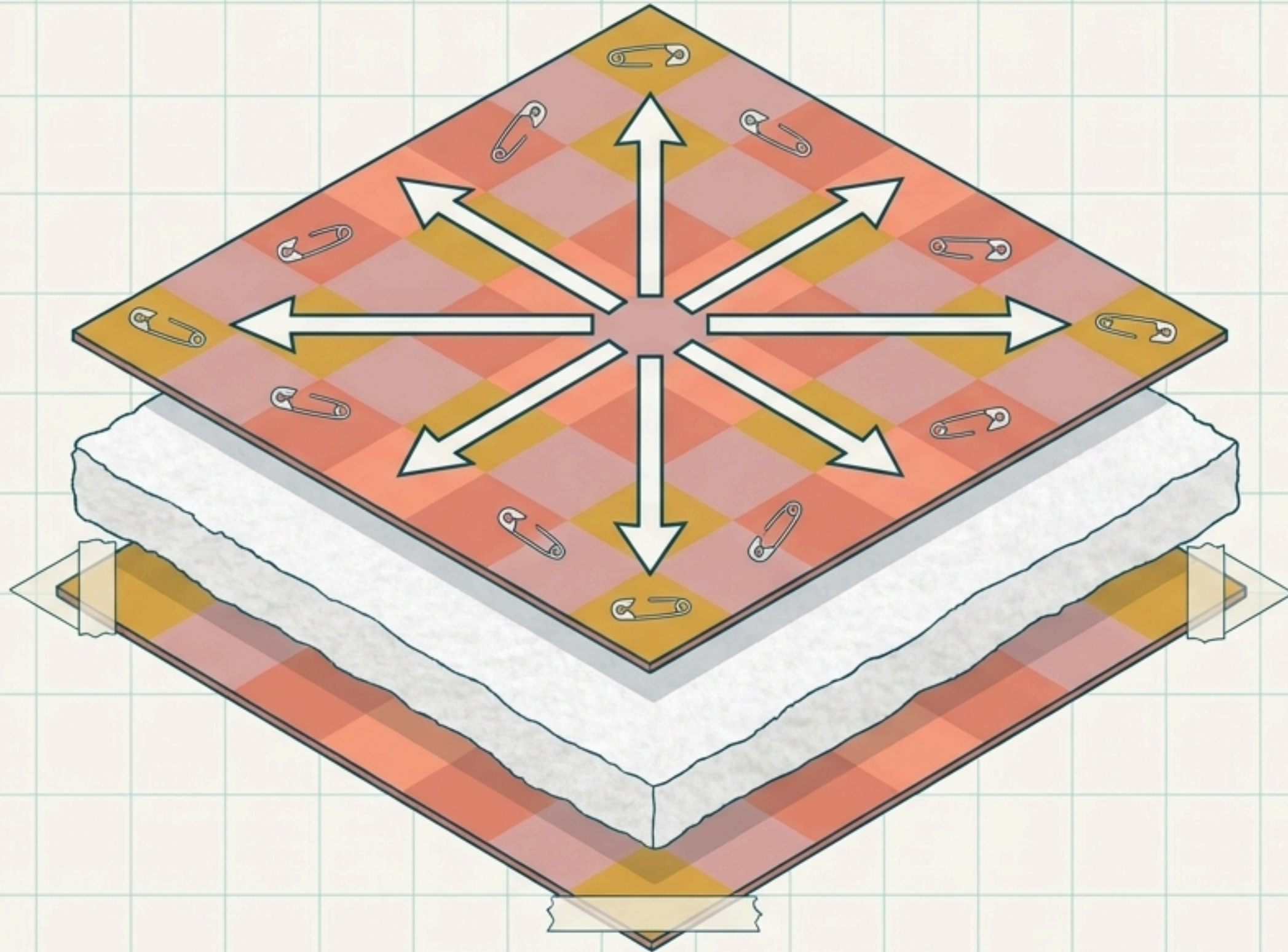
4

- Pin rows together right sides facing, matching every nested intersection.

5

- Sew with a consistent 1/4-inch seam.
- Press the joining seam in one direction.
- Press the completed top flat from both the front and back.

Skill 4: The Quilt Sandwich



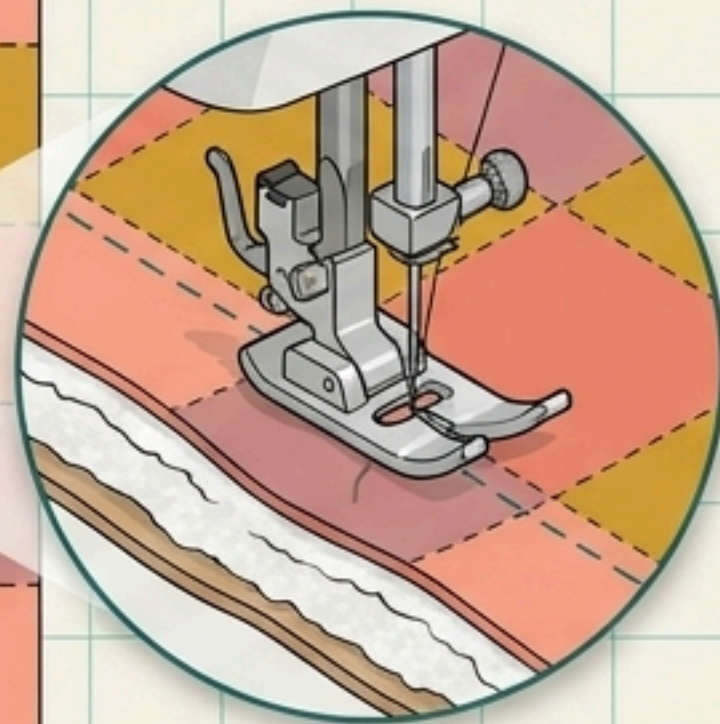
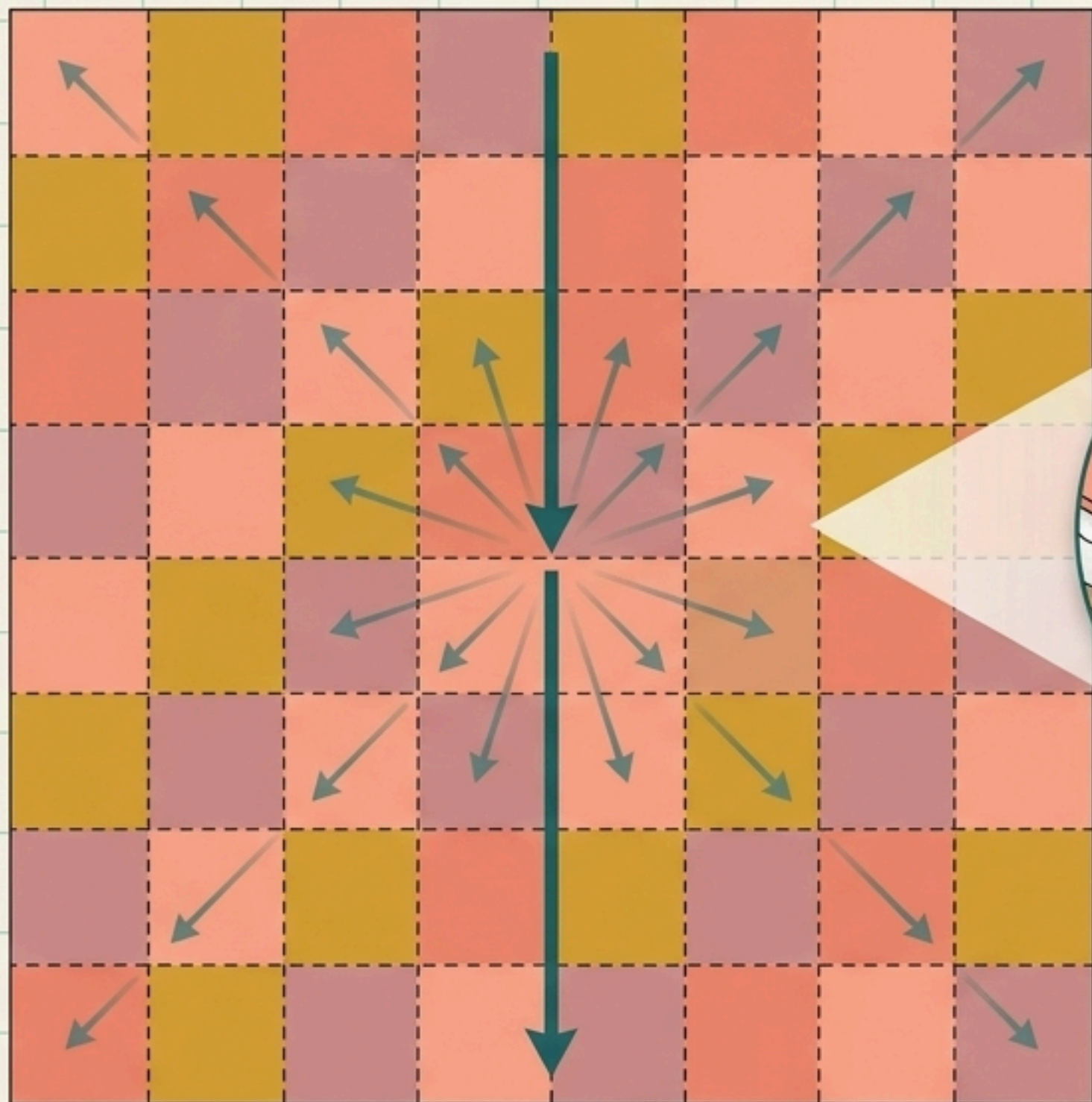
Bottom: Backing (Wrong side up, taped flat to surface)

Middle: Batting (Centered)

Top: Quilt Top (Right side up, centered)

Smooth layers from the center outward. Pin-baste with curved safety pins every 4 to 6 inches across the entire surface.

Skill 5: Quilting the Layers

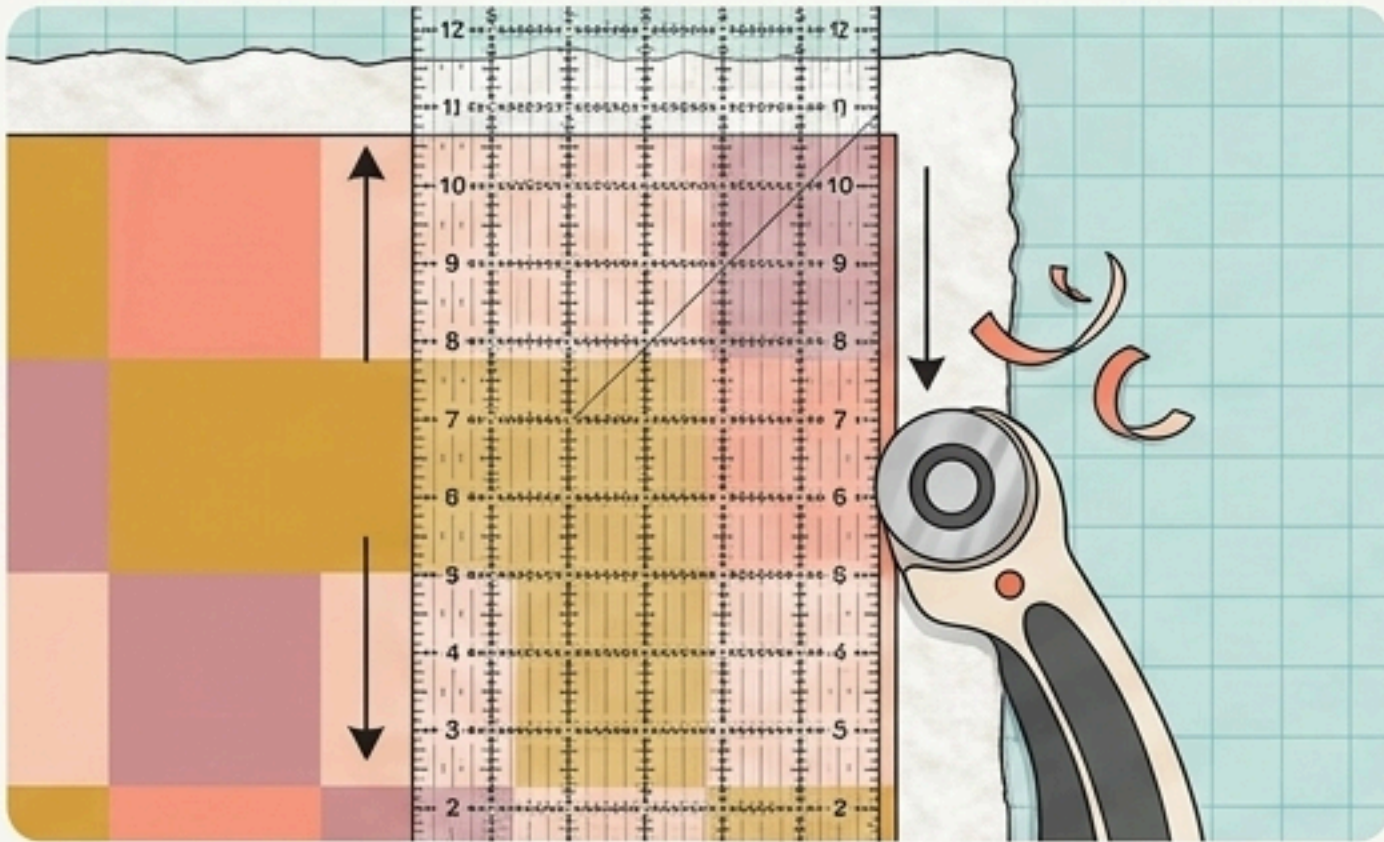


Instructions.

- Attach the walking foot (feeds all three layers evenly).
- Set stitch length to 3.0mm.
- Start from the absolute center.
- Sew straight lines down every vertical seam.
- Sew straight lines across every horizontal seam.
- Remove safety pins as you reach them.

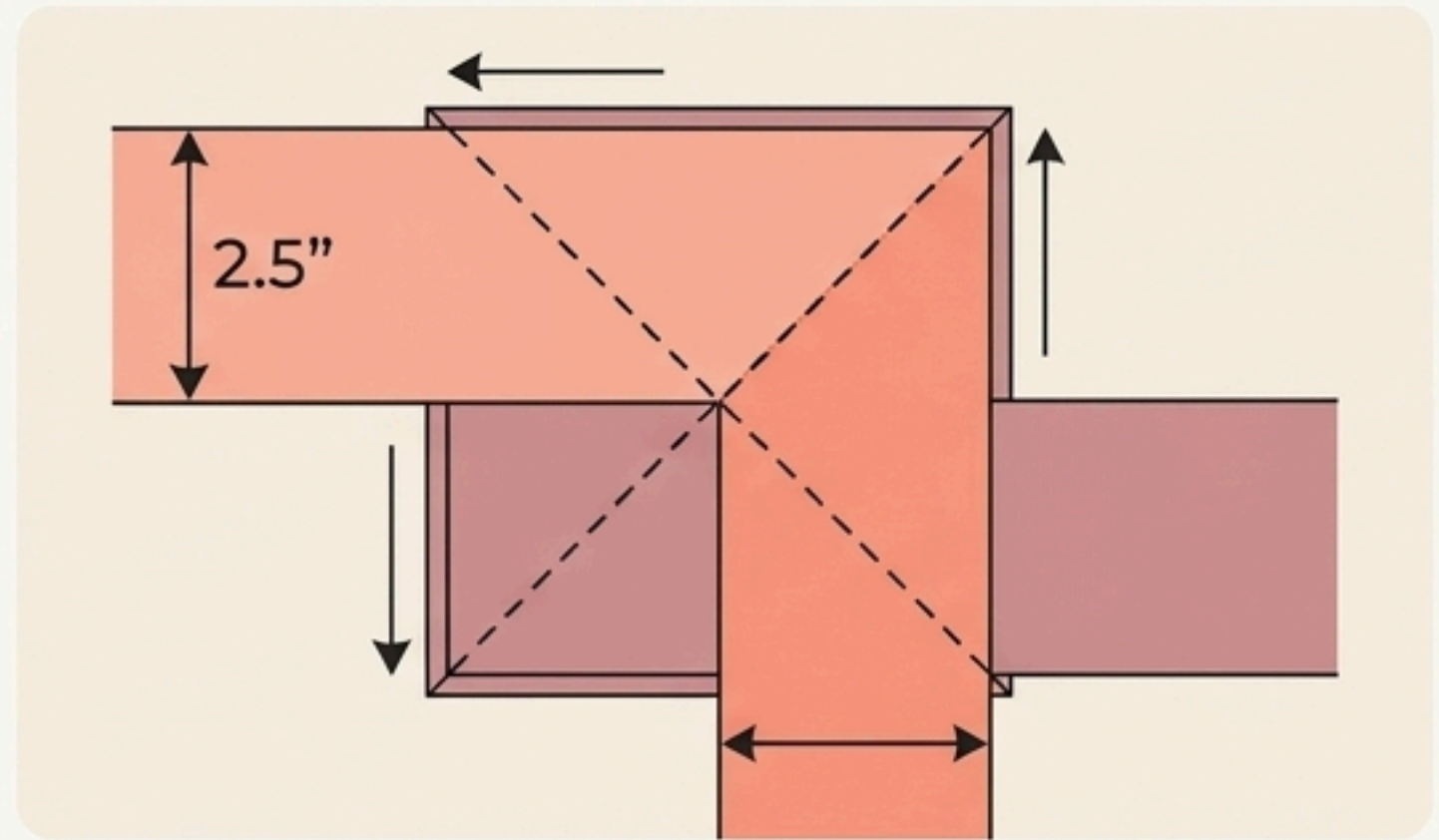
Trim and Prepare Binding

Square Up



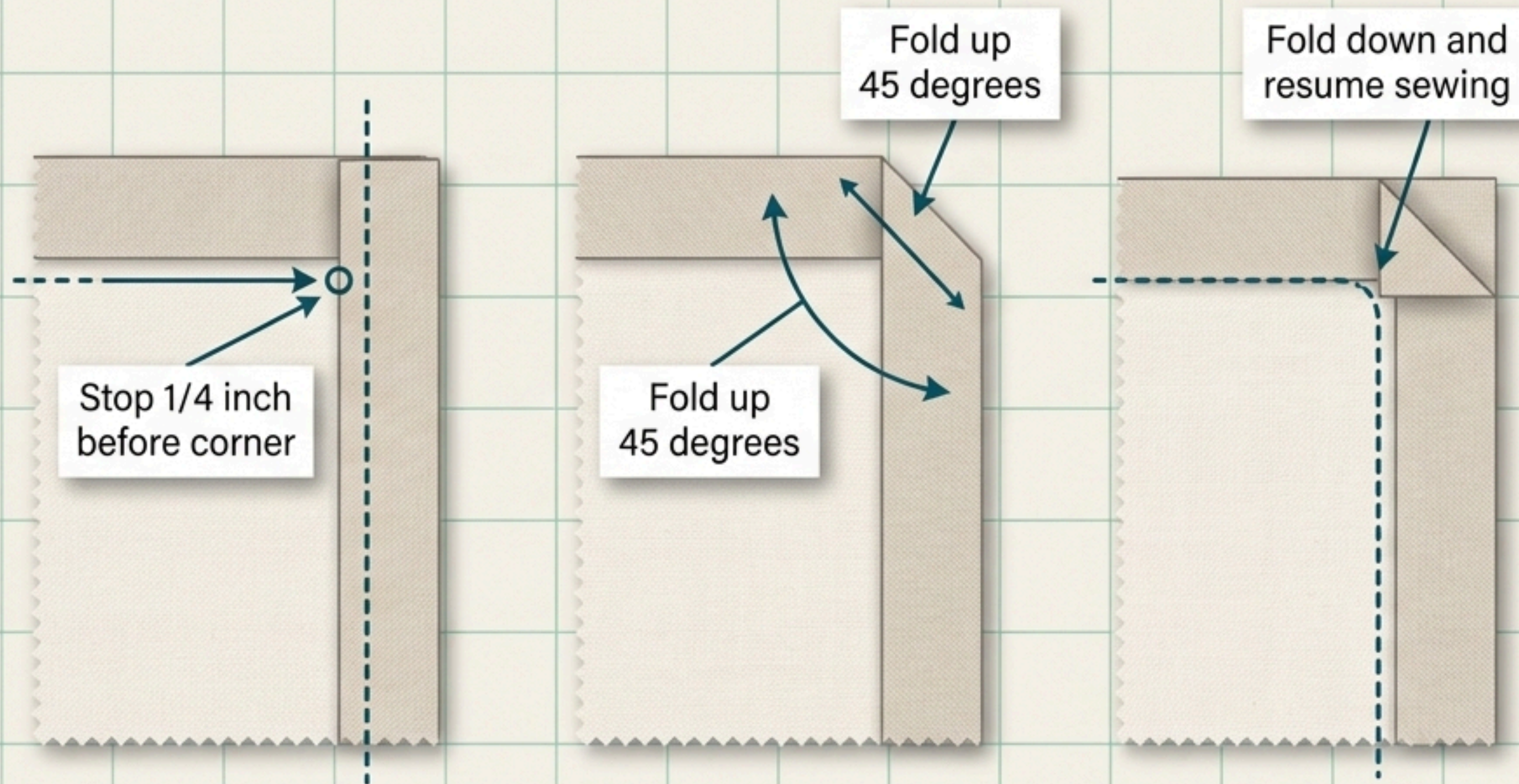
Trim batting and backing flush with the top. Use ruler markings to ensure corners are perfectly square.

Make Binding



Join the 5 strips at a 90-degree angle with diagonal seams to reduce bulk. Trim the seam to 1/4 inch, press open, then fold the entire 170-inch strip in half lengthwise and press.

Skill 6: Attaching the Binding



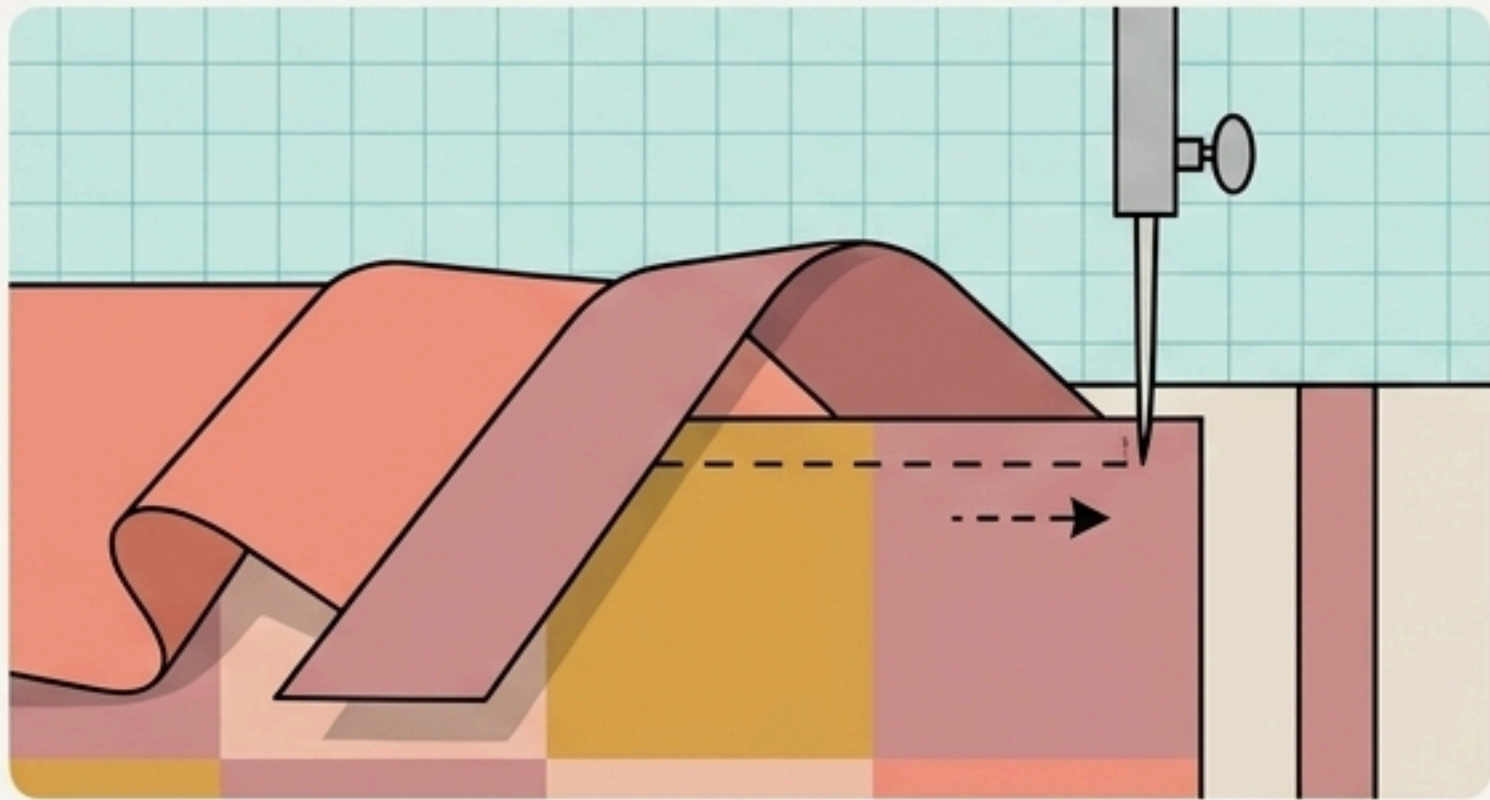
Instructions.

- Align raw edges of binding with the quilt front and sew.
- Stop 1/4 inch before each corner and backstitch.
- Fold binding up at a 45-degree angle to create the miter.
- Fold straight down along the next edge and resume sewing.
- Overlap tails by 2 inches to close the loop.

Finishing and Quilt Care

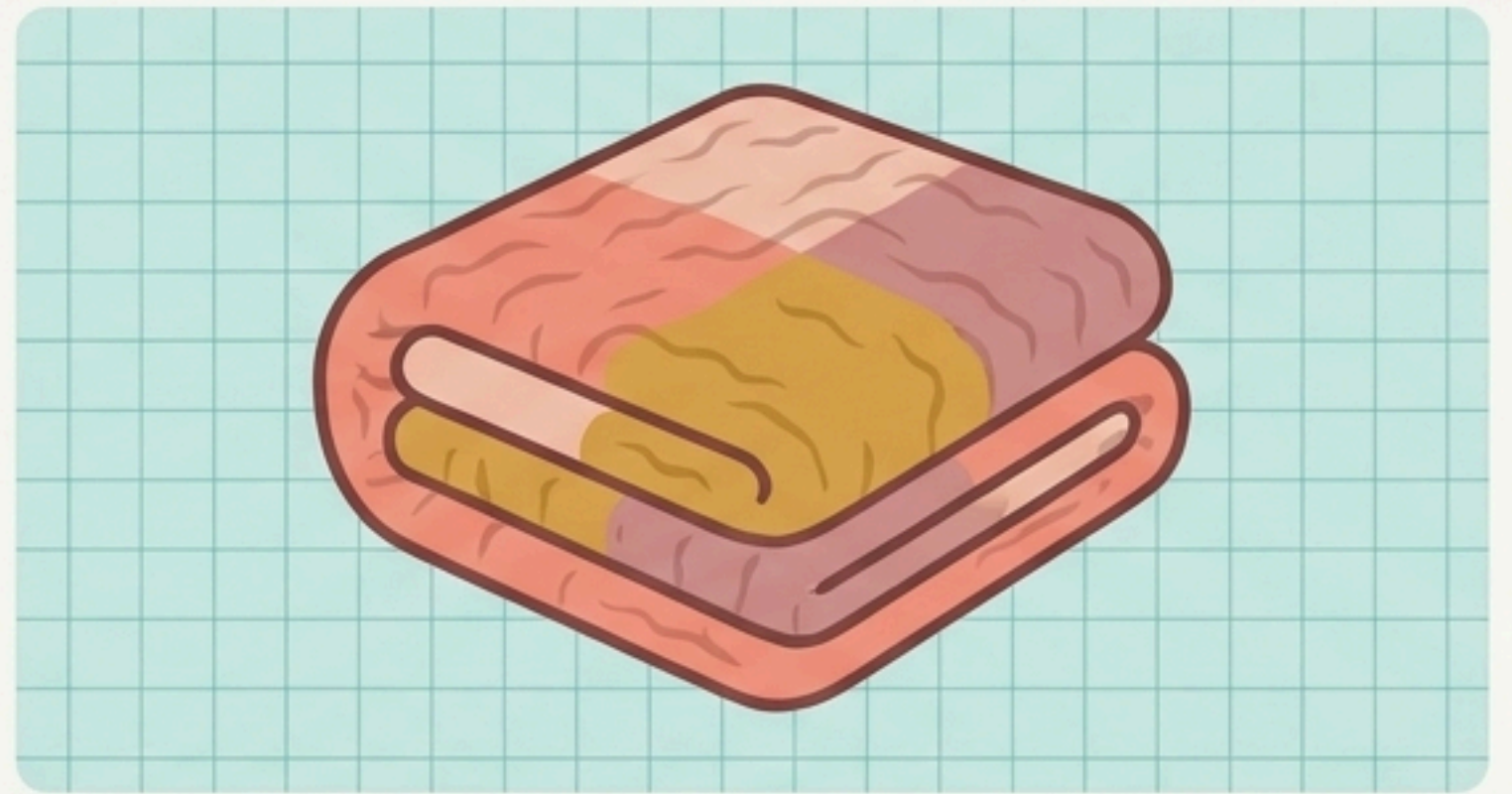
FINISHED QUILT CARE

Secure Binding



Fold the binding to the back so it covers the stitch line. Machine-stitch close to the folded edge for a secure finish.

Quilt Care & Storage



Wash cold on gentle cycle (no bleach or softener). Tumble dry on low heat. The quilt will soften and develop a gentle, desirable crinkle after the first wash. Store folded, not hung.

Common Beginner Mistakes

COMMON BEGINNER MISTAKES (AND HOW TO FIX THEM)

Symptom	Root Cause	The Fix
Blocks are different sizes	Inconsistent seam allowance	Re-do the 1/4-inch test. Use a tape guide.
Quilt top is wavy	Slid the iron instead of pressing	Press down flat. Minor waves relax after washing.
Binding corners are lumpy	45-degree fold was incomplete	Unpick corner, re-fold at a crisp 45 degrees, and re-sew.
Sandwich shifted	Not enough basting pins	Add pins every 4 inches. Always quilt from the center outward.

You just learned the full quilt construction sequence.
You are ready for the next one.