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## **FIVE GOOD REASONS EVERY QUILTER NEEDS A SERGER**

### **REASON #1 – The serger makes the process of pre-treating your fabric quick and easy:**

If you pre-shrink your fabrics (my motto is better safe than sorry), you can use the serger to quickly finish each raw edge. Place serge finished fabric in the laundry and wash with your next load of similar colors. You will always know that a serged edge means you DID pre-treat that particular piece of fabric.

### **REASON #2 – The serger helps keep your layers neat and even, prior to finishing with binding.**

Let's say you have just finished that beautiful quilt top. Your quilt is layered, quilted, trimmed, and you are ready to sew on your binding. Having all the raw edges even, simply serge from top to bottom on each side, and then across the top and the bottom edge of the quilt. Having quilt layers "serge basted" together, you can now apply the binding without getting poked by pins. **Extra tip:** For a non-bulky finish, use a three-thread wide stitch and a long stitch length.

### **REASON #3 – The serger makes quick work of cutting strips of fabric.**

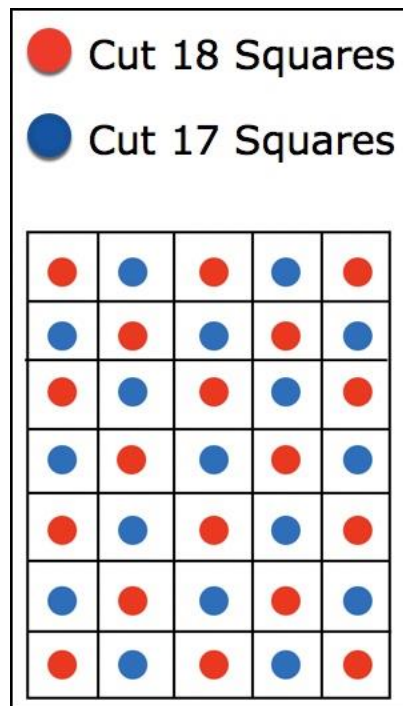
Let's pretend you are embarking on a new strip quilted project and need to cut 50 strips measuring two inches wide. Your back hurts, and you ran over a paperclip with your last remaining rotary blade! What now?!? Just cut one edge of your fabric so that it is nice and straight. *Remember the old days when we had no rotary cutter? That's what we used to use scissors for!* Now, sit down at your serger. Start by marking the fabric two inches from the cut edge. See where this lines up on the face plate of the serger. Mark the spot with blue tape. Unthread the serger and remove the needles. Now you can use the serger to **speed cut** the strips. You'll be done in no time! Note that this is not the method you want to use when you need the ultimate in accuracy, but it is a speedy way to cut strips of many sizes, especially narrow ones.

**REASON #4 – The serger is great for piecing as it is almost a perfect ¼-inch. It makes a very durable narrow seam allowance.**

In this scenario you have a great idea for a patchwork project. You even have some beautiful “specialty” fabric scraps to use. However, that pile of specialty fabrics you love seems to fray if you simply breathe on them! No problem. Set the serger for a four-thread stitch. Use your favorite quilting thread cones if you like. Next, piece the fabrics together using the serger, skimming the edge as you stitch. You’ll never have to worry about the seams coming apart and all the fraying stray threads get trimmed as you stitch.

**REASON #5 – The serger is the perfect tool for piecing warm fuzzy fabric such as polar type fleece.**

No time to make a quilted quilt? Fleece blankets are always a welcome gift. Purchase polar type fleece in two coordinating colors. Cut squares using the guide below with each block measuring 9 ½-inches square for a finished quilt measuring approximately 45-inches wide X 63-inches long. This is a great average size for an adult “single person” blanket. Serge the blocks together block by block and row by row using a three or four-thread stitch for a quilt with visible seams on one side or use a serger flatlock stitch for a smooth finish on both top and back sides. Experiment with different size blocks and number of squares for baby and kid sized blankets.



I hope you enjoyed this tip sheet! Feel free to drop me a line with comments or questions at:

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