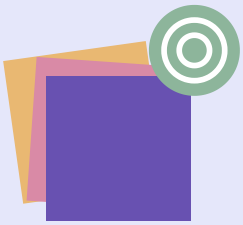
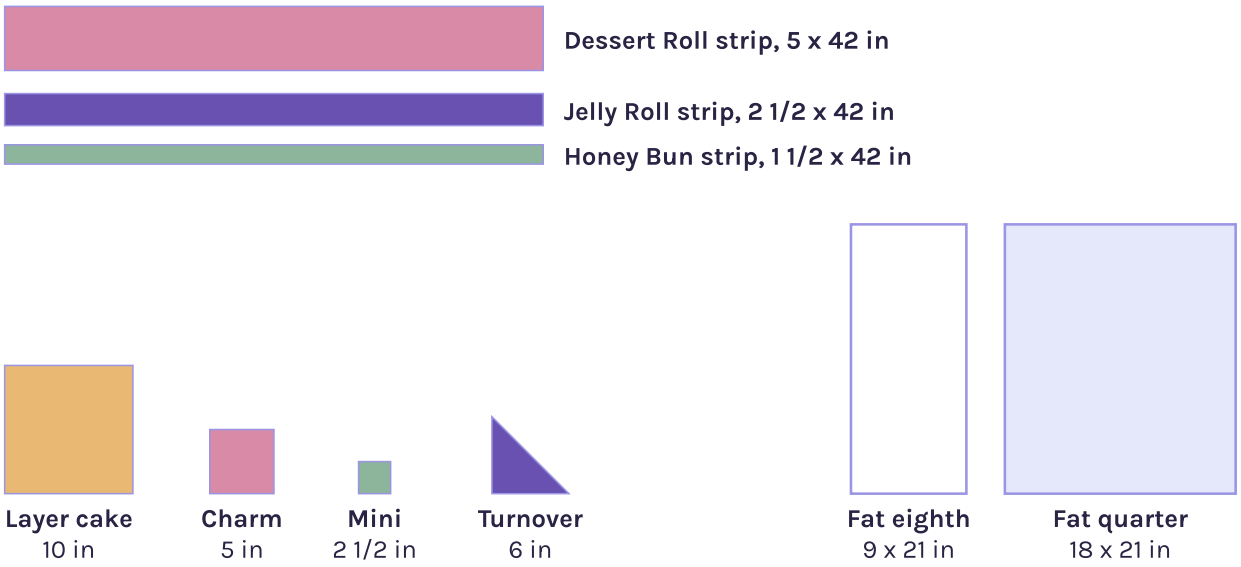
FREE GUIDE

Pre-Cut Cheat Sheet

Every common pre-cut on one sheet: their sizes, what one pack cuts into, and how many packs a quilt needs.



Every pre-cut at a glance



Pre-cut	Size	In a pack	Fabric in one pack	Also sold as
Jelly Rolls	2 1/2 x 42 in	40 strips	2 3/4 yards	Roll-Up, Rolie Polie
Honey Buns	1 1/2 x 42 in	40 strips	1 5/8 yards	1.5 in Strips, Skinny Strips
Dessert Rolls	5 x 42 in	20 strips	2 3/4 yards	5 in Strip Roll, Wide Strip Roll
Charm Packs	5 x 5 in	42 squares	3/4 yard	Charm Squares, 5 in Stacker
Mini Charm Packs	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 in	42 squares	1/8 yard	Mini Charms, 2.5 in Stacker
Layer Cakes	10 x 10 in	42 squares	2 3/4 yards	Ten Square, 10 in Stacker
Fat Quarters	18 x 21 in	1 piece	1/4 yard, cut wide	FQ
Fat Eighths	9 x 21 in	1 piece	1/8 yard, cut wide	FE, Half Fat Quarter
Turnovers	6 in triangles	80 triangles	1 yard	Pre-Cut Triangles, Half-Square Triangle Packs

All drawn to the same scale. Pack counts are typical; some packs hold 40 squares or 42 strips. Fabric in one pack is the same area as that much 42 in wide yardage. Jelly Roll, Charm Pack, Layer Cake, Honey Bun, Turnover and Dessert Roll began as Moda Fabrics' names; other companies sell the same sizes under the names in the last column.

YIELDS

What one pack cuts into

Strips count 40 usable inches each, once the selvages are trimmed. Every size is a cut size, with seam allowances included.

One jelly roll 2 1/2 x 42 in

Cut into	Pieces
2 1/2 in squares 16 per strip	**640**
2 1/2 x 4 1/2 in rectangles 8 per strip	**320**
2 1/2 x 6 1/2 in rectangles 6 per strip	**240**

One dessert roll 5 x 42 in

Cut into	Pieces
5 in squares 8 per strip	**160**
5 x 9 1/2 in rectangles 4 per strip	**80**
2 1/2 x 40 in strips Cut each strip in half lengthwise	**40**

One honey bun 1 1/2 x 42 in

Cut into	Pieces
1 1/2 in squares 26 per strip	**1040**
1 1/2 x 2 1/2 in rectangles 16 per strip	**640**
1 1/2 x 3 1/2 in rectangles 11 per strip	**440**

One charm pack 5 x 5 in

Cut into	Pieces
Half-square triangles, trimmed to 4 1/2 in Pair the 5 in squares and sew two-at-a-time (4 in finished)	**42**
2 1/2 in squares Cut each square into quarters	**168**

Sewn edge to edge: 6 x 7 squares, 27 x 31 1/2 in.

One layer cake 10 x 10 in

Cut into	Pieces
Half-square triangles, trimmed to 9 1/2 in Pair the 10 in squares and sew two-at-a-time (9 in finished)	**42**
5 in squares Cut each square into quarters	**168**
2 1/2 x 10 in strips Cut each square into four strips	**168**

Sewn edge to edge: 6 x 7 squares, 57 x 66 1/2 in.

Mini charms and turnovers

Mini charms (2 1/2 in): pair them for 1 1/2 in finished half-square triangles, or sew them whole as 2 in finished squares.

Turnovers (6 in triangles): 80 triangles sew into 40 half-square triangle squares, about 5 1/8 in finished. The long edges are bias: handle them gently.

Fat quarters and fat eighths

One piece cuts into	2 1/2 in squares	3 1/2 in squares	5 in squares	6 1/2 in squares	10 in squares	2 1/2 x 4 1/2 in	2 1/2 x 20 1/2 in strips
Fat quarter	56	25	12	6	2	28	7
Fat eighth	24	10	4	3	-	12	3

Counts assume 17 1/2 x 20 1/2 in usable from a fat quarter and 8 1/2 x 20 1/2 in from a fat eighth, after the selvage and a straightening cut. Measure yours: a fat eighth cut the other way (about 11 x 18 in) gives different counts. More in Fat quarter cutting layout.

PLANNING

How many packs for a quilt

Packs for the quilt top	Baby 36 x 52 in	Throw 50 x 65 in	Twin 70 x 90 in	Queen 90 x 108 in	King 108 x 108 in
Jelly Rolls	1	1	2	3	4
Honey Buns	2	2	4	6	8
Dessert Rolls	1	1	2	3	4
Charm Packs	3	4	8	12	14
Mini Charm Packs	12	20	38	58	70
Layer Cakes	1	1	2	3	4
Turnovers	2	4	6	10	12
Fat Quarters	6	10	18	28	33
Fat Eighths	11	19	37	56	67

The number of packs (or single fat quarters and fat eighths) whose pieces, sewn edge to edge with 1/4 in seams, cover the quilt top. Borders, sashing, backing and binding are extra, and a pattern that cuts pieces smaller uses more. Add a pack when a pattern trims heavily or you want room for a miscut.

Worked example: a throw from charm packs

A 50 x 65 in throw of plain 5 in charms. Each one covers 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 in once sewn, so the top takes 161 squares: **4 packs** of 42. The same top from layer cakes cut into quarters takes 1 pack, because one layer cake holds as much fabric as four charm packs.

Pre-cuts or yardage?

- **Pre-cuts** give you a whole collection in small amounts, already cut. Good for scrappy, many-print quilts.
- **Yardage** is usually cheaper per inch, and the only way to get a big background, border or backing in one fabric.
- Most pre-cut quilts need both: the pack for the prints, yardage for background, borders and binding.

More in Precuts vs yardage.

For any quilt size or pre-cut, the free pre-cut calculator works out packs and leftovers.

SEWING WITH THEM

Sewing with pre-cuts

Before you cut

- **Count the pack.** Counts vary by maker and line; check yours against the pattern.
- **Don't prewash.** Small pieces fray and shrink unevenly. If you're worried about a dye running, use a color catcher when the quilt is first washed.
- **Pinked edges.** Many packs have zigzag edges. The outer points are a good place to start measuring your seam; whichever you pick, use it on every seam and check a test block against its finished size. More in Pinked edges.
- **Square up** any piece that isn't square before you sew it.

Making them go further

- **Add a background.** A solid background between the prints makes a pack cover more quilt and gives the prints room.
- **Sort by value** (light, medium, dark) before you plan, not by color.
- **Leftover strips** make scrappy binding; leftover squares make bonus blocks or a pillow. More in Leftover pre-cut planning.

Free patterns to start with

Pre-cut	Pattern	Also try
Jelly roll	Jelly Roll Picket Fence	Jelly Roll Stairsteps
Charm pack	Charm Pack Diamonds	Charm Snowball Garden
Layer cake	Layer Cake Barn Raising	Layer Cake Sawtooth Ribbons
Mini charms	Mini Charm Checkerboard Runner	
Fat quarters	Fat Quarter Framed Squares	

Your pre-cut plan

Quilt size	_____ x _____ in	Pre-cut	_____
Pieces needed	_____	Packs to buy	_____
Background	_____ yd	Borders	_____ yd
Backing	_____ yd	Binding	_____ yd

How we made this guide. QuiltLab wrote and drew it with AI tools from the pre-cut sizes on QuiltLab's pre-cut pages, which list the common pack counts. Pack counts come from the QuiltLab pre-cut calculator, which counts what each piece covers once its seams are sewn. The pictures are diagrams, not photos, and no one has cut every pack on this sheet yet. Spot a mistake? Tell us at quiltlab.co/help.