

Let's Make a Mini Quilt

A beginner-friendly woven fabric quilt for a dollhouse bed



24 PHOTO-SUPPORTED STEPS

Finished sample: approximately 7 x 7 inches

Before You Begin

This tutorial uses folded fabric strips to create a tidy woven quilt top, then wraps the backing fabric around the edges to form a simple binding. The glue method is shown throughout, with an optional sewn finish included below.

Supplies

- Three coordinating cotton or lightweight fabrics
- Ruler
- Scissors or rotary cutter
- Cutting mat, if using a rotary cutter
- Iron and pressing surface
- Fabric glue or tacky glue
- Toothpick or small glue applicator
- Parchment paper
- Low-tack painter's or masking tape
- A clean, heavy, flat object



Project Notes

Finished size: The sample is approximately 7 x 7 inches. Your final size depends on the number and width of strips.

Skill level: Beginner

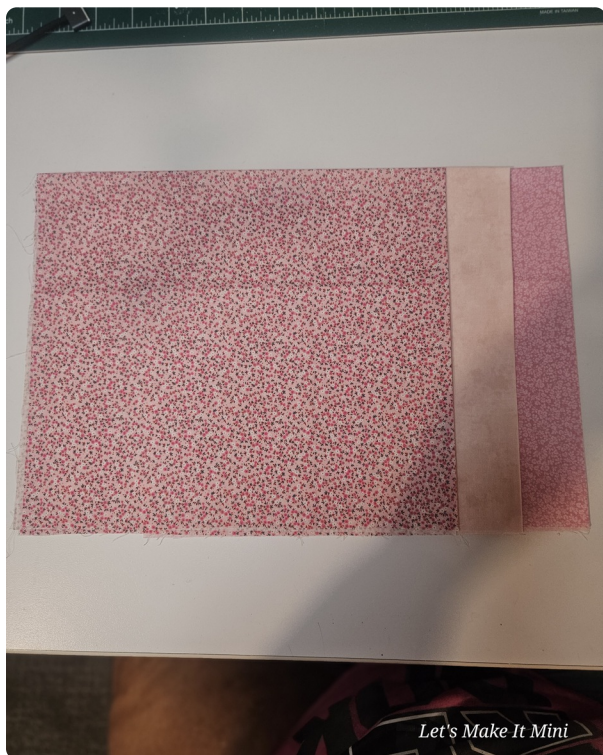
Method shown: Fabric glue

Prefer to sew it?

At Step 16, baste the outside edges instead of gluing them. At Step 23, use a straight or decorative stitch to attach the backing and secure the folded binding rather than using glue.

Steps 1 and 2

Work slowly and keep the strips aligned



1 Choose the fabrics

Choose three coordinating cotton or lightweight fabrics. Cut each piece to 12 x 7 inches, keeping the edges straight.



2 Cut the strips

Stack the three fabric rectangles. Cut 1.5-inch-wide strips across the 12-inch side. You should have eight 1.5 x 7-inch strips from each fabric - 24 strips total.

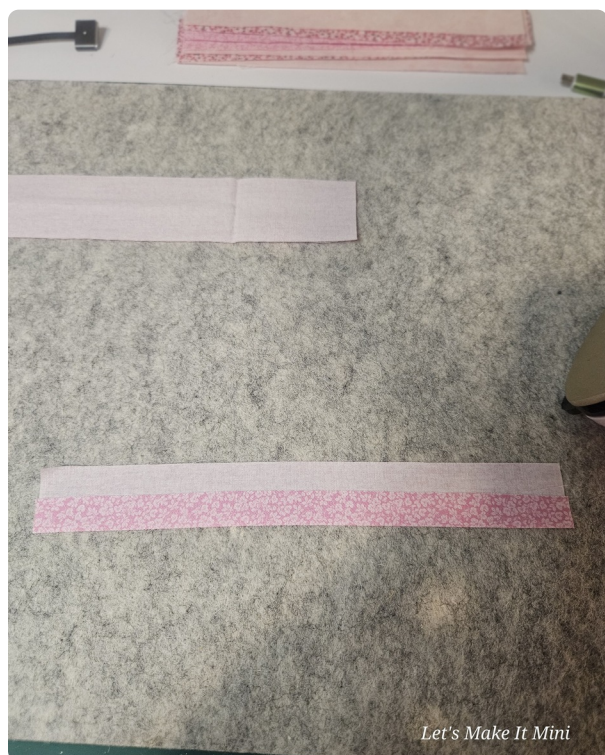
Steps 3 and 4

Work slowly and keep the strips aligned



3 Make two groups

Divide the 24 strips into two groups of 12. Each group will become one direction of the weave. Alternate the three fabrics in any order you like.

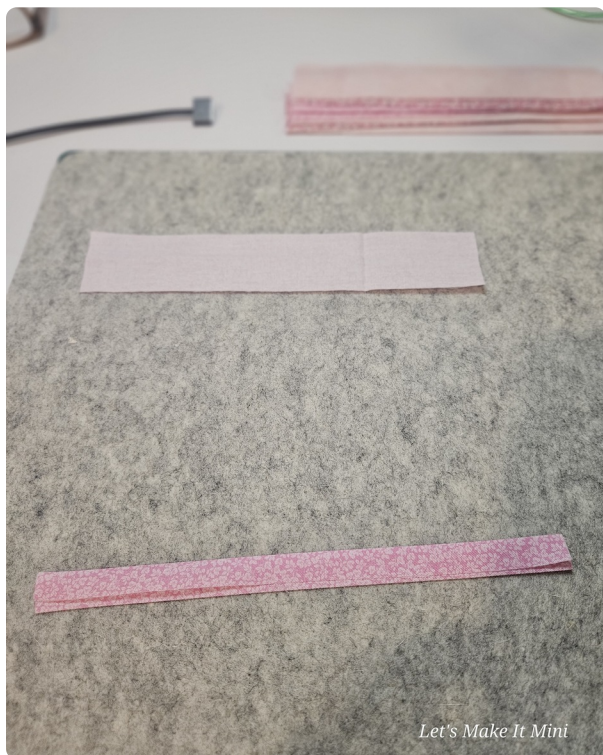


4 Fold each strip

Fold every strip into thirds lengthwise so the raw edges meet inside. Keep the long edges as straight and even as possible.

Steps 5 and 6

Work slowly and keep the strips aligned



5 Press the folds

Press each folded strip firmly so the creases hold. A crisp fold makes the woven pattern neater and easier to handle.



6 Sort the folded strips

Separate the folded strips into two sets. Each set should contain four strips of each fabric, for 12 strips total.

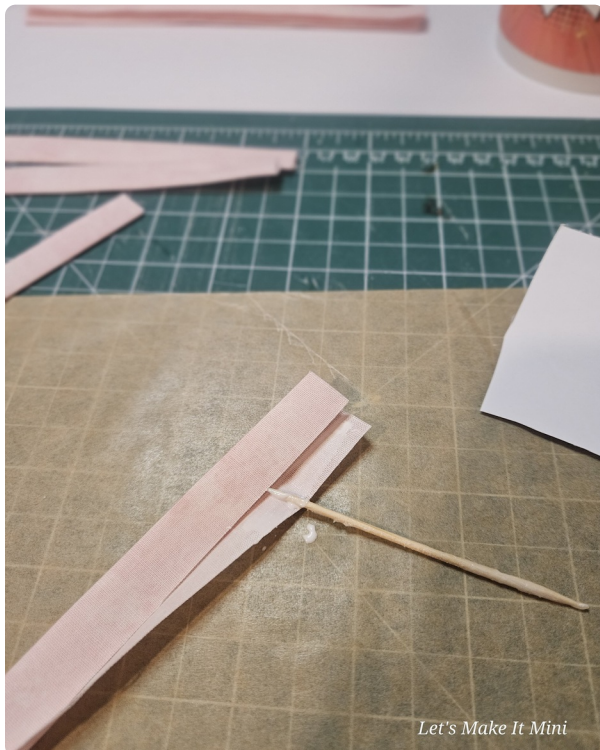
Steps 7 and 8

Work slowly and keep the strips aligned



7 Protect the work surface

Cover your work surface with parchment paper. This keeps stray glue off your cutting mat or table and prevents the strips from sticking.



8 Glue the folded strips

Working on the back of each strip, glue the outside flap over the inside flap so the seam will not show on the front. Apply a very thin layer of fabric or tacky glue with a toothpick. Do not over-glue.

GLUE LIGHTLY

A toothpick gives you better control than the bottle tip.

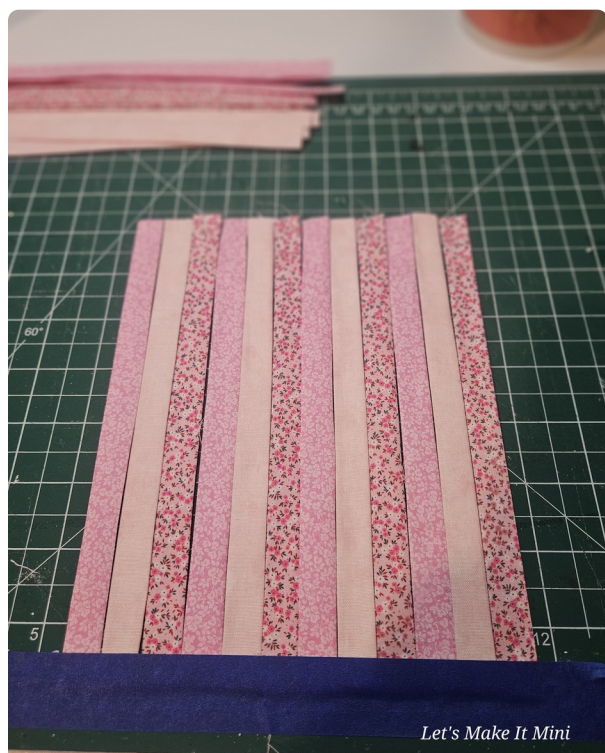
Steps 9 and 10

Work slowly and keep the strips aligned



9 Arrange the first set

Place one set of 12 strips side by side in your chosen color pattern. Keep the strips parallel, with the folded seams facing down.



10 Tape the starting edge

Secure the edge closest to you with low-tack painter's tape or light-grip masking tape. The tape keeps the vertical strips aligned while you weave.

Steps 11 and 12

Work slowly and keep the strips aligned



11 Weave the first cross strip

Fold every other vertical strip back over the tape. Insert the first horizontal strip close to the taped edge, then fold the vertical strips back into place.



12 Weave the next strip

Fold back the alternating vertical strips - the ones that stayed down in Step 11. Insert the next horizontal strip and return the vertical strips to the work surface.

Steps 13 and 14

Work slowly and keep the strips aligned



13

Snug and straighten

Slide each new horizontal strip toward the taped edge. Gently tug the ends until the strip is straight and the weave sits snugly together.



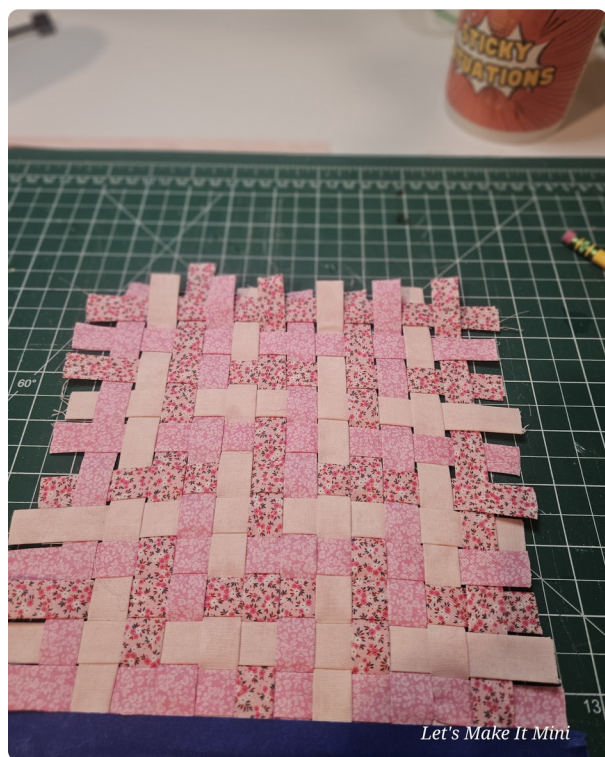
14

Continue the weave

Repeat the alternating fold-and-weave process until all 12 horizontal strips have been added. Snug and straighten the work as you go.

Steps 15 and 16

Work slowly and keep the strips aligned



15

Square the quilt top

Adjust the strips until the woven pattern is straight and compact. Do not worry if the outside edges are uneven or slightly frayed; they will be trimmed later.



16

Secure the outside edges

Place a tiny dot of glue beneath every strip end. Work around all four sides and secure the ends on both faces so the weave cannot shift.

Steps 17 and 18

Work slowly and keep the strips aligned



17

Let the glue dry

Allow the glued edges to dry completely before trimming. Moving the quilt top too soon can pull the woven strips out of alignment.



18

Trim the quilt top

Trim all four edges so the quilt top is square. Cut carefully and make sure you do not clip the folded strip underneath.

TRIM CAREFULLY

Check beneath the top layer before every cut.

Steps 19 and 20

Work slowly and keep the strips aligned



19 Measure the finished top

Measure the trimmed quilt top. Write down its width and length so you can calculate the backing fabric. The sample shown finished at approximately 7 x 7 inches.



20 Cut the backing fabric

Cut one piece of coordinating fabric approximately 1.25 inches larger than the quilt top on all four sides.

Steps 21 and 22

Work slowly and keep the strips aligned



21 Press the backing edges

On the backing fabric, fold and press a 3/4-inch edge on all four sides. Keep the folds even and the corners as neat as possible.



22 Position the quilt top

Place the woven quilt top inside the backing fabric, with the pressed folds turned up and ready to wrap over the quilt-top edges. Center and square the top.

Steps 23 and 24

Work slowly and keep the strips aligned



23

Glue the first binding edge

Apply a narrow line of glue along one edge of the quilt top. Fold the backing flap over the edge and hold it in place until the glue begins to tack.



24

Finish the remaining sides

Repeat Step 23 on the other three sides. Place a clean, heavy, flat object over the quilt and leave it in place until the glue is completely dry.

Your Mini Quilt Is Finished

Use the quilt just as it is, or add a decorative machine stitch around the binding. You can also stitch quilting lines across the backing for extra texture and detail.



Change the fabrics, colors, and strip count to make it your own.

Matching miniature pillows will be featured in a future tutorial.