



Instructions for Making A Piece of the PRP Banner:

- **Please read through all instructions before starting; to make sure you know all the hints and tips as well as what step comes next.**
- **Please follow these instructions as closely as possible so that all the pieces turn out with the same dimensions and looking the best they can!**

Fabric Specifics

Light weight fabric of any size can be used, but **new or unused broadcloth made of cotton or cotton/polyester is the easiest (and cheapest) to work with**

Remember: ONLY USE THE 6 COLOURS OF THE PRIDE FLAG:



RED ORANGE YELLOW GREEN BLUE PURPLE

Hints:

- If a fabric looks like it's between two colours, choose one, and try to put it beside a more contrasting colour (i.e. a golden fabric can look orange or yellow, so if you decide it's yellow, try to use it beside a more reddish orange)
- Fabric that is straight from a bolt (like newly bought, or never used before) is easiest to use because it already has some straight edges; other fabric can be used, it simply takes a bit more thinking and a few more cuts
- If the banner looks like patchwork (with different shades and textures etc), that's totally fine! Remember this project is promoting diversity!!

Materials List

Fabric in the 6 colours

Ironing boards and steam irons(you probably will want more than one, as ironing is the first step and can sometimes hold up the others)

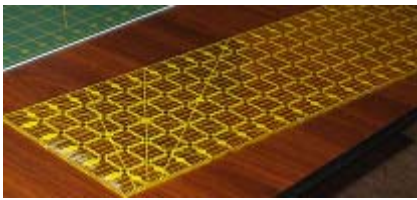
Extension cords

Large tables to work on

***Cutting boards with 1 inch grid** (at least 20x30 inches if possible)



***Rotary cutters with sharp blades** (replacement blades can be purchased if the blade is getting dull)



***Strong Straight-Edge, 24 inches long if possible**
(can be a quilting ruler, a carpenter's square, or very sturdy metre stick)

Serger(s) (plus long tweezers for threading, small brush, sewing machine oil, extra needles)

Serger thread cones

Scissors

Tape

Waste baskets

Bag to keep serger ribbons in

Tape measure

CD player/radio

Sign in sheet (to record who comes – can get on the website)

Petition (you can get this off the website as well)

***anyone who quilts will have these, as well as many people who do a lot of sewing**

There are 5 main steps to the process: Ironing, Cutting, Serging, Signing, and Sending

Step One: Ironing:



- all pieces should be ironed before cutting, to make more accurate cuts and to make serging easier
- iron the pieces flat - no folds

*in general, try to keep fabric off the floor as much as possible, especially if there's any dirt or water on the floor – these banners will **not** be easy to wash, so we need to keep them as clean as possible.*

Step Two: Cutting



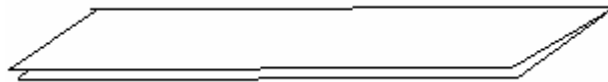
The goal is to make:

- Long strips, 11 inches wide
- Straight sides and ends
- Square corners

Instructions for Cutting New Fabric:



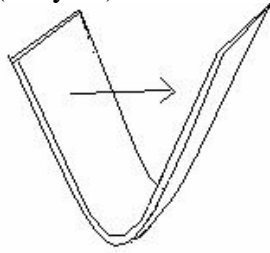
1. Start with a manageable length of fabric to work with (about 2 metres or less) – cut it to be manageable if necessary. This will make everything else easier. You can also do this before ironing.



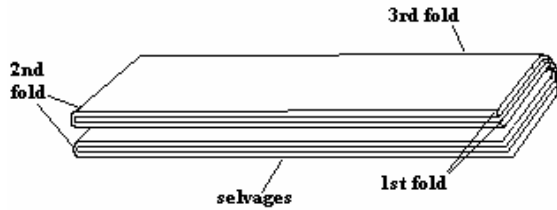
2. Fold in half lengthwise to bring the finished edges (selvages) together, and smoothing the fabric flat on the table. (2 layers of fabric at this point)



3. Fold in half end to end, bringing the rough-cut ends together. (4 layers)



4. Fold lengthwise again to make the width fit on the board



(8 layers)

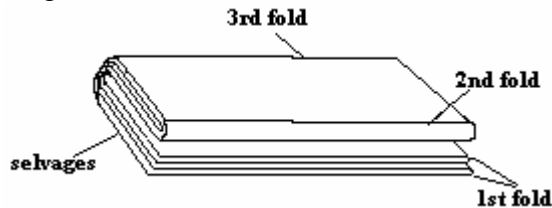
5. Square off ends with the straight-edge and rotary cutter. This is easy, using the grid on the cutting mat, and then line up the straight edge along a grid-line across the fabric. Always try to line up two perpendicular edges along the grid to make sure the corners will be square. Take the guard off the rotary cutter and carefully press the cutter through the layers of fabric and along the straight-edge. You probably want a friend to help you hold down the straight-edge so it doesn't move while you're cutting.



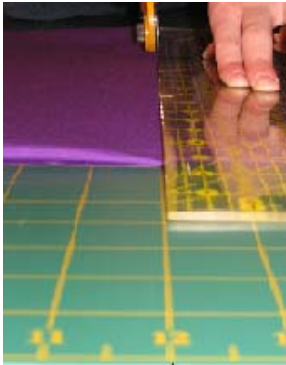
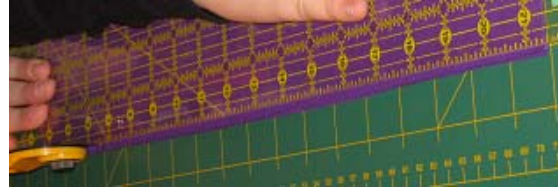
6. UNDO LAST FOLD



7. Fold fabric in half end to end again, bringing folded end to line up with the freshly-cut ends. (8 layers) The length of the fabric should now fit on the cutting board.

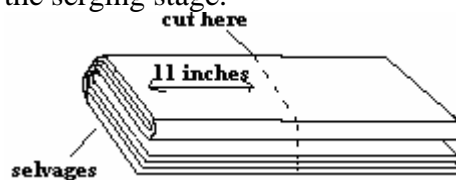


8. If the selvages do not line up perfectly, you may wish to straighten the selvage edge by lining up most of the selvages along a grid line, and just cutting off the bits of the selvage that stick out.



11 inches from the selvage

9. To cut the first 11 inch strip, line up the selvage edges with a line close to the side of the board. Use the straight edge and rotary cutter to cut parallel to, and 11 inches away from the selvage edges. Remove the resulting two finished strips to go to the serging stage.



10. If there is at least 11" (doubled) width left, then cut another 11" from the newly-cut edge, to give you two more strips for serging. If the fabric was 45 inches wide to start, this will be the case.



11. If there is not 11" of folded fabric, then (to leave the least wastage) short strips need to be cut across the fabric instead. Use rotary cutter and straight edge repeatedly to cut as many 11" strips in the other direction as possible.

Instructions for Cutting Other Fabric:



1. Find the edge that appears to be the straightest. Line it up as closely as possible along one of the guiding lines on the cutting mat. Use the straight-edge and cut along the line. This edge should now be straight. This is similar to straightening the selvages as in step 7 above.
2. Line this new straight side up along a guideline, and square off the ends as described in Step 4 above.
3. The rest of the procedure is the same as above.

Step Three: Serging



Part A -Making Long Strips

1. Make sure to get instructions on the use of the serger before you begin. (or enlist the help of an expert!)
 - Serge shorter strips of one colour together, end-to-end, to make a long strip
 - Remember right sides together!



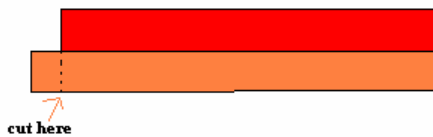
- Make long strips all approximately the same length before going on to Part B

Part B - Making a Banner Panel



1. Serge the long sides of the strips together in rainbow sequence (R_O_Y_G_B_P) to make one long panel. Remember right sides (with no serger stitching showing) together! Each colour strip of the finished panel should be about 10" wide.

- Make the total seam width $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, including the width of the stitching plus the width of the 'ribbon' cut off by the serger. It can help to put a piece of tape on the stitching surface of the serger $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to the right of the left-hand needle location. As you feed the fabric into the serger, keep the unserged fabric edges together and lined up with this piece of tape.
- When the fabric has been ironed and cut with a rotary cutter, there will generally be no need to pin the edges together. You should be able to easily hold the edges flat together as you feed them into the serger.

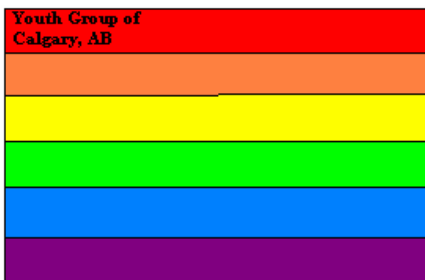


2. Once you have each strip attached, you may realize that not all strips were the same length. With a rotary cutter and a straight edge, cut off the end of the longer strips so the panel has all colours the same length. If the end you cut off is more than a couple of inches, it is probably worth it to keep that fabric and incorporate it into the next strip of that colour.



3. You will find that as you serge, “ribbons” or fabric will be cut off automatically by the serger. We are planning to use these for fundraising projects such as making rainbow belts. Please gather the strips that are longer than about a foot, and send them to us with your piece of the banner. This reduces waste and helps the project in another way. Thanks!

Step Four: Signing Your Piece



- Please sign your piece in red the strip, on the far left (see picture), at least 4 inches from the top and the side edges to avoid it getting cut off when pieces are attached
- sign the name and place of your organization, ex: Senior Youth Group, Unitarian Church of Calgary, AB, Canada.
- you may also choose to have everyone who worked on it sign (to the right of the organization name, within the red strip)
- please use a black permanent marker (such as a Sharpie)

Step Five: Sending It To Us

- contact us by email (prp@planet-save.com) when you have a piece, and we'll figure out the best way to get it
- please let us know where you are when you contact us, so we can give you the most practical instructions