Rainbow Bunting Quilt Top Tutorial

A cute rainbow quilt perfect for a little kid's bed or to throw over your lap on a cold day. It's a great project for making a small amount of plant dyed textiles go a long way but would also be a wonderful scrap buster.

Finished quilt size 40 x 53.5 inches (102 x 137 cm).



Note: I've given measurements only in inches as this is what I used to measure and cut my fabrics and I haven't tested a version in equivalent centimetre measurements.

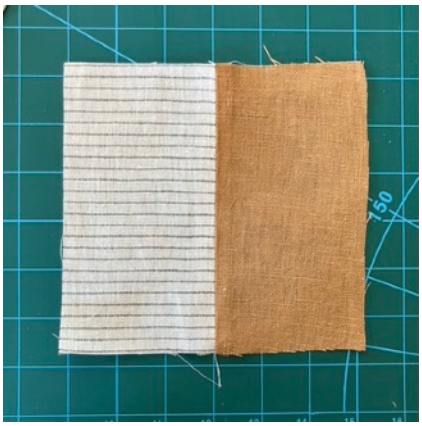
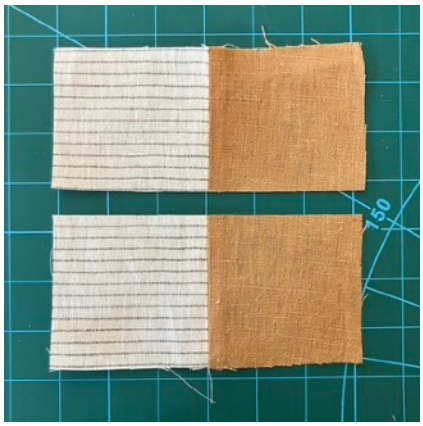
Fabric and cutting requirements:

Coloured fabric:
1x Large Plant Dyed Stitching Pack **(aka:** *22x* 6 x 7 inch rectangles)
or *44x* 3.5 x 6 inch rectangles from your own coloured fabrics

Background fabric:
44x 3.5 x 6 inch rectangles
38x 5.5 x 6.5 inch rectangles
I used 1m of 140cm wide linen and had almost no leftovers.

Step 1
If you're using a Stitching Pack, cut each piece in half through the longer side to make forty four 3.5" x 6" rectangles. If you're using your own fabrics you will already have cut them this size.

Step 2
Pair up each coloured rectangle with a background fabric rectangle of the same size and sew them right sides together along the long side using a scant 1/4" seam. Press your seams in your preferred way - I like to press mine open.


Step 3
Your rectangles should now be 6.5 x 6 inches. Cut them all in half again through the (slightly) shorter side. Rotate one half so that the background and coloured fabrics alternate and sew together. For more precise seam matching pin the centre seams before sewing.

NB: Be careful to sew all the blocks with the colours diagonally in the same direction. It doesn't matter which way the colours go as long as they are all the same - unlike my first attempt here which lead to quite a bit of unpicking!



Step 4

Lay out your rectangle four patch blocks, alternating them with the plain background rectangles so that the small coloured rectangles run in diagonal lines across the quilt like bunting. I made an 11 x 7 block grid but you could change this if you wanted different final dimensions.

Step 5

Sew each row together and then join your rows to make your quilt top. Give it a good press and voila!



Quilt finishing:

I hand quilted my quilt using a large plant dyed 8wt Perle cotton thread set (18 colours), changing thread colour for every line. I quilted 1/4 inch either side of the four patch seams, continuing the lines through the plain background blocks. I then added a single line of stitch-in-the-ditch quilting along the main block seams (more visible on the back than the front).

I bound the quilt in a grey linen using 2.5 inch binding cut on the grain, folded in half and machine stitched to the front and hand stitched (appliqué stitch) on the back using more of the 8wt Perle cotton, again changing colour every thread length for maximum rainbow effect.





