

## **Striped Shower Curtain by Kelly Bowser**

approx 72"x72"

### **MATERIALS:**



- You will need 2.25 yards of at least 3 prints. You can use as many different prints as you want, but you will need the 2.25 length on EACH. I used 2 Remix quilting cottons, 3 Robert Kaufman Kona solids, and 1 Remix laminated fabric.
- Whether using cotton, laminated fabric, or a combination, you will need to sketch out how many stripes you want in your design. Standard shower curtains are 72x72 (ish). There is some wiggle room in the height and width for most standard baths—seriously, no one will notice if your curtain is a bit shorter or narrower. You should be careful not to make the curtain too long or it will drag on the floor. This is project is the perfect solution for those of you with unusual sized showers—you can make it to fit!
- Grommets or a sewing machine that makes button holes

### **CUTTING:**

- The top of the shower curtain needs some extra stability since it bears the weight of the rest of the curtain. For the top of the shower curtain, cut a strip of fabric that is 2 times + .875" wider than you would like it to finish x 2.25 yards. I suggest you cut it at least 6.875"x2.25 yards. Press it in half length wise—so you will have a 2.25 yard long piece of fabric that is a bit more than 3" wide. For the featured shower curtain, the fabric is cut at 8.875" wide so the finished top section of the shower curtain is 4" wide. Top-

stitch 3/8" down from the top of the *folded* edge. This finished edge will be the top of your shower curtain.

- When cutting the remaining fabric, you will need to add 1.75" to the width of each strip for the seam allowance. For example, if you want one stripe to be 4" wide finished, you will need to cut that piece 5.75" wide. All fabric will be cut along the 2.25 yard length. It can be tricky cutting such long strips, so be sure you have pressed and folded your fabric neatly.
- For this shower curtain I also added some adorable Remix laminated fabric!  
**\*\*\*IMPORTANT—DO NOT IRON LAMINATED FABRIC!\*\*\*** Got that? Laminated fabric + an iron = no bueno! I cut three pieces 9.75" wide x 2.25 yards long. Working with laminated fabric can be tricky due to the slick surface. Some machines have a Teflon foot available to make sewing laminates easy. I don't have this accessory and I found I could sew it easily so long as the coated (shiny) side of the laminated fabric was facing my feed dogs. If you decide to use laminated fabric, I would experiment a bit with some scrap pieces before you move on to the shower curtain to see what settings work best for your machine.

#### **ASSEMBLY:**

Once all your pieces are cut and your top piece has been folded and top stitched, it's time to assemble the curtain. We're going to be using French seams to create the majority of the shower curtain. If you've never made French seams, get ready to be amazed!

1. Place the fabric strips **WRONG SIDES TOGETHER** and sew using a 3/8" seam allowance. When sewing the folded top piece, there is not necessarily a wrong side unless you have a directional print.



2. Press seam—finger press when using laminated fabric



3. Open fabric and place RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER



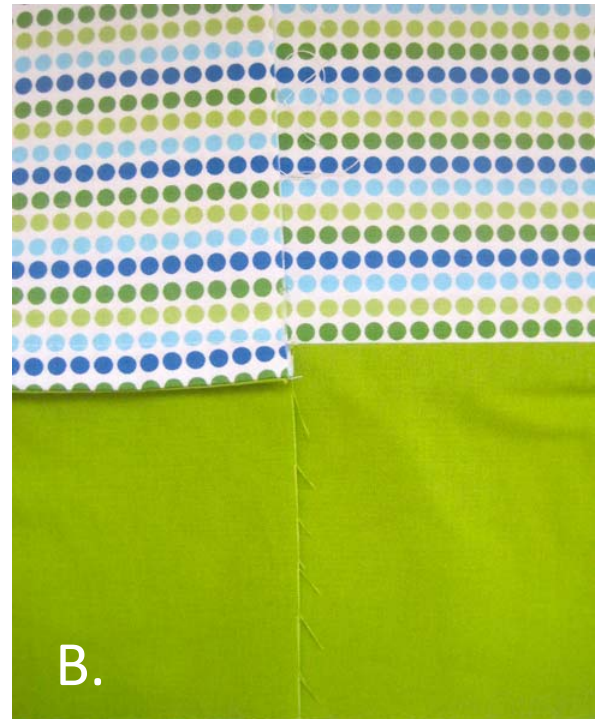
4. Sew the pieces using a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance along the attached edge. This will encase the previous  $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam and leave the back of your curtain free of raw edges!



5. Press French seam toward the bottom of the shower curtain—finger press for laminated fabric.



**Picture A:** This is what the BACK of the shower curtain should now look like, pretty French seams.

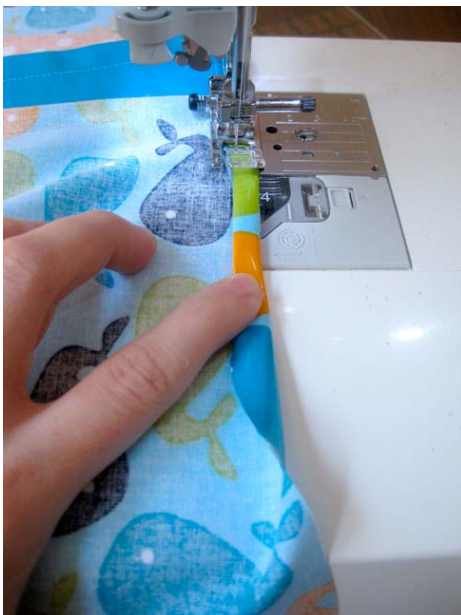


**Picture B:** This is what the front of the curtain should look like, on the left is how the French seams should look on the back

6. Continue attaching stripes until you have the desired length + 1". For standard curtains, you would want this to be 73"



7. Once the curtain is assembled, trim the sides until the curtain is 74" wide, or 2" + your desired width.
8. Hem the sides and bottom of the curtain by folding the raw edges in 1/2" and pressing (do NOT iron laminated parts, finger press). Fold the fabric over again 1/2" and sew close to the folded edge to hold the hem in place.



9. Following the instructions for your machine, add button holes to the top of the curtain. I measured in 3" from the hemmed sides and 1" down from the folded top for the first and last button hole. I then evenly distributed the remaining button holes, always placing them 1" down from the top of the curtain. Standard shower curtains have 12 holes. You may also use grommets if you prefer or if your machine doesn't have a buttonhole function.

**\*\*\*NOTE:** if you are using a laminated fabric AND quilting cottons, sew all of the cotton sections FIRST and then add the laminated pieces. The reason for this is because of the dreaded iron/laminated fabric combination. You'll want to iron and smooth out the cotton sections and I've found it's easy to forget the "no ironing laminated fabric" rule. If you piece together the sections that are only cotton first, you can iron away without a care. Then, when it's time to add the laminated fabric—unplug your iron!!!! For the curtain featured, I sewed in thirds: all the cotton fabric in the top, middle, and bottom sections together first, then I added the laminated fabric to each section, then I sewed the three sections together.