



Grab some red, white and blue scraps from your stash and get ready to celebrate! This tutorial will walk you step-by-step through piecing together a mini-quilt or pillow top perfect for Independence Day, Flag Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day or to show your patriotism year-round.

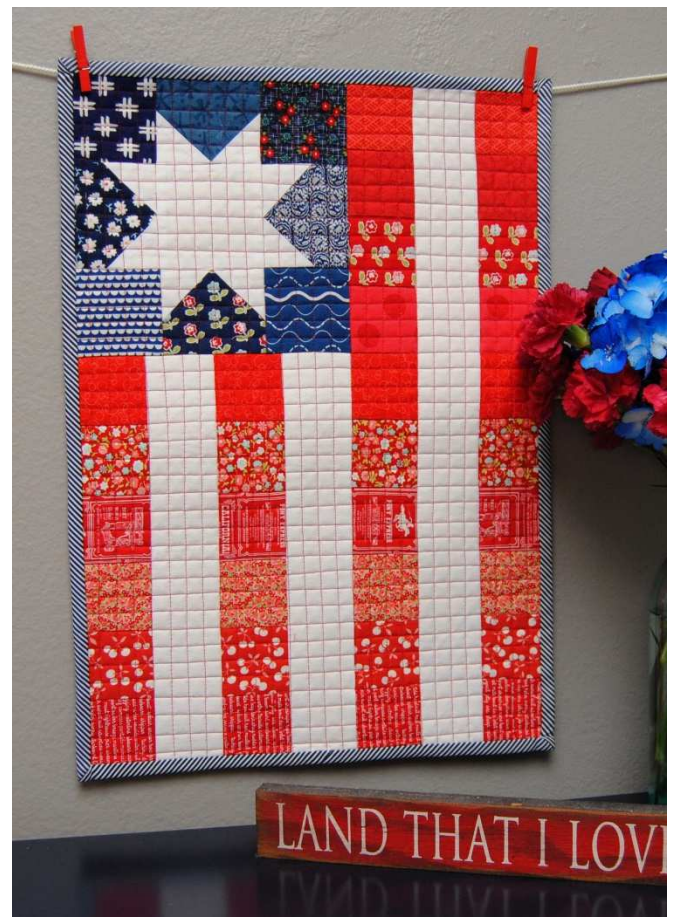
The unfinished pillow top measures 15" x 21" and includes a 1/2" seam allowance. When finished, the pillow sham will fit a 14" x 20" travel pillow.

The finished mini quilt measures 14 1/2" x 20 1/2".

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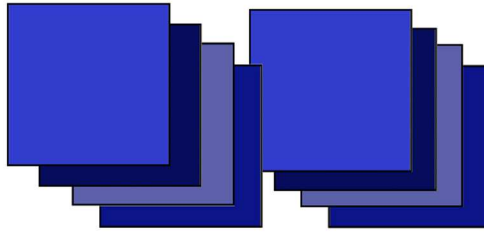
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Cut the pieces for your mini quilt or pillow top:

Cut 8 – 3 ½" blue squares

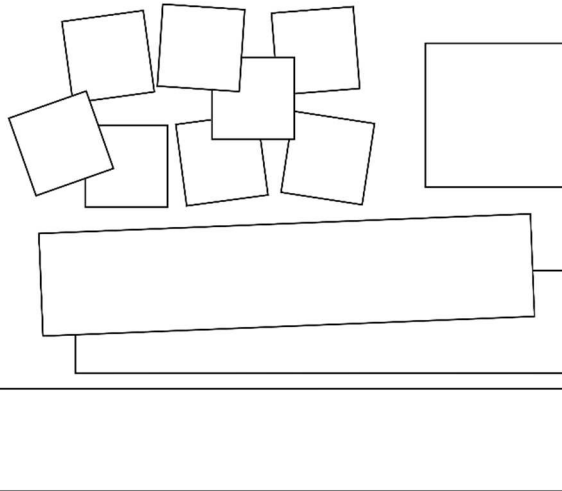


Cut 8 – 2" white squares

Cut 1 – 3 ½" white square

For the mini-quilt option, cut 2 – 12 ½" x 2 ½" white strips and 1 – 20 ½" x 2 ½" white strip

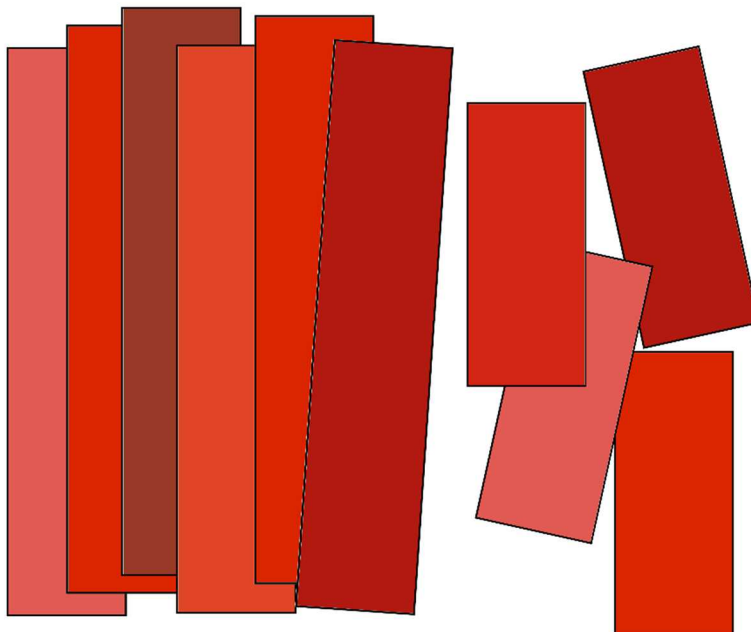
For the pillow top, cut 2 – 12 ¾" x 2 ½" white strips and 1 – 21" x 2 ½" white strips

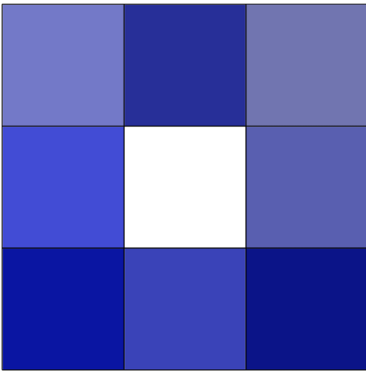


For the mini-quilt option, cut 6 – 2 ½" x 12" red strips and 4 – 2 ½" x 6" strips

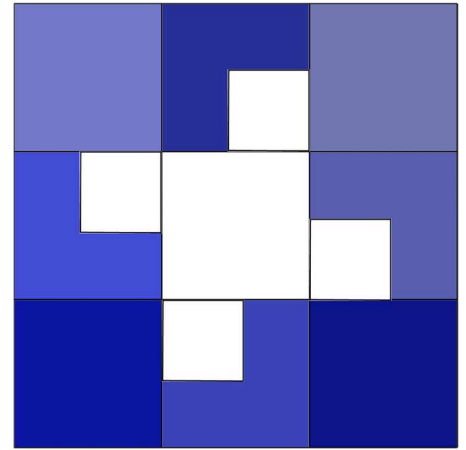
For the pillow top, cut 1 – 2 ¾" x 12" red strip, 5 – 2 ½" x 12" red strips,

1 – 2 ¾" x 6" red strips and 3 – 2 ½" x 6" red strips



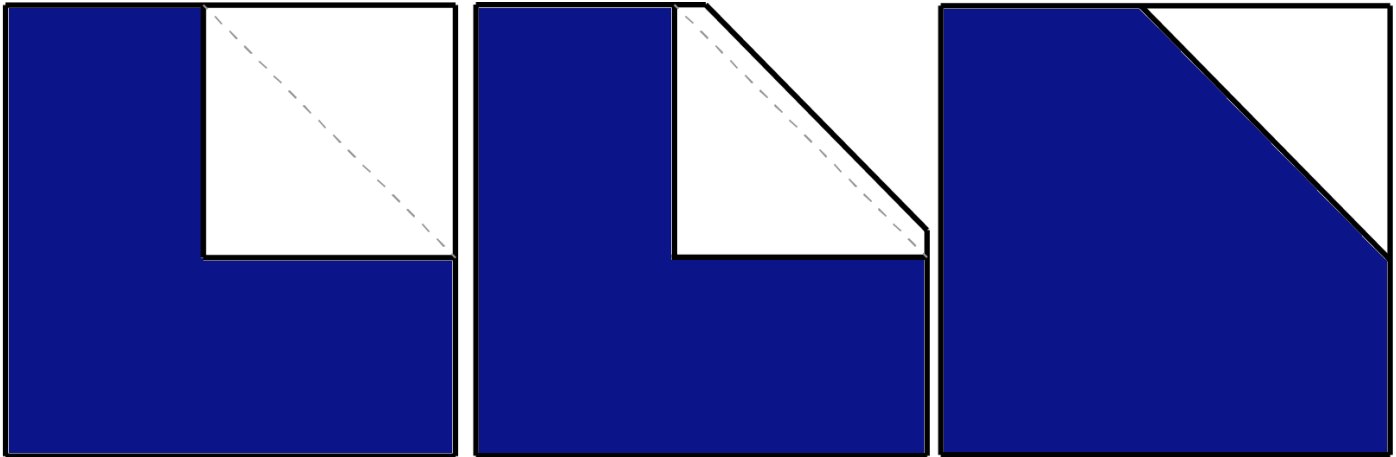


Decide the layout of the blue star field. Arrange the eight blue squares and the single 3 1/2" white square as shown:

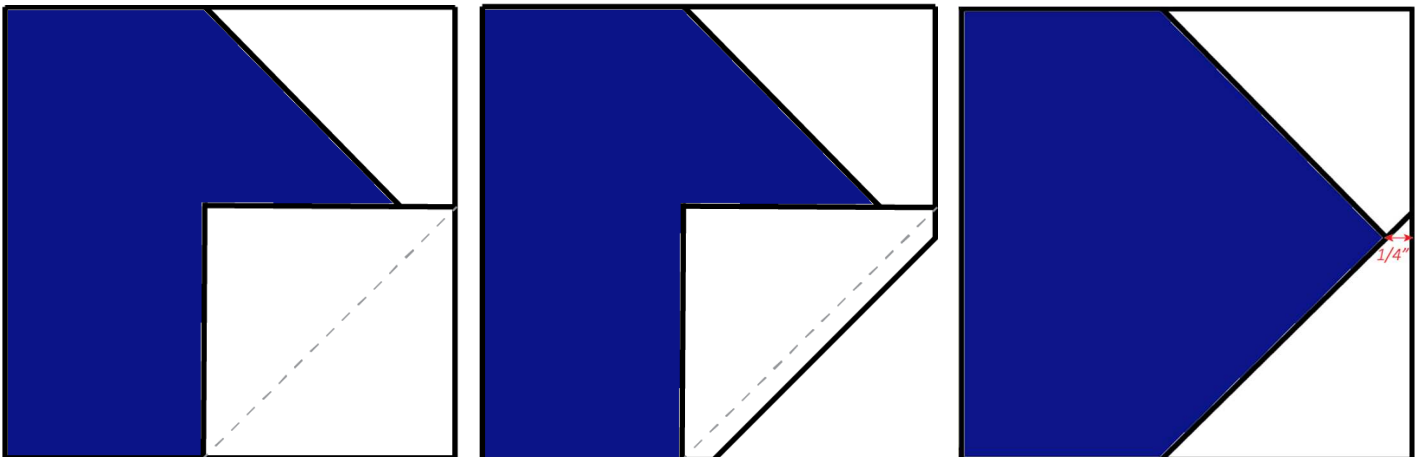


To make the star on the blue field, begin by placing a 2" white square on one corner of each of the four squares that surround the center square.

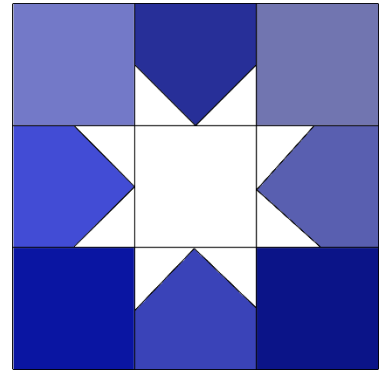
Draw a straight, diagonal line from corner to corner on each of the 2" white squares. Stitch along this line. Trim 1/4" away from the stitching line. Press the white triangle away from the blue fabric.



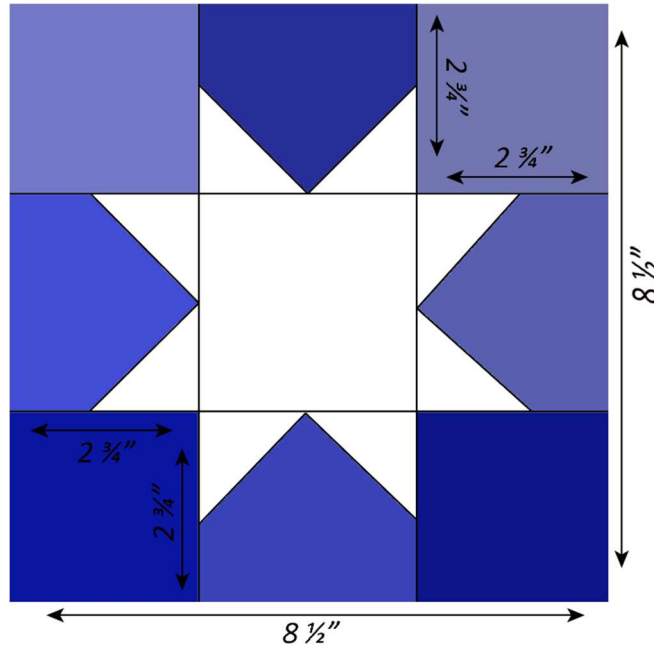
Place a second 2" white square on the opposite corner of each block. (If your fabrics are directional, check to be certain that you place the square on the correct corner.) Repeat the steps above. When the second triangle is pressed, the white space at the center should measure 1/4".



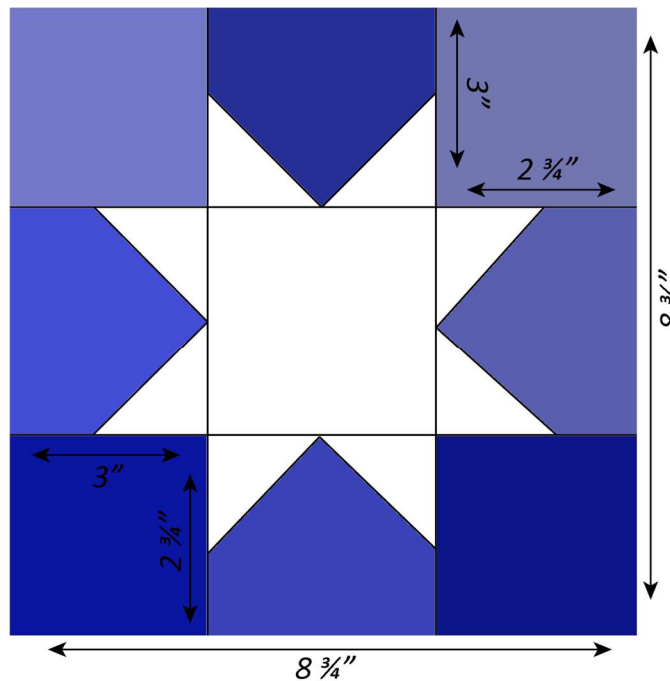
Lay out the blue field pieces again. Sew the squares in the top row together. Sew the square in the middle row together. Sew the squares in the bottom row together. Press the seam allowances toward the outside blocks on the top and bottom rows. Press the seam allowances toward the center white block on the middle row. Sew the three rows together, nesting the seams when you pin to keep the corners aligned properly.



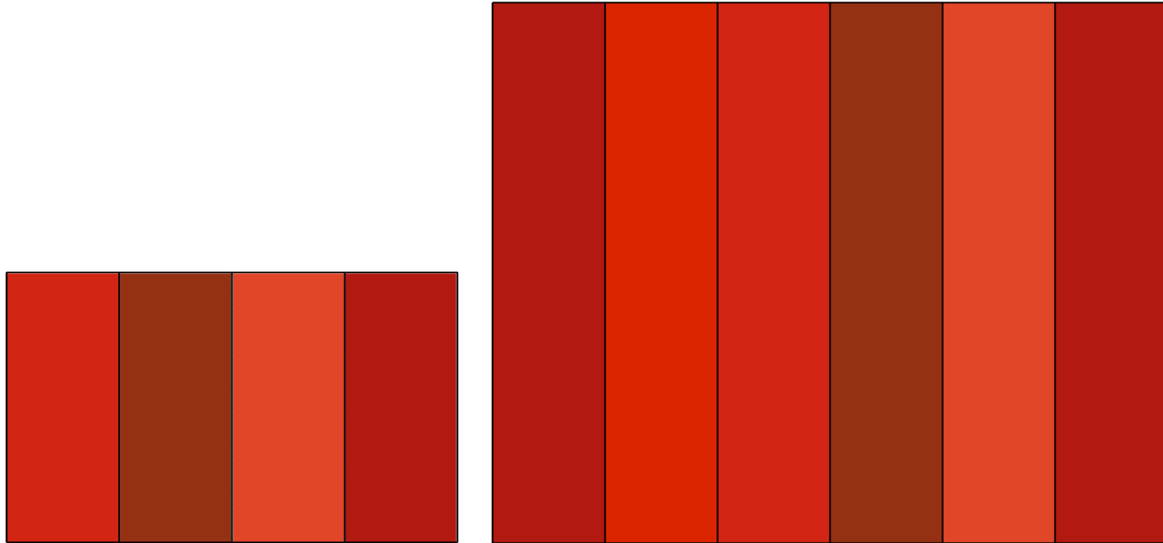
For the mini quilt option, trim the width of the outside rows to $2\frac{3}{4}$ ".



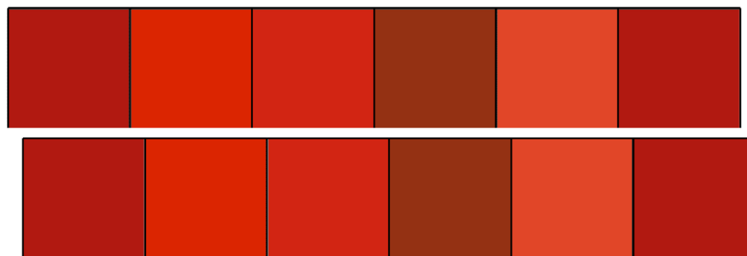
For the pillow top, trim the top row and the row to the left as you face the blue field to 3". Trim the remaining two outside rows to $2\frac{3}{4}$ ".



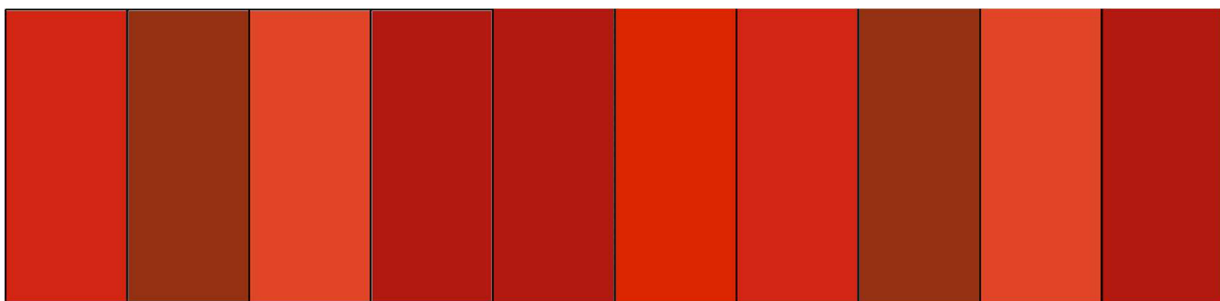
Sew the six long strips together. (If you're sewing the pillow, place the wider strip all the way to the right as you're facing the strips.) Sew the four short strips together. (If you're sewing the pillow, place the wider strip all the way to the left.)



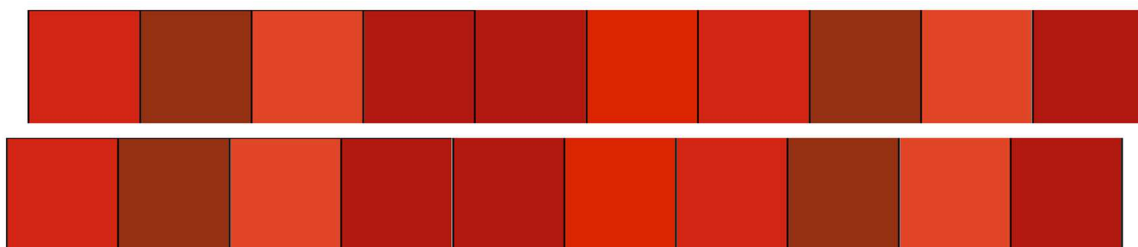
There is extra length added to the strips to allow for squaring them up. Trim one end of the long strips so that they're even and straight all the way across. For the mini quilt, cut 2 – 2 1/2" wide strips of blocks from the long set of strips. For the pillow, cut 1 – 2 3/4" wide set of blocks and 1 – 2 1/2" wide set of blocks.



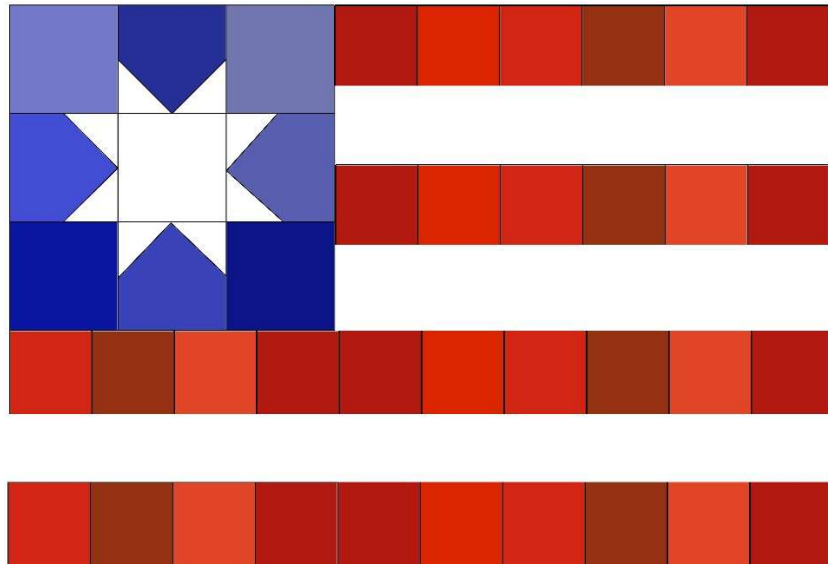
Sew the short set of strips to the leftover long strips. (If you're sewing the pillow, be sure that the wider strips are on each outer edge.)



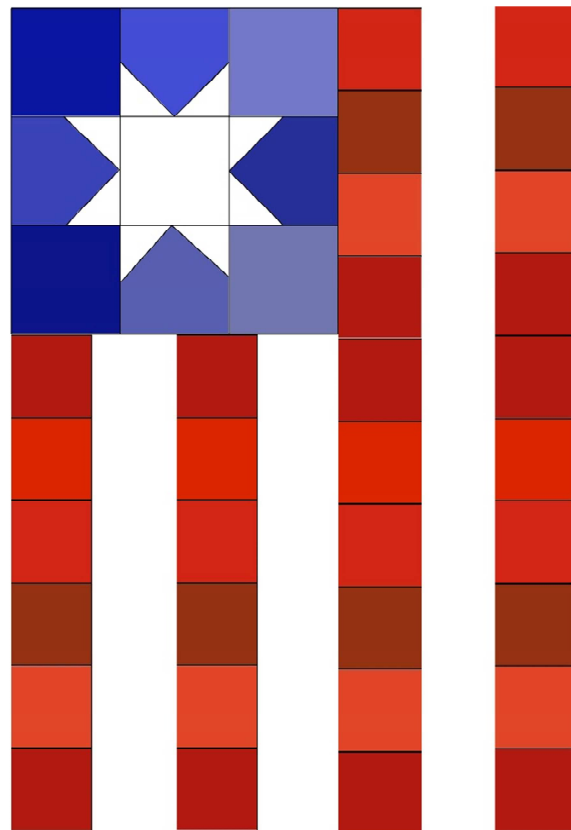
Square up one end of the strips. For the mini quilt, cut 2 – 2 1/2" wide sets of blocks. For the pillow, cut 1 – 2 3/4" set of blocks and 1 – 2 1/2" wide set of blocks.



Lay out the blue field, red strips and white strips. If you're making the pillow or if your mini quilt will be hanging horizontally, then you'll want to place your pieces in this arrangement. (For the pillow, place the wider red strips at the top and bottom):



If you're making the mini quilt and planning to hang it vertically, position the pieces in this arrangement to keep the blue field properly positioned while hanging:



Sew the shorter red stripes to the shorter white strips. Sew these to the blue field. Sew the longer red stripes with the longer white stripe between. Sew the two sections together to complete your mini quilt or pillow top.

Finish your mini quilt with batting, backing, quilting and binding. Finish your pillow with batting, quilting and either a zippered back or an envelope back. Use a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. (The extra $\frac{1}{4}$ " that you added all the way around will give you an even finish on the pillow.)