

TRANSCRIPT: Fat Quarter- Encyclopedia

I have here one yard of fabric. It's 36 inches this way by, because this is like a cotton fabric, usually they are 44 to 45 inches across. If I were to have a fourth of a yard cut at the fabric shop, then they would cut me one fourth of 36, which is 36 divided by 4 which equals 9, so they would cut me 9 inches across, as in this piece, from here to here. It's a little over 9, they cut a little extra. But 9 inches by 44 to 45 inches, so this is one fourth of a yard. Quilters like to use fat quarters. A fat quarter is also a quarter of a yard, but it is cut a little bit different from the traditional quarter of a yard. So let me fold this in half, and we now have one, two, three, four; we have four equal pieces of fabric. And each one of those pieces of fabric would be a fourth of a yard and they would look something like this. This is what's called a fat quarter. It is 18 inches across by 20 to 22 ½ inches long. It's still a quarter of a yard, it's just cut differently. Quilters like to use a fat quarter because they like to cut out larger pieces. And if I had a traditional quarter of a yard, like this one, I would be unable to cut out a piece that I used for the background on this applique block. The background block was about 15 inches, 16 inches big. So I would not be able to get that out of a traditional quarter, but I can get it out of a fat quarter. So I can get larger pieces out of a fat quarter. The reason why I wouldn't want a fat quarter is because at times I like to cut long strips and it's much easier to cut long strips from the traditional quarter of a yard, than it is from the fat quarter. I would be cutting them over and over again and having to sew them at the seams. Also, most fabric stores will give you a traditional quarter of a yard, but they will not cut a fat quarter. Usually you have to order those special, or go to quilt shops.