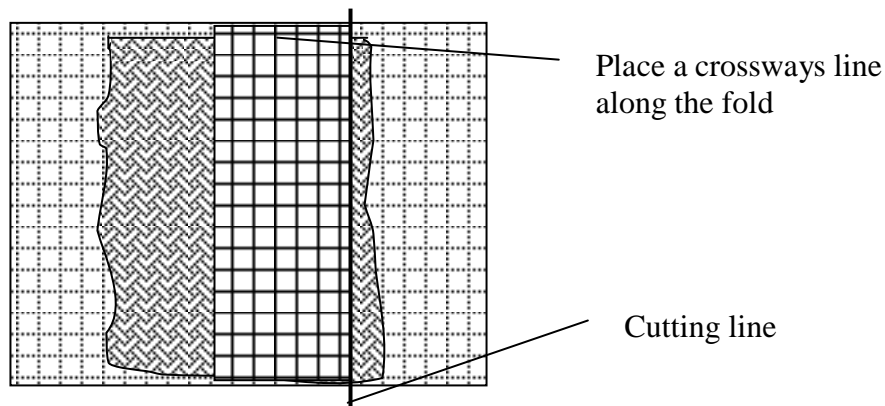


# Basic Rotary Cutting

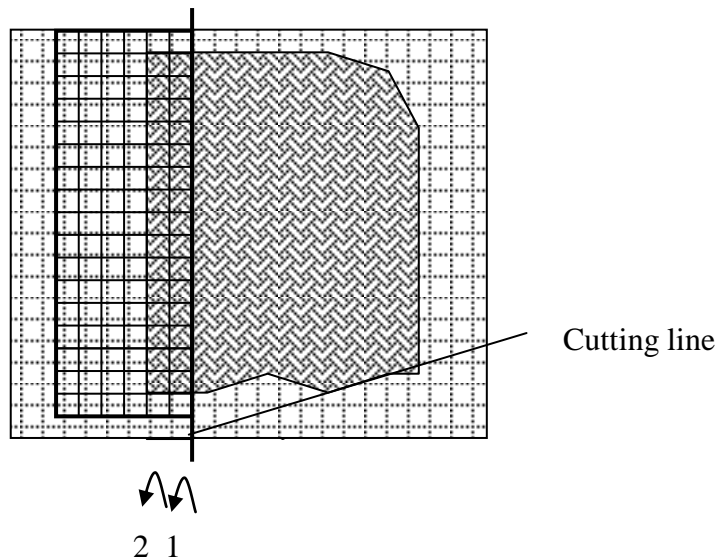
## *Cutting Strips*

First, you need to cut a straight edge on your fabric, along the straight grain.

1. Iron the fabric, and fold it double, with the selvages together.
2. Lay it on your cutting board, with some space to the right of the fabric.
3. Lay the ruler down over the fabric very close to the right hand edge, lying along the straight grain.
4. Check that one of the cross ways lines is lying along the fold of the fabric
5. Place the blade against the right hand edge of the ruler near to you, about an inch before the fabric begins. Cut up the edge.



6. Without disturbing the ruler or fabric, pull away the thin strip of fabric on the right hand side of the ruler. If necessary, cut along the edge again.
7. Now, without disturbing the ruler or fabric, **TURN THE WHOLE BOARD ROUND**, or go around to the other side of the table.
8. Move the ruler to the left, until the amount left underneath the ruler is the desired width of strip. e.g. if you want strips 2" wide, line up the ruler so that your freshly cut straight edge lies exactly underneath the line on the ruler 2" in from the right hand edge, all along its length.

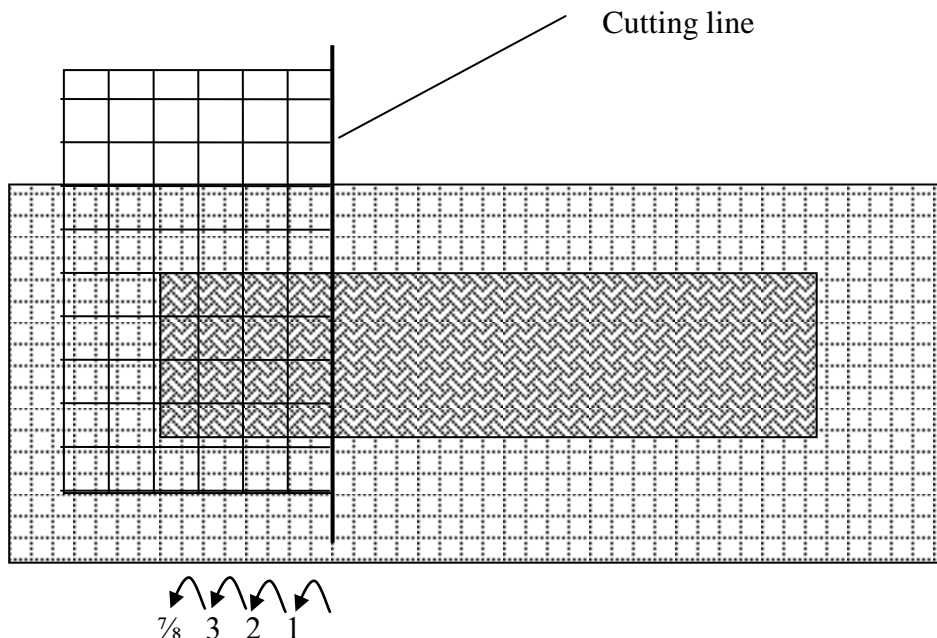


## **Basic Rotary Cutting**

9. To check that the ruler is positioned correctly, count in from the side which you will cut in a moment, to the previously cut edge. Make sure that you don't count "1" at the edge of the ruler – this is "0"; and "1" is the first bold line an inch in!
10. Cut up the right hand edge of the ruler as before.
11. Congratulations – you have cut your first strip!

### ***Cutting Squares***

1. Cut strips of the required width (e.g.  $3\frac{7}{8}$ " wide for  $3\frac{7}{8}$ " squares), as previously described.
2. Lay the strips (still double folded) along your cutting mat, with the selvedge end a little way from the right hand edge. Lay your ruler across the fabric, at right angles to the strip.
3. Making sure that a crossways line on the ruler is lined up with the edge of the strip, cut a fresh edge at the right hand side, making sure that you cut the entire selvedge off.
4. Now, without disturbing the ruler or fabric, TURN THE WHOLE BOARD ROUND, or go around to the other side of the table.
5. Move the ruler to the left, until the amount left underneath the ruler is the desired size of square e.g. if you want  $3\frac{7}{8}$ " squares, line up the ruler so that your freshly cut straight edge lies exactly underneath the marks on the ruler which are  $3\frac{7}{8}$ " in from the right hand edge. Count in from the edge that will be cut, as before, to check.



6. To make sure that the square is properly square, check that one of the crossways lines of the ruler is lined up with the top cut edge of the strip again.
7. Cut carefully but firmly as before.
8. You should now have two perfect squares (because you had a double layer).

Don't expect your cutting to be perfect the first time that you try it! Try first on some unimportant fabric, and then a few wobbly cuts won't matter. Keep these tips by you for the first few sessions, and your rotary cutter will soon be an invaluable friend.