

## BACK IT UP!

The back of a quilt—it isn't often on display, but that doesn't mean it can't be as exciting and unique as the front of a quilt! Over the years we've made hundreds, if not thousands of quilts, and this has afforded us the opportunity to make quilt backings in a variety of wonderful ways!

The most obvious, of course, is to back your quilt with a large piece of coordinating fabric. Using regular quilting fabric you simply stitch together enough pieces to fit the length and width of your quilt back, to create your backing.

However, if you're up for trying something new, or you're hoping to use some of the fabrics in your stash, we have some ideas for you. Why not mix two or three coordinating fabrics for your backing? Instead of stitching together the same fabric, choose a couple of fabrics.

Why not add a large label in the center, or in one corner, of your backing? Making a large label will help it to stand out, especially if it is framed with one fabric selection. Remember, labeling your quilt is as important as finishing the binding—you'll want generations after you to know that it was YOU who made that wonderful quilt!

A row or two of large squares, surrounded by larger pieces of fabric, can certainly add visual interest. Keep squares off center for better design appeal and away from the edges as much as possible to prevent misalignment when layering.

Have a few scraps lying around, perhaps from the quilt you've just finished? Try creating a backing that uses all of those scraps, by piecing them together in similarly-sized squares or rectangles. Better yet, use some of the fat quarters you have stashed away, to create large-scale "blocks". You'll use up some of the fabric you already own, and stitch a creative backing in a short amount of time.

Some quilt artists have been known to make reversible quilts that are equally stunning on both sides! Give this a try on your own by creating a large-scale variable star block that takes up most of the backing.

Feel free to get creative, we are giving you permission! Browse through the alternative fabrics at your local quilt store. In our store many people use **Oh! So Soft** to back their quilts, with or without batting.

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