

## SCRAP QUILTS

Perhaps you have a few scraps lying about? Put them to use by making a scrap quilt! Scrap quilts can be addictive and fun, especially if you take time to plan before you get started. There are three points to keep in mind when planning for your scrap quilt: style, color, and value.

The best place to begin is by sorting your fabric into similar styles. Do you have a lot of batiks? Are reproductions fabrics more your style? How is your collection of brights or holiday fabrics? Scrap quilts can be made from any of these styles.

After you have sorted for style it will be helpful to sort by color. Decide if you want your quilt to include many colors, or if you'd prefer to stay in one color family. Use a color wheel to help you make the best decisions about color.

Once you determine the style and color of the quilt you will want to choose a pattern. You might want to further sort your chosen fabrics by size. For example, if you have a lot of narrow strips, a scrap log cabin might be the answer. If your scraps are of varying size, then you have many more pattern choices. Look for a pattern that is not too complicated. Sometimes, simple pieced patterns allow the viewer to focus on the colorful, interesting fabrics. After you have decided on the pattern, it's time to sort your fabrics again! This time you will sort according to value—lights, mediums, and darks. If you can't decide what a fabric is, squint at it. Squinting will help you see the relative value.

Finally, you are ready to begin cutting and stitching. Paying attention to the values in your quilt pattern choose your fabric from the corresponding pile—darks where your pattern is dark, etc. Before cutting make sure your scraps are nicely pressed. Keep your seam allowance at a scant 1/4" and remember that accuracy is just as important when working with scraps. If you need a border, be sure to take your top with you to your favorite quilt store. You will be amazed at how many choices will work with your top, and possibly how the flavor of your quilt might change.

The ultimate scrap quilt? We consider this to be a *Charm Quilt*! Charm quilts are a one-patch construction with every patch being cut from a different fabric. Charm quilt patches come in various shapes, from squares to triangle and even curved hourglass shapes. Charm quilts are great for fabric exchanges with friends, and the best thing is that each finished quilt is unique. One of our favorite charm quilts was made with 2000 different fabric that our store received in the year 2000. What fun!

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