

Use that Scrap Batting

Quilts traditionally have been pieced together using scraps of fabric left over from other sewing projects. Members of Project Linus still follow this tradition when piecing their quilts. We always know what we can do with left over fabric pieces.

What about those strips of batting left over from your quilts? Once in a while someone will haul a few off to make into pot holders. Otherwise no one wants them and they begin to fill bags and corners of our sewing space.

Some of the pieces of batting can be stitched together to make a batt large enough for a child's quilt. Other pieces are too small to use in this manner efficiently. With this problem in mind I set off to find a way to use some of the smaller strips in the quilt making process.

The following instructions are for a quilt built up one block at a time. Although the blocks can be any size, I found an eight inch square to be both easy to work with and suitable for a well-balanced look.

The Basic Eight Inch Block

Select material for backing and top of your quilt.

Cut an eight inch square out of both the top fabric and batting.

Cut a ten inch square out of the backing fabric. Cut enough of each block for the entire quilt. (For a 56 x 40 inch quilt you will need 35 blocks.)

To sandwich the block: Lay the ten inch backing right side down.

Center the eight inch batt on top of the backing. Carefully place the eight inch top exactly over the batting. Use a couple of pins to stabilize the stack. (You will have one inch of backing on each side of the batting/top.)

Quilt the stack. You can machine quilt or hand quilt. Be careful not to shift the stack.

Connect the blocks. Place right sides of the backing together. Use pins to line up the batt/top.

When you are satisfied that they line up properly stitch together using a one inch seam. You will be stitching along the edge of the top/batt of both blocks. The traditional machine sewing foot works well for this seam. Trim the corners.

Open the seam flat. This will be on the top of the block. Press carefully using only the tip of the iron. Fold one half of each side under (making a ½ inch strip on each side of the seam) and top stitch it down.

Using the same process, sew the blocks into strips and then join the strips.

Finish the edge by folding the one inch excess in half over the front and top stitch as above.

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