

How to Use Up Fabric Scraps

1. Crumb Quilting

A **crumb** is a bit of fabric about the size of the palm of your hand. Bigger bits are **scraps**. Before beginning it is a good idea to sort pieces into piles of crumbs, scraps, and strips.

Take two of the crumbs and sew together. It is important to have 2 straight edges for your seams. Sew several together. Then open seams and press. Take pieces of 2 and add them together to make pieces of 4. Keep on building up your block. You can continue to use crumbs or add some strips as the block gets bigger.

You can make pot holders, hot pads, placemats, or make several blocks for a table runner or even a bed quilt.

Sandwich your block with a back piece and some batting. If you are making a potholder with binding, place the block face side up, then the batting, and lastly the back with right side facing out. Sew around the edge. Then bind the edge with a 2 1/2" length ironed in half. Make sure the strip is long enough to go around the potholder and to leave a loop. On the front sew the length around leaving extra to square the corners. Then slip stitch the back of the binding in place.

If you are just turning the block and not using binding, face the top and the back toward each other and add the batting at the bottom. Sew from the wrong side of your block and leave a hole in the middle of one edge so you can turn right side out. Press well and slip stitch the hole. To finish off your hot pad, topstitch with machine all around in about 1 1/2- 2" in from the edge. This will hold it in place. Larger pieces may require quilting.

2. Crazy Block

To begin, you will need a centre piece of 5 sides all with straight edges. Then add strips to each side pressing open as you go. Trim edges as needed and continue to add to your block. You can cut the block to the size you want or add strips to make a 4 sided block. Use ideas and methods for finishing off as described in #1.

3. String Quilting

This is a good way to use up long strips or **strings**. You will need a piece of newspaper of the size desired. 9" is a good size for a pot holder or hot pad. The newspaper is used as a stabilizer. Place 2 strings face together 1/4 " from the edge diagonally from top to bottom of the newspaper. Sew and press open so right sides are facing up. Now is the time to make any adjustments because when you sew the next string you can't go back to fix anything. If you think a strip is too wide, trim but turn back the paper so you won't cut it off. Keep adding to each side of the first strings facing sides together. Each strip will be shorter but be sure it is long enough to cover the paper when turned over. Near the edge of each side you will be able to use your crumbs. Ideas and methods of finishing off are the same as #1.

4. Traditional Patterns

Make scrappy patterns by using different fabrics for each traditional block. This makes a more interesting quilt.

#4 Sample



#1 Sample

