

What to Do with the Leftovers? Or “*Keep it out of the landfill and save money*”

We are so lucky to have new, beautiful fabric to make our quilts – BUT, you never come out exactly even. What to do with the leftovers? (You can appliqué, where you need a lot of small different colors. If you appliqué, stop here. The rest of this is for the piecers.)

First Step: Strips or Chunks?

Make personal decision about size of scrap blocks. The choice whether to strip a piece or cut into squares is personal.

General Rules of thumb:

- An ugly print gets better looking in a strip (you see only color)
- For a large print consider cutting it into squares to keep the print legible. Use these for a theme quilt.
- If you already used a group of fabrics in a quilt, they will still look good together in a scrappy one.

Here’s what the guild does: Sort by color for pieces ¼ yd or larger and discard small pieces. Strip or square the small pieces. Keep jelly rolls by colors to make kits from. We keep blocks sorted from 4 ½” to 8”

### **How to make scrappy quilts: 3 Ways**

1. Cut into strips: Cut whatever width is convenient, you have a cutter for, or have room to store. Store by color or size: make your own jelly rolls. Lots of patterns available
2. Cut into blocks, any convenient size (again, don’t go too small) OR
3. Make strata. This is the fun part.

**Strata:** Sort your bits into piles roughly by color.

Start with anything that looks good together.

Sew colors together until you have a stratum bigger than your minimum block size.

This is fun and creative. Think to yourself that you’re making tiny quilts.

Rules of Thumb:

- For parallel strips, you can press when complete
- To sew a seam which crosses strips, always press first.
- Square up blocks to whatever size fits best.

Finally, when you get enough of any particular size, say 6” blocks, you can choose enough to make a quilt. Sort out all the green and blue blocks; sort out juvenile prints; choose all pastels for a baby quilt; choose all the floral prints, or all colors.

WHATEVER looks attractive.