

T-SHIRT QUILT

Think of this quilt as a puzzle ... you design the quilt top as you go using t-shirts. The blocks don't have to be all the same size. Creativity is the key to individualizing your t-shirt quilt.

YOU'LL NEED:

Blocks: 20+ t-shirts
Backing: Fleece/Polar Fleece
Ties: (3) 10g Size 8 Perle Cotton
Woven or Knit Fusible Interfacing: Calculate 13" x 13" per block
Freezer Paper: Small Roll
Rotary Cutting Mat, Ruler and Cutter (optional)
Masking Tape
Pins
Binding (optional): Cotton Fabric
Walking Foot (optional but very helpful)
Basic Sewing Supplies

CUTTING:

1. Cut each t-shirt at least 1½" larger than desired finished block size (this helps to cut the blocks out to desired size after fusible interfacing has been applied).
2. If using a knit interfacing, have the direction of the interfacing knit opposite to the knit of the block (more stretch one way and less stretch the other way).
3. If binding edge of quilt, cut enough 2½" x 42" strips to go around entire quilt.

ASSEMBLING, STITCHING, AND FINISHING DETAILS

- *Instructions for binding method are in ().
- *Seam allowance: ¼" unless otherwise noted.
- *RST = Right Sides Together
- *Use freezer paper (shiny side away from iron) when applying interfacing to block to keep interfacing from sticking to your iron.

1. Following manufacturer instructions, apply fusible interfacing to the back side of your blocks.
2. Decide the approximate size of quilt top and arrange blocks accordingly.
3. Make a sketch of the finished size of your quilt.
4. Calculate the width of your vertical rows; they can be the same or different – they just need to add up to the total width of your quilt.
5. Using your finished quilt length measurement, decide what size each block needs to be cut and cut the block ¼" larger on each side (seam allowance). Laying the blocks out will help you visualize what size each block should be.
6. Label your vertical rows 1, 2, 3, etc. by pinning a small piece of paper with the numeral written on it to the top most block in each row.
7. Using a ¼" seam allowance, RST, stitch the blocks in the vertical rows together, continue until all rows are stitched.
8. Press seams open, placing freezer paper, shiny side away from iron, over area to be pressed.
9. Using a ¼" seam allowance, RST, stitch vertical rows together (1 to 2, 1 and 2 to 3, 1, 2, and 3 to 4, etc.), making sure to keep block seams open when stitching over them until all rows are stitched together.
10. Press seams open, placing freezer paper, shiny side away from iron, over area to be pressed.
11. If needed, trim top and bottom edges of quilt to make edges even.
12. Baste stitch along all edges of quilt top using a ¼" seam allowance, making sure to keep block seams open when stitching over them.
13. Measure the length and width of your quilt top. Cut your backing 2" larger than your top.
14. Non-Binding Method: Lay your piece of backing, right size up and tape it to floor taut but not stretching it with masking tape. Your first piece of tape will be centered on one long edge. The second piece of tape will be directly across from it on the opposite long edge; repeat for short edges. The next pieces of tape will be on opposite corners, one set of corners and then the other set. Add additional pieces of tape between the middle and corner pieces of tape. (Binding Method: Follow non-binding method except lay your backing fabric right side down).



15. Non-Binding Method: Center your quilt top over backing, right side down. Beginning at the center, pin quilt top to backing in a spider web pattern; making sure to smooth out the top from the center towards edges as you go. (Binding Method: Center your quilt top over backing, right side up. Beginning at the center, pin quilt top to backing in a spider web pattern; making sure to smooth out the top from the center towards edges as you go.

16. Non-Binding Method: Remove tape from backing. Using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance and backstitching at beginning and end, stitch through both layers, along outside edge of quilt, leaving a 12" opening. (Binding Method: Using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, baste stitch through both layers, along outer edges of quilt).

17. Non-Binding Method: Remove pins from quilt and cut away excess backing to make it the same size as quilt top. Turn quilt right side out through opening. (Binding Method: Remove pins from quilt and cut away excess backing to make it the same size as quilt top).

18. Non-Binding Method: Hand stitch opening closed and topstitch around entire edge of quilt using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. (Binding Method: Stitch the binding strips to quilt edge).

19. Using perle cotton, tie quilt layers together at least every 6". Cut ties to same length.

