

T-Shirt Quilt ... As You Go!

with RaNae Merrill

In this class you will learn a new approach to making t-shirt quilts: instead of putting together an entire top, you'll quilt individual t-shirts then join them. Quilting one shirt at a time allows you to:

Easily quilt one shirt at a time YOURSELF on your domestic machine

Enhance the memories of each event by telling its story in the quilting design!

Make smaller quilts or pillows with a few t-shirts, then add more as your t-shirt collection grows.

No big, heavy, stretchy top to fight with, and no need to send it out for quilting.

Materials list

MUST HAVES:

T-shirts (washed and ironed if necessary)

If you're buying new t-shirts, get X-large for more fabric. We'll discuss in the first class ways to print custom t-shirts, or to buy blank colored t-shirts for more fabric.

Hobbs Heirloom FUSIBLE Batting **DO NOT SUBSTITUTE!!**

You must be able to bond the t-shirt to the batting on BOTH sides because the batting act as BOTH batting and stabilizer. The batting for this project MUST be fusible and MUST be double sided. Do not purchase a single-sided fusible batting. Do not purchase a non-fusible batting. You can purchase this at local quilts shops, on Amazon, or other quilting websites. It comes in two package sizes: Crib: 45" x 60" and Queen: 90" x 108". If you buy it from a roll, 2-1/2 yards = a 90" x 108" Queen size piece.

Quilting Fabric for Joining Strips & Binding: Approx. 3 yards.

This is not sashing: it is the joining strips that assemble the quilted piece. This amount is based on a queen size quilt; it will vary with the size of the quilt and how many T-shirts you use in it.

Thread (LOTS, for quilting and assembly)

Buy a strong, good-quality thread that is easy to work with. It can be cotton or high-quality polyester. Remember that t-shirts stretch, so you want a thread that won't break easily if the quilt is stretches a bit.

My favorite threads for this are Magnifico and Fantastico from Superior Threads. They are 40-weight tri-lobal polyester, very clean to quilt with, very strong, and come in a wide variety of solid and variegated colors. Superior recommends a 90/14 topstitching needle with them, which you can also purchase from Superior.

OPTIONALS:

Quilting fabric for backing and sashing:

Why is this optional? For your quilt, you can either use the backs of the t-shirts as the backing, or you can use quilting fabric as the backing. We'll discuss in the first class how much fabric you will need, and ways of calculating it, but here are some preliminary guidelines. Read them carefully.

If you use quilting fabric for the BACKS of all the shirts and borders, for a queen size quilt you will need about 7 yards. If you decide to use quilting fabric for the FRONTS of sashing and borders

around the shirts, you'll need 1-1/2 yards for the border fronts or 3 yards for fronts and backs., and more for the sashing.

If you're going to make a pillow, you definitely will use quilting fabric as backing for both the front and the back of the t-shirt. For a 20" x 20" pillow you'll need 1-1/8 yards, which will also do the binding.

Pillow form (for pillow)

Buttons, snaps or Velcro (for pillow)

TOOLS

1/4" foot

Machine quilting foot

Rotary cutter with mat and 24" ruler

Tissue paper or translucent foundation paper

Fabric marking pens

Blue water soluble [plus Q-Tips for erasing], purple air-erase or Bohin mechanical pencil.

Have light markers for dark fabrics and dark markers for light fabrics. Soap chips are also good.

Water-soluble glue (Elmer's School Glue works fine)

Quilting gloves or Gripper pads - squares of padded shelf liner for gripping your quilting

CUSTOM PRINTING T-SHIRTS

If you want to put a photograph or other custom image on a T-shirt, you can order them online.

Google search: custom print t-shirts

I have used

Rush Order Tees: <https://www.rushordertees.com>

To prepare the image:

Image size: 300 ppi

JPG or PNG

Color mode CMYK

Check the site's requirements. They may also provide image preparation.

Order extra large sizes for more fabric for borders, sashing, etc.

Try putting the logo on the back for less loss of fabric at the neckline.

If you need additional fabric or want to add colors, order plain colored t-shirts with no printing.

Cost can be as low as under \$5.00 per shirt.

Looking for a T-shirt from a place or event you attended in the past? Search online -- you'll be surprised at what you find!