

T-Shirt Quilt ... As You Go!

A workshop with RaNae Merrill

This materials list is for the in-person, one-day version of this workshop.

If you are taking the online multi-day version, please use the materials on the class materials page.

The URL and password are in the Welcome Letter that was emailed to you when you enrolled.

In this workshop 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.

Avoid struggling with a big, heavy, stretchy top. There's no need to send it out for quilting.

Our class project will be to sandwich and quilt one t-shirt. You may finish it into a pillow in class or save it to add to a bigger quilt later. If you make a pillow in class, it is easy to take it apart and use the block later in a quilt. If you would like to bring a batch of t-shirts that you want to combine into a quilt, you are welcome to do so and we'll talk about ways to do that as part of the class discussion.

Materials list

This list gives just the materials needed for the class project. For more detail about quantities needed for a larger quilt, refer to the class materials (and my book, if it is finished by the time you read this). During class we'll discuss how to plan and make a larger quilt

MUST HAVES:

One T-shirt with a large logo on front, back or both (washed, ironed if necessary)

If you're buying new t-shirts, get X-large for more fabric. See page 3 if you want to print custom t-shirts, or to buy blank colored t-shirts for more fabric. If you would like, bring a batch of t-shirts you plan to use in a quilt.

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

The batting for this project **MUST** be fusible and **MUST** be double sided. This batting is essential because you bond the t-shirt to the batting on **BOTH** sides and the batting acts as **BOTH** batting and stabilizer. Do not purchase a single-sided fusible batting. Do not purchase a non-fusible batting.

Hobbs Heirloom Fusible Batting 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.

You can purchase this at local quilts shops, on Amazon, or other quilting websites. Hancock's of Paducah has the best price I've found, and you can order online through my online store.

If you can't get fusible batting, other options are: Basting Spray, Lightweight fusible web (such as Wisperfuse), or fusing powder. All of these have their complications and I don't recommend them. I won't be using them in class.

Thread for quilting and assembly

Buy a strong, good-quality thread, 40- or 50-weight cotton or tri-lobal polyester. Remember that t-shirts stretch, so you want a strong thread that won't break easily if the quilt stretches a bit.

Colors: Choose one or more colors that coordinate with the background of the t-shirt. Thread can match or it can contrast, depending on how much you want your quilting to be seen. One of my favorite threads is Magnifico from Superior Threads. It is 40-weight tri-lobal polyester, very clean to quilt with, very strong, a bit shiny and comes in a wide variety of colors.

Optional, if you would like to enhance your t-shirt with fusible applique accents:

Fabric from which to cut fusible appliqué accents

Fusible web such as Wunder Under or Steam-A-Seam

Thread for satin-stitch zigzag around the edges of the appliqué. I really like Magnifico for this; Color #2066 is a beautiful shiny gold.

IF YOU ARE MAKING A PILLOW:

Quilting Fabric for T-shirt Backing and Binding: Choose a color that will coordinate with and accent the logo. You will use this fabric as backing for both the front and the back of the t-shirt (when the pillow is assembled it will line the inside) and for the binding. For a 20" x 20" pillow you'll need a minimum of 1-1/8 yards.

Batting: Hobbs Heirloom Fusible (above): 1 piece 20" x 20", and 1 piece 20" x 24".

Pillow form: The finished size of your pillow will depend on the t-shirt and logo size, but standard throw pillow sizes are 18" x 18" up to 22" x 22" so you can decide on the fill size after you make the pillow cover. One option is to simply use an old throw or bed pillow. You do not need to bring to class.

Optional: Buttons, snaps or Velcro (for opening on the back)

IF YOU ARE MAKING A BLOCK FOR A QUILT:

If you are using a logo only on the front of the shirt: 1 piece of batting that measures the width of the body of the shirt, and the height from hem to bottom of neck band.

If you are using logos on both the front and the back of the t-shirt:

(2) pieces of batting sized as above

1-1/8 yards quilting fabric as described above under "If You Are Making a Pillow."

Continued on next page ->

TOOLS

Sewing Machine Feet: (Check with the event to see if sewing machines are provided.)

One that will allow you to stitch zigzag

Machine quilting foot (**ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR QUILTING!**) Make sure you have one and know how to attach it. Test it before class: Make sure that you can move the fabric under it.

1/4" foot (you probably won't have time to use this in class, but it is essential for assembling blocks)

Needles: Whatever type of needle you are accustomed to using on your machine. Universals are fine. Size should be 80/12 for 50-weight thread or 90/14 for 40-weight thread.

Rotary cutter with mat and 24" ruler

Large square ruler (12" or larger is best)

Translucent foundation sheets or tissue paper (for quilting over logos that might stick to the foot)

Fabric marking pens

Blue water soluble [plus Q-Tips for erasing], or purple air-erase or Bohin mechanical pencil or Frixion pens. Light markers for dark fabrics, dark markers for light fabrics. Soap chips also work.

Water-soluble glue (Elmer's School Glue works fine) (You probably won't have time to use this in class, but it is essential for assembling the quilt)

Quilting gloves or Gripper pads - 3" squares of padded shelf liner for gripping your quilting

Basic sewing tools (scissors, pins, etc.)

CUSTOM PRINTING T-SHIRTS

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

Google search: custom print t-shirts

I have used

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

Cost is about \$30 for a single shirt; the price drops if you order multiples of the same shirt.

To prepare the image:

Image size: 300 ppi

File format: 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.

For multiple images on a shirt, put them on front and back.

If you need additional fabric or want to add different colored shirts, order plain 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!