

## TIPS FOR MAKING YOUR QUILTS

### "NO WASTE, QUICK FINISH"!

The concept behind "No Waste - Quick Finish" quilts came not from the need to churn out as many quilts as possible, but to make a beautiful gift or heirloom with limited time and resources.

Many of the tips are about creating blocks in a different manner - or using fabric to its full width to save time and eliminate waste. So go ahead - pick your pattern and see how you can make it better!

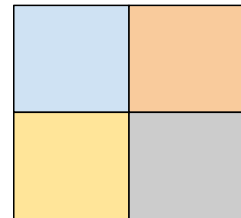
1. Where there are blocks with similar combinations of squares - use strip quilting methods instead of cutting individual blocks.

Example: Each block has 1 four patch as a center square. Each square is 2 inches finished - making a finished 4 inch square. You have 16 blocks to make

Normal Method: For 16 blocks you would cut 64 squares and then piece them together

New Method: Sew 2 - 2 ½ inch strips WOF, press to the dark side and sub-cut into 2 ½ sections. Piece 2 together. Do this twice. Join sub-cut strip sets.

4 ½ inch block

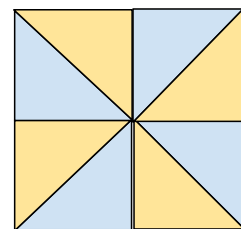


2. Where there are multiple Half Square Triangles in one block - choose a HST method that creates 2, 4 or 8 triangles at one time.

Example - simple pinwheel.

Normal Method: Cut 4 triangles of colour "A" and 4 triangles of colour "B" and piece using 7 start and stop seams and pressing in between.

New Method: Using 2 identical squares of fabric - place them right sides together and sew the full perimeter. Cut diagonally twice to create HSTs. Sew 3 seams to assemble.



See <https://www.janestreetquilts.com/hst-tutorial.html> for methods and sizing.

3. Examine your pattern piecing and cuts before cutting. Where a piece measures 8 ½ in length - consider altering the sizing of the pattern to save a lot of fabric.  
Example an 8 ½ inch (of any width) rectangle cut WOF will yield 4 pieces from 1 strip. You will now have an 8 inch scrap  
Reduce the block size slightly to 8 ¼ inch and you will get 5 pieces from 1 strip. YOU will have a ¾ inch scrap. (This can add up very quickly)

4. If using light or white background - use a recycled 100 % cotton sheet. (yes this works so well!) Older good condition **cotton** sheets found at thrift stores or auctions can be priced around \$5.00. This will serve for the background for one - two quilts!
5. Widebacks. Good quality widebacks are 108 inches wide. **Good quality** wideback pricing is between \$30 - \$40 a meter. Each .5 meter equals 2.25 meters of regular quilting fabric. That's \$15.00 - \$20.00 versus \$45.00 - and that is when the quilting fabric is priced at \$20.00 a meter. (Most are much more these days)
6. Widebacks - AGAIN. Use widebacks for the backs of even smaller quilts. You can get 2 lap quilts measuring 50 x 60 out of 1.5 meters of wideback. This would cost \$60 for **two quilts** versus \$60.00 for quilting cotton for **one quilt**.
7. Bind your quilt using the leftover backing fabric. Fewer joins - quicker assembly - saves .5 meters of binding fabric.
8. Invest in good time saving tools and learn the techniques. Several I recommend are rotary cutting mats and triangle rulers for trimming. Learn the time saving techniques at [www.janestreetquilts.com](http://www.janestreetquilts.com)
9. Nest first - press later. Finger pressing seams to the darker side and nesting seams when joining sections or blocks is quicker and ensures that block centers and points meet properly.
10. Buy only the backing you need! Many times we are not quite sure how much we need. If your quilt measures wider than 45 inches wide (most do) you will need your backing to run horizontally. Add 8 inches to the width of your quilt and time by .025 (use your phone calculator) to get the meterage you will need! If your quilt is over 45 inches long (most are) you will need to piece your backing. (2 strips of fabric)  
Example: 60 x 80 inch quilt - you will need 2 pieces 68 inches wide.  $68 \times .025 = 1.7$  meters x 2 (for length). Final amount: 3.4 meters. If you use a wideback you would only need 1.7 meters and you will have enough to use as binding!
11. No crying in the sewing room! Seriously. Step away from the sewing machine when things are just not working out. This is one of the best time saving techniques there are. Have a cup of tea or glass of wine - phone a friend and start again later. Really!