

# **T-Shirt Quilt Instructions**

# **MATERIALS**

Cotton T-shirts

Optional: Fabrics for sashing and borders

Lightweight fusible interfacing (approximately 8 yards for a twinsize quilt)

Large ruled squares

Fabric for backing and binding

Batting



## INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Wash those T-shirts. Using scissors, cut up each shirt. No rotary cutter for this part. Cut off sleeves and neck ribbing (Photo A). Discard ribbing and other pieces that don't contain important images or writing.
- 2. Measure logo area of each shirt. Cut a piece of lightweight fusible interfacing at least 1" larger than desired block size. Following manufacturer's instructions, fuse interfacing to wrong side of T-shirt logo area, centering interfacing over design (Photo B).
- **3.** Place larger ruled square over design area, centering design within desired block size. Use ruled square and rotary cutter to trim interfaced block to desired finished size plus ½" for seam allowances (Photo C).
- **4.** Repeat for remaining shirts. Don't be afraid to toss ones that are gross. Seriously.
- Lay out blocks and optional sashing. Join blocks to form rows; join rows.
- 6. Add borders if desired.
- Layer backing, batting, and quilt top; baste. Quilt as desired. (The quilt in the picture was machine quilted.)
- 8. From binding fabric, make binding and add to quilt.



**BTW** T-Shirt Fail? Never! When is a t-shirt too far gone to use? Some tees may be too stinky or stained to make the cut (gross) but if the problem is just holes or rips, there's hope. You can applique *pieces* of any t-shirt to a sturdier piece of material and keep the memory alive. Stabilize the t-shirt or pieces you want to appliqué onto another piece of fabric. We like Pellon Shape-Tex for this.



Photo A



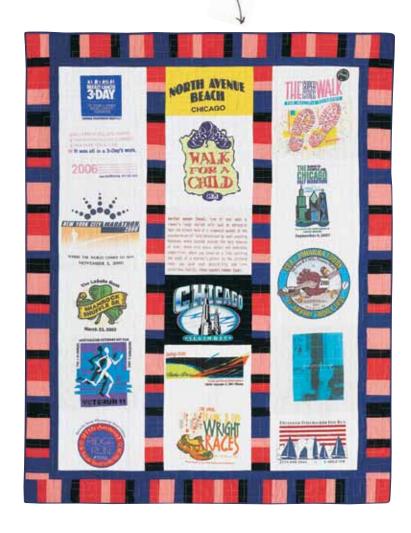
Photo B



Photo C



"If You've
got a t-shirt
that's really
falling apart,
applique it
to another
piece of fabric
first to help
stabilize it."



# COLLETTE'S TIPS FOR T-SHIRT QUILTS

- Create vertical rows of shirts with a common width measurement. Keep in mind children's and small adult-size shirts will be narrower than large adult-size shirts. Keep like widths in the same row.
- **2.** Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of shirts before you cut.
- **3.** Cut common width first for each row, and then cut the height of each shirt. Join into rows, adjusting rows to the same length.
- **4.** Piece squares and rectangles of assorted fabrics for sashing and borders. I like to use solid colors for a contemporary look. Use colors from a school or sports team to add sentimental value.

## **DESIGNER PROFILE**

Colette Cogley is a quilter, educator, and the founder/owner of Quiltology: The Urban Quilt Space, in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood.

For more information about Colette and Quiltology, visit www.quiltology.com.

# The border makes all the difference!

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