

Sharman's Sewing Centers

112A Johnston St
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6005 S. Broadway
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Sewing Club – Feb 2021

T-Shirt Quilt

Just in time to start for a graduation present – or just to clean out some closets. Most everyone has lots of t-shirts and many have special meaning. This a great way to preserve them and make a unique project for yourself or a special someone.



T-shirt Quilts can be “cookie cutter” and everything cut the same size and just put together – or can be one-of-a-kind creations.

FAQS About T-Shirt Quilts

Q – Do I have to use specific Patterns for T-shirt Quilts?

A – No, if the t-shirts are stabilized – you can cut and place in any pattern you desire

Q – Only Cotton T-shirts can be used?

A – No, that is why interfacing is important. Because t-shirts can be made of so many fabrics – interfacing will keep them from stretching too much,

Q – Do I Need to Interface the T-Shirt in the Quilt?

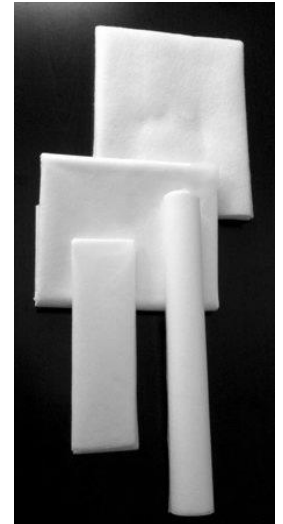
A – After researching several Blogs, You-Tube Videos and Books on T-Shirt Quilts – it is understandable that this is a confusing subject.

There are blogs that suggest that you do not need to interface the t-shirts – their reasoning was that the interfacing they used made the T-shirts too stiff and with a newer machine – the knit should not stretch. The problem we find with this advice – is there are so many different weights of T-shirt knits, worn out t-shirts, football jerseys, and the new performance knits – a newer machine won't balance the weight of the shirts and do still stretch.

We find that shirts that are too stiff – are using the wrong interfacing. Pellon is an interfacing company and they make many products – unfortunately – many people think Pellon is the word for interfacing and when they ask for Pellon – they are not specific which product and purchase the wrong item.

Interfacing by Definition is a textile to add body to fabric. Such as in interfacing a collar, buttonholes, waistbands, etc. There are different types and weights of interfacing for different fabrics and uses.

Sharman's recommends for Knit Fabrics: So Sheer or French Fuse – which are Fusible Tricot Based Interfacings, or Whisper Weft which is a Fusible Weft Interfacing. All 3 of these will give the shirts body and still keep the knit from stretching out of shape.



Q – Do I need to Interface before or after I cut out the Quilt squares?

A – You need to interface the shirt – **BEFORE** you cut the shirt into a quilt square. It will prevent the block from changing sizes and having to be re-cut

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Q – Is it okay to crop off part of the design?

A – This depend on the person who owns the T-shirts okaying it. The purpose of these quilt blocks are to allow for any size logo and not having to crop the design.

Prepping the T-Shirts:

1. Decide which graphics on the T-Shirt you are going to use – front, back, sleeve or all.
2. Cut the sleeves off – cut the shoulder seams and cut the sides. Save the un-useable parts – you might need them later. Sometimes you will have shirts with netting (holes), necklines or need to piece into a block to make larger.
3. Find the largest design and decide how large it needs to be cut – everything else will need to be cut to this size or pieced to make this size.
4. Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of the area you are going to use. Larger than you need
5. Cut the T-shirts to Size
6. Many T-shirts have long skinny rows or small square fronts – these may need to be sewn together to create the size block you need.
7. Sashing added between the shirts will also help stabilize the stretching. It will also separate the shirts.

- *Use a pressing cloth when fusing a tricot or weft interfacing — they can melt at high heat.*
- *Also very useful when ironing the fronts of the shirts – any t-shirt designs will melt or smear when pressed*

NOTES:



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Here are 4 Blocks that will allow for different size T-shirt Cuts:

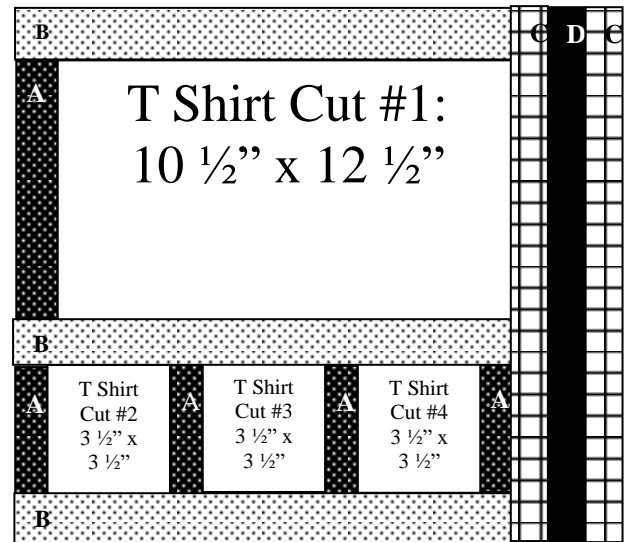
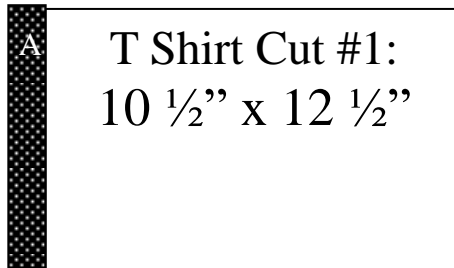
*****Interface Shirts First!!!!

All Blocks will be
16" Square
Finished
(16 1/2" square before
final seams)

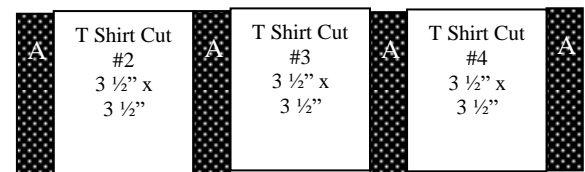
Block #1

- T-Shirt #1: Cut 1 - Size: 10 1/2" x 12 1/2"
- T-Shirt #2, #3 & #4: Cut 3 - Size: 3 1/2" x 3 1/2"
- Fabric A: 1 - 1 1/2" x 10 1/2", 4 - 1 1/2" x 3 1/2"
- Fabric B: 3 - 1 1/2" x 13 1/2"
- Fabric C: 2 - 1 1/2" x 16 1/2"
- Fabric D: 1 - 1 1/2" x 16 1/2"

Sew Fabric A - 1
1 1/2" x 10 1/2" to
the Left side of
T-Shirt #1.
Press.

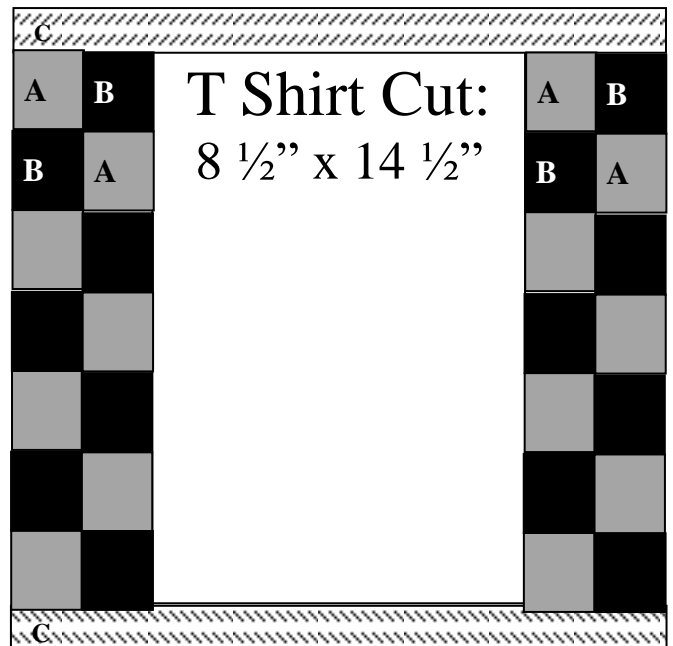


- Sew: 1 1/2" x 3 1/2" to the Left side of T-Shirt #2, and alternate T-Shirt 3 & 4 with the A - 1 1/2" x 3 1/2" pieces. Press.
- Sew B row to top and bottom of the T-shirt #1 section.
- Add the 2-4 section below the Lower B row and add the last B row below it. Press.
- Sew the C, D, C lengthwise and add to the right side of the T-shirt sections. Press.



Block #2

- T-Shirt cut Size: 8 1/2" x 14 1/2"
- Fabrics: A & B: Cut 14 - 2 1/2" Squares of each
- Sew 4 rows of 7 squares - alternating A & B squares - 2 - with 4 - A's and 3 B's and 2 With 4 - B's and 3 A's. Press.
- Sew 1 of each square rows together to match picture. Add to either side of T-shirt. Press.
- Fabric C - 2 - 1 1/2" x 16 1/2" - add to top and bottom. Press.



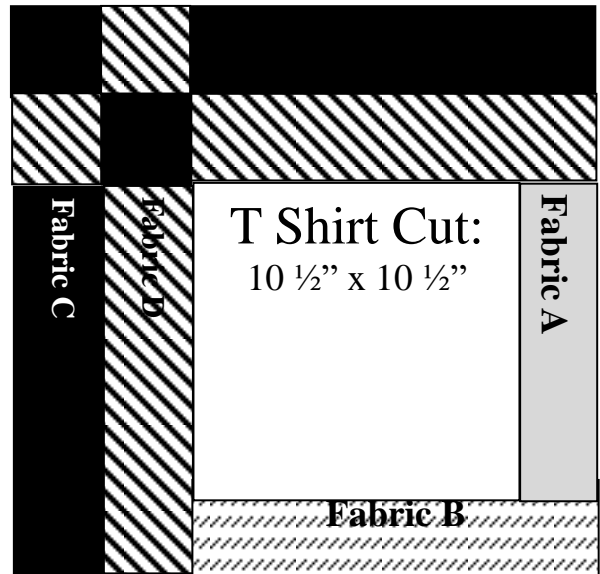
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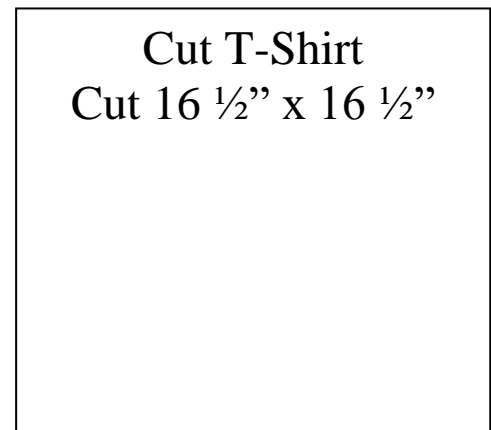
Block #3

- T-Shirt cut Size: 10 1/2" x 10 1/2"
- Fabric A: Cut 1 – 2 1/2" x 10 1/2". Add to right of T-Shirt Square.
- Fabric B: Cut 1 – 2 1/2" x 12 1/2" – add to bottom of the T-Shirt block. Press.
- Fabrics C & D – Cut 1 – 2 1/2" x WOF (width of Fabric)
- Sew the C & D pieces together lengthwise. Press.
- Cut 2 – 12 1/2" pieces & 2 – 2 1/2" pieces off the C&D piece.
- Add one of the C&D 12 1/2" pieces to the left side of the T-shirt Block. Press
- Sew the last 3 pieces as illustrated. Press.
- Add the last section to top of the T-Shirt Block. Press.



Block #4

- T-Shirt cut Size: 16 1/2" x 16 1/2"
- Nothing added to this Block



Any of the Smaller Blocks can have Photos inserted. If you are planning to piece the pictures – make sure you allow space between the pictures for seam allowance – if you are appliqueing the pictures – may not need as much space.

Have Fun and Be Creative!!