

# Your T-shirt Quilt: a Collection of Memories

A T-shirt quilt can be the perfect way to treasure memories of yourself or a loved one. Shirts that we might otherwise throw away can now be sewn into a quilt to preserve those memories of athletics teams, schools, and vacations. The t-shirt quilts that I create are carefully laid out and then cut without going by any patterns. I do not just sew t-shirt squares together, smack on a backing and call it done. I reinforce the stretchy knits with a fusible backing that keeps it squared up and wrinkle/pucker free. I typically use sashing between the t-shirt squares and take care to create an ensemble that will be appreciated and lasting.



Most of the time, I use sashing between blocks to give the quilt a color theme or to contrast the colors of the shirts. There are rectangular strips of sashing and squares in between the blocks. Each t-shirt block is “framed” and featured in this method of construction. The sashing can be slim or wide in order to achieve the desired size.

Sometimes, I can sew the blocks of the shirts together without sashing. This will work for someone who has a large collection of shirts that just cannot be omitted from the ensemble.



I can also sew the blocks onto a background. This is called appliqué. The blocks in this quilt are framed with various colors of gingham fabrics. I call it the ‘scattered pictures’ arrangement. It works well for various sizes of shirt blocks.



If you would like a quilt that is more “artsy”, I can include traditional quilt blocks here and there - even using clothing scraps (more like what I call a “memory quilt”) but including t-shirts.



A memory quilt with clothing from babyhood to graduation. Some background fabrics were from clothing. Athletic and academic letters, patches were included.



Left: Memory Quilt for a girl using a mixture of cut pieces and applique’.

Right: Memory Quilt for a boy using square blocks cut from clothing and “framed” with striped and solid clothing pieces.



Left: T-shirts had emblems around the same size, so they were cut in diamond shapes for a dynamic visual effect rather than static squares.

Right: Some emblems are smaller than others. This quilt has all one-color sashing surrounding the blocks of various sizes. Colors are distributed in a balanced nature which is pleasing to the eye.