

A free project, compliments of...

Terri Stegmiller

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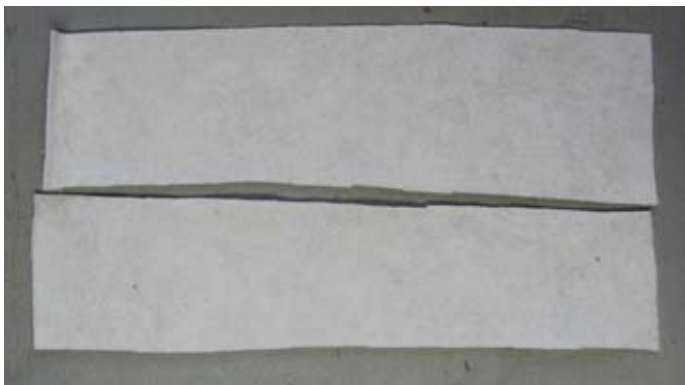
Using Your Batting Scraps

Materials

- Batting scraps
- Hand sewing needle
- Thread
- Rotary cutter and mat

We all save fabric scraps with the hope of working them into a future creation. But do we all save batting scraps? Well maybe. It depends on the size of the scraps for most of us. I like to save any batting scraps that are left over from quilt projects. If the scrap is a size that I deem worthy, I will toss it into my scrap pile.

I usually use my batting scraps when creating small quilts or other small projects such as zipper pouches, eyeglass cases, book covers, and more. Sometimes, though, the scraps aren't the right dimension for my project. I hate cutting into a nice, large piece of batting for just a small piece for a small project. Here is how I join my batting scraps to create a piece that is ample in size for the project I want to use it for.



I don't join pieces of batting that aren't the same type of batting—such as a wool and a cotton. I try to join only battings that are the same in thickness and fiber.

Start by placing the two batting pieces side by side. Note that the edges of these two pieces are not cut straight or even. The two edges where the join will be need to be straightened so that they meet nicely.

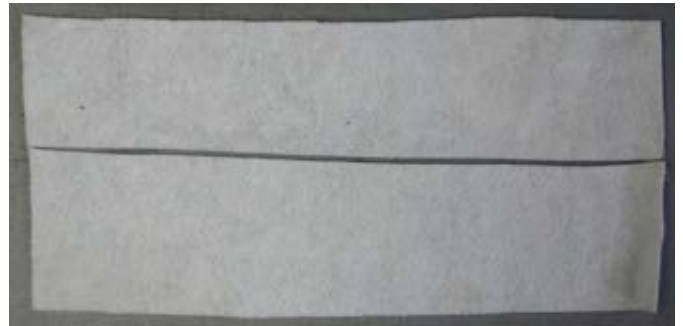
To create straight edges, overlap the two pieces of batting at least 1/2" or more. You can see in the photo at right that the pencil points out the overlapping area of the batting pieces.



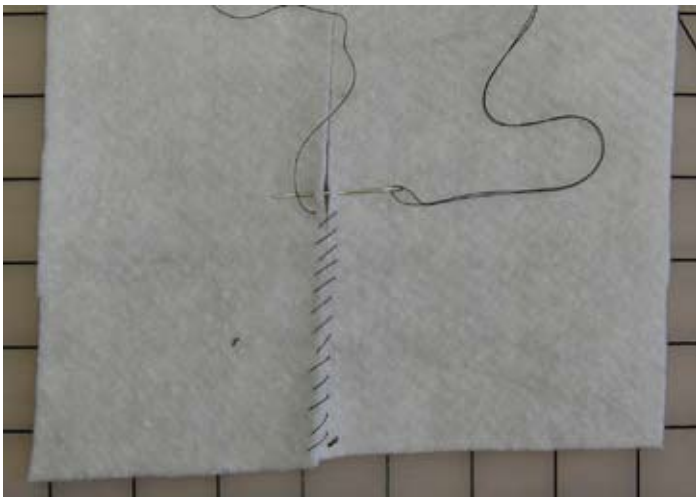


Place the batting pieces on your rotary cutting mat and carefully cut down the middle of the overlap. Use your non-cutting hand to hold the batting pieces in place, so they don't shift around while cutting. I usually make this cut without a ruler because it doesn't have to be perfectly straight. You can use a ruler if you prefer.

When you have cut across the entire length of the overlap, you will have two small pieces of scrap to toss in the trash.



Now the two edges of the batting pieces should align perfectly.



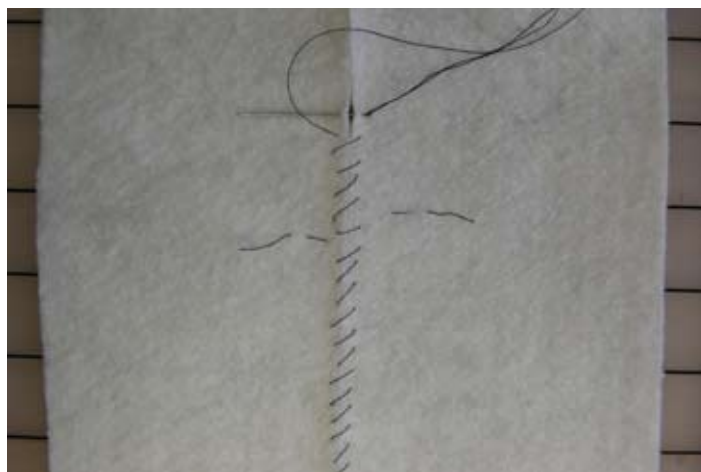
Place the batting pieces so they are just touching and thread a needle. I usually use a white or matching thread color, but have stitched with black in the examples so it is easy for you to see. Knot the thread and starting at one end of the batting, start whip stitching. There is no need to worry about nice and even stitches for this as they won't be seen. I find it easiest to work on a flat surface.

Be careful not to pull the stitches too tight as you don't want to cause any puckering. You want the batting to lay nice and flat after stitching it.

If you need to change the thread in your needle before you reach the other end of the batting, I like to just weave the thread through the batting about an inch or so, and snip it. I then do the same to start with the next length of thread. This way I don't have any thread knots in the batting. In the photo at left you can see an example of where I ended one length of thread and then started another. Continue whip stitching until you have completed the entire length of the batting join.

You can join any number of batting pieces together to achieve the desired size of batting for your project.

The method above is just one way to join your batting scraps. You can also do this with your sewing machine.



Prepare your batting edges as shown above and when ready to stitch, set your sewing machine up for a wide zigzag. The best machine stitch option for this zigzag is a three-step zigzag, see diagram. The regular zigzag stitch will cause the batting to bunch up and create a bump.



I hope I've inspired you to save your batting scraps for future use. After all they are bought and paid for.