

A free project, compliments of...

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Dryer Sheet Quilts

I belong to a local quilt guild and at one of the recent meetings, one of the guild members shared her process for creating quilts from her fabric scrap bin and dryer sheets. I enjoyed the quilts she shared with the group so much that I started my own. I wanted to share this thrifty quilting technique with you as well.

Start by saving your used dryer sheets. If you don't use dryer sheets, perhaps your friends and relatives do. If so, ask them to save theirs for you. Any brand of dryer sheet will work. Press the used dryer sheets with your iron, but be aware that you should use a low heat setting. The brand of dryer sheets I use tends to melt and stick to my iron if I use a really hot, or cotton, setting. I use a synthetic setting on my iron. Test your dryer sheets by starting at the lowest setting possible on your iron and adjusting from there.



Next prepare your fabric strips. I have decided to work with fabrics from my scrap bin. I color coordinate my scraps and I decided to use two color groups for my quilt. Here you can see I am using my purple scraps and my red/pink scraps.



If you don't have enough scraps for your project, simply cut strips from fabrics in your stash.

Starting with my purple scrap bin, I sorted out the pieces that were in strips or could be cut into strips. Varying the width of your strips adds a lot of interest to the finished design.

Once I have a good amount of purple strips ready, I place them near my sewing machine.



Take two purple strips and place them right sides together, and then place them diagonally on top of one dryer sheet.



Stitch down the length of the two strips to secure them together and also to the dryer sheet. Seam allowance can be 1/4", but keep in mind that if you have some strips that are narrower, you can reduce that 1/4" seam

allowance to a smaller seam.

Flip the stitched strip over and either finger press or press with your iron. I like to have my iron at a higher temperature for this step because the fabrics I'm pressing are quilting cottons. In order to keep the dryer sheet from melting and sticking to my iron, I use a pressing sheet such as parchment paper. I place the parchment paper on my ironing surface, then put the dryer sheet unit on top, then place another parchment paper on top of that, creating a sandwich for pressing.



Now add another purple strip to the side of the dryer sheet that is designated the purple side.



Continue to add purple strips until one half of the dryer sheet is completely covered. I usually place the fabric strips on my dryer sheets so I have excess that hangs beyond the edges of the dryer sheet.



Now I start adding the red/pink fabric strips to the remaining half of the dryer sheet.



Once the dryer sheet is completely covered with strips, it is time to trim it to size. My brand of dryer sheets are slightly larger than 6" x 9". I trim my blocks to 6" x 9".



If your dryer sheets are a different size, determine what size you'd like to trim them to and make all your quilt blocks this size. Continue to create your quilt blocks until you have enough to make a quilt the size you desire.

If you would prefer to create square quilt blocks rather than rectangle blocks, simply cut your dryer sheets to a square shape before stitching fabric strips to them.

Another variation is to place your strips straight on the dryer sheet, either parallel with the length of the dryer sheet or the other direction. You can be as liberated with these as you like. You could even create crazy log cabins or crazy quilt blocks.

The dryer sheets stay attached to the quilt blocks and are not removed. If you don't have access to dryer sheets you can also use a lightweight stabilizer or a lightweight fabric, such as muslin.

This is a great project for those times when you only have ten or fifteen minutes to sew.

Thank you to Jenny for teaching me this fun technique.