

Delaware Quilts

Speedy Strips[©]



Here is a pattern that is so easy you can finish a quilt top in one sitting. This pattern was designed for using up scraps. You know those little pieces you have left over from all those other projects that you saved but have no idea what to do with. Gather them all together and make yourself a darling quilt from them.

Or you may use fat quarters:

12 fat quarters to make a crib size or lap quilt.

18 fat quarters will make a twin or double bed quilt

26 fat quarters will make a queen size quilt

Speedy Strips can make any size block from 6 inches up. You can pick your own block size depending on the width of your finished strips. They all look great finished.

Any Speedy Strips top can be made larger by adding as many borders as you wish or as needed. And you can use up some of the leftovers after you cut your squares out in the borders or as setting squares in the sashing.

If you are making a totally scrap quilt from your leftovers, you will need to do some sorting before you start. Sort your scraps by width; 2 1/2 inch wide scraps in one pile, 3 inch strips in another pile, 3 1/2 in another, and so on. (If you have pieces that are 2 3/4 they would be put into the 2 1/2 inch pile, etc.) The length of the scrap doesn't matter; you will cut them up as you go along. So your 3 inch wide pile can have 3 by 45 inch pieces and 3 inch squares. You will cut the long strips shorter as you sew them together



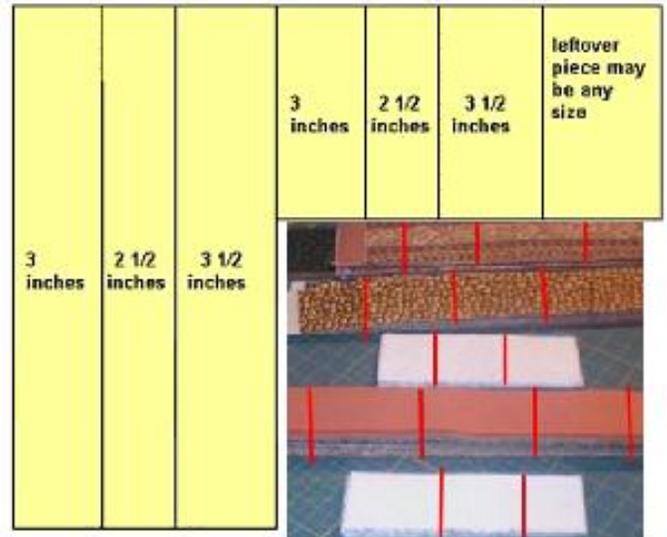
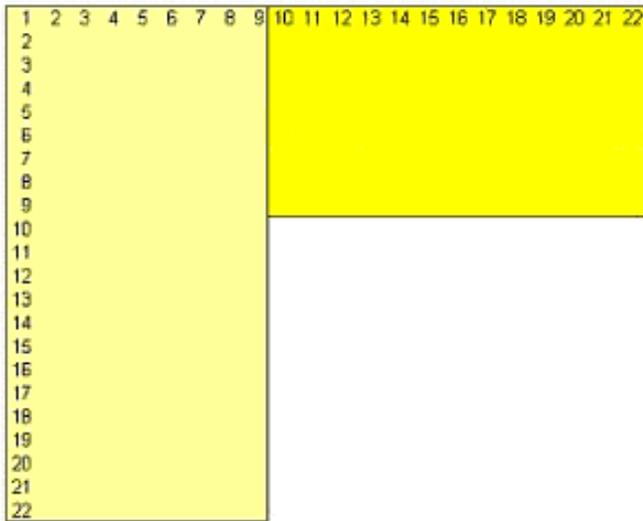
Sorting the scraps

You won't want any scraps wider than 5 inches, and none smaller than 2 1/2. If you have a LOT scraps smaller than 2 1/2 inches that you really want to use, sew them together first. Pieces wider than 5 inches can be used; just cut them up as you go along to fit the strip you want it in.



These 1 1/2 inch pieces were sewn together so they could be used with the 2 1/2 inch scraps.

If you are using new fabrics you would need about 12 fat quarters to make a crib size or lap quilt. You need to cut up your fat quarters. (Save time by stacking them up and cut several at one time. You don't have to have perfect cuts, this is a forgiving project!)



First cut each fat quarter in half lengthwise. Stack them at a 90 degree angle. Then cut them into strips of 3 inches, 2 1/2 inches, and 3 1/2 inches, or however you want. Cut those into small random pieces. There will be leftover pieces, you will use those too so don't throw them away.

Once you have your scraps sorted, or your fat quarters cut up, sew each pile together in a long long long long long strip. Try to keep it scrappy looking, don't alternate lights and darks, just use anything anywhere. Also don't sew all the little pieces together, and then the longer strips. You want to alternate everything, keeping it scrappy looking. Do not worry about pressing yet, just keep sewing.



In this picture a piece is being added to a long strip. The excess is cut off, and put back in the pile to be used in another spot.

It is important that you keep one edge of your strip straight. You will be joining strips later, and one straight edge makes your job easier. (The not so straight edge will be trimmed with your scissors as you sew them together later.)



Don't forget to insert your smaller strips of scraps you made as you are sewing.



When you have no more piles of scraps sew the long long long strips together, alternating strip widths.

Sew all your seam allowances in the same direction. If you should happen to run into two seams that will meet, sew one up and the other down. (Pin the one going in the odd direction on the other side of the strip so you won't twist the seam when you sew it again.)



Now you can press, all in one direction. All seam allowances go in the same direction, except the occasional one you had to turn for construction.

Next comes the cutting. You may use what ever size square ruler you have, depending of course on how wide your strips are. If your strip is wide enough to place a 9 1/2 inch square ruler on it corner to corner, then use it. If you can only fit a 6 1/2 inch ruler on your strip, then you will have to use that.





You will be cutting out squares from your long strip, but to give the blocks a little variety, you don't want to cut them all the same. Cut some straight, and some diagonally, and some just whichever way you want.

Don't trash anything yet, you can sew together the leftovers to make more blocks.



If you have a piece that is not quite big enough to cut a block from, you can cut it anyway, and then sew a scrap on the missing corner. Square if necessary.



You can also cut smaller blocks from what is left over to use in your sashing or borders. This quilt has tiny squares in the sashing, and four corner squares in the border all cut from leftovers. Or you can even make a smaller speedy strips quilt from them...



The one on the left is a generous lap quilt, but this one is only 15 inches square



There are lots of setting possibilities for your speedy strips blocks.

They look good just set side by side with each other, just alternate the direction they turn in to give them a scattered look.

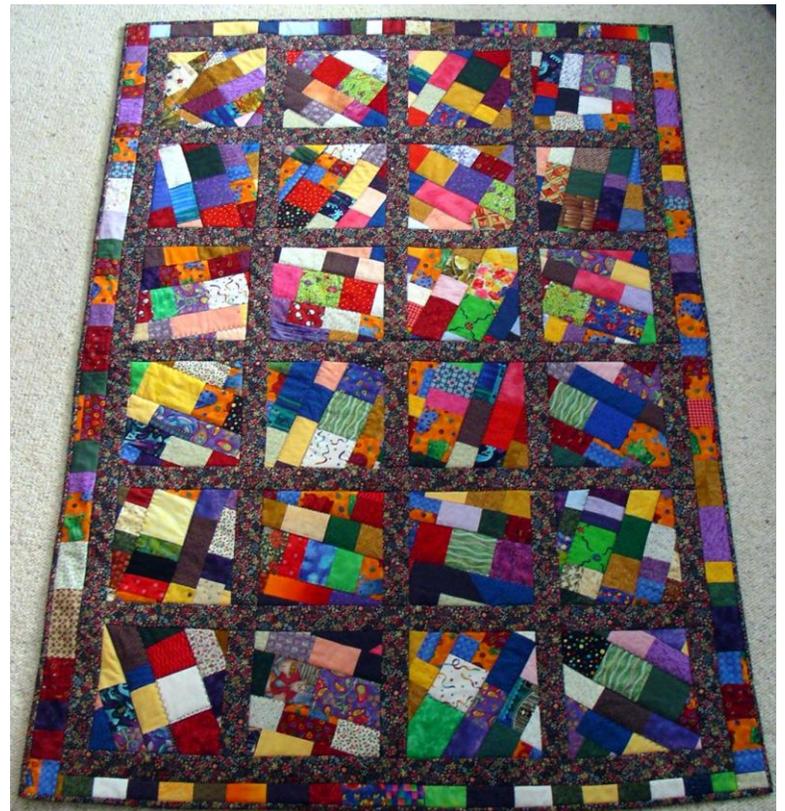


This is the one that started it all, the original Speedy Strips, made for my oldest son to take away to college.



Above is a Speedy quilt set with alternating plain blocks.

Here's a Speedy black borders and Speedy cornerstones .



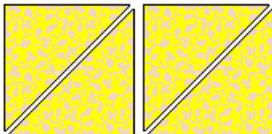
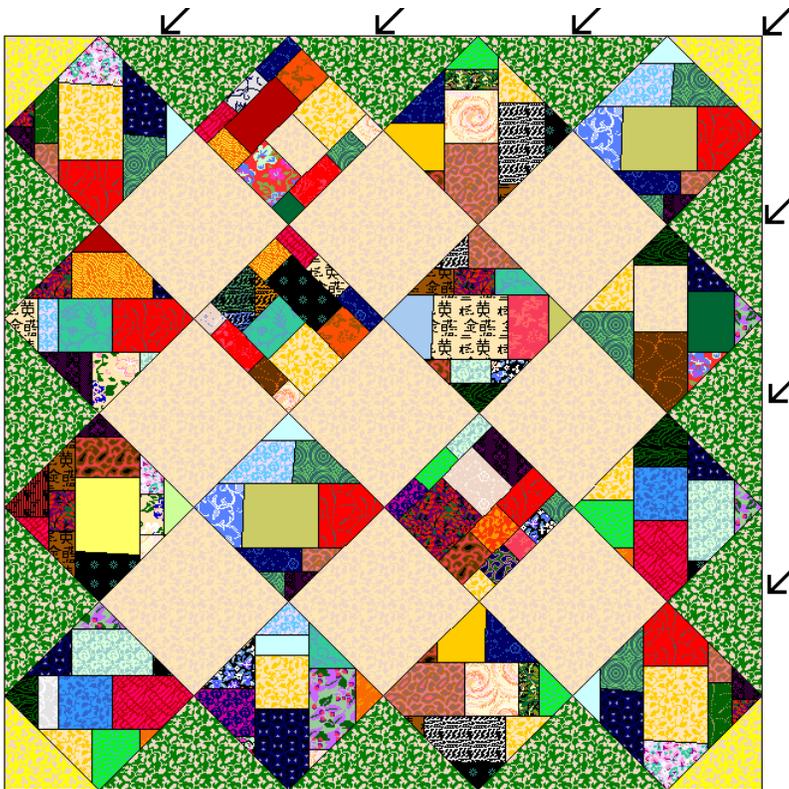
Here's a Speedy with plain sashing, and Speedy scraps make up the border.

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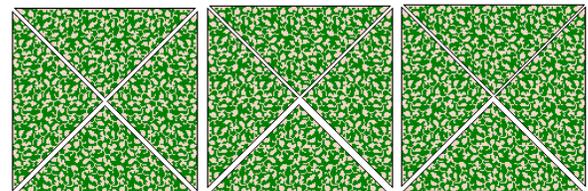
Speedy Strips also looks very nice set on point. This quilt is set on point with alternating plain blocks.



Aunt Grace Speedy



My corner blocks



side triangles

Setting a quilt on point is not as hard as it looks. Look at your quilt as being lopsided, set sideways. The rows run from corner to corner, rather than from left to right. The arrows point to the rows in this quilt.

The yellow triangle blocks in this quilt are the corners. Add one inch to the finished block measurement and cut two squares that size. Then cut those two squares in half diagonally, which will give you your four corners. If I had a ten inch speedy strip block, my corner blocks would be 11 inches.

To find the side triangle measurement, multiply the side measurement of our block by 1.414 and add 1 1/4 inches to that. If you have a ten inch block, you would multiply that by 1.414 which would give you 14.14 to which you add 1 1/4 (or 1.25) That equals 15.39, which is close enough to 15 1/2 that I would cut my side triangles 15 1/2 inches. Now, to assure that the stretchy side of that square is not on the outside of the quilt, you need to cut that 15 1/2 inch block in quarters diagonally.

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