

Scrap Strategy for 3-Yard Quilts

A Free Goodie from Fabric Café

Fabric Café®

Scrap fabric is any piece of fabric leftover from other projects that is smaller than a standard fabric cut (such as a fat quarter or yardage) but still large enough to be sewn into a quilt block or other small sewing project. Scraps may range from narrow strips and small squares to irregular shapes and are often treasured for their variety and potential for creative use.

Scraps can be used in each of the positions in a Fabric Café pattern. To understand how this works, let's first define how Fabric Café chooses fabric positions, as well as the concepts of value and color families.

The Fabric Café Fabric Strategy

The 3-yard quilt method relies on a 1-2-3 fabric strategy. Understanding the role of each position is the key to creating a successful quilt, whether you're using three one-yard cuts of fabric or a pile of treasured scraps.

Fabric #1 — A Large-Scale Print

- It can be light, medium, or dark in value.
- Most often placed in the largest pieces of the quilt.
- Usually the largest-scale print of the three fabrics.

Fabric #2 — A Light Value

- Always a lighter value fabric in comparison to the other two fabrics.
- Plays a supporting role, letting the other fabrics shine.
- Creates contrast and visual depth so that the quilt doesn't feel flat

Fabric #3 — A Dark Value

- Always a darker value fabric in comparison to the other two fabrics.
- Provides a pop of color and frames the quilt design.
- Adds contrast and visual depth to balance fabric #2.



Want more scrap tips?

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[Make It Scrappy With 3-Yard Quilts](#)

Product #: 032640 (\$19.99)

Using the Fabric Strategy in 3-Yard Scrap Quilts

To make a scrap 3-yard quilt, use the same fabric formula. Instead of one yard of fabric for each position, use a set of scraps.

1. Sort your fabrics into three groups:
 - Fabric #1: Large-scale prints
 - Fabric #2: Light-value fabrics
 - Fabric #3: Dark-value fabrics
2. Mix and match within each group until you find a pleasing combination.
3. Choose scraps with the same scale and value in each fabric position. This keeps your quilt looking balanced and intentional, as if it were made from three one-yard cuts.

By following the 1-2-3 fabric strategy and keeping color families and values in mind, you'll create scrap quilts that feel both lively and harmonious, with just the right mix of personality, contrast, and charm.