

ScrapTastic Scraps! My Fabric Storage Methods

(Cindy Cutsforth)

I hope you enjoyed the March program and trunk show. From the feedback I received after the presentation, some members shared that it definitely sparked some thoughts on how they might tackle their own overflowing scrap bins or begin to organize small fabric pieces to optimize use. Here are a few notes on how I keep my sewing space organized:

- My primary fabric stash (Fat Quarter size (FQ) or larger) is folded and organized by color in a storage cabinet.
- Fabric pieces smaller than FQ size are stored bins as follows:
 - o Pieces less than FQ size, but larger than 5" squares
 - o Strips* – 1.5, 2 and 2.5 inches (low-volume/light backgrounds have their own bins)
 - o Squares* – 1.5", 2", 2.5", 3", 3.5" and 5" squares
- *When a scrappy or small project pattern requires any of the standard size pieces I save, I always check these bins first before cutting into larger pieces.
- o I also have a bin for tiny bits/odd pieces.
- Precut stacks and bundles are kept together until the bundle is used. Depending on the amount of leftover fabric once the bundle has been open, I may intermingle the remainder as per above.
- Binding leftovers in a bin. I use these for potholders, small bags and other projects requiring binding.
- If I have a coordinated fabric line with lots of fabric and/or scraps leftover, I keep the fabrics together in a ziplock bag or bin.
- Some fabric lines/designers stay together, Tula, Kaffe, Australian designers
- I store solids and batiks separately from prints.

At the completion of a project, I clean-up as follows:

- Integrate any leftover squares or strips into the appropriate storage bin. Larger scraps are handled as mentioned above.
- Small bits and odd sized small pieces (triangles, weird angles) are stored in a bin.

Happy Scrapping!!