



TECHNIQUE Crazy Quilting

Crazy quilting allows an infinite variety of fabrics to be incorporated into one project. Virtually anything — from velvets and cottons to lace and drapery fabrics — can find its way into a crazy-quilted piece.

When gathering fabrics, select a mix of solids, prints, and/or textures. You will find endless sources for scraps of fabric. Check your local fabric and quilting shops for standard fabrics, and scout garage sales and antique shops for old ties and vintage clothing. When sewing the pieces to the foundation fabric, place complementary colors next to one another, using solids to set off any prints you are using.

Piecing It All Together

Cut a piece of muslin a little larger than you would like your finished crazy-quilted piece to be. This will serve as the foundation fabric. Lay the muslin out, wrong side up.

Cut a corner fabric piece with three angled sides at the top and right-hand side of the fabric piece. Pin the right-hand side of the fabric patch right side up to the lower left-hand corner of the wrong side of the muslin foundation piece. Select a second piece of fabric and lay it onto the first fabric piece with right sides facing and raw edges aligned. Sew through all three layers using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Flip over and press.

Note: Although you don't need to press the fabrics before sewing, you must press each piece before adding the next. To prevent scorching, use a pressing cloth when ironing satins and silk.

Add another piece of fabric to the second angle, edge to edge and overlapping the first angle. Sew the outside edge from one end to the other, making sure the piece extends over the previously sewn piece. Trim the seam, flip the fabric over, and press.

Continue adding pieces of fabric to each angle in the same manner in a clockwise fashion. Remember, each new fabric piece must be large enough to cover the edge of the first piece and the pieces next to the one you are adding.

Once you've reached the bottom edge, cut new angles from the pieces just sewn and then start adding pieces of fabric in a counter-clockwise fashion. Continue to add pieces back and forth, right to left or left to right, until the foundation piece is completely covered. If you find that some of the pieces are becoming too long, pre-sew some of the pieces to add different angles and more fabrics. Always remember to switch directions after each row. Keep a good balance of color, texture, prints, and solids as you work. Remember to press as you go. Trim the edges even with the foundation piece.