

Mask Crumb Quilt Project



To continue supporting our Kansas City Community during the COVID pandemic in March 2020, **The Sewing Lab** took the lead to create “kits” for making masks in our community. Each kit was cut and assembled by The Sewing Labs staff and volunteers with the support of local donors so that we could supply the masks needed for essential, frontline and healthcare workers and to the community at large that had no access to masks to protect themselves.

These mask kits were then distributed to the “safe-at-home” sewists to be lovingly made to support our greater community and to also give purpose to the individual sewist while being isolated for protection from the COVID virus. Each sewists had pride and comfort to know that they played a critical part in the supply chain of the masks for hope.

Once completed the masks were returned to The Sewing Labs to be redistributed where needed. With the help of organizations such as **We Can KC, KC Helps Make Masks, Yoga for Masks, Million Mask Project** and so many more online sewing groups, these masks were delivered where the need was to protect individual Kansas Citians and surrounding areas. Each week this process repeated itself through the “drive-thru” in the parking lots. Drop offs and Pick ups were made safe by volunteers wearing masks and gloves allowing for touch-less and convenient delivery.

Churches, sewing guilds, women’s organizations and individuals would make the pilgrimage each week to meet the demands of their community’s health. This will continue until the needs are fulfilled. Currently, The Sewing Labs has distributed over 74,000 completed masks.

This process has been a lesson in compassion, resilience, friendship, determination and more. Each person involved has a unique story and goal for why they have been involved. Many individuals have sewn over 1,000 masks and counting. Even persons who can not sew have shown support through donations of materials, funds or transportation. And it continues....

A unique remnant of this project has been all the leftover scraps of fabrics or “crumbs”; pieces that are too small to make a mask for an adult or child. But one thing about sewists and makers that you may not know is that we live to repurpose. And so now after 74,000 masks have been made, we have accumulated boxes and boxes of “crumbs”. We have decided to make Crumb quilts to honor this year of sewing. This quilt will be featured & auctioned at the “**Make’n HERstory**” event in May 2021.

If this project fascinates or inspires you to make your own crumb quilt check out the links below to find the block instructions and sample photos and more to help you. Consider challenging your friends to join you. Crumb kits are available from The Sewing Labs or simply use crumbs from your stash. Our blocks were measured approximately 10” square. Instructions are available on our website at: -----

We believe, at The Sewing Labs, that the flow of creativity and making helps us to find calm, focus and joy. And we are so proud of the Kansas City Community.

References for Making Crumb Quilts

You-Tube video sample of how to sew “crumb” blocks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXrASgWXLuo> with Jenny Doan – Missouri Star Quilt Co.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dx7iU689AuQ> <https://www.alandacraft.com>



First, there is no right or wrong way to make a Crumb quilt. You can use pieces as little as 1" and then as big as about 5". You can use strips or squares or odd shapes. This is a project to use up leftover scraps. Your goal is to sew different fabric scraps together until you reach a size of 10" x 10" or slightly bigger. It is important that your finished block lays flat, so it is recommended that you press as you go.

These photos show you examples of sewing together crumb pieces.

You can choose to group fabrics by color but, it is not necessary. And the variety of fabrics is what makes a crumb quilt so unique.

- Gather your fabric crumbs and lay them out.
- Look for a straight edge to start – this edge can be vertical, horizontal or at an angle. Then, take random shaped scraps to add to this first straight edge
- Continue to build onto this first piece or make many small units and then sew them together. Do not be concerned with straight pieces or matching seams. The variety of angles makes each quilt block visually more pleasing.
- Continue to build until you have created a square 10"x10" or slightly bigger. Then give it a good Press! **DO NOT TRIM DOWN TO 10"!!** TSL will trim the blocks down for you.

- Turn in your completed blocks and pick up more to make. A quilt needs about 80-100 blocks. TSL will ask for volunteers to sew the quilt top together once enough blocks are completed. Let us know if you want to help with this!
- This quilt will be part of the LIVE Auction held in May at the "Makin HERstory" event.
- Thank you for your continued support of The Sewing Labs.

