

QUILT BACKING HACKS

DIAGONAL PIECED BACKING (for Quilt Backing up to 64" Wide)

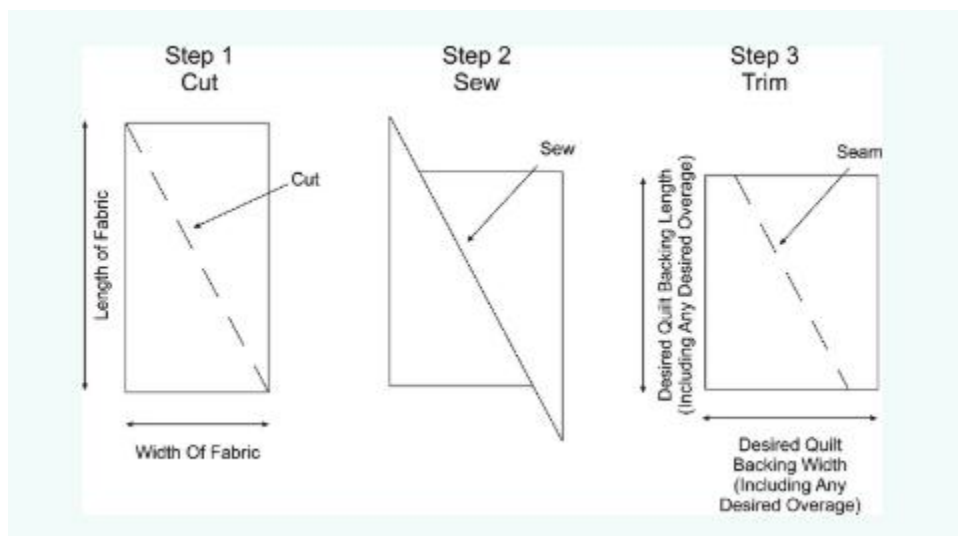
The diagonal quilt backing hack is a clever way to widen a piece of fabric from corner to corner so you can use a smaller remnant as a quilt back without buying extra yardage, saving you time and fabric.

When This Formula Works

This trick and formula work perfectly as long as your desired quilt backing width is **1.5 times or less** the width of your fabric including overage. For example, if you are using standard 44" wide fabric, this method works beautifully for any backing 64" to 66" wide (including seam allowance and overage).

- **Fold and crease:** Fold your fabric diagonally from one corner to the opposite corner to find the middle and press a light crease along the fold line.
- **Cut the fabric:** Cut on that diagonal fold line with sharp scissors or a rotary cutter to split the fabric into two pieces.
- **Shift the pieces:** Slide the two pieces along the cut diagonal edge up and down until the combined width matches your target size plus seam allowances.
- **Sew and trim:** Sew the diagonal cut edges back together, then fold back and trim off the excess triangular "dog ear" corner tips.

For a closer look at how to fold, cut, and slide the fabric pieces to get the width you need, here is a picture – and then a link to a Diagonally Pieced Backing Calculator:



Here is a link to a **FREE Quilt Backing Yardage Calculator** called TotalCalcHub:

<https://totalcalchub.com/us/home-improvement/quilt-backing-calculator>

Click the option on the right-hand side of the screen choosing "Diagonal Piecing Method (John Flynn Style...)"

DO NOT CHOOSE the Diagonally Pieced Backing Calculator by Quilter's Paradise. It has glitches.

QUILT BACKING HACKS

DOUBLE YARDAGE x WOF QUILT BACKING (for Quilts 73" in Length or Less)

This hack allows you to keep the 42" WOF piece of backing fabric as one long cut the entire time you sew the backing together – and THEN cut the fabric – rather than cutting the fabric first and sewing it together to make the backing!!! Much more accurate and less waste!

Formula:

(“Width” of Unfinished Quilt + a minimum of 8 extra inches [4” overage each side) to allow for quilting]) x 2

Here is the reasoning behind the Formula:

- The “Width” of the Quilt + 8” will allow for enough fabric to cover the “Width” of the Quilt plus the **minimum of 4”** overage on each side needed by the long armer for loading and quilting it; and the “x 2” is to cover the “Length” of the quilt
- The Width of Fabric (WOF) – usually 42-44” including Selvages – x 2 = 84-88” to cover the “Length” of the quilt.
Note: Selvages cannot be used in Seam Allowances because they are tightly woven and can cause puckering.
- So, assuming you have a 42” WOF . . .
- Subtract 1” for non-useable Selvage (the widest, printed part of the selvage) and subtract 1/2” (recommended Seam Allowance) for joining the quilt backing pieces.
= a Total of 1-1/2” subtracted from the 42” WOF = 40-1/2” useable fabric
- 40-1/2” x 2 = 81” to cover the “Length” of the quilt
- If you subtract 8” (4” overage on each end for the long armer), that 81” is enough to cover a quilt 73” in length

Directions to Make Single-Fabric Quilt Backing:

1. Cut a Length of Fabric 2 x the (“Width” of the Unfinished Quilt + 8 inches).
Open fabric to its full 42”-44” WOF and Press it. (**DO NOT CUT YET!!!**)
Fold fabric – Right Sides Together (RST) – Raw Edge to Raw Edge (*NOT Selvage to Selvage*).
2. **Starting at the Raw Edge of the folded fabric and moving toward the FOLD**, sew along the wider, printed Selvage edge **using a 1-1/2” Seam Allowance. Back stitch at both ends.**
3. Using a long (24”) ruler, **trim off the Selvage – 1/2” from the Sewn Seam line.** (This will leave a 1/2” Seam Allowance, and you’ll have a 1” length of Selvage to save and use later in something like a selvage string quilt.)
Now, **trim the still-folded fabric about 1/8” from the FOLD.**
4. Open the fabric and press open the Seam Allowance.
The quilt backing should be at least 4” wider on each side than the “Width” of the Unfinished Quilt and 80”-81” in “Length”.
5. **Center the backing to your quilt** and trim any excess backing length by cutting the same amount from each end of the quilt backing.

Calculating How Much WOF Backing Yardage You Will Need

- **Example – A quilt measures 48” x 72”**
Regardless of whether the quilt hangs Portrait (48” x 72”) or Landscape (72” x 48”), the “Length” is the longest dimension (72”) and the “Width” is the shortest dimension (48”).
- **Formula:**
48” Width of Unfinished Quilt
+ 8” minimum 4” overage on each side) to allow for longarm quilting
= 56”
x 2 to cover the “Length” of the quilt
= 112”
÷ 36” per yard
= 3 yards 4 inches – so approximately 3-1/4” yards of fabric needed for the quilt backing