

How to Use Small, Leftover Pieces of Cotton Batting

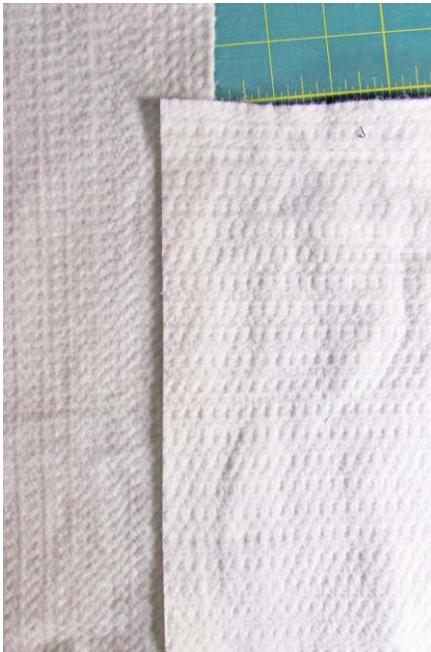
by Maria Hrabovsky

When making quilts, we can buy packages of batting the exact size needed. Examples are craft, baby, twin, full, queen, and king. However, we often make quilts in different size categories such as kennel quilts, placemats, mug rugs, wall, and table, etc. Whether we buy in those sizes or by the roll or batt, we end up with leftover pieces of batting we don't want to waste but don't know what to do with. Those pieces can be stitched together to obtain whatever size we happen to need. Here is how.

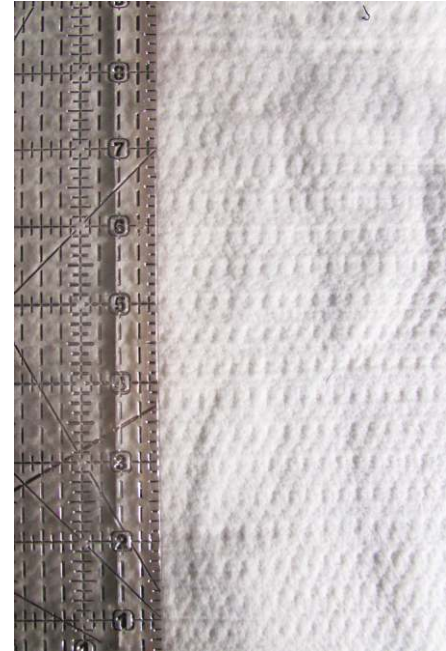
Method One

Especially for Cotton or Cotton Blends

1. Take 2 or more pieces of the same kind of batting that, when joined together, will give you the size you need.
2. Overlap 2 of their edges as shown in the photo below. Make the overlap wide enough to comfortably perform step 3 - generally, an overlap of 1/2 inch.



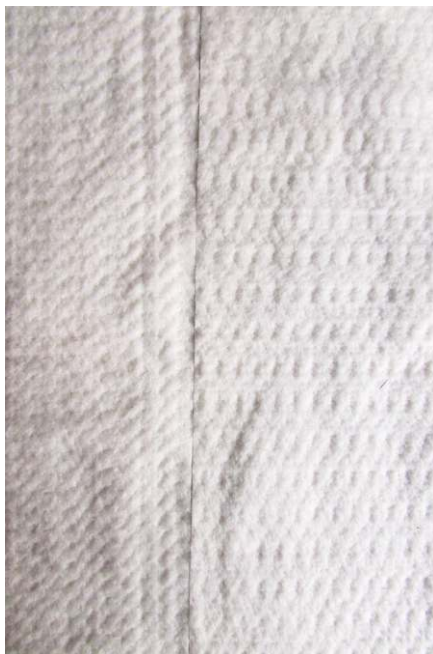
3. Using your quilt ruler and rotary cutter, cut through the center of the overlapped area.



As you can see, you will have 2 narrow strips to discard (or to save to use as stuffing in other crafts such as pillows or stuffed animals).



4. Butt the 2 batting pieces together. You will see that they match and fit perfectly.



5. Next, place the butted edges side by side under your presser foot. (This is a good time to use a walking foot, but if you don't have one, use your favourite foot that will accommodate a wide zigzag stitch instead).

Use a wide, loose, zigzag stitch and a longer stitch length than usual. (I set mine at 4.)

Pinning isn't necessary. Simply butt the two sides together as you sew. Backstitch at the start and at the end. Stop and reposition if/when necessary. You will have a perfect, flat join. If done properly, there will be no overlapping.

6. I like to heat set the stitches by pressing them. Be sure to read pressing directions on your batting package first or check your batting manufacturer's website for directions.

7. Square the batting to the size you need for your project.



Method Two

Synthetic and Cotton/Natural Battings

Method One can be used for synthetic battings too, but you will have to work more slowly, very carefully, and preferably stitch by hand. There is a much easier, faster method - fusibles!

With fusibles, there is no need to stitch anything together!

Choose a heat-bonding strip such as **Heat Press Batting Together™** or **Bosal™ Batting Seam Tape** or another brand.

-or-

Choose **Fairfield™ Fusi-Boo™ Bamboo Fusible Batting**. It is made from a special blend of fibers including natural cotton and rayon fiber from bamboo with a water-soluble, heat-activated, fusible resin. No need to buy fusible tape!

For all brands, follow their package directions. Ask for these products at your local quilt shop.

Enjoy using up your batting leftovers!

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