

Fantastic Fusion

by Lisa Walton

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Materials

- Scraps of fabrics, prints and solids (I prefer hand dyed, hand-painted, or batik fabrics as they have color all the way through without the white edges of commercial fabric.)
- Lightweight fusible web (I use Mistyfuse®.)
- Batting
- Backing fabric
- Teflon® mat or parchment paper (I use a Goddess Sheet®.)

Sometimes we just end up with lots of scraps which are too good to waste. I print and stamp and paint and dye lots of small pieces of fabric when demonstrating in my workshops—they often just get stuck in a drawer as they seem too small to do anything with but too precise to toss.

One day, I decided to fuse a batch of them so I could just stick them into a project somewhere. The random nature of the process allowed me to create interesting and complex pieces. The more you slice and dice the pieces the smaller they become. The only stitching is the quilting at the end, and each piece is unique.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place fusible web onto the Teflon mat on an ironing board.
2. Cover the web with scraps of fabric close together but not overlapping

them. Cover with another Teflon sheet or parchment paper and press with a hot iron—no steam—to create what seems like 1 piece of fabric.

3. When cool, peel up the fabric and separate the pieces either by pulling them apart or cutting.
4. Check the back of each piece of fused fabric to ensure fusible web reaches the edges. Re-fuse or trim.

Tip: If trimming is required do this now and discard the unfused slivers so they don't get mixed up with your fused pieces.

5. Cut a center piece for the block and place it on the Teflon mat. It can be a square or rectangle—it does not have to be accurate or exact.

Tip: Try cutting without a ruler.

6. Cut some longer strips and place them around the edge of the center piece on the Teflon mat overlapping about ¼" as your first border. Press.

7. Cut the fabric into some thin slivers $\frac{1}{8}$ "– $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3"–4" and some pieces 3"–4" x 6"–8". Place the slivers across the long piece and press into place. This striped piece can now be cut lengthwise to create another border for your block.

Tip: Leave the overhanging slivers uncut. Cut strips of them about $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge of the main fabric to create bunting-like strips. Add these for interest in another portion of the block.

8. Continue 'building' blocks until the desired approximate sizes are achieved. If you want to square up the blocks, use the offcut strips in other blocks.
9. When you have enough blocks, place them on the batting overlapping by about $\frac{1}{4}$ ". When you are happy with the layout, press into place with a hot steam iron, fusing them to the batting.
10. Add the backing piece to the batting by either pin basting or fusing with another piece of Mistyfuse.
11. Machine quilt as desired.

Tip: This is a great opportunity to practice free-motion quilting designs while creating a small project.

12. Finish or bind as desired.

Tips

- Assemble everything on the Teflon mat, as all of the fabric will have fusible on the back.
- All measurements are approximate and only a guide. The more random the better.
- Don't throw away little strips of fused fabric, use them in other projects.
- If you decide to make your work larger, just fuse more fabrics and blend them into your completed piece or as new blocks by fusing strips onto blocks. ■

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