

# Stash Jazz

## Carole Lyles Shaw



What to do with that ever growing pile of scraps and ‘leftover blocks’ left over from other projects? How about those ‘test blocks’ that weren’t quite perfect enough to go into your finished quilt? You paid a lot of money for the fabric—why not make those blocks into a quilt!

Well, this class is an easy answer to the stash busting & orphan block problem. We will start with a fast and easy approach and rapidly create improvisationally pieced blocks. You’ll leave with a couple of approaches for making improvisational blocks that will keep you from worrying about matching everything up. To make it even more fun, you’ll have a chance to trade some fabric with some new friends to make your blocks even more random!



*From a pile of scraps to.....*



*...beautiful Improvisational Blocks like these to put into a modern quilt layout!*

Then, using a provided pattern layout and three solid or tone on tone fabrics, you will cut and piece these beautiful improvisational blocks into a modern quilt layout that you can arrange and even re-arrange to suit your style. The neutral fabric you choose will give you negative space to really show off those improvisational blocks.

During class, we will discuss modern quilting approaches using straight line quilting, improvisational quilting and other approaches that can be easily accomplished on your home machine. We will also discuss the use of quilting with threads in variegated, blending or contrasting colors.

# STASH JAZZ



Time to dig into that stash pile of larger scraps and orphan blocks for a quilt you can make in a weekend! You will find easy instructions for cutting up larger scraps and combining them with left over blocks to create dynamic improvisational blocks.

## MATERIALS LIST

Fabric	Small Lap	Large Lap
<i>Finished Size</i>	55" x 62"	68" x 83"
Scraps and Orphan Blocks	Gather leftover blocks and medium to large scraps. Scraps should measure a minimum of 5" x 5". Leftover blocks can be any size. A good amount to start with: scraps that will fill 4 or 5 gallon size plastic bags.	
Solids/near solids for blocks	1/2 yard	5/8 yard
Solids/near solids for borders	2 7/8 yards	3 1/2 yards
Backing (size includes extra inches for quilting)	65" x 72" (3 5/8 yards)	78" x 93" (6 1/2 yards)
Pieced Binding	Use scraps left from piecing to create a 254" long binding roll (1/2 yard)	Use scraps left from piecing to create a 322" long binding roll (5/8 yard)

## Other Supplies

- Sewing Machine
- Quarter-inch foot or patchwork piecing foot. Otherwise, be sure that you can sew an accurate quarter inch seam
- Neutral color thread for piecing (your choice of color)
- Rotary cutter with new sharp blade
- Quilt Ruler measuring at least 24" in length
- Cutting mat measuring 24" x 24" or larger
- Seam Ripper for those occasional mistakes
- Straight pins
- **OPTIONAL UNSCENTED** spray starch or starch alternative such as Best Press

## Preparation Tips

**BINDING:** You do not have to make a binding in advance for the workshop. I included the information in the materials list because until recently, many patterns calculate the exact yardage needed to make bindings. In this case, the notation on the pattern is meant as guidance that you can also use scraps to make the binding instead of purchasing new fabric. During the class, I will talk about how I make pieced bindings.

**BATTING:** The batting that you use to complete your project will be your choice. You do not need to buy or cut a batting in advance of the workshop.

**CUTTING MAT:** I recommend the larger size cutting mat. However, you can certainly use a smaller mat such as 24" x 18" or even 16" x 16" if that is what you have in your sewing room.

**SORTING SCRAPS:** Sorting your scraps before the class will save you time. So, I wanted to share a few tips for sorting your scraps and planning your quilt. **DON'T OVERTHINK:** When I'm sorting, I'm usually watching a movie. So my mind is only halfway paying attention to the sorting—and that helps me do it FAST. Don't overthink or over plan.

**LEFTOVER OR ORPHAN BLOCKS:** These blocks make a wonderful addition to a Stash Jazz quilt. The piecing mistakes or other issues will not be relevant. We will be cutting up (most) of these blocks. Just make sure they can be pressed flat.

**PLANNING A COLOR PALETTE:** My Stash Jazz quilts are very multicolor—see the example on the pattern cover. However, you can choose a limited color palette. If you decide to do that, sort your scraps by color. The scraps do not have to be the exact same shade or tint. In fact, variation in the colors can be fun. For example, you can choose greens that range from a blue green to almost chartreuse. More is better—you can always eliminate when you start making your blocks. Lighting makes a difference in how colors look—I will sort by a window so that I can see the colors in sunlight. Or go outside and sort your scraps on a table. Sunlight gives us the best view on how our colors look and how they will play together.

**SCALE:** If you are using prints, I suggest having a variety in scale. Large, medium and small prints mixed together will make a scrappy, lively quilt. However—if you want a more uniform look, then group scraps by the scale of the print.

**BLACK & WHITE PRINTS:** I love throwing in some black & white (or black & offwhite) prints. If you have some scraps around, try adding them.

**LEFTOVER BINDING:** You can use leftover binding!

**PRINTS BY COLOR:** Sorting prints by color can be tricky. If there's a dominant color, go with that. If it is really multicolor, then just start a pile for that type of print.

**Questions? Email Carole [carole@lyles.net](mailto:carole@lyles.net)**