

wise craft™
handmade by Blair Stocker



SCRAPPY FOUR PATCH PINCUSHION PATTERN



Scrappy Four Patch Pincushion

A few things before beginning:

- Pincushion finishes at 4 x 4" square.
- *Directions for including an optional scissor pocket are included (Step C, pg. 3).
- Patchwork seam allowances are scant 1/4" unless otherwise noted.
- I am here to help with questions. Please email me at blairwisecraft@gmail.com.

Materials and Supplies

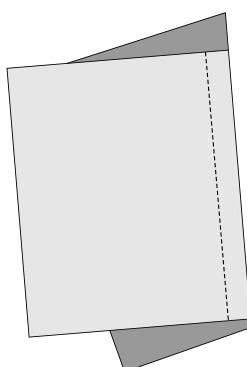
- **Scraps of quilting fabrics**- Refer to the cover image for reference for the number of scraps I used. You can make this pincushion as scrappy as you want.
- **Batting**- 5" square scrap
- **Muslin**- One 5" square and one 4 1/2" square
- **Backing Fabric**- One 4 1/2 x 4 1/2" square
- ***Optional Back Pocket**- One 5 1/2" x 4 1/2" rectangle
- **Stuffing**- This can be fiberfill, wool roving, crushed walnut shells, or emery sand
- **Other supplies needed**: Clear quilting ruler, rotary cutter and cutting mat, sewing machine with neutral thread, iron and ironing board.

How to Make

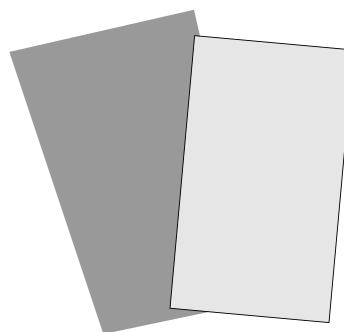
A. Create the patchwork top.

This is a very improvisational method of piecing, and you will get the best results by piecing and different angles and keeping your fabric selections random. Some of my scraps were as small as 1 x 1" square, some were cut from larger remnants, the more variety, the better.

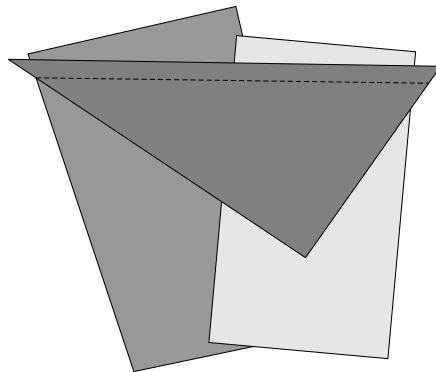
1- Piece the first two fabrics together- With right sides together, stitch along one straight edge to sew together. If needed, trim any excess seam allowance beyond 1/4" to reduce overall bulk.



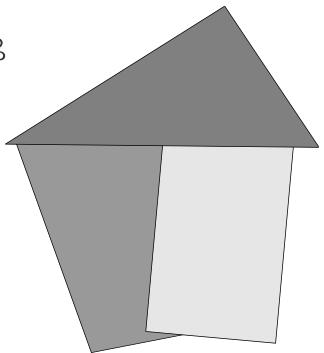
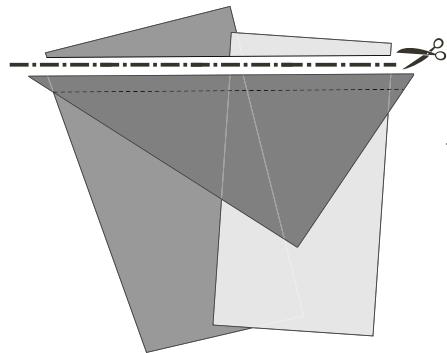
2- Press the seam open, with the seam allowances to one side.



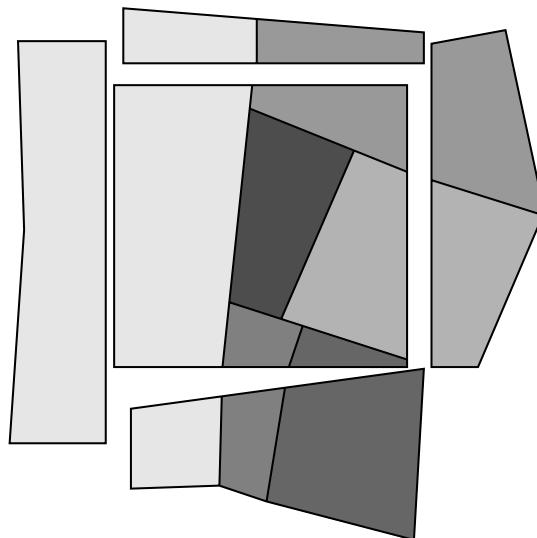
Add the next piece wherever it seems to fit. With right sides together, stitch the pieces together.



With every additional piece, trim away excess seam allowance, press seam allowance towards the newest piece.

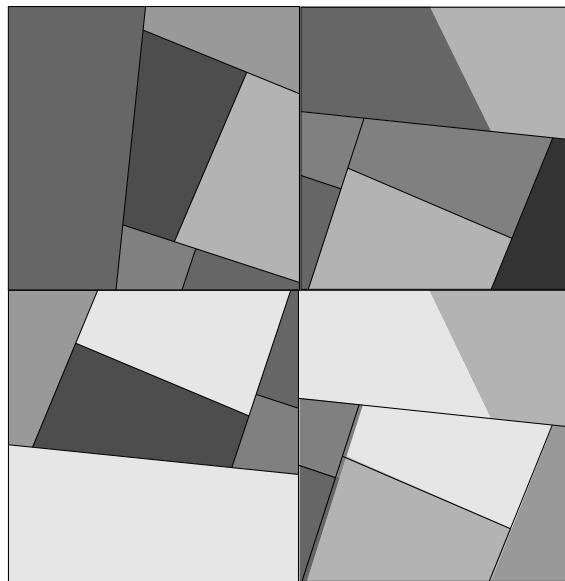


Continue adding pieces until the entire piece is larger than 2 1/2" on all four sides. Trim your mini block down to 2 1/2" square (Tip: Fussy cut your favorite area out of the block.)



Repeat to make four mini blocks, each measuring 2 1/2" square. Sew these blocks together, two rows of two. (Tip: Press the seam allowance of each row in opposite directions so that they nest and align when the rows are sewn together.)

The finished pincushion top should look something like this and measure 4 1/2" square.



B. Quilt the pincushion top

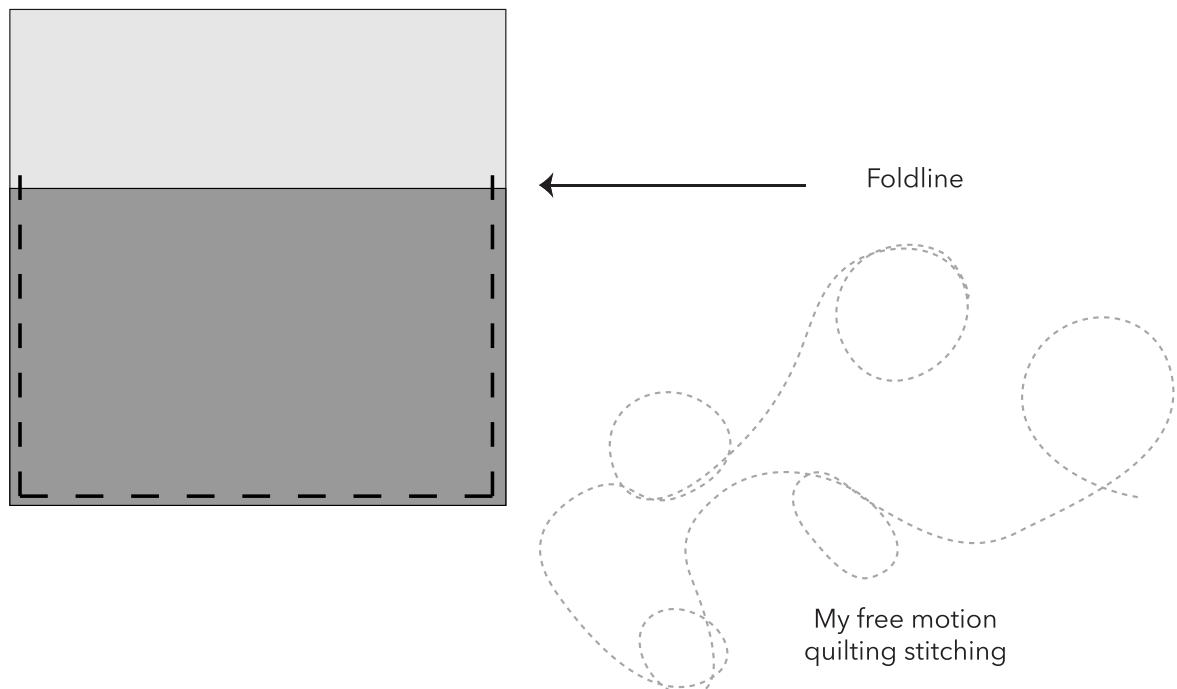
Create a mini quilt sandwich by layering a scrap of batting between the back of the patchwork top and the 5" scrap of muslin, pin together if needed. From there- you can quilt the layers together a couple of ways:

- Free motion quilt the layers together (see my circle design on this page)
- Tie the layers together with yarn or perle cotton, one tie through the middle of each square.
- Have it professionally long-arm quilted.. (I'm kidding).

When all the layers are secured together, trim the entire piece down to 4 1/2" square.

C. Add a optional back scissor pocket (if not doing this, continue to step D).

Fold the 5 1/2" x 4 1/2" piece in half lengthwise along the 5 1/2" side, wrong sides together, and press. Align this, right side up, along 3 edges of the pincushion back, also right side up. Baste in place along the edges a scant 1/4" from the edge, as shown.



My free motion
quilting stitching

D. Sew front and back together by layering the pieces as follows:

4 1/2" square of muslin

4 1/2" square of backing fabric, right side up.

Patchwork top, right side down.

4 1/2" square of muslin

Tip: Lower the stitch length on your sewing machine down a bit from its normal setting if using emery sand or ground nut shells as filling. Leaving 2" unsewn along one side, stitch layers together on all four sides, 1/4" seam allowance. Backstitch at the beginning and end. Remove from the sewing machine, trim any extra bulk at the corners, and turn right side out.

E. Stuff the pincushion firmly.

Once it's fully stuffed, turn in the edges of the open end and hand stitch closed using tiny stitches (tip: I stitch across, then also stitch back across again, making my stitches tiny and close together to hold in the ground nut shells I use in my pincushions).

Join in online and upload images of your work in progress and your finished pincushions! Label your images with hashtag **#wisecraftscrappypincushion** on your favorite social media platform to share with others!

For more inspiration:

My first book- **Wise Craft: Turning Thrift Store Finds, Fabric Scraps, and Natural Objects Into Stuff You Love**. Available now, it contains 60 projects for your home, including 4 beautiful quilt patterns suitable for all skill levels.

Look for my new book **Wise Craft Quilts: A Guide to Turning Beloved Fabrics into Meaningful Patchwork** coming in Spring of 2017!

Find more inspiration at www.wisecrafthandmade.com

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