

# 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 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.

## 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)

**ABOUT SOLIDS:** Solid fabrics include solids and any fabrics that 'read' as solid or textured from a short distance. Moda Grunge or any line of mottled or blenders are excellent additions to your solids pile. Note that the solids/near solids can also be included in your scraps. You will use solids/near solids in your blocks. If you do not have sufficient borders yardage for the solids, combine similar or contrasting fabrics in this group of fabrics for your project. You can always create a scrappy pieced border—I will discuss this in class.

**THE KEY IS NOT TO BUY BRAND NEW FABRIC FOR THIS PROJECT.** If you have a smaller stash, talk to your quilt friends who want to destash. I am sure they will have fabric to donate or sell at a discounted price.

## General Sewing 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 Rulers: short (12" long) and **optional** square ruler (8-1/2" square or larger)
- Cutting mat – minimum 12" square or larger
- Spray starch or starch alternative such as Best Press™, sizing or similar product

**Questions? Email Carole** [carole@carolelylesshaw.com](mailto:carole@carolelylesshaw.com)

## PREPARATION TIPS

**PLANNING A COLOR PALETTE:** My Stash Jazz quilts are very multicolor because that tends to be my style. However, you can choose your own style! You can create a limited or even monochromatic color palette.

**SORTING SCRAPS:** Sorting your scraps by color & type 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. 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. When sorting 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 daylight.

**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 these blocks. Just make sure they can be pressed flat.

**PRINTS & 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.

**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.

**BLACK & WHITE PRINTS:** I love throwing in some black & white (or black & offwhite) prints with most, but not all, color palettes.

**BACKING:** I will discuss how I use scraps to make a pieced backing. Set aside LARGE scraps (fat quarter or leftover yardage) for the pieced backing.

**BINDING:** You do not have to make a binding in advance for the workshop. 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:** You do not need to buy or cut a batting in advance of the workshop.