

# 5 EASY WAYS TO MAKE BEAUTIFUL SCRAP QUILTS

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# WHAT IS A SCRAP QUILT?

Random assortment of fabrics - literally anything goes.

Contrast, Value and Color help define the pattern.

Modern quilts can be scrappy.

This is how I store my scraps.





Pattern: Tula Pink's City Sampler

## TIP #1 STICK TO ONE FABRIC DESIGNER/DESIGN GROUP

This quilt uses every color in the rainbow, but all the fabrics are Tula Pink.

Each individual block is coordinated with good use of color, value and contrast.

Blocks were arranged to compliment each other.

It works because the background fabric is calm and gives the blocks room to shine.

Modern blocks make this a modern quilt.

TIP #1 - STICK TO ONE  
FABRIC  
DESIGNER/DESIGN GROUP

This quilt uses Conservatory Fabrics (a group of designers under the umbrella of Anna Maria Horner).

It has pretty good contrast. Notice that the lighter fabrics were generally reserved for the vertical background stripes.

The individual blocks all have sufficient contrast to show their design.

It has some color POP to add interest.



Modern grid make this a modern quilt.

Pattern: Jen Kingwell's Wanderer's Wife



TIP #1 - STICK TO ONE FABRIC  
DESIGNER/DESIGN GROUP

This is all leftover Tula, cut into 2.5" Strips.

It works because it has beautiful colors and good contrast.

The strips were arranged by alternating light and dark.

## TIP # 2 - LIMIT YOUR COLOR PALETTE

In this 2-color quilt, I chose blue and white.

No blue was off limits.  
(Greenish and purplish were avoided).

Scrappy white was limited to whites and light grays. No  
beige.

It works because of the wide range of blue and white/gray  
values.



Pattern: Ocean Waves, a traditional quilt block. [Free pattern at Jolly Jabber Quilting Blog](#)



Pattern: Soak up the Sun, by Sew Kind of Wonderful

## TIP # 2 - LIMIT YOUR COLOR PALETTE

In this 3-color quilt, No yellow was off limits.

The scrappy background was limited to whites and light grays, with a little touch of light blue-gray. No beige.

A variety of values makes it fun.

Modern or Traditional?



Pattern: Snake Trail, a traditional quilt block

Modern or Traditional?

## TIP # 3 - POOL YOUR COLORS

When several values of a color are concentrated in one area, the color becomes more intense.

I pooled the orange, gold, olive, and turquoise to increase the color intensity of my mid-century palette

To keep my scrappy vibe, I even went scrappy with the black background.

I made pretty good use of color, value, and contrast





Modern or Traditional?

## TIP #3 POOL YOUR COLORS

This is a 9-patch quilt using 2" squares.

If it was in my shoebox, I used it!

Pooling the colors made them appear very intense.

The color palette was pink, orange, yellow, olive green, teal, blue, purple.

Originally, I also had red, but didn't like it. Red can sometimes drain color from the rainbow.

Artists call it a neutralizer

The background fabric was "low volume."



## TIP #4 USE CONTRAST TO DEFINE PATTERN

This quilt pattern has you sort fabrics by light, medium and dark. Fabrics are arranged to create a plaidish effect.

Darks are typically navy and black.

Mediums are brights (we tend to have a lot of these!)

Lights are low volume.

The better the contrast, the more plaid it looks.

This is a great pattern for practicing with Contrast because if you don't get it exactly right, it still

Plaidish

Pattern: Plaidish Quilt by Kitchen Table Quilting. [Free tutorial and pattern.](#)

Modern?



Credit: Wise Craft Handmade, @blairs She teaches at QuiltCon

Look at the range of values. She even ventured into greenish yellow and teal-green

## TIP #4 USE CONTRAST TO DEFINE PATTERN

Modern or Traditional?

These quilts are made with 3" or 4" Half-Square Triangles grouped by color, with colors divided (ish) into dark, medium and light.

TIP #5 - MAKE  
YOUR OWN RULES

Rainbow Quilt.

Each block individual block is coordinated with good use of color.

Every rainbow color was used, plus a couple bright neutrals

A calm background puts focus on the blocks.



Pattern: Fancy Forest by Elizabeth Hartman

Modern or Traditional?

# TIP #5 - MAKE YOUR OWN RULES

## Love Letters Quilt

Asked bee mates to make love letter blocks using any color of the rainbow with at least some pink, purple or red.

Asked them to use statement fabric for inner envelope, any solid-reading color for outer envelope and a low volume fabric that worked well with their block.

I picked the mailbox colors to match my backing and binding, so I made a few blocks with the mailbox colors for cohesion.

Modern or Traditional?



Pattern: Envelope pattern by Ayumi Mills (@ayumills). Mailbox pattern by @satomi\_quilts



## TIPS FOR MAKING BEAUTIFUL SCRAPPY QUILTS

#1 Stick to one fabric designer or design group.

#2 Try a limited color palette.

#3 Pool your colors.

#4 Use Contrast to define pattern.

#5 Make your own rules.

Use Color, Contrast, and Value to add interest and define the pattern.