

Basic Block Weaving

1. Preparing the foundation



...I like to have a supply of backing pieces on hand when I am ready to weave blocks. I suggest a dozen or so if you can manage it, but have at least more than one at all times, because ideas happen...and this technique is quite addictive.

You can choose any size that seems convenient to you, but don't work too small. I generally work with a 10"- 12" square because it is not too big and not too small to handle. A great size for a beginner, it

accommodates many size strips and can be cut down into smaller blocks if necessary. You might like to work with many different sizes, but for experimenting I like to keep my components either the same size or related in size so that they can be experimented with, in combination, later.

If you have large scrap cloth, you can tear or cut the size you need. Remember this will be the back of the cloth or even the batting in most cases so keep that in mind when choosing what to use. I often piece together smaller scraps. It gives them a use. You can piece them on a machine or by hand in any kind of random arrangement. If you have the patience, you can use up a lot of small odd or damaged pieces that might ordinarily get discarded. If you do piece, press the seams open to avoid and build up of layers.

In choosing a fabric is it is more convenient to use something soft and not too slippery, this helps hold the strips in place. I also like, as a general rule, to use **lighter weight fabrics** when involved with a layering technique such as this. Easier stitching! Shirting weight fabric, old sheer curtains, flannel and sheeting work great. As a rule, worn fabric, old recycled cloth, is soft and can be put to good use here.