

Putting Things Together

Before you start the construction or embellishment you should anchor/ baste your blocks/ components in some overall way and secure the edges as described in the last lesson. I suggest you work on securing your blocks while they are still easy to handle and before attaching them.

Let me just continue now with a few simple methods I use to put pieces together.



If you make a whole quilt top by weaving it as one piece, you will not be concerned with blocks and you can just decorate and/ or just back and quilt. But if you are using a component method and building blocks separately, putting them together can be like any basic quilt top in construction method, no matter what size pieces you may be working on.



Here are some examples of student work from the first workshop.

I have shown the basic methods here along with my alternative overlap collage technique , used for my magic cloth, which is still in process. The process you choose to continue with depends on your ideas and also the nature of the pieces you have created. Experience is the best teacher, so sometimes it is best to try all the steps on a small piece first. [View video 1](#)

An example of how the rag method can look after washing can be viewed [here](#)....more info on this method of construction can be found by searching the internet. Please be aware that this method can produce a lot of lint in the wash and dry process... so clean the lint trap often. I find that scratching up the fringe before washing helps to remove a lot of extra little threads.



In addition, I am sharing a personal free form method of connecting odd elements which I love.... I love the possibilities and also love that I can use up leftovers to create a palette. I think it will open up some more possibilities for you. [View video 2](#)

I don't always do things the same way, and sometimes I combine methods to suit the piece. It is best to use common sense and trial and error when first starting out. You might just combine different things I do with your own ideas, it is not brain surgery after all, it is just cloth, and cloth is quite forgiving, you can be too. That is what I have learned over the years....

When I put together this course, I did it on the fly to allow the students in the first class to lead me through at a sensible pace and allow me to fill in gaps of understanding. This next 2 videos were made against clothmate questions about the details of my collage method. They detail basically what I do to put the pieces together prior to any quilting or embellishing. If you care about the appearance of the back, just regular basting that will be pulled out later should be done to replace the pins. The invisible baste leaves a long float on the back that may catch depending on end use. Note that It can also be done with a smaller float on the back and then it will somewhat mimic a running/ quilting stitch on the reverse and left in. The piece can be quilted as much as you need to hold it all together and then to make it appear as you wish.

[View video 3](#)

[View video 4](#)