

Heirloom in the Making



Tee Shirt Quilt Worksheet

The first question most people ask me is “How many tee shirts do I need to make a quilt?” and the reply I give is “It depends on what size quilt you want.”

Then the discussion turns to cost (how much for this size, how much for that many shirts) so I made this worksheet to let you play with the numbers yourself. There are 3 components: (❶) size of the quilt, (❷) number of blocks and (❸) the cost of the fabric (that you buy yourself or a finishing kit that I provide, which is usually easier & cheaper; I’ll consult with you for tastes/preferences).

1 Pick the size of the quilt you think you want. The visual aid on the next page shows typical bed sizes and quilt sizes that completely cover and go over the edge a little. The grid diagrams at the bottom give you an idea how many 12” blocks you’ll need for that size quilt. Most blocks are 12” squares or some multiple of 6” (i.e., 6” x 12” rectangle). Look up the **base fee** for that size quilt in the Table at the bottom of the page. This fee is where I have the widest possible leeway to grant you a discount or if necessary, this is where I’ll add in special handling fees for unusual materials (e.g., non-tee-shirt fabrics).

2 Look at your tee shirts or other clothing and determine if most of the blocks can be cut to a 12” square or some multiple of 6” that will fit nicely into a grid. If it only fills half the space, I can make something called a “filler” block to take up the rest. Now count the total number of blocks (all sizes, not counting “fillers”) that you think you need. A motif from the front plus one from the back of the same shirt is 2 blocks. Multiply this number by \$10. This is your **block fee**. Sometimes I’ll adjust the number of blocks charged (do some *gratis*) to help reduce your costs without changing the base fee, but plan on the worst-case scenario of paying for every block and then be pleasantly surprised when I give you some free.

3 Finishing up the quilt is a fairly fixed fee process. Use the Table at the bottom of the next page to find the cost of a **finishing kit**. This kit includes the backer fabric, the fabric for the binding and if we designed your quilt with borders, it will be included here. If you buy your own fabric instead, please be sure to get enough fabric in the same dye lot (all at once). Sometimes, stores run out or get more of the “same” fabric in a future order but the colors don’t match exactly from one batch to the next. This is not a defect but a result of the fabric-dyeing process. Be sure to buy enough yardage or a yard extra “to be safe.” I can make a standard bed pillowcase out of 1 yard of fabric for \$25 worth of labor so waste not, want not!

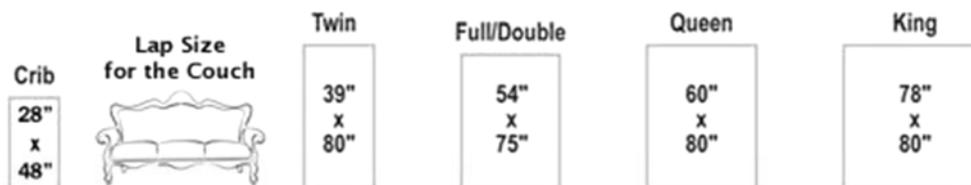
Your cost estimate = **base fee + block fee + finishing kit**
+ any additional labor or special handling fees (usually \$0)

An Heirloom in the Making

Fabric Arts by  Sarah R. Yoffa

Tee Shirt Quilt Sizing Chart

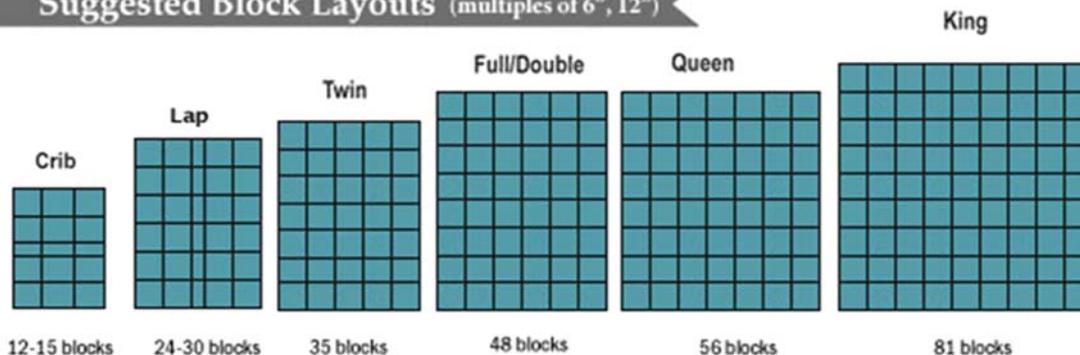
Mattress Sizes



Suggested Quilt Sizes (with overhang)



Suggested Block Layouts (multiples of 6", 12")



Total estimate = **base fee** + **block fee** (\$10*block count) + finishing kit or you buy fabric

Size	Base Fee	Finishing Kit	Yardage (44" wide)
Crib quilt	\$160	\$35	3
Lap quilt	\$200	\$55	4½ - 5
Twin Bed	\$260	\$65	5½ - 6
Full Bed	\$320	\$75	6½ - 7
Queen Bed	\$380	\$85	7½ - 8
King Bed	\$440	\$100	9½ - 10

Contact heirloominthemaking@gmail.com for instructions on laundering shirts & fabric prior to delivery. I do not provide laundering services.