

# Scrap Sorting Tips



## Gather the following supplies:

- Scraps
- Scrap storage
- Iron, rotary cutter, cutting mat, assorted rulers

### 1. Gather all of your scraps.

It can be easy to lose track of all the leftover fabric pieces that accumulate after projects, so be sure to check every corner for scraps. The types of scraps you have may provide clues about how to best organize them.

### 2. Decide how you most often use scraps.

Keeping odd cuts of fabric may be ideal for foundation paper piecing, while cutting scraps to specific sizes is great for leaders and enders. Evaluate how you best put scraps to use. In addition to shape and size, determine what role color will play in your scrap organization. Doing the work to trim and sort now will make it easier to just grab scraps and go sew. Future-you will thank International-Scrap-Sorting-Day-you!

### 3. Evaluate your scrap storage.

Does your current scrap storage provide an efficient way for you to find and successfully use scraps? Determine what method of storage will make it easier to store, see, and grab scraps as needed. No matter how your scraps are stored, make it a habit to shop your stash and your scraps first.

### 4. Start sorting!

It's time to sort! Start at your ironing station if your scraps need a press. Grab a ruler and rotary cutter if you want to trim scraps to a specific size. Start making piles of scraps if you plan to sort by color or value.

Once you finish sorting, take a picture. It's nice to see the progress you've made, plus it may give you guidance on what to do the next time you sort scraps. Put the scraps away in your storage system. Or better yet, leave out the ones you can use in your next project.

### 5. Share the scraps.

If you have leftover scraps you just don't want anymore, it's time to free the scraps! Ask your quilting friends or guild members if anyone is interested in taking or swapping scraps. It's okay to let go of fabric that no longer serves a purpose for you. Instead of sending the scraps to a landfill, see if you can find someone who will use them.

**Thank you for participating in International Scrap Sorting Day!**