

# What To Do With Left-Over Batting Scraps

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If you have been a quilter for very long, you have probably accumulated quite a few left-over batting scraps. What can you do with them? Recently Karen Overton compiled this list from members of her longarm online groups. We hope you enjoy her suggestions, even the silly ones!

- ✂ Rough cut a 9 × 12 inch rectangle to use in your Swiffer™. Bonus, you can turn it over and use the other side too!
- ✂ Cut 5 inch squares to use to make coasters.
- ✂ Use small odd shaped pieces as furniture dusters.
- ✂ Have a small piece of batting at your sewing table to collect loose threads.

- ✂ Have another small piece of batting at the ironing station to collect threads that you trim off while ironing.
- ✂ Pre-test thread tension settings by sandwiching left-over batting pieces between muslin trimmings, cutting them into squares of 6–10 inches and moving the sandwich around under the needle. For longarmers, clamp longer pieces to the take-up roller and lean on the other end with your tummy to test thread tensions.
- ✂ Wipe the machine down with batting. Cut cotton batting into small squares and keep a stack next to the machine to wipe up oil leaks and wipe down the extra oil when oiling the machine. These pieces can also be used to wipe up lint buildup.
- ✂ Make small quilts for use in front of your coffee pot or other places where you get drips!
- ✂ Make quilt-as-you-go placemats. I love to use my scraps for placemats for myself and for gifts. Cut batting into approximately 14 × 20 inch pieces and add to whatever you choose for top and backing. I also use this same size of batting scrap to make strip cut mats. These are easy, fast and help use up my fabric scraps, making great placemats or mats for tables under lamps, plants, etc.
- ✂ Use batting for a 'diaper' for your longarm. (Tuck a small piece under the bobbin area when the machine is parked.)
- ✂ Donate the batting scraps to your local senior center where they can be used to make small crafts.
- ✂ Give batting scraps to a group of ladies who make raggedy quilts for charity.
- ✂ The Cotton Theory™ table runner pattern uses small strips of batting.
- ✂ A small piece of 80/20 batting placed around the thread in the guide on my serger-type adapter keeps the thread from knotting or getting loose.
- ✂ Use extra batting for dog kennels and donate some to the local animal shelter. Or donate your practice muslin pieces to the local animal shelter for doggie or kitty blankets.
- ✂ Use small scraps for pot holders.
- ✂ Our local hospital ladies' auxiliary uses batting scraps to make 'heart' pillows for heart surgery patients to hold to their chest when they have to cough or (heaven forbid) sneeze. They also use it for pillows to give to all the children who come into the ER.
- ✂ Use batting scraps to pack in boxes when sending a package. Using batting for this purpose is great because it does not weigh as much as newspaper and yet provides far better protection.
- ✂ Use batting scraps as a base for fiber post cards and journal sized quilts.
- ✂ Wrap a piece of batting around the seat belt that bites your neck!
- ✂ Whack off a chunk of batting (precise cutting here, you notice) and safety pin it to your right shoulder. Toss loose threads onto the pad while stitching.
- ✂ Use batting scraps to make 'envelopes' for holding kits for classes. Anything over 10 inches would work.



Photo by Pam Dransfeldt, The Joyful Quilter

**Joy gets comfortable.**

Pixxie surveys ~~his~~ her batting kingdom.

*My sweet professional quilt model is  
a she not a he Karen*

- ✂ Give the scraps to the Girl Scouts to sew together and use for their first quilts (usually one block pillows).
- ✂ Use left-over batting in the winter to 'chink' leaky windows or make draft stoppers.
- ✂ Wrap a batting scrap around the broom and use it to knock down the spider webs. Then just throw it away—no messy broom bristles.
- ✂ Wrap a batting scrap around that casserole you are taking to the potluck to protect your hands from the heat. If food leaks onto the scrap, it can be thrown away!
- ✂ Cut a scrap a bit smaller than your lamp base and use it to protect your table.
- ✂ Use batting scraps to remove chalk marks on quilt tops.
- ✂ Use small scraps to erase the black marker lines off a white board.
- ✂ Use scraps for stuffing in teddy bears and hand-crafted animals.
- ✂ Make quilted purses.
- ✂ Use batting scraps for making the front portion of your anatomy appear to be more ample than it really is. Batting scraps are *much* better than socks for this purpose.
- ✂ Pincushions.
- ✂ Fabric Christmas ornaments.
- ✂ Christmas stockings.
- ✂ Use scraps to pad photo album covers.
- ✂ Cut batting in 2 to 2½ inch squares, bundle a dozen scraps together with ribbon and give them to friends for make-up removal.
- ✂ Give scraps to guild members for craft projects—I try to remember to measure and tag scraps as to size so I will know if they are big enough for table runners, etc.
- ✂ I make a 6 inch quilt block and using a small piece of batting, quilt it up, bind it and give it away!
- ✂ You know the small drawers available in the tool section of the hardware store that hold nails, bolts and washers? I use those for jewelry. I place small pieces of batting on the bottom of each drawer so rings, necklaces, and bracelets do not slide around when I pull the drawer open.
- ✂ I use really small pieces of batting to wipe up scraps of cloth that have been dropped on a smooth tile floor.
- ✂ I roll larger pieces of batting and place them at the folds when folding my quilts for storage. This keeps the fabric from breaking down.
- ✂ I make *tons* of the raw edge quilts and have taught all my relatives to do likewise. We take two 8 inch squares of fabric and put a 6 inch square of batting in between. Sew an X over the sandwich—this makes one block. Sew all those squares together into a quilt with the raw edges all to one side, either the top or the bottom. Clip the raw edges up to about ¼ of the seams every ¼ inch or so, and wash till it is fluffy.
- ✂ I place batting scraps between my good seasonal glass plates so they do not scratch each other.
- ✂ I sew cotton batting scraps together to make rice bags. Then I either use these hot or cold for soothing my achy body, *or...* I place the rice bags on my quilts to take up the slack while I am quilting a non-square, non-flat quilt.
- ✂ Use scraps as snow at Christmas for decorating around little trees or your nativity scene.
- ✂ Use left-over batting in trapunto.
- ✂ I made a small padded camera case to wrap around my point and shoot camera, and put a little pocket in the front for extra memory cards. The case and pocket are kept closed with Velcro™ and the neck strap comes out of the side of the top alongside the Velcro.
- ✂ I actually have used small bits of cotton or cotton-blend batting to act as a cushion between my lip and retainer gone haywire while I wait to get into the dentist!
- ✂ My DH (dear husband) is an avid hunter. He uses leftover 100% cotton batting as 'wads' when he is muzzle-loading. Small squares can also be used for cleaning and oiling guns. 