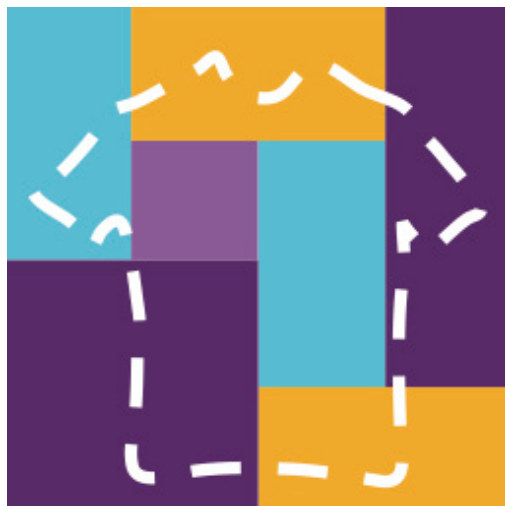


Too Cool T-shirt Quilts®

Athletic T-shirt Quilt Buyer's Guide

A T-shirt quilt made from your athletic T-shirts and clothing is a wonderful way of preserving memories of your sporting accomplishments. Too Cool T-shirt Quilts® is the leading maker of athletic T-shirt quilts. Having made thousands of quilts, we understand the level of knowledge you need to have in order to make informed decisions about transforming your T-shirts into a valued quilt. That's why we have written this guide. We have gathered answers to the most important questions customers ask about having athletic T-shirt quilts made. Hopefully, this guide will answer your questions.



**You are more than welcome to
call us here at Too Cool T-shirt Quilts®
with any questions you have
about your T-shirt quilt.**

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What items and fabrics can be included in my athletic T-shirt quilt?

The term T-shirt quilt tends to suggest that only T-shirts can be used in a quilt. However, [Too Cool T-shirt Quilts®](#) can use any fabric that is machine washable in a T-shirt quilt. This means we can incorporate technical fabrics, racing numbers, jerseys, swimming suits, baseball hats, and almost anything else you or your athlete has acquired through playing sports.

Technical fabrics are those that are predominantly made from synthetic fibers that wick sweat away from the body and tend to be lightweight and breathable. Many other T-shirt companies do not allow you to use technical fabrics in T-shirt quilts for two reasons. First, if they are using iron on backing on your T-shirts to stiffen the fabric, they can't use it on your technical fabric because the heat of the iron will melt the fabric. The other reason for not using technical fabrics is that they require expert sewing skills because technical fabrics can be difficult to sew into a quilt. However, at Too Cool T-shirt Quilts® we do not use iron on backing because we expert sewers with the know-how to use technical fabric. We also love the texture tech adds to a quilt.

The other items you can include in your quilt will be covered under the sport specific information. Too Cool T-shirt Quilts® can use just about any type of fabric in your T-shirt Quilt. Don't hesitate to send any item you would like to use in your quilt. If we can't figure out how to use it, we will return the item to you with the quilt.

How do I choose which items to put in my athletic T-shirt quilt?

A T-shirt quilt tells a story. Your athletic T-shirt quilt will tell a story about your sporting life. So you would want to include those T-shirts that help tell the story. If you have done many different sports, you might have enough T-shirts to make one quilt from items from each sport. Or you may choose to tell a more comprehensive story by including your favorite T-shirts from

each of the different sports you participated in. You would not want to include T-shirts that don't add to your story. For example, you wouldn't want to include one T-shirt from the play you were in in high school.

In order to figure out what size quilt you would like and what you would like to put in the quilt, we would suggest that you first divide your T-shirts by race type, sport, team, years or any other way you see to divide your T-shirts up. Then, count how many T-shirts you have in each pile.



Next, check out the [How Many T-shirt page](#) on our web site. Find the size quilt you want and then compare it to the total number of T-shirts you have. Or check the approximate number of T-shirts you have and see what size quilt those would make.



If you have way too many T-shirts for the size you are looking to have made, then pull out various categories of T-shirts to see if you are closer to the size you are looking to have made. If there are still too many T-shirts for the size you desire, we suggest giving the T-shirts a priority status. First, make a pile of T-shirts that must be in your quilt. Then, make a second pile of T-shirts that you would really like to be in the quilt, but would be okay with if they did not make it. The remaining T-shirts can then be either weeded-out or made into a third pile to be used if neces-

sary after all of the other T-shirts have been used. When you send your T-shirts in to be made into your quilt, separate these piles into individual plastic bags and note on the bags to use first, second and last.

If, after all of this separating of T-shirts, there are still too many T-shirts for the size of quilt you had initially desired, consider going up to the next quilt size, having two quilts made, or having a quilt and a pillow made. If you don't have enough T-shirts to make the quilt size you would like, then consider a smaller quilt, a pillow or adding a border to make your quilt larger.



Remember, the number of T-shirts needed for each size quilt is an approximate number! It may take more or less depending on the number and size of the graphics on your T-shirts. Count one T-shirt as one T-shirt. If you have small designs on just one side of most of your T-shirts, you will need more than if you have large designs on both sides of the T-shirts.

Other choice considerations:

Advertisement: Many T-shirts from athletic events include advertising on the back of the T-shirts. Unless noted otherwise, we usually do not use the ads on the back because we find that most customers do not want to use the precious space in the quilt on unimportant ads. If you would like the ads to be included, please note this on your order form or on a piece of blue painter's tape on the T-shirts which have the ads you would like to be included.

Numbers: Athletes tend to have a favorite number(s) that they have used from youth sports teams all through adulthood. This results in a large amount of T-shirts and jerseys with the same number. If the recipient of the quilt desires to have their number in the quilt repeatedly, we are happy to include it. We will also attempt to disperse the numbers evenly throughout the quilt. However, similar to ads, sometimes our



customers prefer to only include numbers a few times to save space within the quilt for other T-shirts. If you find you have too many T-shirts, eliminating duplicate numbers will help make the quilt smaller.

Duplicates: Similar to numbers, many T-shirts can be duplicates of one another. If you are finding that you have too many T-shirts for the size of quilt you would like, consider eliminating any T-shirts that are duplicates. If they are the same design, but different colors, consider picking your favorite color or the T-shirt that is in better condition and eliminating the other.

Color: If all of your T-shirts are the same color, except one or two of them, you need to consider if you want to use those odd colored T-shirts. This is because your eye will be drawn to those blocks and the rest will become the background. For example, the school colors are red and white. All the T-shirts you are putting into the quilt are red, white, gray and black. Do you want to put one lime green shirt into this quilt? You need to think carefully about this because that one lime green shirt will stick out. Your eye will be drawn to that one block. If the shirt is that important, perhaps that is OK. There is no right or wrong answer, but you need to be able to live with the results.



How do I collect T-shirts to make an athletic quilt?

If you are having a quilt made for an athlete other than yourself, sometimes collecting the shirts can be difficult, especially if the quilt is a surprise. If your athlete is a spouse, son or daughter and the quilt is a surprise, often you sneak the shirts from the wash. All the while the unknowing athlete can't figure out why his T-shirts are disappearing. This can be a long process and can even take years to assemble enough T-shirts. If the quilt is not a surprise, then the process can be much shorter. The athlete can work with you to supply all of the apparel for the athletic quilt.



Why should I have my T-shirt quilt made by Too Cool T-shirt Quilts®?

Have you done a Google Image search for Athletic T-shirt Quilts? If so, you will know that nearly all the quilts look like checker boards. They are not cool. Heck, they aren't even interesting! Your T-shirts are cool and interesting. So why should your quilt be boring and just like anyone else's quilt?

Too Cool T-shirt Quilts® can take your Athletic T-shirts and turn them into a work of art. Some of the great things that make a Too Cool T-shirt Quilts® interesting are:

- All the blocks are cut to fit the design on the T-shirt. Many Athletic T-shirts have very large designs. Why would you want the design cut off to fit a pre-determined block size?
- We can use more than just the front or back of the T-shirt. We can use the front, back and sleeves. We can use anything in your quilt that you can wash in a washing machine. Think beyond the T-shirt.



- Each block is individually quilted. Most other quilters will just turn on their computerized long arm sewing machine then walk away and let their computer quilt your quilt. Here at Too Cool T-shirt Quilts®, an artist does the quilting. Your quilt will be as unique as you are.
- When we are quilting, we will trace some of the designs on the T-shirts so you can see the design on the back of the quilt too. This is so cool. If you are like most people when seeing the quilting on the back of a Too Cool T-shirt Quilts®, it will knock your socks off!

Don't just trust your T-shirts to anyone with a pair of scissors and a sewing machine. It takes experience and skill to make an awesome T-shirt quilt. Too Cool T-shirt Quilts® is the right company to make your Athletic T-shirts into a quilt.



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Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, Football

Athletic quilts for these sports are made all the time here at Too Cool T-shirt Quilts®. The major concern our customers have is if we can use the jersey material with all the little holes



in it. Yes, we use jerseys in our quilts all the time. We can also use the silky type jersey material that soccer players wear. Socks? Yes, we also use those. The items you would not want to use are pads.

Ice Skating, Gymnastics, Swimming, Dance, Cheerleading, Skiing/Snowboarding

T-shirt quilts for these sports include T-shirts and sweatshirts. But we can also include pieces from unique outfits or suits from these sports. Although some of the materials from these outfits are stretchy, our sewers are experts using these materials without having to iron-on a stabilizing material. Excluding swimsuits, these athletic outfits may also include gathering, ruffling or pleating. Again, Too Cool T-shirt Quilt's® sewers are experts at using these fabrics. Gathers, ruffles and pleats add a nice texture to the quilt and will be quilted by our skilled quilters so that the texture is not completely flattened down. Remember, as long as the outfit can be washed in a washing machine, it can be included in your quilt.



Tennis, Equestrian & Golf

Tennis: Tennis T-shirts tend to be white. If all your T-shirts are white except one or two shirts, you need to consider the use of those non-white T-shirts. Those one or two colored blocks will stick out – they will be the only things you see. Consider making your quilt all white. It will be much more colorful than you might expect.

Golf: Golf shirts tend to have very small breast emblems. It will take a lot of golf shirts to make a T-shirt quilt. 10 golf shirts equal one T-shirt. It could take as many as 483 golf shirts to make a full size quilt!

Equestrian: We can use anything from your uniforms or outfits that can be washed. However, we cannot use the ribbons from equestrian events because they will shrink in the washing machine and ruin the quilt.



Runners

Runners tend to accumulate a large collection of T-shirts because they get one each time they race. When contemplating a T-shirt quilt made from those race T-shirts, be sure to consider the story those T-shirts will tell. Do you want to include other types of T-shirts or use only race T-shirts?

Also, consider if your collection is actually complete. If you have raced the same race each year since its inception and plan to race that same race until you can't run any more, each of those race T-shirts belong in one T-shirt quilt. It will not be time to make that quilt until you miss a year or even die. For many people, this may mean that the quilt will need to be made after you are deceased. As unfortunate as it sounds, the T-shirts have more meaning and value when they are all together.



last over time in a T-shirt quilt. We have taken a race number and washed it approximately 50 times. The results were great, the race number handled the washing wonderfully!

This means you are welcome to include your race numbers with your T-shirts. We can even sew them onto the bottom of the corresponding race T-shirt. If you would like the race numbers sewn onto the corresponding T-shirt, either fold them together or use a piece of blue painter's tape to tape the number to the sleeve of the shirts. Be sure to leave us a message

on your order form or on the tape so we know you want the race numbers on the T-shirt. Please also remove any timing chips/strips from the back of the numbers as well as safety pins. Unfortunately, any stickers with your race information will not survive the washing machine.



Bicyclists

If you are a bicyclist, you know bicycle jerseys. They are typically made with stretchy fabrics, the entire jersey is printed, there are three elastic pockets on the back, and a zipper in the front. These four characteristics can scare even a seasoned seamstress away from using them in a T-shirt quilt. Not only can Too Cool T-shirt Quilts® use bike jerseys in T-shirt quilts, we can make a quilt entirely from bike jerseys.

Too Cool T-shirt Quilt®'s founder, Andrea Funk, is a bicyclist. So she was never scared away from using bike jerseys. Quite the opposite, she looked for opportunities to make T-shirt quilts with bike jerseys and quilts entirely from jerseys. Our bicycle jersey quilts are very interesting and have some fun features. We try to save pockets, zippers, and large designs which make the quilt very interactive. After quilting, the zippers can be unzipped to reveal a quilting design and the pockets are left open and usable. They are very interactive quilts.



Baseball & Softball

Baseball and softball players of all levels and skills collect T-shirts, jerseys, ball caps, jackets, pants and even bags. Too Cool T-shirt Quilts® can use all of these items in a quilt. Below are photos that show how each of these items can be used in a Too Cool® T-shirt quilt.

Jerseys/Uniforms: Most baseball and softball players end up with jerseys, specifically the button up type that has the team name split across the center where it buttons up. These jerseys are important since they are the uniforms that were worn. Some sewers find them difficult to work with, but at Too Cool T-shirt Quilts, we use them all the time.

Jersey/Uniform Pants: Baseball and softball pants can be used in a number of different ways. One is to use the

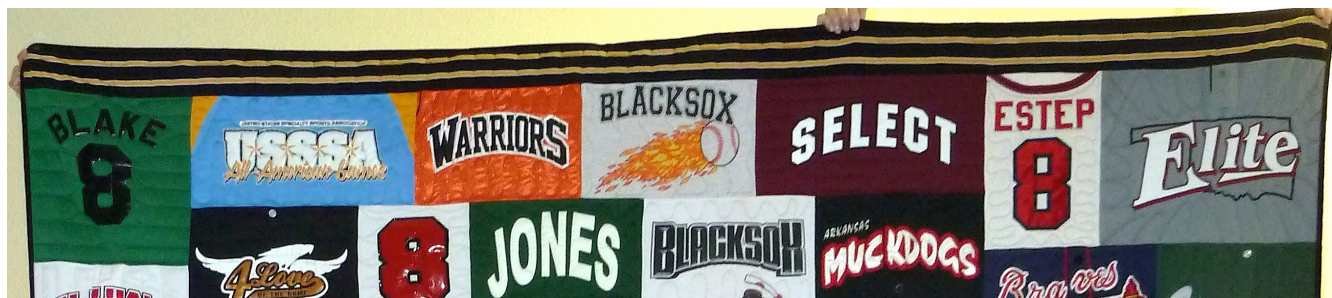
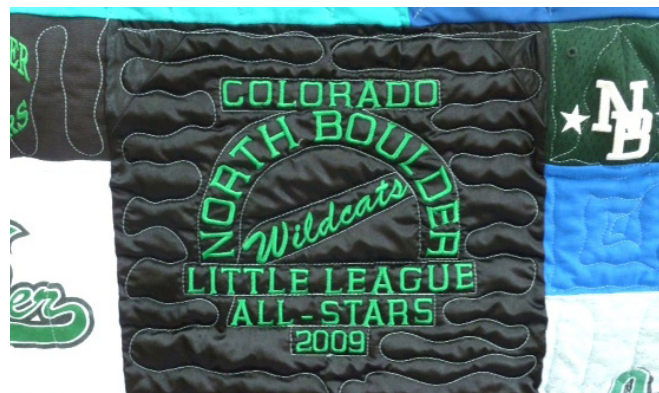


pants to make a border for the quilt – either top, top and bottom or around the entire quilt. Another way is to use a piece from the pants within the quilt. This might be a pocket, the stripe on the side or the stirrup on the bottom. Send the pants, we like to use them.

Ball Caps: Ball players end up with a lot of ball caps. Actually, there are very few men out there that do not have too many ball caps! The good news is that they work just fine in a T-shirt quilt. So feel free to send them in with the T-shirts and other items. Either we are able to get a piece large enough from the cap to make a block or we use the emblem from the cap as we would use a patch.



Bags & Jackets: These items also go along with playing ball. We love to use these items in quilts because they add texture to a quilt. The silkiness of the jacket is a great texture counterpoint to the T-shirts or other fabrics.



Hockey

Most hockey players have two jerseys, one for home games and one for away games. The longer they play the more jerseys they accumulate. Travel hockey team players have even more jerseys. And they are not inexpensive! Of course, they cost even more if they are personalized with the player's name. So you have some money invested in the jerseys and you can't bring yourself to throw them away. That is okay. A Too Cool T-shirt Quilts provides a solution. We can make quilts from hockey jerseys. Most quilters will shy away from mesh material because it is difficult to work with and they can't iron on interfacing to it. But here at Too Cool T-shirt Quilts we enjoy using mesh material. The nylon adds a nice feel to the quilt. We can also mix jersey material in with regular T-shirt or sweatshirt materials.

There are a few things to note about hockey jersey quilts however.

- They are very heavy. This is because we have to put another layer under the shirt so the holes don't show the batting.



Karate, Tae Kwon Do, Jujutsu (Judo)

Karate, Tae Kwon Do, and Jujutsu practitioners wear uniforms that vary in weight and style. As students grow, they replace their uniforms moving from a lighter fabric to a heavier and stiffer fabric that is a little more expensive. If the practitioner has saved these uniforms, they can be used in a Too Cool T-shirt Quilt. We can use the neckline, pieces of the fabric or both.

Some uniforms will include printed logo and/or patches. These patches can easily be used as well.

As practitioners progress through skill levels they earn higher-ranking belts (obi). Old belts are an important symbol of skill and accomplishment and are rarely thrown away. Belts tend to be even thicker than the uniform (karategi) but can still be used in a Too Cool T-shirt Quilt. The belts are very



important and add character to a quilt. We can use the full belt in a border or cut pieces from the belt to use in the quilt. If you have a preference of how the belts are used, please note this on your order form or make a note on blue painter's tape to stick on the belts.



What's the Next Step?

We hope that this guide has helped you think about what you want in a T-shirt quilt. What's your next step? Below are a number of links for you.

**Learn How to Have
a Quilt Made**

**Contact
Too Cool T-shirt Quilts®**

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