

# **5 Best Ways to Use Orphan Quilt blocks**

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# OMG! This thing is Awful!

If you have been quilting for very long then you probably have at least one of these. A quilt block that didn't turn out quite the way you wanted, the start of a quilt top that just isn't coming together right, that fabric that looked great when you bought it. Any of these are hard to just toss out but what are you going to do with them. Here are a few ideas to help you along.



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A close-up, slightly out-of-focus image of a dog's face, likely a Weimaraner, with light-colored fur and dark eyes, looking towards the camera. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

Use 1

## Small pouch

These are just small bags and are great for holding small items in larger bags. I keep small items sorted and easy to find in several larger bags. In my purse I have one for small medicine bottles I use for headaches, arthritis and hay fever.

I keep them in my craft project bags to store the small items like scissors, tape measure, and marking pencils. I keep threads and bobbins in one bag and clips (instead of pins) in another one.

I just adjust the pouch size to fit what I am using. I also check the zipper size. Generally I sew the zipper on so the tabs hang out rather than inside. Makes it easier to open and close the bag

These also make great gifts.

[Click here for a free pattern>](#)

A close-up photograph of a dog's face, likely a pit bull or similar breed, looking directly at the camera. The image is heavily overlaid with a solid green color, which serves as the background for the text. The dog's eyes are visible, and its fur texture is partially obscured by the green overlay.

## Use 2

# Pet Beds

Small quilts or quilt sections make great pet beds and are also great for practicing your quilting on. If you don't have any pets these make great gifts or donate to any local animal shelter.

I use batting scraps from previous quilts large scraps of fabric for the backing. Keep it simple as these generally won't last long the the animals really love them.

Another way if you don't want to quilt it would be to make it like a pillow.

I use my fabric scraps for stuffing and something soft like flannel or fleece for the back. If it is rather large I usually tie in a few places, or sew channels, to help keep the stuffing from moving to much.

The pattern link below uses an old bed pillow for stuffing.

[Click here for a simple pattern >](#)



Use 3

## Tote Bag

Bags are always a great way to use orphan blocks and fabric is just don't know why you have. I am always looking for a bag whether it is for shopping or gather supplies for a project. The blocks make an easy pocket.

I usually start with a simple tote pattern and adjust as needed. I may have to sew some fabric pieces together to get the size I want.

For the pocket I cut a piece of fabric the same size as the block for lining and sew on 3 side. Before I start sewing the tote, I add the pocket by sewing the bottom, unfinished edge, flip the pocket up and top stitch the two sides.

[Click here to view a simple tote pattern >](#)



## Use 4

# Bowl Cozy

Bowl cozies are great for holding hot or cold bowls or use as trinket catchers. A great item for your night stand if you wear jewelry that you take off when you go to bed. Everything goes right into the "bowl" and is waiting for you when you get up.

Just remember if you are going to use this in the microwave to not use any materials with metal in them, this includes Teflon.

[Click for a free basic pattern >](#)

A background image of two dogs, one on the left and one on the right, both looking towards the camera. The dog on the left is a light-colored breed, possibly a Weimaraner, and the dog on the right is a darker breed, possibly a Labrador Retriever. The background is a solid green color.

## Use 5

# Donation

Most local quilting guilds will take your fabric donations. They usually make charity quilts for some local organization(s). Ours makes quilts for burn out and crime victims. Mostly they will want 100 percent cotton but you will need to check with them.

If you don't know what guilds are in your area try asking your quilt shop and quilting friends.

[Click here to view a helpful resource >](#)

# Please don't toss, Re-purpose!

Ask your quilting friends what they do with there "I want to just toss it" items. They may have some really great ideas. Always remember "One man's trash is another man's treasure". Happy Crafting

**LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU MAKE!**