



Graphic Novelty

Make a patchwork quilt with vintage scarves.

BY LINDSAY BROWN AND SARAH GEE

We love the abstract geometric shapes found on women's scarves from the 1960s and 70s. With their bright colors and bold motifs, each scarf is like a modern abstract painting. As vintage fabric collectors, we've amassed a large collection of scarves that we were unable to use in the making of our other home decor products. Since the bold graphic effect of these scarves is mostly lost when wrapped around the body, we decided to find a way to put them on display. A bedspread seemed the ideal way to exhibit the scarves' full potential.



Fig. A: Lay out your scarves to find a nice composition. We rejected a few of these scarves in favor of ones we preferred. Fig. B: Use sharp scissors to cut your scarves. They should all be identical in size. Fig. C: With right

sides together, serge each scarf to the next using a 4-thread serging hem or the method of your choice. Fig. D: Once you have 4 strips of 4 scarves each you'll serge them together to make the silk side of your bed-

Materials

- » **16 vintage scarves** approximately 26"–27" square, made of silk, rayon, acetate, or similar fabric
- » **5yds hemp/cotton fabric** for backing, in a light color with subtle or no pattern
- » **3–4 bobbins of serger thread** in light gray or pale sage green
- » **1 bobbin of [serger?] thread** in a pale neutral to match your backing fabric
- » **1 spool of [serger?] thread (optional)** in tangerine orange, for the decorative border
- » **Serger**
- » **Pins**
- » **Large, very sharp sewing scissors**
- » **Chalk or permanent marker**
- » **Double-sided tape for sewing**
- » **25½" square of corrugated cardboard** to cut a template

1. Collect scarves.

Although we use 16 scarves arranged in a 4×4 grid, collect a few more to ensure a set that matches. The scarves should be 26" or 27" square to make a bedspread approximately 100" square.

2. Design your bedcover.

Lay out your scarves – there are no rules (Figure A). Play around with your composition until it clicks.

3. Cut the scarves.

Cut every scarf to the exact dimensions you decide upon (Figure B). For our 4×4 scarf bedspread, we use a template of exactly 25½" square, which works well with most scarves. Cut your scarves any smaller and you'll start to lose the scarf's design.

Make a 25½" square template out of cardboard, and use a fine permanent marker or chalk line marker to rule lines on the scarves before you cut. Use a light pressure with your drawing tool: scarves, even silk, are stretchy and they don't keep still!

4. Sew the scarves together.

Make 4 strips of 4 scarves each, using 3- or 4-thread serging. Serge one scarf to the next (Figure C) until



E



F



G



H

Fig E: The reversible bedspread should have a medium-weight backing in a neutral color. Fig. F: Serge both sides together along all 4 sides, leaving about 10" at the end. Turn inside out, then topstitch around the whole

bedspread ¼" from the edge. Fig. G: Tack the silk side to the backing, at all 9 points in the grid. Fig. H: The Vintage Scarf Bedspread is fully reversible!

you have a strip of 4. Make 3 more strips, (Figure D), then serge your 4 strips together. You should now have a flowy bedspread approximately 100" square. Iron it on medium-low heat.

*** TIP: Since silk or polyester is slippery, it's hard to keep the 2 starting edges lined up exactly. To solve this, join right sides together with double-sided tape before serging.**

5. Make the backing.

We use an organic hemp/cotton medium-weight fabric for the backing. Since many scarves are semi translucent, your fabric should be relatively light in color. Pre-shrink it before cutting.

Our fabric comes in 60" widths, so to make a 100" square backing, we cut 3 pieces: 60"×101", 41"×60", and 41"×41" (Figure E). Serge or sew with a straight stitch the 2 short pieces together. Then serge this strip to the long piece. You now have a backing with 2 perpendicular seams. Iron it.

6. Measure and trim the silk side.

Your scarf piece should be somewhere between 99" and 101" square depending on your seam allow-

ances and serging style. It may be a little uneven in places, so trim it accordingly until it's adequately square. Now measure and trim the hemp backing to match the silk side exactly.

7. Sew the silk side to the backing.

Place the silk side and the backing right sides together and pin them around the edge. Starting at a corner, serge the entire edge together (Figure F) except the last 8"–10". Carefully pull the whole thing inside out through the opening.

Topstitch around the entire edge of the bedcover, ¼" from the edge. Add a subtle blanket stitch over the topstitched edge for added interest (optional).

8. Tack the backing to the scarves.

The silk side can become billowy, so we tack it to the backing with a single stitch at every point in the grid, 9 in all (Figure G). Tie off your ends discreetly.

■ For washing instructions, go to [TK].

Lindsay Brown and Sarah Gee are designers from Vancouver, Canada. They have produced unique homewares as Ouno Design since 2004. ounodesign.com