

## GICS #17 WORKSHOP NOTES FOR STASH BUSTER VEST

Tutor Pauline Rogers

[www.pqw.com.au](http://www.pqw.com.au)

Get creative with this very easy project that will use up fabric from your stash. You will **not need** a pattern to make this vest.

**Stash Buster Vest Classroom Bundles** – Available for purchase during GICS#17

- <https://pqw.com.au/product/gics17-class1/>
- <https://pqw.com.au/product/gics17-class2/>
- <https://pqw.com.au/product/gics17-class3/>
- <https://pqw.com.au/product/gics17-class4/>

### Getting Everything Ready -

The pattern for the vest is simply a pre-purchased T-shirt that is 2 to 3 sizes too large for the person you're making the vest for.

When I am making a vest, I choose the fabrics I'm going to be using and then I purchase a T-shirt.

### Choosing your T-Shirt -

The reason the T-shirt needs to be so much larger is because you will cut it apart, then stitch onto it, then sew it back together as the vest.

You can choose a T-shirt that blends or contrasts with your fabric selection.

The T-shirt does not need to be high quality, you may even find one at an op shop.

### Preparing the T-Shirt –

Turn the T-shirt inside out. Use good sharp scissors. I love to use the Jack Scissors as they are very sharp and have large openings for my fingers to fit through.

Cut off all the overlocking across the shoulders around the sleeves and up the sides to you have two pieces, a back and a front.

Press the front in half with a hot iron so you get an exact centre.

Cut on the pressed line, so now you have a back and two fronts.

### Cutting and preparing strips of fabrics and wadding -

With your rotary cutter, cut strips of fabric either 3 inches or 5 inches wide across the width of fabric.

Cut wadding the same size as your fabric strips.

If using 3" strips of fabric use the 1 ½" Weaver tool.

If using 5" strips, use the 2 ½" Weaver tool.

The number of strips needed will depend on the size vest you're making, what size strips you use and if you weave both the front and the back. I suggest cutting about 15 strips and preparing them first, as this will give a bit of an idea on the total number of strips you will need for the design you're creating.

Lay the wadding onto the wrong side of the fabric and fold each side in till they meet.



POW Weaver Sasher Tools

Thread up from the bottom over the center bar and back down through the Weaver tool.

Pin the end into the ironing surface.

Use the side of a hot dry iron to push the Weaver tool with the iron keeping the raw edges together. Continue pressing till the whole strip is done.

Repeat the pressing till all strips are done.

The number of strips needed will depend on whether you're going to weave every row or alternate or create your own design - there are so many options there are no rules.

### **Weaving the design -**

Lay the back of the T-shirt out on a flat surface with the wrong side facing up.

Starting from the center back, lay down your first strip with the raw edges facing the T-shirt. Continuing laying strips down to you fill up the whole back, making sure the strips are very close together right up against each other.

The strips that go on each of the outside edges will need to have one side opened out, as I have shown in the lesson. This allows for a less bulky edge when the side seams are sewed, when constructing the vest.

Use Roxanne glue to apply small dots under each of the strips at the top of the T-shirt.

Press with a hot Iron to set the glue.

Repeat the gluing at the bottom of the T-shirt to hold the strips in place. Be certain they're nice and straight, and very close to each other.

Use a Bodkin, attached to one end of the strip.

Start weaving this strip from the Bodkin end by going under the first strip, then over the second strip, under the third strip and over the fourth strip.

Continue weaving in this manner of under and over till you get to the side.

After weaving about four strips, use a Tapered Tailor's Awl and push the strips very close to each other. **This is a very important step.**

Continue weaving till you fill up the whole back.

Don't forget to open the outer edges of the top and bottom strip to reduce the bulk.

Check that all the strips are straight and that they are very close together.

Glue the end of the strips on both sides as you did with the first lot of strips.

Press with a hot iron.

Be certain all the strips are well glued in place and pressed before taking the back off the table.

Turn the back over to see that the T-shirt is lying very flat and not scrunched up or pulled in in some places.

If this has happened, adjustments were needed.

Lay out the two fronts with the wrong side up and repeat the weaving process on both fronts. This is where you can become very creative, especially if you do not have enough strips to weave the two fronts.

If this is the case that you don't have enough strips to weave both fronts, there are lots of different things to try.



Roxanne Glue Baste It

**Example:**

Simply by using the strips that are pressed and laying them next to each other and glue the ends you could trace a quilting design onto the strips and quilt through all the layers where you will then see the quilting on the T-shirt side of the vest.

You may like to use the Two different size strips and alternate them, then quilt.

You may weave one side of the front, but not the other side.

Try weaving the strips on the diagonal for a different effect. Remember it is your creation and there are no rules!

Once you have the fronts and the backs neatly onto the T-Shirt and you have stitched or quilted, trim back to the T-shirt shape.



*MonoPoly Thread*

**AN IMPORTANT TIP:**

After trimming all your Three pieces, I suggest you pin the shoulder seams and the side seams and try your garment on. It may still be a bit too large for you and you may need to trim it back further so take your time at this step to get your fit right.

**Lining –**

If you want your vest lined, simply lay the Three vest pieces that you have cut to the right size on top of your chosen lining fabric and use this as your pattern to cut out your lining pieces. And seam your desired seam allowance.

Do the same with the side seams.

Press the seams to get a nice finish.

**Constructing the vest –**

Stitch the vest together the same as the lining and press the seams open so they lay nice and flat.

Lay the lining inside the vest with the wrong sides together and pin well.

You may find it easy at this point to stitch around the edges to hold the outside and lining together, ready to bind the edges.

**Binding –**

Cut enough strips on the Bias 3" wide to go around the outside edge of the vest and enough strips to go around each armhole. Fold in half and feed into the 1 1/2" Sasher tool and press with hot iron.

Stitch the binding on from the wrong side and fold it to the front. Glue it down with the Roxanne glue and press the binding to set the glue. Then top stitch the binding down using the clear Mono – Poly thread.

If you want to make a jacket, you can use a wind cheater or Sloppy Joe and do the same as the instructions for the T-shirt.

A vest or jacket can be made any size in any style, following these simple deconstructing and reconstructing steps.

I hope you have enjoyed creating a fantastic one-of-a-kind garment for yourself or a family member.

Please send me photos when you get your creations completed.

Pauline



*POW 1 1/2" Sasher Tool*