

Before You Box Up Those Shirts, Read This First

What to save, what to skip, and how many shirts you actually need before you turn them into a memory quilt you'll keep forever.

A FREE GUIDE FROM
MARY'S CUSTOM QUILTING



Before We Get Started

Hi, I'm **Mary**. I've spent years turning boxes of shirts that were just sitting in a closet into quilts people actually wrap up in on the couch. And I've learned that most of the anxiety around memory quilts isn't about the sewing. It's about the shirts themselves. People are terrified of doing this wrong before they've even started.

So before you send anything anywhere, here's what you need to know.

How Many Shirts Do You Actually Need

You do not need a hundred shirts. You need enough for the size you want.

Quilt Size	Shirts Needed
Lap quilt	12 to 16 shirts
Throw size	18 to 24 shirts
Twin size	24 to 30 shirts
Queen size	30 to 40 shirts

If you have fewer than that, don't panic. We can add borders, pair shirts with photos printed on fabric, or mix in flannel or denim for texture. You are not disqualified for not having enough.

What To Save And What To Skip

SAVE THESE

- Any shirt with a logo, saying, or design that means something, even if it's stained or stretched
- Shirts from concerts, races, jobs, vacations, sports teams
- Baby onesies and kid shirts, these make some of the most special squares
- Jerseys and team shirts, we can work around the numbers

SKIP THESE

- Shirts with no image or design, plain colored tees don't usually make it in unless you want a solid color block somewhere
- Anything with holes so large there's no usable fabric left around the design
- Shirts that still smell like them, if you're not ready to wash them yet, tell me, we'll talk about

THINGS EVERYONE GETS WRONG

- Duplicates, you likely have five shirts from the same event, pick your favorite one or two
- Do not cut the shirts yourself. I know it's tempting to trim them down before you send them so the box is smaller. Please don't. I need the extra fabric around each design to work with, and once it's cut, I can't get it back. Send them whole. I promise the box will still fit through your front door.



What Happens Next

- 1 I sort and inspect everything, and if anything is questionable, I reach out to you first
- 2 We talk through layout, size, and backing color together. I will create a mockup of what the quilt will look like for your review and approval.
- 3 I stabilize each shirt so the fabric won't stretch or fray during construction
- 4 I piece, quilt, and bind the whole thing
- 5 I add a label, which you can add a special commemoration if you choose. This will include "Made by Mary's Custom Quilting" and the date.
- 6 You get a quilt, not a pile of shirts anymore, but the whole story stitched into something you can actually use

A Note On Timing

If this is for a specific occasion, a birthday, a holiday, an anniversary of a loss, tell me that date as early as possible. Memory quilts take real time to do right, and I would rather tell you honestly whether we can make a deadline rather than rush something this meaningful.



Ready to talk about your shirts? I would be honored to help you turn what's in that box into something you hold onto for the next fifty years.

Mary Malone

MARY'S CUSTOM QUILTING

Let's Get Your Heirloom Started

ablequilter@gmail.com