

Selvage Quilts: CQG #148, 149, 150
 Quiltmaker/Owner: Barb Olson (#044)

Selvage Quilts (or Selvedge in the UK and Canada) started appearing around 2010 as an innovative quilting style, or *extreme scrap quilting*. Selvage use fit into the emerging discussion about sustainability in quilting - reduce, reuse, recycle¹. The selvage of a piece of fabric is the lightly woven edge that runs lengthwise along the fabric - the straight grain or warp direction. The purpose of the selvage weave is to keep the grain straight and prevent unraveling in the printing process. The selvage of quilter cottons is the “branding” strip. Most have “dots” of the colours printed on the fabric, like a painters pallet, along with the designer/company identification. Recently designers have added “fun” elements to the branding. For example, *Tula Pink*’s line *Nightshade {Déjà Vu}*, under the *Free Spirit* fabric company, have coloured skulls instead of dots to identify the colours in the pallet. This detail and the flush of the written text makes the selvage a fun piece to use in quilt making.

The selvage is cut off the yardage before the quilt patches are cut. If left on a patch it distorts the edge. In the past the selvage was cut away and discarded or maybe used to tie fabric bundles. Or, it might have been used as household string - as cotton is compostable the strips might have been used in the garden to tie raspberry canes or the like.

Barb cut her selvages at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch into the actual fabric - selvage + $\frac{1}{2}$ ” of fabric - to give space for sewing a seam or overlapping the selvages and top stitching. Barb used the method where the strips are glued together with a washable glue to hold them in place before sewing. She sewed them together or to a background fabric using the *overlap method and top-stitching*. For the overlap method the $\frac{1}{2}$ ” of fabric is the space for the next selvage strip to land. She found white thread was best for sewing.

Barb found instructions online from various sites and used the book: *Riel Nason, Modern Selvage Quilting*, C&T Publishing Inc, 2016. Besides these quilts, Barb made a variety of bags and even lamp shades from the ‘selvage fabric’ that she created. She presented her “Selvages Show” to the Cranbook Guild, the North Star Quilters in Kimberley, and the Blue Mountain Guild of Port Coquitlam.

CQG#148 - *Which way to the fabric store?*

CQG#149 - *Roman Strips block*

CQG#150 - *Selvage Creations*

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ID Number	#148	#149	#150
Pattern	Riel Nason, <i>Modern Selvage Quilting</i> , C&T Publishing Inc, 2016	Quilt Makers Blog Network	Quilt Makers Blog Network
Date	Specific date: 2016	2015	2015/16
Size	L 61 $\frac{3}{4}$ ” x W 61 $\frac{3}{4}$ ”	L 47 x W 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ ”	L 65” x W 49 $\frac{3}{4}$ ”

¹ See Canadian Quilters magazine article series: Bridget O’Flaherty, “*Sustainable Quilting - Part One to Eight*, Canadian Quilter, CQA/CAA, 2023-2025.

Overall Style	Finished Quilt Scrappy, Selvages Repeated blocks Sash & Block	Finished Quilt Scrappy, Salvages Medallion-Unequal 9 Patch	Finished Quilt Scrappy, Selvages Sash & Block Repeated blocks
Block	L 16" x W 16", square Plain sashing Brackman #1718.5 (V) (Arrowhead)	Medallion: L 26" x W 26", Unequal 9 patch with pieced corners, 16 HST patches (6½" square)	Block: L 12" x W 12", square, Plain sashing Brackman # 2375a (V) (Triangle design)
Sashing	W 2", straight, one fabric, Colour: green		W 3", straight, one fabric, Colour: green
Border	W 5", straight, one fabric, Colour: green	Border 1: W 2", straight, one fabric, Colour: red Border 2: W 4", pieced - irregular stripes, straight, cornerstones: HSTs Border 3: W 4½", one fabric, straight, Colour: red	W 4", one fabric, straight, Colour: green
Edge finishing	Binding: W ½", straight, machine front & back Colour: green	Binding: W ½", straight, machine front & back Colour: red	Binding: W ½", straight, machine front & back Colour: green mottled
Batting	polyester, low loft	polyester, low loft	polyester, low loft
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave & selvage weave Feature colour: multi - white, off-white, red navy, orange Motif: selvages, writing, geometric Background colour: green, Motif: mottled	Cotton, plain weave & selvage weave Feature colour: multi - white, off-white, red navy, orange Motif: selvages, writing, geometric Background colour: red Motif: mottled	Cotton, plain weave & selvage weave Feature colour: multi - white, off-white, red navy, orange Motif: selvages, writing, geometric Background colour: green, Motif: plain/solid
Top piecing method	Machine Top-stitiched Strip	Machine Top-stitiched Strip	Machine Top-stitiched Strip
Backing	Pieced Cotton, plain weave	Pieced Cotton, plain weave	Pieced Cotton, plain weave

Quilting	Domestic Machine Thread: 40wt <i>Isacord</i> Pattern: edge -to-edge stipple	Domestic Machine Thread: 40wt <i>Isacord</i> Patterns: in-the-ditch, swirls, parallel lines	Domestic Machine Thread: Domestic Machine Thread: 40wt <i>Isacord</i> Patterns: fleur-de-lis, ribbon candy, loops, in- the-ditch
Label	<i>Barb Olson, 2016</i>	<i>Barb Olson 2015</i>	<i>Barb Olson 2015/16</i>
Condition	Unused	Unused	Unused