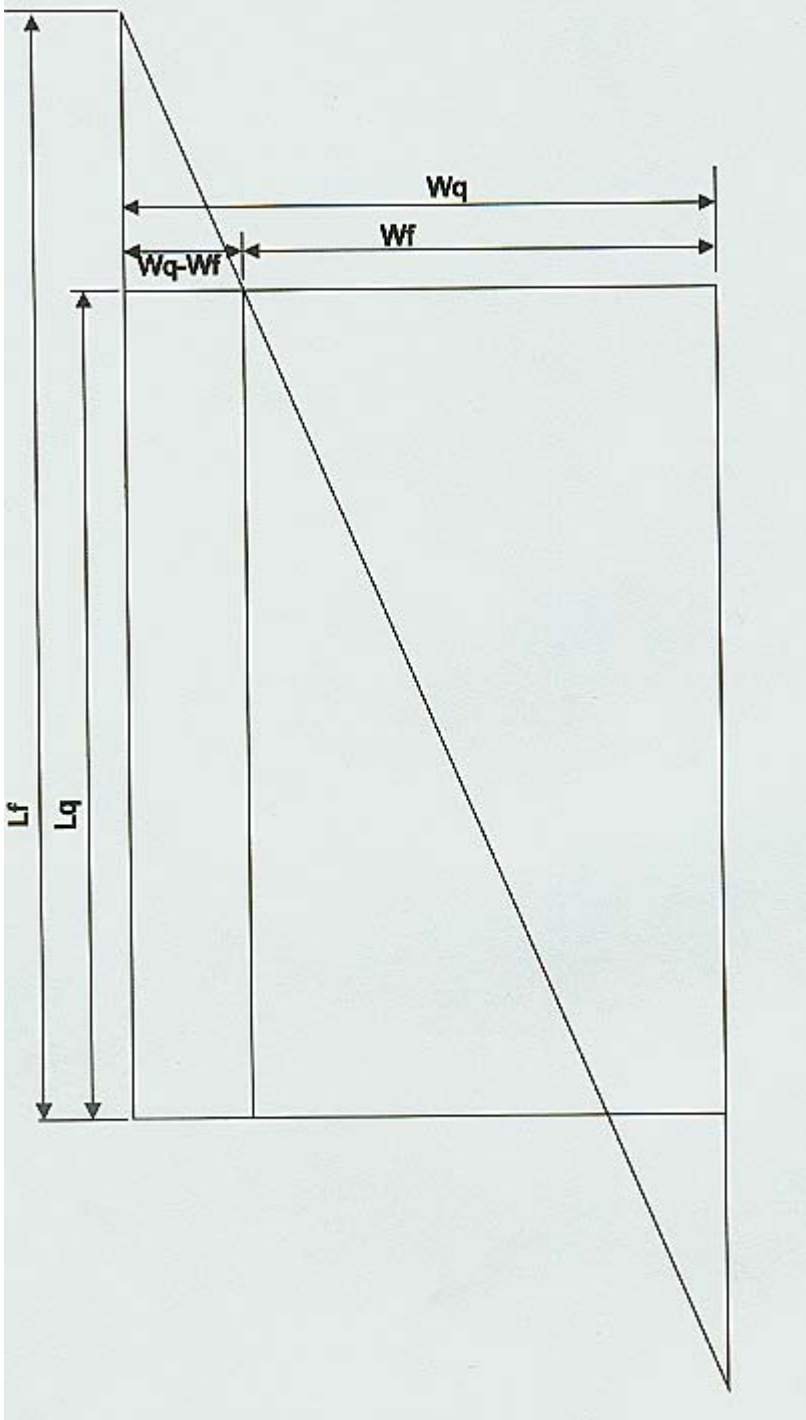


John's Formula for Joan's Trick

DIAGONAL PIECED BACK



John's method for diagonally piecing a quilt back, from one piece of fabric, is the most efficient way to make the back whenever the width of the quilt back in one and a half times, or less, than the width of the fabric you plan to use. For example, if the width of your back fabric is 44", use John's method whenever the width you want your back to be is 66" or less. If you are using fabric that is 60" wide, use John's method whenever you want your quilt back to be 90" or less.

HOW DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH BACK FABRIC YOU NEED

It's easy. John has calculated a simple formula to figure the yardage. Work through his example to get familiar with the formula and you will be able to figure out how much back you need for any size quilt.

Wq = Width of quilt back
 Wf = Width of fabric
 Lq = Length of quilt
 Lf = Length of fabric

$$Lf = Lq + \frac{Lq (Wq - Wf)}{2 Wf - Wq}$$

Example 1 Quilt top measures 48" x 60".

You want your quilt back to be 51" x 66". The desired length of the back goes in to the formula as $LQ=66$

John likes to use a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, pressed open, for his quilt backs, so add 1" to the quilt back width. The desired back width goes in to the formula as $WQ=51$

For this example, the width of the fabric is 44". This goes in to the formula as $WF=44$

Ready? Here is the formula!

$$LF = LQ + \frac{LQ (WQ-WF)}{2WF-WQ}$$

Solving for LF (yardage required)

$$LF = 66 + \frac{66 \times (51-44)}{2 \times 44 - 51}$$

$$LF = 66 + \frac{66 \times 7}{37}$$

or $(462 \text{ divided by } 37) = 12.5$, which is 12.5 inches + 66 inches, 78.5 inches, let's just say 79"!