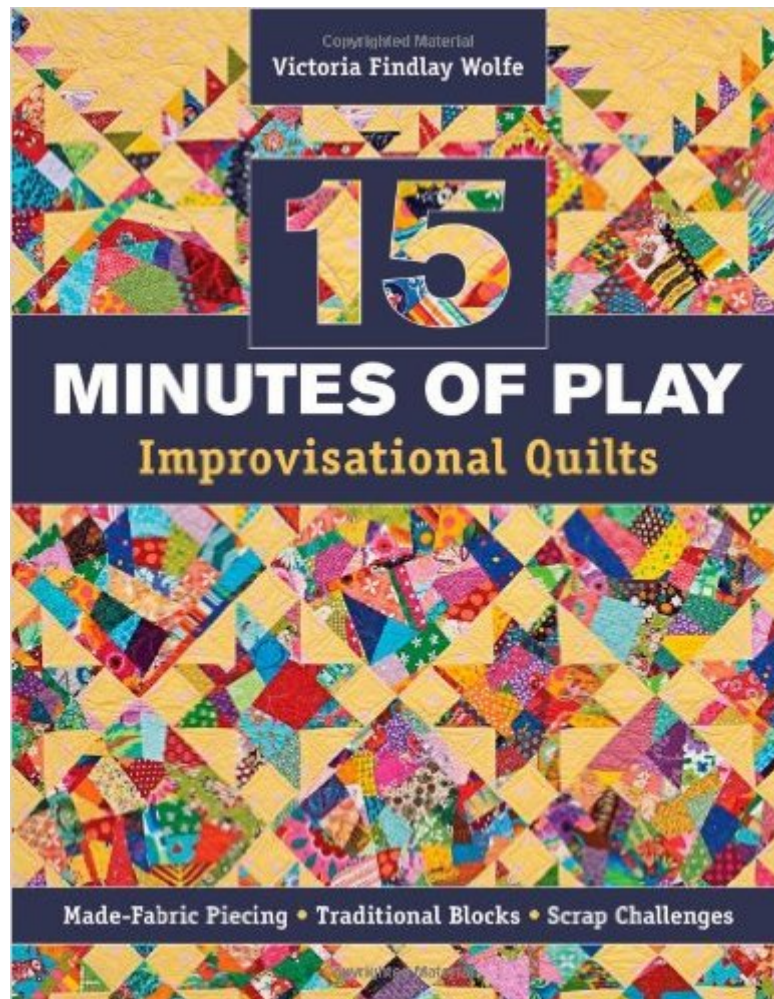


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# 15 Minutes Of Play -- Improvisational Quilts: Made-Fabric Piecing Traditional Blocks Scrap Challenges



## Synopsis

Scraps never looked so good! This is improvisational piecing reinvented! Learn how to create a unique piece of made-fabric in just 15 minutes with Victoria Findlay Wolfe's improvisational scrap-piecing methods, then incorporate your made-fabric into traditional quilt blocks. As you play, you'll sharpen your design skills and learn about combining colors and prints in new ways! Then watch your quilt design emerge. Discover just how distinctive classic blocks like Sawtooth Star or Flying Geese can be, when they're constructed with more spunk and spontaneity! Includes 11 challenge exercises to strengthen your creative muscles, plus an inspirational quilt gallery.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What a great title, "15 Minutes of Play"! It's well written and the photos are numerous. The easy to understand directions and ideas made me want to get started "playing" with fabric right away. Once I finished reading the book I started reading it again. The quilts are amazing, the ideas are terrific. Victoria Findlay Wolfe has written a keeper! She gives so much encouragement for the creative process and so many ideas for having fun along the way. The book left me with no questions, just a desire to create. The author made everything so clear that I think she is the kind of teacher I would love to see in a quilting class. This book is for beginners and advanced quilters. It's fun for all of us. I came back to today to order one for my sister. If I loaned her mine, I would never see it again!

'15 Minutes of Play: Improvisational Quilts' by Victoria Findlay Wolfe is a fun book for using up all of the scraps that quilters create in making other projects! The idea of the quilts is similar to the styles

of Bonnie Hunter's Quiltville Crumb Quilts, but with more ideas. Wolfe uses the sewn scraps (made-fabric) in more traditional quilts, as well as more 'wonky' patterns. Many examples of quilt patterns are given, and many ideas can be generated by the quilt pictures, as well as the many patterns. In 15 Minutes of Play, Wolfe recommends playing and sewing for 15 minutes of sewing this made-fabric every day, but I like to do this a couple of hours at a time, whenever I can, and having a stack ready for making the blocks. If I keep at it, I may be able to use up all my scraps! (not likely!)[...]

Do you know the common denominator in my favorite quilt books like Gwen Marston's Liberated Quiltmaking and Roberta Horton's Scrap Quilts? No patterns, lots of quilts, and lots of words. And woohoo, V's book is all of that. It's like sitting next to V and listening to her explain how she made her improvisational, scrappy quilts. Her inspiration and enthusiasm are so contagious. In the book, there are multiple techniques for making "made-fabric" by free-piecing, using paper as a foundation, and the quick way. I love that, because not every one likes to work the same way. For instance, I love using paper foundations and don't mind ripping all the paper off while other people can't stand that. There are directions for some of the blocks in the book and multiple challenges to get you started playing. I admit I'm biased - I have a quilt in the book. but it's just one of many, so many fun quilts.

From the gorgeous quilts, to the detailed project instructions, this book has it all. Victoria's "made fabric" can be used to update traditional blocks and patterns, or in fresh, new ways, too. Who knew that scrap quilts could look so modern? And you don't need to make a whole bed-size quilt to try this technique - all you need is 15 minutes!

This book attempts to explain the process of totally improvised quilting. It is an art to figure out how to puzzle together random shapes of fabric into a square-shaped quilt block. To aid this shift in thinking, we are given several block recipes that use actual measurements. This makes it easier to follow along. You probably already know the "proper" way to make quilt blocks. Allowing things to be wonky on purpose might seem disorienting for quilters who strive to maintain a precise scant 1/4" seam. Working with intentional irregularity might be too much for a beginner, without an in-person instructor to help them through the rough spots. It might be best to stick to orthodox quilting for a while. This book dares to ask: what if you don't measure at all? Just randomly join pieces together, then chop off anything that sticks out. What a freeing thought! As I say to my sewing students, "Your

quilt top only has to lie flat enough to be quilted without puckering, and the seams have to stand up to machine washing. Everything else is perfectionism." I \*love\* the section of "11 Challenges." Number 6 challenges one to "Use fabric you don't think you can use." What can I do with that ugly fabric that someone gave me, that I couldn't turn down? What about that icky fabric that I bought back before I knew what I really like? The advice is to just chop it up and use it anyway. We are shown a selection of drab fabrics, along with some that are just a bit too colorful. The combination of uncut fabric hurts the eyes. But look what happened when the author cut them up and made all kinds of interesting shapes. The bright colors stand out as highlights, and the drab colors recede to the background. Who would have expected that? The projects in this book might lie beyond the comfort level of some quilters, but if you are ready to shake things up, definitely give these techniques a try.

I thought it would have the actual directions, fabric requirements, sizes of quilting squares, etc. Just has pictures and ideas. Very GOOD ideas, but no directions???

How do I read this book? I pick it up and let it fall open - there is inspiration on every page! (It is also good read from cover to cover.) Most of us live pretty structured lives (enough said). We need time and space to stop following someone else's rules and to do something for the pure joy of doing. This book can help. For those of us who are comfortable with improvisational piecing, V. encourages us to keep going. For those who are still locked into following patterns and directions, there's plenty of information/encouragement with lots of photos to help you take those first baby steps towards playful independence. Go for it!

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