

Pat Sloan's 5 Step Road Map for Organizing

<https://www.ilovetomakequilts.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/PatSloan/videos>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/QuiltWithPatSloan>

Break your Quilting into 5 main categories. Within those break it down as much as it works for you. Some of you like a lot of detail, some the category is enough.

What Space do you have available to you? Maybe you have one area, like the kitchen table, a corner of your bedroom, a room or a full level of your home, such as your basement.

- One area and it has to ALL be in there
- One main area but auxiliary space is available - You sew in a room but have the hallway, closets in another room, basement, attic, etc, available to use for items that are not used often.

Pat's 5 Categories for Quilting (use the concept for other hobbies and personal items as well)

1. Fabric
 - a. Main fabric collection
 - b. Fabrics you don't use much like backings, seasonal, baby prints.
 - c. Fabric you no longer are interested in - new home
2. Projects
 - a. Currently Working on. Meaning you have sewed something on that project in the last 2 months (or pick another timeframe, but under 6 months since you worked on it)
 - b. Have started but not worked on recently. Do you still want to work on it? Yes? Keep, otherwise - new home
 - c. Fabric and pattern are gathered but no work has been done. Do you still want to spend your precious time making it? Yes? Keep, otherwise - new home
 - d. There should be NO OTHER category. Patterns and books without fabric pulled are under #4.
3. Tools/Notions
 - a. Ones you use all the time and need handy - they need to be in your main space.
 - b. Bulky to store - Sewing machines that you do not use regularly such as Batting, Accuquilt dies, Large rulers, etc
 - c. Items you do not use often but still want to keep
 - d. Other crafting items, cross stitch, yarn, clothing fabric, paint, that need to ALSO be in your space.
4. Books/Patterns
 - a. Books you Keep
 - b. Books that you are done with - new home
 - c. Patterns you have used and do not intend to use again - new home
 - d. Patterns you still love
 - e. Patterns you do not think you will ever make and do not love enough to spend time on them - new home
5. Finished Quilts and Quilt tops.
 - a. Quilts you Keep
 - b. Quilts to finish
 - c. Quilts that need a new home

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Pat's 5 Steps to The Ultimate Reorganization

1. Pull every single thing out of your area and clean. Look at the space you have to work with. Look at the furniture you use, the placement, etc. Review it all for the best end result.
2. First put back ONLY what you regularly use.
 - a. Your sewing machine, cutting table, shelves,
 - b. The tools you use every day,
 - c. The projects you are currently working on
 - d. Fabric that you work with the most. Maybe you store backing fabrics in another place.
 - e. For some of you everything you plan to use has to go back. With your area empty you can see how to put it back efficiently
3. Now that you see this, do you need some different furniture to make this more effective? Do you need some different containers? Don't get anything until you see what you need to put back. Then go and get better or different items and trade them out.
4. Look at what is not put back to your main area.
 - a. Take the items you already decide to find a new home for, into your car so they can go.
 - b. Look at what you have left that will get stored in your 'other area'. Assess if you REALLY need it. Often this group can get slimmed down as well. Or you may realize you are over buying items. Like too many rolls of batting that you are not using and take up too much space. Or so much backing fabric that you are not using. Once you can see things together you can alternate how and what you acquire to better suit your space.
5. Look at where and how you store all the things that will not go in your main space. Do you have the right shelving/containers/tables for it? Is your other space the RIGHT space? Maybe there is a better place. Move those items to their new home in containers that work for them.

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