

Zoey: Hey everyone, I'm Zoey! I'm this season's host of the Connecting Threads podcast. I'm a fabric fanatic and I'm constantly seeking new skills, supplies, and epic adventures. As a fiber artist, bag maker, and quilter, I spend my evenings and weekends sewing as much as I can muster while my Corgi sits under my desk, giving me side-eye. I'll grab on to any opportunity to [00:00:30] discuss new fabric collections, techniques, or help others find their confidence with a needle and thread. This season of the Connecting Threads podcast, we're talking about quilts, quilting, and sewing in general. I'll be chatting with some of my favorite people, as we explore beginner tips, intermediate skills and expert level extravaganzas. We'll navigate through various topics and learn as much as we can about fabric and thread.

Today, I wanted to explore some basics of fabrics and precuts. Precuts, often referred to as samplers, are bundles of coordinating fabrics cut to a specific size. Depending on the bundle type, they can be a great way to compile pieces [00:01:30] of an entire or near entire collection without having to purchase a large amount of yardage. I love precuts, but I know it can be easy to feel lost in all the insider lingo and measurements, and before long end up with the wrong amount of fabric or sometimes just too bewildered to begin. Fortunately, there is rarely such a thing as too much fabric. I truly want to speak to all quilters, no matter your experience level. First up I speak with Eleanor and lay a foundation of information about precut basics. [00:02:00] Later in the podcast, I sit down with Elise to get inspiration about what to do with all the precuts once we have them. From fat quarters to disappearing nine patches, let's explore what makes precuts so enchantingly charming.

Today, I'm sitting down with Eleanor, a new quilter and colleague at Connecting Threads. Hey Eleanor!

Eleanor: Hey Zoey, how's it going?

Zoey: Pretty good. Are you as warm as we are over here?

Eleanor: Yeah, [00:02:30] it is boiling hot over here. Thankfully I have AC and I'm in the basement. So extra cool.

Zoey: Thank goodness. My dog is stretched out on her cool pad right now with all of her beans spread.

Eleanor: So cute, little Nellie.

Zoey: So with the heat, are you working on a new project? Are you starting to quilt or how's all that going?

Eleanor: It's happening. It's coming along. I'm cutting all my bits and bobs together and trying to [00:03:00] get all the sizes correctly for my first quilting project, which is a tree skirt for Christmas. So hopefully I'll be done by Christmas.

Zoey: I believe in you. Are you starting out with yardage or are you starting out with precuts?

Eleanor: I am starting out with yardage. I grabbed this fabric from the free pile at work so it's an older Christmas collection, but it's a batik. So it's a little bit more mellow on the Christmas vibe, [00:03:30] which is nice and unfortunately it was yardage. I was hoping to stick with a jelly roll, the precut, but I decided to make it harder for myself. And I did cut myself with the rotary cutter so.

Zoey: Oh no. Was this your first sewing injury?

Eleanor: Yes, but it was entirely my fault and it was more frustrating than anything, but it didn't hurt that bad. I healed within three days. It's all good, but I should've [00:04:00] stuck with precuts.

Zoey: The safety rotary cutters will be your best friend. When you let go of it, it locks the blade and you can't cut yourself unless you're trying to.

Eleanor: Yeah, which I think I was trying to, but I just didn't realize I was, if that makes sense. I was trying to hold down a chunk of fabric and I just should have let it go or use the ruler.

Zoey: Well, today we wanted to talk about precuts and this will kind of tie into [00:04:30] where you can avoid your cutting mistakes or hand slicing mistakes. But we've spoken before about the difference between precuts and yardage, and I kind of wanted to break those down for you. Should we start with talking about the differences between what all the terminology means?

Eleanor: I was going to say, even, I think I have a yardage of this batik fabric. But it might not, maybe, I think it is a yard. I'm [00:05:00] not a hundred percent, so yes.

Zoey: So most quilt shops, including Connecting Threads, that you'll happen across will have open yardage minimums. Most of them are going to be a yard or a half yard. Connecting Threads, it's a yard. A yard is 36 inches by the width of the fabric and the width of the fabric is generally between 40 and 44 inches. I think 44 is about the most common, but [00:05:30] it depends on the manufacturer and who made the fabric, but 36 inches by 40 to 44 inches is that yard. So, if your cut is any smaller than that, it might not have been a full yard cut. You can even get three quarters of a yard or a half a yard. With a lot of my projects, I like to stick to a half yard if I don't know what I'm doing, but I just fall in love with the fabric and a half yard is a nice, usable cut. It's 18 inches by 40 to 44 again, that width of fabric. But with the 18 inches, you can [00:06:00] do a lot more without going for that whole yard and, half yards magically even come in bundles with different collections.

So, we came out with a Christmas collection sometime last November and it was really sparkly and it was beautiful and I love the thing. But I didn't want full yard cuts, so I bought it in a bundle and it gave me enough to make something big with, but not so much that I was drowning in yardage that I didn't [00:06:30] know what to do with. So the piece you have is probably one of the two.

Eleanor: I mean I could grab it and we could go measure it, but also this is the samples, right, from the office so it very well could just be a random cut.

Zoey: Just some random chunk.

Eleanor: Or even like a sample. I don't know if we sold this fabric. I'm not a hundred percent sure. The only tricky thing I struggle with when talking about these fabric cuttings is that I grew up overseas, AKA using the metric system. So [00:07:00] I only really know feet, I would say. Inches, I know, but like visualizing it. If you're telling me like 40 inches, I'm like, I think that's around four feet or like, maybe not. I don't know. That's the tricky thing. But, I did Google it and so a yard is a little bigger than a meter, which is pretty... That's a lot of fabric.

Zoey: It is, particularly knowing that when you buy a yard and you see it visually, it's actually folded [00:07:30] in half. So it's double what it looks like when you get it off the bolt, which is magical, but thirty...

Eleanor: So is that not a fat quarter? What's a fat quarter then?

Zoey: A fat quarter is a quarter of a yard cut in a non-linear way. So when you go from one yard to a half a yard, a half a yard is 18 inches. And then if you cut that half again, you get a nine inch linear yard but there's not [00:08:00] a lot you can do with the nine inches. You're kind of limited if your block calls for a ten inch chunk, you can't do anything. So, the fat quarter is a quarter yard cut of fabric taken from a big half yard. So it's if you take a half yard and you cut it down, that fold line, then you get your fat quarter. A fat quarter is actually a much more usable size for most projects. It's 18 [00:08:30] inches by 21, so you have that big chunk. Fat quarter bundles are probably one of the most common bundles that you'll see because it's so handy. You can do most blocks with a fat quarter bundle. So that's kind of where...

Eleanor: Is that where all the Instagrammers who sell, like Scribbly Gum and things, those are all fat quarter bundles, right?

Zoey: Yeah. You'll see on Instagram a lot curated bundles, which are beautiful and magical, and I'm a sucker for curated bundles. [00:09:00] Those are most of the time going to be fat quarters that are pulled from different collections. So your traditional fat quarter bundle, which is also kind of known as a sampler, a traditional one will pull one cut of fabric as a fat quarter from the full collection. Whereas a curated bundle, like what you see a lot of times on Instagram is fat quarters pulled by a ton of different collections that maybe coordinate by color [00:09:30] or theme or there was one that I saw yesterday that was like a sunset in the Pacific Northwest. So it was like the sunset that we would see out our back patio or something and it was like purples and oranges and it was beautiful, but not something you would normally get from a full collection.

Eleanor: Yeah. And then is the ten inch squares that's with the specials zig-zag cuts, right? Or no?

Zoey: Yes, it is. So you'll see what the little square or the smaller cuts they've been [00:10:00] pinked, which is the little zigzag cuts on the corner with little pinking shears. The pinking helps keep the fabric from fraying and ten inch squares you also might see referred to as layer cakes. There's different nuances, different names that maybe have copyright attached to them so we like to call them ten inch squares.

Eleanor: Do fat quarter or yard or half yard have bakery names as well?

Zoey: [00:10:30] Not that are as commonly nuanced as like layer cake, but I mean, we should probably make one.

Eleanor: Yeah. Wait so a layer cake is ten inches.

Zoey: Yes.

Eleanor: Okay. Two and a half is jelly roll, I know that one.

Zoey: Jelly rolls are what two and a half inch strips are commonly called. So from one yard cuts, most commonly go to half yards, half yard bundles, then smaller than that is the fat quarter, which is the 18 and a half by 21 inch cut [00:11:00] of fabric. From there, commonly you'll see ten inch squares, then five inch squares and two and a half inch strips. Smaller than the two and a half inch strips is also two and a half inch squares, which are also referred to as mini charm packs.

Eleanor: They're tiny. Those mini charm packs. I saw a couple of them and they're like lost in my box of things and then one of them will randomly slip out and it's unbelievable that something so mini can make some something so big.

Zoey: They're tiny. They're [00:11:30] also really handy as samplers. So you can get a two and a half inch square mini charm pack and use it as a sampler. We offer it at Connecting Threads with our solids. So you can get the entire solids collection as two and a half inch squares and then use them for reference too. So you can actually have the physical cut of fabric compared with other collections, and then not necessarily buy five different [00:12:00] yards of pink when you don't know what shade you're wanting.

Eleanor: What I love about the precuts is looking at them like the jelly rolls and the square packs, and imagining the patterns that people make with them, whether it's the log cabins or just like a more square pattern, like using the ten inch or even the five inch, and then having some of those two and a half inch square squares as well to create a pattern. I always find it so fun [00:12:30] looking at our fabric collections and seeing the opportunities and then comparing it with quilts that our customers have made and seeing how these precuts can make these fabrics, it makes it so convenient. I feel obviously with the yardage, you have a little bit more freedom and creativity or a struggle maybe cutting them, but I always find it so fascinating.

Zoey: And you brought up a really good point. You may hear of like two and a half inch strips referred to [00:13:00] as jelly rolls or five-inch squares referred to as charm packs, ten

inch squares referred to as layer cakes. These are oftentimes copy-written terms for the precuts. So it's kind of like how tissues are called Kleenex. So we refer to them by their sizes, whereas you might see other brands or other companies call them layer cakes or jelly rolls. It's really just different names for the same thing and [00:13:30] like you said, there's so many different things you can do with a precut and there's patterns coming out all the time that are precut focused, or you'll see on a pattern that it says fat quarter friendly or charm pack friendly. So, you can do all sorts of different things and then you don't end up with as many rotary cutter injuries.

Eleanor: You definitely don't nor do you need as many rulers, right? I do have to say it did perfect the fold cutting this fabric. [00:14:00] I'm pretty sure it's a half yard now that we've been talking, this amount of fabric that I have, but I perfected the fold and then cut into strips to make my jelly rolls and so I got them all done. It's not perfect, but it'll be fine. Some of them are not perfect because they've been folded for a long time and I did not iron them beforehand, which I know, but the fold is key, I think. I was impressed.

Zoey: The fold is key. And you have, I think one of the standard size cutting mats, correct? [00:14:30] Is it twelve inch by 18 inch?

Eleanor: Yes. It is twelve inch by 18 inch. It's the one that you recommended on the blog. The Notions Blog.

Zoey: Yes. I love that size and it's perfect for fat quarters because the shortest side of the fat quarter is 18 inches. And when you have your half cut of yardage, if you quarter fold it you get that 18 inch, so you can cut it exactly like you said, just smooth and you don't have to like chase the cutting mat around your table, [00:15:00] which I definitely used to do as a beginning quilter. I could not figure out how people were cutting these 44 inch long pieces because I was trying to cut them unfolded, which is a nightmare. Don't do it.

Eleanor: Yeah. They came folded. And then I was like, I don't want to have to figure out how to iron these and refold them and so I just kind of did one cut to clean it up and I was like this might work. This might work. And it did. It did, thankfully.

Zoey: [00:15:30] Excellent. And one little tip that I have found through trial and error and that I have found tutorials online later that would have saved me a lot of grief, is when you cut with that folded edge, if you line up the folded edge, not necessarily the selvage edge on the opposite side, but if you focus on that folded edge to line up with your cutting mat, that's going to give you that straight, nice cut. Whereas the opposite, it might end up a little bit of a V [00:16:00] shape and I've wasted a lot of yardage that way.

Eleanor: No, I line it up with the mat and then I take the ruler and move it to the square below it and then I've been lining up the ruler and then the mat, the fabric to the mat and then the ruler to the square below the mat. And it's worked out well, you should see this pile of fabric on my floor right now. It's just a ton of strips. I'm scared to start sewing them, but we'll get there.

Zoey: You have time which is a perfect first project, you've given yourself [00:16:30] like five, six month lead time, you're starting out with two and a half inch strips, which is magical. I think you'll do a great job.

Eleanor: Yeah, we'll get there. We'll get there. And it's like a paint by numbers thing. So it's like numbered on the batting so it should in theory work out. But I have to sew all the strips and then with the template cut out the template again. And then I don't know at that point I haven't gotten there yet, but sew them again somewhere else. But at [00:17:00] some point, there's a lot of sewing and cutting. Is there a lot of waste with quilting that you find with fabric?

Zoey: There can be depending on the pattern that you're using, which is one thing that I love about precuts is that if you need a five inch square, you can start out with a five inch square. You don't have to buy a big chunk of yardage just for a little piece.

Eleanor: Yeah.

Zoey: And there's other ways that you can kind of mitigate waste. And I think as we go along with this season, we'll talk about tricks and tips to avoid waste [00:17:30] different ways that you can use yardage to its full potential and then circle back and use scraps. One of my favorite things is keeping a scrap pile and kind of grabbing from it as I make scrappier projects and scrappy projects are perfect with leftover cuts, different half-square-triangle pieces that you didn't need for your block and different things like that. So as we progress over the season and you progress with your sewing journey, I'm so excited about it. [00:18:00] We can kind of go over some tips and tricks and we'll check in throughout the season and see how it's going.

Eleanor: Yeah. Well thank you for explaining all of this to me, even though I, for some reason, can never remember the cake version of these sizes. Always forget one of them, especially charm packs. I don't know. I can't remember. Can't remember that one. I only know jelly rolls. I think it's the visual thing because the jelly rolls like a cinnamon [00:18:30] bun, right? Like in a circle and the other ones in photos, they look very much the same. So kind of except for the pinking I guess.

Zoey: I'll make you a cheat-sheet. Well, thank you so much for taking the time to chat with me today. And if you have any questions I'm within reach and good luck on your project.

Eleanor: Thank you. Have a good rest of your day.

Zoey: You too. Stay cool.

Kristin: [00:19:00] Hi, I'm Kristin Hutchinson and I'm the creative director for Connecting Threads. Sometimes I'm referred to as Hutch. I am in charge of the design of all marketing materials for Connecting Threads, from the emails to the website to last but not least, our beautiful catalog. I have a really talented team of designers who worked super hard to create communications that will inspire our customers.

Connecting Threads has been a really inspiring [00:19:30] place to work because everyone is constantly making something. People are knitting and sewing during our staff meetings. I'm an artist and a maker too. I paint, make jewelry, and I even sew and knit. Nothing is more satisfying than creating something you can be proud of with your own hands. In our Connecting Threads catalog, we are trying some new features with each issue. We had an interview with our head fabric designer, Patrice. In another catalog, we have a list of essential quilting notions. [00:20:00] In an upcoming catalog, we are working on a thread guide so our customers can use the perfect thread for their projects. Sign up to receive our free catalog to see new features like these plus beautiful photos of our exclusive fabric collections and a curated selection of fabrics from other vendors as well. Go to connectingthreads.com and scroll to the bottom of the page and click request a catalog.

Zoey: [00:20:30] So we just spoke with Eleanor about an intro to precuts and now I'm sitting down with Elise, a Connecting Threads buyer and seasoned quilter to talk about what to do with these precuts. But first, hi Elise, how's your day going?

Elise: Hi, Zoey. Good. How are you?

Zoey: Oh, pretty wonderful. Excited that it's another sunny day outside.

Elise: I miss the rain.

Zoey: I don't think I will ever say that I miss the rain until I have to water my garden.

Elise: I mean I wasn't born and raised here [00:21:00] so sunlight gets boring after 30 years.

Zoey: Such a tragedy.

Elise: I know.

Zoey: I've only lived in Oregon and Ireland which are both very rainy. So I crave the sunshine.

Elise: Yeah. I crave gloomy days.

Zoey: So we brought you on today to talk a little bit more about precuts and now that we've kind of established what precuts are, [00:21:30] we're hoping that you could explain a little bit about what you do with them. If you have any favorite patterns or favorite techniques, if someone gave you a bushel of precuts, what's the first thing that you would like to do?

Elise: Well, I'm a big fat quarter and ten inch square person. I find those the most useful for the types of quilts that I like to make. Usually something where it's a pattern that calls for fat quarters because there's a specific block size or piece size being cut out is what I [00:22:00] have unintentionally trained myself to go for. And that's kind of the nice thing about precuts is a lot of designers make patterns or entire books of patterns specifically for certain precuts. So you can go down a deep rabbit hole of looking for patterns that

are just for two and a half inch strips if that's what you like. If you like five inch charms, you can find patterns for those for fat quarters, for layer cakes, [00:22:30] for all of it. There are always going to be specific patterns that are meant for that.

Zoey: Oh, that's really interesting. Do you have any favorite books that you use or references?

Elise: I don't know that I have a favorite book. I am more of a modern quilter and there are lots of classes and books on improvisational piecing that I really enjoy and a lot of those will have you start off with a specific size of precut. [00:23:00] I think one of my favorites is a quilt that I made based off of using ten inch squares and it was a class that I took from SewKatieDid, and it was really fun and really easy and the quilt ended up really gorgeous. But, you just have to figure out what you like to do and generally, there will be some sort of precut that works really well for it. So if you like to do [00:23:30] English paper piecing with little paper pieces, a lot of precuts are the perfect fit for certain sizes. So five inch charms will work for a certain size of hexagon.

If you get mini charms, which are little two and a half inch squares, or if you get the two and a half inch strips and cut them down, there's a specific size hexagon that works for those. If you're a beginner quilter, precuts are a really great way to [00:24:00] learn about using color story in a quilt as well, because you have a coordinated selection of fabrics that are meant to go really well with each other. So you'll have a lot more confidence in whatever pattern you choose. And a lot of simple blocks, if you just take a ten inch square or if you take five inch charms, you can make half square triangles really, really easily. And just make a bunch of those, put them in whatever pattern you want and you have a quilt top, and it's going to look [00:24:30] good because the fabrics are meant to go together already.

I also find that things like nine patch blocks or a square and a square, or that's sometimes called an economy block work really well with precuts as well. So it just kind of depends on what you want to make, and there's a way to use precuts for it or if you find yourself at a store and you find a precut that just calls to you and you can't leave without it, grab it, you [00:25:00] know?

Zoey: Absolutely. I think we've all been tempted by that charming fat quarter display. Like they always just draw me in and I don't often use fat quarters, but I almost always walk away with a few.

Elise: Yeah.

Zoey: And I know when I first started quilting, I wasn't very good at color matching outside of collections. So that was exactly kind of where I had started of getting different fat quarters or fat quarter bundles, if I could afford them, and starting with the collection [00:25:30] and then adding some solids from there. And it's such a good way to get a cohesive color palette without having to really stretch your brain when you're still learning how to quilt.

Elise: Exactly. And even going beyond that is if you're somebody like me, who's been sewing for so long that you have a good sized stash and really don't need to go to the store when you're ready to make another quilt, is if you have... Let's say a fat quarter bundle that [00:26:00] you maybe only used a few of them for, to make maybe a baby quilt so you have other fabrics in that bundle that you didn't use because you didn't like the colors or something. And then you have other fat quarters and you realize, I could fill this in. Like I have, you know, maybe the cooler colors in a fat quarter bundle that you didn't want to use and then you find other things in your stash that you can use to fill in. And then you have a whole new color story with those fabrics. And then [00:26:30] you realize that you're mixing and matching fabric from different collections and different designers and different manufacturers. And that's a really great way to become more confident in your color selection as well.

Zoey: Absolutely. Breaking apart the collections and picking between them and then adding left over fat quarters or pieces of charm packs with other chunks of yardage. It's such a good way to become more confident with color theory. And [00:27:00] when I, I know when I first started, I had a hard time balancing large scale and small scale prints. I would find prints that I liked and then I would use all of them and it looked great in my head, but it was the busiest quilts ever. So I love the way that you can use different collections and pull from different pieces or grab the big, bold print from a fat quarter and then add it to some more muted yardage, rather than getting [00:27:30] a big yard of a bold print that you're not going to use all of.

Elise: Yeah, exactly. If you're somebody who, you know that you like scrappy quilts, there's no reason that you still can't buy those gorgeous precuts because you are going to pick and choose from all the other stuff that you have so you'll end up a scrappy quilts anyways. So I'm a big believer in keeping my fat quarter bundles together because that's predominantly the precuts that I buy. So I'll keep a bundle together even as I maybe pull one or two [00:28:00] from it, because there will be times where I'll be like, I want all of this precut and I want to use all of it and then maybe take out one or two. Then I keep those two fat quarters that I took out together just so I remember that these are from the same collections, so maybe they'll work together on something else down the road.

Zoey: Absolutely. Yeah. I've found something similar, especially with those just gosh, darn cute mini charm packs. Those always call to me because they're so little. But I have started saving [00:28:30] the pieces from the mini charm packs as a way to cheat and get a color card from different manufacturers. So I'll keep little pieces so I know like what the Moda blue looks like or what the different manufacturer's colors look like without getting a full color card because the color cards change so often. I do have a few but I don't want to buy them every year and they get really expensive really quickly, but I love using, like the little precuts, both in quilts but leftover as like a reference.

Elise: [00:29:00] Or even to be more specific there's colors that a certain designer will use over and over and over again as well. And so if you're looking at a new collection for them, you're like, "well, that green looks okay, but I'm not absolutely sure what green do they normally use?" and it's really easy to reference back to that as well.

Zoey: Yes, absolutely. They're really good for references. And then I've also recently started making quilted zipper pouches. So I've pulled [00:29:30] back, I've gone through all of my precut stash which was more than it should have been but pulled them all out and was able to pull from different collections, these like leftover charm squares and different pieces and put together like a scrappy quilted zipper pouch, which turned out awesome because I had pieces of collections, pieces of things that coordinated that maybe didn't equal a full quilt, but I was able to put all of those into a small pouch. And now I've made like a dozen of them because they're so darn [00:30:00] cute. And it's not as expansive as making like a giant throw and it gets the extra little stragglers kind of used up. Personally, I'm not very good at the scrappy look, I don't know why but it stresses me out a little bit. So it's a way that I can get like pseudo scrappy on a smaller scale.

Elise: I like that, pseudo scrappy. But yeah, I mean, that's the other thing too, is we don't all use our stash just to make quilts. [00:30:30] Plenty of us have in the past year and a half, we've made masks for ourselves and people in our lives or you know, a lot of people learn to make bags after they learned to make quilts. And a lot of people branch then out into doing garments and I know that a big trend right now is quilted coats that I've seen a lot of people making and those look really cute scrappy.

Zoey: Yes.

Elise: And precuts are a great way to do that as well.

Zoey: Absolutely. And [00:31:00] there's so many different options with them and you can mix and match them. When I first started quilting, I just did the disappearing nine patch over and over and over again. And I think I probably made ten quilts that were only disappearing nine patches, or I would throw in a panel and then add a disappearing nine patch around it. But it was a way that I started getting more confident with my cutting and seams and different things and I thought they were great. I [00:31:30] had no idea how many other things I was missing out on.

Elise: I can't tell you how many Meadowland quilt patterns I've made because they are meant to use fat quarters, which is what I primarily keep as my precuts. And I've made so many baby size Meadowland quilts, because it's perfect. You use pretty much the entire fat quarter and you get this really great mix of fabric in the quilt. So I think we all have like a pattern that we stick to [00:32:00] at some point. And I think it's a self-perpetuating cycle is you buy fat quarter bundles and then you find a pattern that you really like that uses fat quarter bundles. And so you keep making that pattern so that you buy more fat quarter bundles.

Zoey: Yes, absolutely. And how satisfying is it when you use an entire fat quarter? Like you don't end up with two or three inches left over and you've demolished it like that is, to me, it's one of the most satisfying feelings.

Elise: It's so nice. Just [00:32:30] that all you've done is like trimmed off the salvage and you've squared it up and then the entire fat quarter is used. Makes me so happy.

Zoey: Right. And it's such a quick way to finish a chunk of fabric too. Whereas like if you buy a yard and a half, you don't get that satisfaction for ages until you use that full yard and a half. But man, if you finish a fat quarter, it feels great.

Elise: Well also with yardage, you get a lot of times that anxiety of, "I bought a couple yards of this [00:33:00] fabric because I really, really like it. And I know I'm not going to be able to get it again. And I have two yards of in", you know, two yards can go a really long way and then you never end up cutting into it. Whereas with precuts, they're already cut down and you don't have much of it. So you're like, I've got a quarter yard of this or I've got a ten inch by ten inch square of this. I'm going to use it. Like, it's easier to use them.

Zoey: Absolutely. Yes. I feel the same way. And it's such a weird mind game that we play with ourselves, but you know, you have [00:33:30] your favorite yardage. I have yardage that I've had for years and I love it. And I pet it every once in a while and I visit it and it's so nice in its little shelf, but I haven't found the perfect project for it. But precuts, I'll just go through them because like you said, it's just a little piece. I can't save it for anything big. It just gets used. So it's a wonderful way to keep that stash under control too.

Elise: Yeah, it is.

Zoey: And you get that collection that you fall in love with without getting ten [00:34:00] different yards of a collection.

Elise: Yeah it is. Or a collection that has like 40 different fabrics. And you're like, I can't justify buying a yard of each fabric and having 40 yards that I bought. That's just too much and precuts are good for those.

Zoey: Absolutely. It is. And you can get a charm pack of the whole collection, plus a few chunks of yardage too, to kind of supplement it which is wonderful. And I know you were speaking before about patterns that are specifically nuanced [00:34:30] to precuts, which is wonderful. And I know there's a little shop up in Renton. It's Wyldwood Creative with a 'y' and she just made her own pattern. And her goal was she had five or six fat quarters and made a pattern out of it that only use the fat quarters so that people could get a fat quarter bundle and make a full quilt top and I thought that was such a clever idea. Whereas I tend to work backwards if I have these precuts, what's a pattern that's going to work. And she [00:35:00] started with the idea in mind of making a pattern that would then use the precuts. It just so interesting how many different ways they can be used.

Elise: Yeah. And I think that's kind of why we love them is you get an entire collection and you think that you're limited by the size but you really aren't and it kind of forces you to be creative about it.

Zoey: Absolutely. Well, this has been so wonderful and I'm so inspired to dig back into my stash and find some precuts and [00:35:30] work on some patterns that are just for precuts. So thank you so much Elise for taking the time to chat with me about all the

wonderful things that we can do with precuts and hopefully we can go from here and make something awesome.

Elise: Yeah. I'm excited to see what this has inspired you to make.

Zoey: I know I have some Halloween precuts sitting around so that's probably where I'm going to start. I have some glow in the dark thread from Superior Threads and I want to somehow stitch in like a ghost [00:36:00] in the window of a haunted house. So I'm going to use my Halloween precuts, make myself a haunted house and see how cute that ghost turns out glowing in the dark. We'll see.

Elise: Okay, so one of my mottos is "Every day is Halloween" so you just made me so happy and I'm super excited to see that.

Zoey: Yes, I have been eyeing different house patterns for days trying to find the right one because I don't want to have a haunted house with a chimney. But it needs to have some windows so I can cram in my [00:36:30] little ghosties and I have some organic cotton, super thin fabric that... I don't know I've had it for a couple of years. So I have that sitting outside right now, so that it lightens up a little bit and hopefully I'm going to put that over the window for my little ghosties to look extra spooky.

Elise: I'm excited.

Zoey: So that's where I'm going to take it from here and hopefully you can go dig through some precuts and make something rad.

Elise: [00:37:00] Now I'm starting to think about what I want to make next.

Zoey: Right? Something Halloweeny obviously.

Elise: Obviously.

Zoey: Wonderful. Well, thank you so much and go enjoy the rest of your day.

Elise: All right. Thank you.

Zoey: This podcast was hosted by me, Zoey Baggins. This episode we heard from Eleanor Burks and Elise Wash. This podcast is produced and edited by Sarah Nairalez. Robin Head and Sydney Fort make our artwork. Production assistance by Remy Ostermiller. Special thanks to Kristin Hutchinson. We recorded this episode while shopping for fabrics in the Pacific Northwest. A big thank you to our friends over here at Knit Picks podcast and WeCrochet podcast where we're keeping the craft in crafting. And, from everyone here at Connecting Threads, thank you for joining us.

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