

Before You Layer- Quilt Top Check List

Pat Ferguson Quilter/Teacher

CHECK YOUR QUILT TOP:

- *Is your quilt top pressed with seams heading in the proper direction?
- *Are your quilt edges trimmed and corners squared?
- *Are all necessary repairs to seams completed ?
- *Have you clipped any threads and removed pet hair?
- *Have you marked your quilting stencil onto your quilt top? (optional)

CHOOSE YOUR BATTING:

- *Is your batting appropriate for the type of quilting that you will do?
- *Is your batting the right type considering the kind of use the quilt will get?
- *Is your batting at least 3" larger, all around, than your quilt top (total of 6")?
measure your quilt & check against the batting measurements, not the stated size
- *Have you let your batting "breathe" or fluffed it in the dryer so that it is perfectly flat?
- *If necessary, have you followed any washing instructions?
I highly recommend washing & drying your batting if you have washed your fabrics- no matter what the batting says, IT WILL SHRINK)

PREPARE YOUR BACKING:

- *Is your backing washed, dried and pressed?
If you have washed & dried your top you will want to wash & dry your backing)
- *Have you cut off the selvages ?
- *If seaming 2 or more pieces together, are you sure that both pieces are headed in the same direction?
The look of the color can change with the change in direction of the print
- *Have you made generous 1/2" seam allowances and pressed them open?
- *Is your backing at least 3" larger, all around, than your batting (total of 6")?
- *Is your backing free of pet hair?

If you have answered "yes" to all of the above, then you are ready to gather your tools and helpers and layer your quilt!!!

www.patfergusonquilts.com

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Layering and Basting for Machine Quilting

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L AYERING YOUR QUILT: (also called sandwiching)

*Your backing and batting should be at least 3" larger than your quilt top all around- this allows for easier centering and some trimming.

*For larger quilts you may need to piece your backing- trim off seam allowances before sewing and use 1/2" seam allowance, press seams open for less bulk.

-Place backing on table with right side down

-secure to table with masking tape- do not stretch backing or corners

-place batting on top of backing- smooth but do not stretch

-place quilt top right side up on top of batting- smooth from center to outer edges-on larger quilts you may want to tape the top to table

BASTING THE LAYERS: There are 4 methods of basting. All methods begin in the center of the quilt and work to the outside.

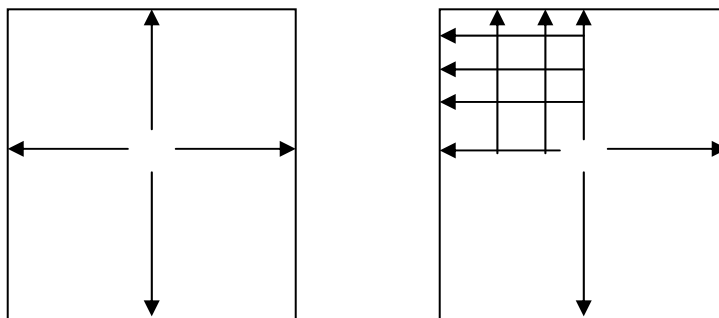
*HAND BASTING: using a long needle and old light colored thread, begin in the center of your quilt and make rows of stitching heading north, south, east and west, quartering off the quilt. Working in each quarter, sew horizontal and vertical lines 4" to 6" apart to make a grid (see diagram below). After completing the quarters, sew around the outside edge. This method works well but takes much time and energy. (try wash out thread)

*SAFETY PINNING- use quilter's safety pins in a 4" to 6" grid. You will need 250 to 300 pins for a queen size quilt. This method is faster but you must be careful to place pins away from quilting lines. You can't use pins with a hoop. Pins should not be left in for long periods of time as they may rust.

*QUILT TAC SYSTEM- works well for basting- use same methods as for safety pins. Tacs do leave a hole in your quilt and hand quilting thread gets tangled on tacs. Caution must be used if you have pets- they can eat the plastic tacs.

*SPRAY BASTE- A great method for basting any size quilt. Caution- some brands are very sticky causing thread breakage and gummed needles. Must use in a well ventilated area. Quilt must be washed to remove spray basting. My favorite is Spray & Fix 505. Spray basting is the quickest method and holds every square inch of the quilt in place.

After entire quilt is basted, trim the batting even with the backing. To protect the edges of larger quilts, roll the backing over the edge of the quilt and safety pin or hand baste in place.



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