

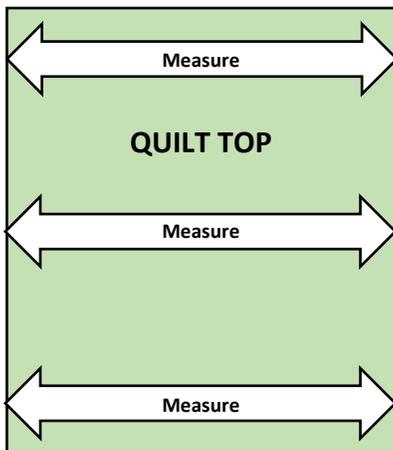


Preparing Your Quilt for Long-Arm Quilting

Quilt Tops

Borders

In order to insure quilt top has no fullness on borders that can make it difficult to quilt on a long-arm machine be sure to measure your quilt top three times. Measurements should be taken in three places throughout the center of your quilt top (Not on the ends.) After taking three measurements find the average of the three and cut your borders. Be sure to begin pinning at the middle of the quilt top pinning to each end.



Edge Stitch

If your borders have seams running vertical (ex. Piano keys) then be sure to run an edge stitch a $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch around the outside edge to insure that seams do not come apart. ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch edge stitch should be hidden when putting on binding.)

Square

Be sure that quilt top and backing are squared up in order to prevent quilting from being at an angle on the machine.

Quilts that are not squared up may run at an angle causing backing and batting to not line up.

Pressing and Cutting Stray Threads

Give a good final press to the quilt top and backing to make sure all seams are ironed flat. This will prevent any puckers in your finished quilt. As you are pressing be sure to cut excess strings in order to prevent dark threads from showing through light colored fabrics.

Backing

Backing and batting is required to have at least 4" of fabric completely around your quilt top. This is necessary to clamp, pull fabric taut, and to pin the backing fabric to the leaders.

(Ex. If your quilt top measures 60" x 80" then your backing and batting should be 68" by 88")

Seams

When piecing a backing the seams on backing work best if they are running horizontal (side to side) rather than vertical. Be sure that you have a square backing with no excess fabric on any edges making one side longer than the other.

Directional Fabrics

If your quilt top or backing has directional fabrics that must be lined up please pin a piece of paper to the top of both top and back saying that you wish these to be the top. It is simple to position a quilt from side to side to center a design but difficult to center a quilt from top to bottom.