

Piecing techniques that making quilting easier

- Press seams to one side and opposite way on each row during construction. Press often during construction. Press seams open if necessary to reduce bulk, especially where multiple seams meet.
- When adding borders, measure the quilt in the middle or take an average of top, middle and bottom measurements. Cut borders to that measurement. Do not cut to fit the sides, top or bottom.
- To help prevent wavy borders, cut them on the lengthwise grain (parallel to the selvage) when possible. Find the center of the border and side of the quilt where you are attaching the border and pin. Pin the ends and then ease in any fullness of the border or quilt before sewing.
- Accurate piecing makes for better quilting.

Preparing your quilt for longarm quilting

- Quilt top
 - Loose threads should be clipped from the quilt top to prevent them from showing through any light fabric.
 - If there are seams around the outside edges of the quilt, baste through these seams 1/8" from the edge to ensure they don't pop open when loaded onto the longarm. If there are multiple seams, baste around the entire perimeter of the quilt.
 - Press well
 - Accordion fold parallel to the top and bottom of the quilt and place over a hanger. This helps folds release when rolling on the bars on the longarm.
- Backing
 - If piecing is necessary, keep seams horizontal as much as possible. Vertical seams build up faster on the bars of the longarm causing the seam to be tight and could cause backing to sag between seams. Could cause pleats when quilting. Square up fabric before cutting and square up backing once it is pieced.
 - Selvages should be removed and seams should be 1/2" wide and pressed to one side for a stronger seam.
 - Must be 8-10" larger than quilt top to allow extra fabric for backing to be attached to the longarm machine.
 - Press well
 - Mark top of backing
 - Accordion fold parallel to the top and bottom of the quilt and place over the quilt top on a hanger.
- Batting
 - If providing batting, cut 8-10" larger than quilt top
 - Choose the batting appropriate for your project. If you want the quilting to really show, choose a batting with more loft (wool, poly, etc.) Cotton batting will be flatter and is great for wallhangings, table runners, placemats.