

Midge's Stitches

Quilt Prep Checklist

Follow this checklist and keep it handy as you prepare to deliver or ship your quilt

Quilt Top Preparation

- Check borders for proper attachment. See my info sheet on Adding Borders to a Quilt Top.
 - Reapply borders, if necessary
 - Press borders
 - Tip: To reduce stretching, press borders vertically on your ironing board (seam perpendicular to the board)
- For tops with pieced or block borders, stabilize the edges by sewing a line of stitching along the outside edges of the top. You can also reinforce each seam by backstitching a couple of stitches as you assemble the quilt top border. This will prevent seams from pulling apart from the tension that occurs during quilting on the long arm machine.
- Press the top
 - Give the top an overall light pressing from the front
 - Clip or remove any threads caught in the seams as you were assembling the top
 - Turn the top over and press all seams
 - Trim or remove threads, especially dark thread that may show through lighter fabrics
 - DO NOT attach any embellishments
- Confirm finished top is square
 - Measure horizontally along the top, middle and bottom – numbers should match with no more than a 3/4" variance
 - Measure vertically along the left, right and center – number should match with no more than a 3/4" variance
 - Place a square ruler in each corner (12" or larger works better) and line up the side edges with the 45° mark in the corner. The corner should be square. You can trim small variances if they don't interfere with your piecing design
- If your quilt top is directional, mark the top edge

Backing Preparation

- When piecing the backing using selvage edges, use a 1" seam and then trim to 1/2". *If you don't remove the selvage edge, the seam will pucker and create tucks on the back of your quilt.*
- If possible, leave the selvage on the outer edge of the backing.
- Press the backing. Press seams open. Seams that are pressed open lay flatter and cause less puckering on the back of your quilt.
- Confirm the backing is at least 4 – 5" larger than the quilt top on all sides.
 - Backs that do not have at least a 4" excess around the entire quilt will require temporary leaders to be basted to the sides of your backing. I charge \$10 per side for this service.
- Confirm the backing is square
 - It is preferable to leave the selvages on the outer edges
 - In most cases your quilt back can be mounted with the selvage edge as the top edge (horizontal) on the long arm machine. When this is possible, it may not be necessary to square the non-selvage edge.
 - If this is not feasible, then tearing is the preferred method of straightening, as it will naturally tear along the grainline. If you find this scary then I can do it for you at no charge.