

# How to Prepare Your Quilt for Longarm E2E Quilting

Please prepare your quilt top, backing, and batting (if customer-supplied) as described below. If I need to complete any additional work, additional charges may apply.

## Backing Checklist

- The backing fabric needs to be **at least 8-12 inches wider and longer** than the quilt top. This means having 4 to 6 inches on all sides of the quilt top. You can add 4-6" strips of muslin (or any scrap fabric that you have) to extend the quilt back if your backing fabric isn't big enough.
- If you piece the backing fabric, stitch a **1/2-inch seam allowance** and press open.
- If you piece the backing, trim the selvage so that it's not part of the seam allowance. The selvage does not stretch and move like the rest of the fabric and may cause puckers if left in the seam. The selvage is good on the outside edge of the backing.
- Please square both the top and bottom edges of your backing fabric. This is necessary for the loading on the longarm frame.
- Press the backing fabric so it is wrinkle-free and all seams lie flat.
- Indicate the top edge of the backing with a safety pin placed in the center.

## Quilt Top Checklist

- Clip loose threads from the back of the quilt top. This is especially important if your quilt includes white fabric because threads can show through the quilt top if left inside.
- Check all seams for gaps or loose stitches. Anchor all seams that will remain on the outside edge of the quilt top. As the quilt is handled, seams on the edge become loose and may pop open if not secured.
- If the outside edges of the top have pieced blocks rather than a solid border, stay stitch around the edge of the entire quilt at 1/8 inch. This will prevent the seams from pulling apart.
- Press the quilt top so it is wrinkle-free and all seams lie flat.
- Indicate the top edge of the quilt top with a safety pin placed near the center of the top.

## Batting Checklist

- I use Hobbs 80/20 batting - available for purchase at \$.30 per linear inch trimmed to size.
- If you are supplying the batting, it should be **6-8 inches longer and wider than the quilt top** and **squared** on the top and bottom. That's 3-4 inches all the way around.

## Binding Checklist

- If you would like me to attach the binding to the front or completely bind the quilt, include the binding.
- If you would like me to make the binding, please include the fabric. Note: I use 2.5" strips of fabric (cut from selvage to selvage) and fold it in half (bringing the cut edges together). This is called double-fold binding tape and is the sturdiest method.
  - To calculate the amount of binding, measure the length of all four sides, add them together + 12" (for joining start/finish tails) ÷ 42" (fabric width) x 2.5" (width of binding strips) = inches of fabric yardage required. Don't forget to round up and give yourself some wiggle room.