

Preparation of Your Quilt Top

**Your careful preparation will help determine
the look of the finished quilt.**

1. **Quilt top**: Stay-stitch 1/8" from edges of pieced borders to stabilize seams. (Do not stay-stitch plain borders.)

Opposite sides should be the same length. If you have pieced-in puckers or wavy borders, I will ease them in as much as possible.

Carefully press front and back of the quilt top, and clip all loose threads. Dark seam allowances or stray threads can show through a light top.

Do not baste or pin layers together. Fold the top and back loosely to avoid creases. If piecing is directional, safety-pin a note at the top.

2. **Backing**: Use 100% cotton fabric for the backing -- not polyester fabric or sheets. Trim off selvages on edges that will be joined, stitch 1/2" seams, and press. Leave selvages on the outer edges of the back for stability.

If you pre-washed the fabric for the top, then wash the backing, also. Backing and batting should be 6"-8" wider than the quilt top (3" – 4" on each side). Run seams parallel to the long side of the quilt, if possible.

3. **Batting**: I have four different types of Hobbs Heirloom batting in stock, or you may bring your own. If you provide batting, cut the ends square, and the same size as the backing.

4. **Binding**: If you wish, I can make, sew on and finish your binding for you, or I can apply it for you to hand-finish.

If you make the binding for me to apply, cut it 2 1/4" - 2 1/2" wide, piece ends diagonally, and press it in half lengthwise. Make enough to go around the quilt, plus an extra 12" for corners and finishing.

5. **Thread**: I use primarily Permacore, Superior's Omni, and Signature threads, available in many colors. I will supply specialty threads (high gloss, variegated, etc.) at cost.

Thread color used on top will normally be used in the bobbin. (I do not recommend a strong contrast between top and bobbin color, as it may show on the top.)