

PREPARING YOUR QUILT FOR THE LONGARM

Squaring Your Backing Fabric

↑
Backing Fabric Top
4"

↑
QUILT TOP

These two rectangles represent your quilt top and your quilt backing. When I lay your quilt top and backing out on the Longarm they will appear like this illustration. The quilt top and back are both centered to my canvas leaders at the arrow marks.

Your backing must be 4 inches larger than your top on each of the 4 edges. This is a total of 8 inches larger overall than your top on both the length and width measurements. When using selvedge edges to piece your back, be sure to stitch these together with a 1/2" seam. If less seam allowance you run the chance of seeing the white salvage or the puncture marks. Better safe than sorry. Some people recommend that you cut off the salvage if it's in a seam. Also, it is best to press your seams OPEN on the backing fabrics which make them less bulk where you pieced it.

The top and bottom of your backing should be **parallel** to each other and squared. If the top and bottom of the backing is angled in any way, as the quilt is advanced, puckers form in the backing, which we definitely don't want.

Large clamps hold the left and right edges of the backing and batting to keep your back from puckering during the quilting process. If your side backing fabric is too short, the clamps will be too close to the quilt top and the top is often distorted. Please note that all four sides on the backing fabric are straight and corners are squared. This is "machine ready." If your quilt isn't squared there could be a \$10 charge added to your bill.

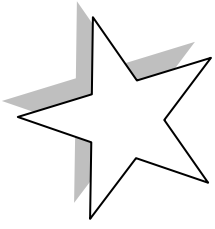
If you are piecing the backing fabric, be precise and square your blocks as you piece to keep the back as straight as possible without puckers. Please note that backing fabrics are centered on the leaders at the arrow marks above and below so depending on where you want your pieced design to lay, keep this in mind.

Batting needs to be at least 4-6 inches wider and longer than the top.

QUILT BOTTOM

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Backing Fabric Bottom
4" larger
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Right Side
Backing
Fabric
4"



Country Quilter

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Pressing Fabrics

Please be sure your quilt top and backing has been pressed and is as free of wrinkles as possible. When pressing borders, a great tip is to press your seams VERTICALLY on your ironing board, not horizontally. Pressing horizontally distorts the fabrics.

Loose Threads

Cut loose threads off the top of your quilt top. While I do my very best to remove threads for you, I can't get them all. If you have large areas of white material on your top this is very important. If there are loose threads on the back of your quilt top they will show through the white material.

Batting

There are an assortment of batting options available, polyester, cotton, combinations, wool, bamboo etc.... The local quilts shops carry many of them. Please use a good quality batting. If your quilt top is done in dark colors please consider black batting.

Special Instructions

If your backing is directional please make a special note on the order form

Specify the top of your quilt and backing with a safety pin if you have a preference

Please note that any quilting issues such as puckering, weak seams, pleats or wavering borders maybe exaggerated during the quilting process. Please know that I will do my best to work with these issues to minimize the effect.