

### **What professional long-arm quilters love to see when a quilt top and back are delivered to them**

- One of the nice things about having your quilt long-arm quilted, is you do not have to pin, tack, fuse or baste. No layering is required. The top, backing, and batting need to be separate.
- Mark the top of the front and back of quilt to insure the correct design direction when mounting the quilt onto the frame. This can be done with a safety pin.
- Top must be flat, pressed, and squared up. Seams should be pressed flat and pressed to one side or open. All loose threads need to be clipped. Embellishments such as buttons, ribbons, etc. should be added to the top after it has been quilted.
- If you have wavy borders, you may want to fix them before having them quilted to avoid having them pucker.
- Please be sure all seams are secure. If you have a pieced border (flying geese, piano keys etc.) stay stitch the outer edge to avoid stretching and seams popping open. Do not serge the edges.
- Backing and batting must be at least 4" larger than the top on all sides. For example, if the top is 72 X 90, the backing and batting will need to be at least 80 X 98. You do not have to cut the backing and batting to be the exactly the right size. It can be bigger and trimmed later.
- If you piece your back, make sure all pieces are the same length and there are no waves. Heavily pieced backing are not recommended. The backing needs to be squared up.
- Backing should have selvages removed before seaming. Don't use sheets for the backing, as the weave is too tight. The selvages and weave of the sheets can cause stitches to skip. If the seams are more than a ¼ of an inch wide, they should be pressed open to avoid bulk. Do not serge your backing pieces together as this can cause a lump in your quilt.
- If you would like the seams on the backing to run a certain direction, please indicate which direction you would like. Horizontal seams (Left to Right) are preferred. It is easier to avoid floppy areas and possible puckering when quilts are loaded.
- Centering a quilt on a pieced backing is not possible on a long-arm machine without pre-basting, and even then there is no guarantee it will remain centered due to the way they are loaded and the "draw-up factor" involved during the quilting process and your quilt is not square. You must specify if you wish to have a top centered and there usually is an additional charge.
- Batting needs to be of good quality. Batting that can be pulled apart easily, bunches or stretches cannot be used. Warm & Natural, Hobbs 80/20, Bamboo, Hobbs 100% cotton with scrim and Wool are some of the battings that I can use. Please check if you have a different type of batting to make sure it is some kind that will work for me.
- For more info go to [http://www.quiltuniversity.com/preparing\\_to\\_be\\_long\\_armed.htm](http://www.quiltuniversity.com/preparing_to_be_long_armed.htm)