



## Slippery Needles Quilting and Threadworks

659 Lorne St W Pembroke ON

613-635-2178

### Prepping Your Quilt for the Longarm

There are a few steps that need to be taken to ensure a successful stitch out on the longarm:

- Ensure that your quilt top is square. An hourglass top will get an hourglass result. There are many tricks that I have to get a quilt as squared up as possible while quilting, but sadly not all piecing errors can be “quilted out”. If a top is very out of shape, I will return it to you. Of course, a little out here and there can be mostly handled on the longarm.
- Press your seams. I don’t care which way, whatever way makes you happy.
- Trim and remove all the dark threads from the back if you have a light background. As the quilting compresses the top to the batting dark threads can show through the light background. I am always on the look-out for these threads and have some tricks to remove them if they get caught underneath. I however, cannot guarantee that I can retrieve them 100% of the time.
- Measure and square your backing. There needs to be an additional 4 inches of fabric all the way around the quilt top to ensure that I can attach the top and bottom as well as clamp the sides. If there is not enough material to do this, I will need to attach extra material. If you know you are going to want custom quilting with rulers etc, a few extra inches are really helpful as well. This would have the backing 6-8 inches wider and longer to allow for turning the quilt on the frame and space to support the rulers on the sides.
- Batting also needs to be 3-4 inches wider and longer than the quilt top to adjust along the way.
- If there is a top side to the quilt top or backing, please mark it with some painters tape, a pinned note, flag...whatever you need to do. Sometimes this is not obvious.
- Please ensure your top, batting and backings are clean and scent free. Pet marking and odours can not only foul up my studio space, but will potentially ruin the leaders that I attach them to. Leaders are reused for future projects and if they are fouled, I cannot use them with other projects. Quilts that are fouled will be returned.
- Do not pin baste your quilt; they will all be removed for proper loading.
- Remove all buttons, beads, charms and decorations from the top.
- If you are unsure of how to do any of this, just let me know. Dropping your project off for the first time for longarming can sound overwhelming, however, I am here to guide you as best I can.
- Please complete the quilt intake form off the website, or I will happily email one to you if your quilt is being mailed in.