

Frankenbatting

Keep those batting scraps!!

FRANKENBATTING... Have you ever wondered what to do with the ends that come back from the longarm or your own ends...Frankenbatting it!!

What is Frankenbatting? This is really just piecing together the ends that are returned to make another batting for your project. These can be used on a quilt; or any other project that requires batting. Use it as a main layer or a second layer...the sky is the limit!

Are you wondering if it will fall apart? Will the seams be felt by the quilt owner...nope, it won't be felt at all. There are times when quilting the bottom of a quilt that quilters are left short. What they do to fix this is to lay another small end at the bottom of the quilt and trim to fit. This will be covered in another helpful Tip Sheet. The only difference with Frankenbatting is that the pieces are zig-zagged stitched together to create a larger sheet of batting.

Why would you want to make a Frankenbatting? Well, lets be real, you paid for the batting so why not use it up. There is a lot of waste in this textile industry so anytime we can save some landfill space and space in our closets is a good reason to make it up.

How do I make a Frankenbatting? Pull all your ends out of your closets, under the bed, out of drawers and cupboards. If you are very organized, you may have had your ends all measured and stored on lovely shelves, or you may have it all thrown in a bin. No problem either way. Pull them all out and let's get started.

Laying them out on a clean floor or on a large bed will help arrange the pieces by size. If you have a project size in mind, arrange the pieces so that it will be the required size at the end. For example, your quilt top is 60 x 60 inches. Arrange your pieces so you know you will have enough to create the batting. Arrange until you have the size but keeping in mind that 4-5 pieces is generally enough for a nice batting.

Try to stick with the same batting so that the shrinkage and density is the same throughout.

Once you have your batting pieces arranged, they will need to have a straight edge. Using your cutting mat and rotary cutter with ruler will allow you to get a nice straight edge to your pieces. No need to worry about the ends, just the sides as they are what will be stitched together.

Now that your edges are straight and lovely, arrange them so that they are all the same way ...dimples/pimples all the same, face up or down.

Set your sewing machine to a large zig-zag stitch. A walking foot can be very helpful but you can also go slow and it will still work out. Line up your two edges and keep it consistent under the foot and zig-zag to the other side...Repeat with the rest of the pieces. Try not to overlap the pieces, just keep them together.

Ta-Da!!!! You have saved yourself money, a trip to the store, closet space and the environment!!!!