Quilt Preparation Tips for a Rewarding Long Arm Experience!

Requirements:

- Do not sew your seams at less than 1/4 inch seam allowance. They may separate and unravel while your quilt is pulled over the rollers.

- Your back and batting must be larger than your top by a minimum of 4" in all directions. If you plan to do a "wrapped binding" you will need 8" on top and bottom and 4"on both sides. (If you are planning to do a wrapped binding please let us know when you arrive.)

- Do not baste your quilt top with your batting to the backer. Bring them in individual folded layers.

- Square all edges on your quilt top and back in advance. This is essential for a quality finished product.

- Iron all of your seams on your top and back. Your quilt will lay flatter and you'll see fewer lumps and ridges.

Recommendations:

- Remove all loose threads. Dark colored threads left on the back of a quilt top can frequently be seen, especially if they're caught behind lighter fabrics.

- Decide, in advance, if your quilt top and back are directional. If your back is a panel allow for excess on all sides and square it up to the best of your ability. We will do our best to get it as centered as possible. Since the quilt back is on a separate roller than the top, and both advance differently, we can't guarantee that your back center panel will be perfectly aligned with the center of your top.

- Fix baggy borders. Quilt tops with baggy borders frequently end up with tucks and pleats after quilting is completed. If you notice your quilt will not lay flat or fold nicely, these are indicators that you may have baggy borders.

- Use quality materials. Sheets, batiks, upholstery fabric, and polyester behave differently. We highly recommend quality fabrics and battings only. Please don't bring comforters or blankets as a substitute for quality batting. We reserve the right to refuse any materials that might cause damage to our long arm machine.

- You can purchase and download your own quilt designs for the automated quilter. Just bring the downloaded file (format "filename.hqf" or "filename.qli") to the store on a USB drive. We recommend www.digitechpatterns.com or www.intelligentquilting.com as great resources for thousands of possible quilting designs to purchase