

## Tips for Success with Long Arm Quilting

### QUILT TOP PREP:

- An accurate ¼" seam allowance is important.
- Press** (not sliding your iron) your top well, this gives you a chance to inspect and fix seam breaks, border waves or fullness. The quilting process can take up SOME minor fullness but not all.
- Pressing** also helps create a flatter surface when your top is long armed. Fold corner to corner to check if square, if not, know it will not quilt out square.
- Clip** any remaining loose threads front and back(they show through light fabrics).
- If you have pieced blocks or seams on your outer edge, **stay stitch** ⅛"from to stabilize before quilting.
- indicate top edge if directional-a safety pin in top corner, pinned note helps me.

### BACKING PREP:

- Backing needs to be **4-5" larger** than your quilt top on all sides for quilting to the outside edge. 8-10" larger length and width.
- Backings are stretched slightly when loaded onto the quilting frame.
- If using a wide back, check for squareness, straighten if needed, as they often are not folded squarely. (I like to square by ripping the edge,I buy extra for this)
- If using a pieced back you need a ½" seam allowance,salvages trimmed away and seam pressed open. Check that the backing is square. Salvage on outer edge ok.
- A horizontal back seam is preferred, not required (seams do not stretch, and can create distortion high center and droopy corners).
- Backs with quilt blocks and multiple seams, embroidered messages treat as you would a quilt top, and keep in mind alignment is difficult to maintain during the quilting process. Mark your top edge if directional. Press well.

### I WANT YOU TO LOVE YOU QUILT TOP

**There are always exceptions and allowances that can be made-communication is Important-always provide a good way to contact you if any questions arise.**

Jodi Andrews

Flying Heart Quilting

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