

PINNING QUILTS

1. Line up tables to make a space larger than the quilt size you will be pinning (usually 2 rows of 3 long tables, 6 in all)
2. Lay out batting on table surface lining up one long side and the top with the tables.
3. Clamp this first corner of batting to the table with a vice-type clamp that opens wide enough to fit around both the batting and the edge of the table.
4. On other side of the table at the top edge, gently stretch the batting to have a smooth surface without any buckles or ridges. Clamp this corner with the second vice-clamp.
5. Gently stretch batting the length of table toward the bottom of the quilt and clamp on the corner just past where your quilt will lay.
6. A fourth clamp is placed on the last side of the table, gently stretching the batting the length and width of the table to get rid of any buckles or ridges.
7. The batting should be a nice smooth surface without wrinkles or ridges, but not so tight that it pulls back a lot when released.
8. Place your prepared quilt top right-side up with one corner matching the top and side edge at first clamp. Line up the fabric against the edge of the batting (This process will help eliminate the need to trim all four edges of batting after pinning.)
9. The Batting should always extend at least to the edges of your fabric!
10. Carefully smooth fabric so there are no wrinkles and ensure fabric edges meet closely with batting edges.
11. Place your backing fabric on top of your top fabric starting again at the top of the first clamp with the right side down (The right sides of your fabric should be facing each other).
12. Again, match one side and top edge together. (Overlap of fabric on other two edges can be trimmed to match after pinning).
13. Smooth second layer like the first with no wrinkles.
14. Using long quilting pins, each side of the quilt needs to be pinned.
15. Pins should go through all three quilt layers (two layers of fabric and one layer of batting) with the point facing outward, not extending beyond the edges that will be trimmed. Place pins 6 – 8 inches apart with the point at least a half inch from the edge.
16. Pin all four sides of fabric and batting together.
17. Trim excess batting and fabric to make an even edge all around the quilt. Make sure to pay attention to the fabric edges so they match up.
18. When finished trimming, fold up quilt and place in a bag ready to be sewn and enveloped. Good job!