

LightBulb Night Twilight Quilters' Guild October 2018

What a great night! Lots of very useful information on some tricky topics. Hopefully everyone has something new to try. I need to have my pool noodle spray basted quilt completed by Thursday!

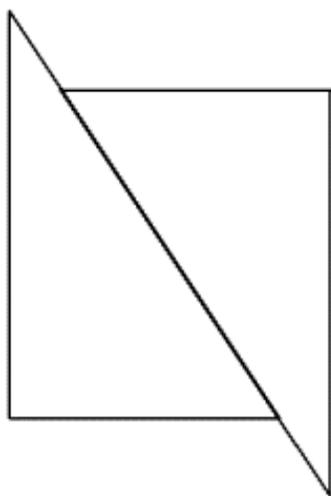
I am going to make one big PDF file so that it has all of the topics but have it so that if you are interested in just one or 2, you will be able to print only those pages. Instead of using the default Print all selection, use the Print Pages __ to __ just below.

Diagonal Quilt Backing Demonstrated by Vicki Harris

By using a diagonal seam on your quilt backing, you can easily make your backing fabric wider than the width of fabric that you buy. This works especially well when your quilt top is just a little wider than the backing. i.e. a 54" top and 45" backing.

[This Link](#) takes you to an online calculator to figure out how much backing fabric to buy. Insert your measurements and the answer pops up.

This diagram shows how it works and how little wasted fabric there is. Just the top and bottom triangles!



Doug Leko 3-Pin Quilt Assembly Demonstrated by Jill Jackson

While “webbing “ a quilt for foolproof assembly has been around for years, Doug Leko and the Fat Quarter Shop have simplified it considerably. Once you have your layout finalized, you will systematically place all the blocks in one single pile for assembly! Here is the [video](#).

Jill used pompoms for the demo but you should use 3 safety pins. We have since discovered that the 3rd pin, in the bottom right corner, will always tell you how to align the block pile on your lap. Just in case you have to get up in the middle and are not sure what is the top of the block. It is also always a good idea to take a photo of your layout before starting.

Getting Your Quilts Ready for the Long Armer Demonstrated by Terry Anderson

- . Remove all the selvages from the backing fabric so that entire back can drape freely. If you have to seam the backing, press the seam to one side, never open.
- . Apply borders carefully by pressing and pinning it to your quilt top. You should measure the width of your quilt in several places and cut your border exactly the average of the measurements. Just sitting down to your machine with a long, long border and free handing it on can lead to a ruffling affect that can cause puckers during quilting process.
- . Use a 1/8" stay-stitch around the outside of your quilt top if it has many seams. They tend to pop open with the tension of the long arm.
- . Square up your quilt top and backing for best results. Use your biggest square ruler on the corners.
- . **Most importantly!** Your backing and batting need to be 4" bigger on all four sides than your quilt top. Two sides will be pinned to leaders and the other two sides will pinned to elastic strips. I need to quilt off the edges of your quilt and running over pins can cause damage to the long arm. In the photo below, you can see that the batting and backing are the same size, but they are 4" bigger than the top and they are attached to clips at the top and sides of the long arm.



MACHINE STITCHED BINDINGS

Demonstrated by Jan Grincevicius

1. Cut your binding strip to your preferred width. I use 2.25". Piece the strips together to the length you need.
2. Using your walking foot and a quilting needle (size 90/14), you can sew the binding strip either to the front and wrap the strip to the back; or sew to the back of the quilt and wrap to the front.
3. See <http://www.blossomheartquilts.com/2017/12/how-to-machine-bind-a-quilt/> for instructions on sewing the first round to the front and wrapping to the back for the second round of stitching. See Elaine Theriault Quilt Social blog at <https://quiltsocial.com/stitching-down-the-binding-thread-color-stitches-and-stitch-length/> for instructions on sewing the first round to the back and wrapping the binding to the front for the second round of stitching. Another a good tutorial is found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GVA05MxXTU>.

I think a more professional result is achieved by sewing the binding to the back and wrapping to the front.

4. Choose the type and colour of thread you wish to use. You can either colour match your binding (my preference) or chose a contrasting colour to emphasize the stitching.
5. To do the second round of stitching, you can use a straight stitch or a decorative stitch. It is actually easier to sew using a decorative stitch, but chose one which is open. One which is dense will be very difficult for your machine to stitch through all the layers of top, batting, backing and binding; and will use a lot of thread.

Four decorative stitches I use are:

- a. Zig zag: 4 wide and 6 long
 - b. Short serpentine: 7 wide and 8.7 long
 - c. Long serpentine: 7 wide and 11.6 long
 - d. Chicken feet: 5.5 wide and 10.5 long (a thread hog)
6. I prefer to pin the binding at the corners on the second round to get a good 45° corner.
 7. A tutorial for a flanged machine binding can be found at <https://quiltsocial.com/5-steps-for-adding-a-pop-of-color-with-a-flange-in-the-binding/>

How to Fix Bleeding in a Finished Quilt Demonstrated by Vicki Harris

The key to removing unwanted colour from your quilt is to use lots of hot water, a dish detergent and long 12 hour soaks. Your bathtub is the perfect place! You want all the excess dye molecules to float into the water. Repeat the process until the prince water is completely clear. [Here](#) is an excellent handout by Vicki Welsh at colorwaysbyvicki.com She know what she is talking about!

Pool Noodle Spray Quilt Sandwiching Demonstrated by Stephanie Sinden

If you Google “pool noodle quilt sandwich” you should find the many links. [This video](#) is from another part of the British Empire and she uses the terms wadding for the batting and topper for the top. It is nice and short.

[This lady](#) uses 1”x2” boards from the lumber yard. I have a set of those in my garage that I use for wider quilts. You can use masking tape to attach the fabric to the wood or just start off carefully, Here is a [link](#) that explains the rolling a little better. It is a photo tutorial.

With your backing wrong side up on your flat surface, you will roll your backing onto the noodle, pinning with small headed pins, so that the right side of the fabric is on the outside. It doesn't matter how you roll the batting. Roll the top so that the wrong side is on the outside. Start pinning in the centre and then smooth it out so it is taut and even as you go outwards. You should only need to pin the fabric to the noodle once at the very beginning. Be sure to roll the fabric onto the roll perfectly straight. If it angles, it can cause problems.

Place your backing on your table so that the fabric rolls smoothly off the noodle. You want the backing to be flat on the table. You don't want a “waterfall” like you use for toilet paper.

Unroll about a foot, smooth it out and spray lightly with your basting spray. I use 505 Spray and it is widely available. Now place the batting noodle at the top of the backing. Centre it and roll it out, smoothing out any wrinkles. Basting spray is reposition-able so you can lift it up and try again, even several times. you can even reroll it back onto the noodle. Some quilters like to use a quilting ruler to smooth things out. I mostly just use my hands.

At this point, you might want to unroll a few feet of both, without spraying, just to see that you have rolled everything straightly. And at this point you can decide whether to baste the whole length of the batting onto the backing, or start the top now. There are advantages to both.

If you complete the batting first, you could then roll both layers onto the noodle and repeat the step above, or you can leave your 2 layers flat on your table, hanging over the side.

If you are trying to match up a seam line on the backing with seams on the top, then work with all 3 layers at a time. Unroll the bottom one about a foot, spray and roll the batting out over that area, spray it and then roll down the top. You can mark the top of the batting if you need exact matching.

You can't see where the spray is but if you try to roll the noodle back up, it will stick where the spray is.

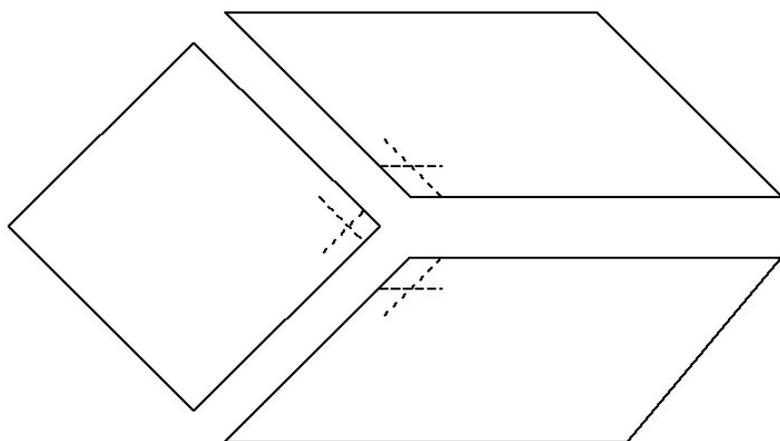
If you can't find pool noodles in the winter, you can also look for foam pipe insulation at the building stores. If you can only find one or 2, you can still make it work.

It really is pretty easy. Try it using a crib quilt! The first few times, I had to rewatch the video but now I can do without looking!

Partial Seams and the Dreaded Y-Seams Demonstrated by Diane Crothers

For sewing of partial seams there is a very good video on learnhowtoquilt.com. Check it [here](#).

For sewing Y-seams, The Fat Quarter Shop has an excellent video done by Edyta Sitar. You can find it [here](#). Edyta doesn't even mark her stopping points but you can. Using your quilting ruler mark the 1/4" intersections as you see in the photo below.



Quilt as you Go Demonstrated by Mary Lou Luke

Mary Lou demonstrated 2 different Quilt as you go or QAYG techniques. The first one was a sampler quilt. All the blocks are made and then sandwiched. You do your free motion quilting on each individual block/sandwich. **The advantage of this is you do not have to wrestle your whole quilt top through your machine as you quilt it.** You might have a 10" or 15" square only. Once the blocks are all quilted, they are trimmed to the correct size and then the sashing is applied on the top and back of the quilt to make it look just like a "regular quilt".

Mary Lou's second method of QAYG is like string piecing on a paper foundation but you are sewing on batting and backing instead of paper! No papers to rip off! These blocks are then finished with sashing as in the first example.

Mary Lou's printed handouts are on the next 2 pages.