Preparing Your Quilt for A Long-Arm Quilter

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- All seams are stitched securely – especially the outside perimeter. When the quilt is loaded on the rollers of the long-arm, the fabric is stretched taut. If you have not backstitched those outside seams, they may pull apart. (Stay stitching around quilt 1/8" is a viable option)
- Remove any selvages before piecing your back-they do not stretch and can cause puckers and may not lie flat.
- Square your quilt top, but more importantly square the back. If you piece the back, make sure it is trimmed square.
- Please press your seams, (front and back). Press them as flat as you can.
- For flat borders, measure your quilt center, and on the 2 outside edges where the borders will attach. Take an average of the three and that is the border length. This applies to both directions.
- Trim all your loose threads. You aren't going to like seeing a dark thread tail behind your lighter color fabric.
- Backing and batting must be at least 6-8" longer and 6-8" wider than the quilt top. Quilters need that much extra to ensure that our grips to the sides of the quilts will distribute the tension evenly. The grips will get in the way of the machine if there is not enough extra fabric for the back. This can cause "wobbles" in the quilting if there is not enough back fabric.
- If you have pre-washed your fabric for the quilt top, you should pre-wash your fabric for the back to avoid any uneven shrinkage.
- Bring each layer (top, batting, backing) separately (do not baste them together).
- If you have a directional quilt or back, please place a safety pin at the top if you have a preference.
- Press your back.
- Please embellish your quilt AFTER it has been quilted.

WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE THE CONSULTATION

- Your budget. High end custom will cost you much more than an edge to edge design.
- Possible designs you might like (you will get some suggestions from the long-arm quilter)
- Thread color – do you like contrast or do you like the thread to blend in?