



Top

- Press all seams flat, according to whatever pressing rule you prefer to follow, as you are piecing. If they don't lay flat, this will cause bumps and puckering that can distort the quilting.
- Measure the width and length of your top in four places. (See next page for how to do this.) If your measurements are off, you have incorporated some degree of fullness into your top during the piecing process. This fullness, as long as it is minor, can be eased during the quilting process, but it can't be quilted out. The more significant the fullness is, the more likely you are to have tucks/folds quilted into your top. If you have a fullness issue, see https://www.longarmuniversity.com/PDFs/Applying_Borders.pdf for tips on how to fix your top prior to sending it to me.
- Make sure all seams are secure, paying special attention to seams on the edges of your quilt. Make sure these edge seams are back stitched or stay stitched so they don't start coming undone when the top is loaded on the frame.
- Clip all loose/long thread tails on the front and back of top. Dark threads may show under lighter fabrics.
- Check for twisted seams which cause bulk and can be difficult to quilt over.
- If your quilt is designed to have rounded edges, wait until after the quilting is completed before rounding.
- If quilt top and/or backing is directional, mark the top with a safety pin.
- If you pre-wash your fabrics, remember to pre-wash your backing.
- Your top should be **as square as possible** before it's loaded on my long arm machine. You can do this 'squaring up' yourself, or I can do it for you for an additional charge. I will center and square up the top edge of your top to the machine and backing fabric as best as possible.
- Note, I float my tops and follow ruler guides on my quilt frame. This allows me keep your quilt as square as possible while quilting, and at the same time, make minor adjustment for slight deviations in the straightness of the piecing.

Backing

- Backing needs to be **8-10" longer in length and width** than the quilt top (4-5" all around).
Example: a 60" x 60" top would have a backing that is at least 68" x 68". The additional fabric is needed to load the backing on the long arm frame, and test stitch tension settings.
- If seaming your backing, remove selvages from seam edges, run seams horizontal to the top/bottom of your finished quilt, shorten your stitch length, use a wider seam width (1/2 inch recommended), and press the backing seam open.
- It's generally not a good idea to do any piecing (using leftover blocks and/or different fabrics) on the backing, but if done, it should be done in the center of the back. I will do the best I can, but cannot guarantee your piecing on the back will be perfectly centered or square relative to your quilt top.

Batting

- Batting needs to be **8-10" longer in length and width** than the quilt top (4-5" all around).
Example: a 60" x 60" top would have batting that is at least 68" x 68". The additional batting is needed to test stitch tension settings and insure high quality quilting throughout your top.

Embellishments

- Put embellishments (i.e. beads, buttons) on after the quilting is complete.

Upon arrival, quilt tops are evaluated before quoting a firm price. I can give you an estimated price during our initial consultation, but if I don't have the quilt top in front of me at the time we talk, I can't give you a firm price.

Most of the time the estimated price ends up being very close to the actual price. In cases where they differ, it is usually either because : 1) you didn't know about the degree of waviness, or fullness in the top, and you've decided you want me to fix it prior to quilting, or 2) you decided to add/subtract some additional quilt Prep/Finishing services that were not requested in our initial consult discussion.

I will contact you prior to doing any work that would increase your estimated quilting cost. Any concerns will be discussed, and an agreement regarding how to proceed will be made. I value customer communication, and want my clients to feel engaged in the decision-making process.

Please use the checklist at the end of this file as a guide for getting your quilt ready to send to me. If you have any questions please let me know.

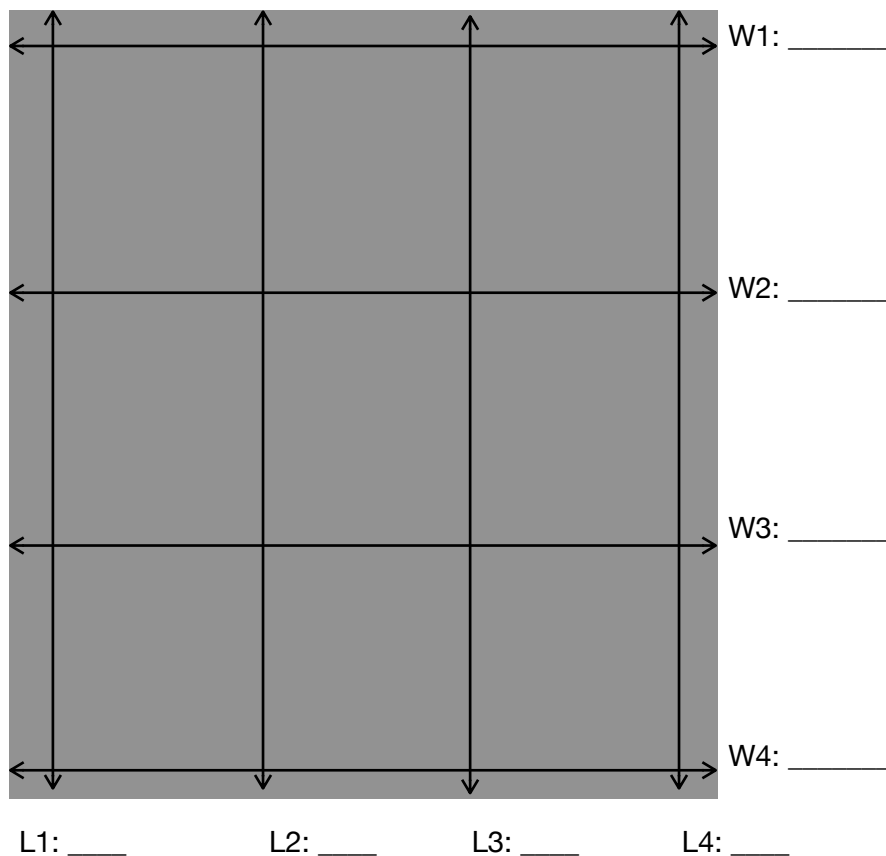
Thanks for your business,
Annette Swartz
annette@birdhavenquilting.com
503-781-4262

Measuring Quilt Tops:

Before sending me your top, measure the width of your quilt in four places. Do the same for the length. (You can use the template included below to record your measurements.) Ideally, these measurements should be the same. In reality, they will probably vary, but if they vary too much, your top will be challenging to quilt, and we will need to make some decisions regarding how you want to proceed. As part of my work on your top, I will repeat this process once I receive your top. But it is important that you do it yourself **BEFORE** you send me your top. If you discover big variances in width or length, we can discuss how to deal with this while you still have your top in front of you. This is cheaper for you, and more time efficient for me.

What is too much variance? Well, that all depends on how you are using the quilt, and what your individual tolerance is for asymmetry. If it's an everyday snuggle cuddle over the bed quilt, no one will notice if it's not 100% square. If it's a wall hanging or a table runner, and it will bug you to see the asymmetry in the finished product, then you are better off fixing it now. So, what's the magic number? If your measurements are within a 1/2" of each other you'll be fine. If the variance is greater, let's talk about what might be causing it, how you might deal with it, how I might deal with it, and what end result you will be happiest with.

Note, having greater variance is not something to worry about or hide. I piece and quilt tops that have variance issues all the time. I like to think of it as an interesting design development that is part of the character of that individual top. The important question is how you want me to manage this aspect of your top.





BIRD HAVEN
QUILTING AND FIBER ARTS

Longarm Checklist

Use this checklist to prep your quilt top and backing before sending them to me. It's a great way to minimize your out-of-pocket costs, and to ensure you will be 100% happy with the finished quilt.

General:

___ All layers (top, batting, and backing) **separate** —no basting, pins, or glues.

Top:

___ Measure top **width** in four places. These should be very close to the same regardless of where you measure.

___ Measure top **length** in four places. These should be very close to the same regardless of where you measure.

___ Trim and remove all loose threads.

___ Press entire top, making sure all seams lay flat.

___ Check for flipped seams and fix if possible.

___ Fix wavy borders. I can quilt over waviness, but you may not be happy with the end result, especially if you have a lot of wave in your border.

___ Square up edges, paying special attention to the top corners.

___ Back stitch or stay stitch over all outer edge seams.

___ Check for open seams and fix them.

___ Mark "TOP" with a safety pin.

___ Embellishments? Don't attach them yet. I can't quilt over them.

Backing:

___ No sheets please, as this may result in tension issues, and/or bearding.

___ If seaming, trim selvages off seamed edges.

___ Use 1/2" seams and press them open (if seamed).

___ Press entire back, being sure to remove wrinkles.

___ Straighten and square the edges.

___ Mark "TOP" with a safety pin.

___ Make backing at least 8-10" larger than top (4-5" larger on **ALL** sides).

Batting: (Please check one of the two options.)

___ I will purchase from Annette ("Warm & Natural" or "Quilter's Dream"), **OR**

___ I will supply my own batting. If so, please tell me the Brand, Type, and Recommended Quilting Density. Also, make sure it is at least 8-10" larger than your quilt top (4-5" larger on **ALL** sides).

Binding: (Only if Annette is making and/or sewing your binding on.)

___ Supply 1/2-1 yd., depending on the size of your quilt, of **UNCUT** fabric. By default, binding strips are cut 2 1/2". If you want a different width, let me know.