



## Preparing your quilt for long arm quilting

### **Your Quilt Top**

For best results, make sure your quilt is pressed so all seams are flat. Snip all thread ends especially if they come through the seams to the top. Threads left on the back may show through the fabric (especially a dark thread through lighter fabric).

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Spread your quilt out—are the borders a little wavy? If they are, consider how you attached them. Often, quilters will cut a long strip of fabric, sew it on, then chop off any excess. A wavy border occurs when the strip or the quilt is pulled through the machine unevenly so one is eased into the other. To prevent this:

### **MEASURE --- MEASURE --- MEASURE!!!**

Measure your quilt length across the center, and close to each side.

Use an average if they are off by a little bit.

Cut your borders to length based on the measurement.

Pin your borders in place, and then sew.

You will have beautiful, flat borders every time!!!

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### **Backing Fabric**

For best results, the backing for your quilt should have 4" of extra fabric on each side of your quilt. If your quilt is 60"x60" the backing should be at least 68"x 68". If it is larger that is okay. I will trim the excess and return it to you.

The backing should be squared up. If you are using a wide backing fabric, you can tear the fabric from selvage to selvage. The grain of the fabric allows for a nice straight cut.

If you piece the backing, be sure to trim all selvages from the backing. The selvage has less stretch than the fabric and can cause difficulties if left in a seam on the backing. You can square it up by folding it in quarters and using your rulers to trim the edges making sure you have a 90 degree angle from each folded side. There are numerous videos available online to help you if you are not sure how to do this.

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### **Batting**

Your batting should also be about 4" larger than your quilt top on each side. I carry Quilter's Dream, but you can provide the batting of your choice.