

Preparing Your Top to be Quilted

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1. Starts when you are piecing your blocks and setting them together.
 - a. Make sure you used a consistent $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance.
 - b. Press as you go.
 - c. Trim extra at points and notch points.
2. If you are putting a border on your quilt, make the quilt fit the border not the border fit the quilt.
 - a. Measure the length of the quilt in three places, top, middle and bottom to come up with an average.
 - b. Measure the width of the quilt in three places, top middle and bottom to come up with an average.
 - c. Make borders this average length, this will make your quilt square.
3. Stay stitch any bias or pieced edges of the quilt.
 - a. Bias edges will stretch on the frame and cause the quilt to lose its square.
 - b. Pieced edges will come apart when stretched and make it hard to quilt and bind.
4. Trim any threads that may be sticking out the topside of your quilt so they will not get caught in the quilter.
5. Do not add embellishments to your quilt until it is quilted.
6. Check to make sure that all seams are secure, they look prettier sewn from the back than from the front.
7. Press your top one last time.
8. If you are using cotton batting and have washed your top and back then you need to wash your batting.
9. Your back should have equal attention.
 - a. If you wash it, iron it.
 - b. If you are using a purchased sheet, then take out the hems.
 - c. Make sure you have at least 2" more on *each* side and at least 8' more in length.