

QUILT SPECIFICATIONS

FLUFF & STUFF

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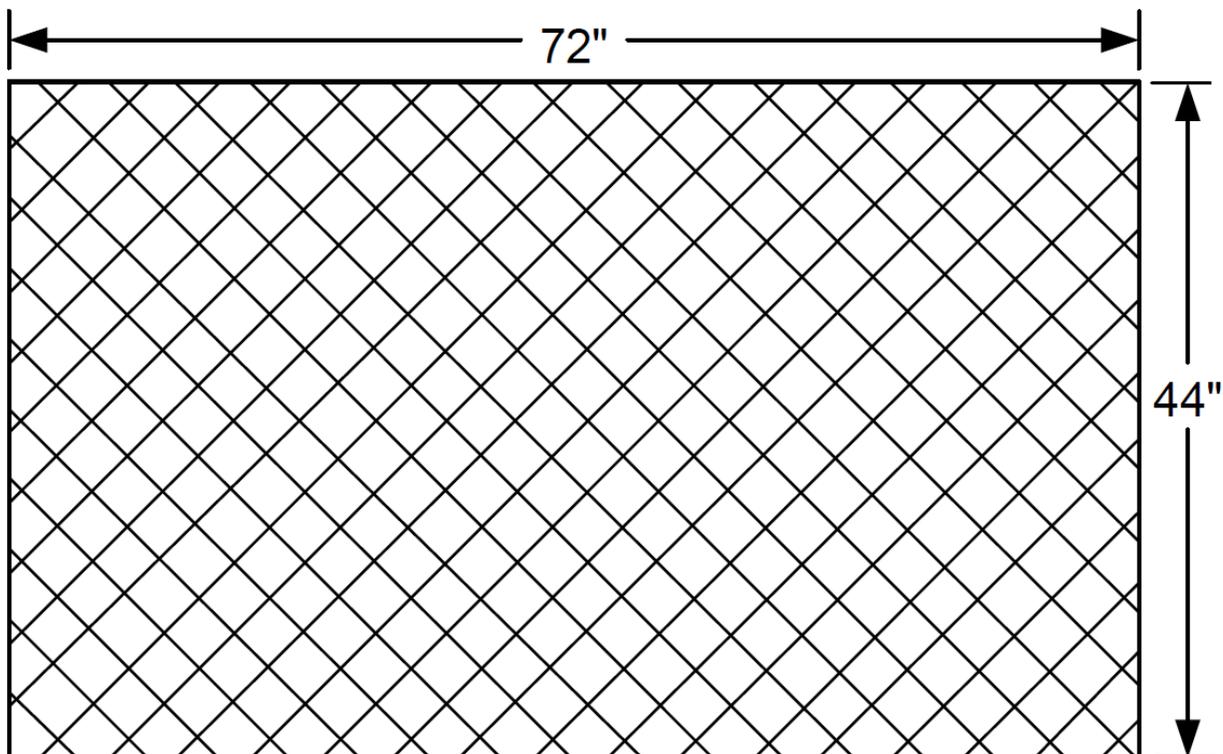
You have several options for what to bring to work on during the Fluff & Stuff workshop. The object of the class is to learn to move big quilts through a domestic machine, master straight stitching using the start and stop technique that Paula will teach you and to learn and/or improve your free motion skills. Therefore, you need to work on a project that will give you an opportunity to work in straight lines as well as free motion.

Option 1: My preferred option is that you pin up a finished quilt top (directions for pinning to follow). I know that a lot of people don't have one sitting around that they are willing to practice on; one of the things I see most often in class is students working on charity quilts that they have taken from their quilt guilds to quilt and return.

If you are serious about learning to quilt a big quilt on your home machine, bring a big quilt! If you don't think you will ever want to do anything larger than a baby quilt, then bring that – totally up to you what you want to do in class size-wise.

If you think you will only want to do free motion on a quilt and absolutely no straight stitching, that quilt would not be a good choice for this class.

Option 2: If you do not want to work on a quilt, you can purchase four yards of light colored fabric, such as muslin, and cut it into two 2-yard pieces. Set one 2-yard piece aside for the back of your quilt sandwich and mark the other 2-yard piece diagonally in both directions at 6" intervals as shown below:



If you have an acrylic ruler that is 6" wide by any length, all you have to do is draw your first line in each direction at a 45 degree angle with a long ruler or yardstick and then use that 6" ruler to draw the remaining lines. On the first day, you will be doing straight stitching on all of those lines. On the second day, you will stitch free motion designs, both marked and unmarked, within the stitched squares. I bring a selection of 5" stencils that fit perfectly in this square size. Once the top is marked, you can grab your batting and backing fabric and pin as instructed below.

Option 3: You could also choose to bring a printed panel pinned as instructed below. Remember that we are going to do straight stitching the first day, so a panel that is organized in squares or straight lines like a quilt top would be a better option than a pictorial panel that only has curves to stitch.

Batting: A low-loft cotton batting would be ideal as well as pretty cost-effective; more expensive battings would be wool, silk, bamboo, etc. Polyester would be the least expensive (although not particularly comfortable for baby or bed quilts); if you buy this, make sure it is low loft and not fluffy.

Pinning: There will not be time or space to pin in the classroom, so this needs to be done before you come to class!

If you are using a quilt top or a panel, cut your backing fabric and your batting 2" bigger all around than your top piece. So, for instance, if your quilt top is 60" x 80", your backing and batting would be cut 64" x 84". If you are doing Option 2, then your backing is already cut, you just need to cut your batting the same size.

Small (often labeled size 1) safety pins are ideal; pins should be spaced approximately 4" apart. Thread basting is fine for hand quilting but is not secure enough for machine quilting; pinning is much better! If you are having problems manipulating the pins through the layers, a KwikKlip tool is a really handy thing to use. I avoid the very large pins, even though they are often labeled for quilting, because I feel their thicker shafts are more likely to break threads.

Other supplies:

Thread in colors compatible with your project, plus monofilament (I prefer Transfil by Mettler) in clear and/or smoke, depending on the darkness of your project.

A couple of muslin "sandwiches" (two pieces of fabric with batting between), approximately fat quarter size. You don't need to pin these, just have the two pieces of fabric and the batting cut and ready to go. If you know you are a fast sewer, prepare and bring more sandwiches so that you don't run out of real estate. Instructor will provide stencils to mark designs on these.

Water or air soluble marker to mark designs on fabric.

General sewing supplies: Straight pins, seam ripper, small scissors or thread snips, extra safety pins, extra sewing machine needles (for cotton batting, Schmetz Jeans/Denim 80/12 are particularly good; for other battings, Microtex Sharp 80/12 are good).