

Machine Quilting made EASY  
Machine Quilting on  
Domestic Sewing Machine  
~5 tips from the Ramblings of ME~



These are 5 tips that I am offering to you from my own personal experience with machine quilting on my home sewing machine. I hope that these tips will help you get started... in order to improve your machine quilting you must **START QUILTING TODAY!**

Tip #1 – Make sure that your sewing machine has the ability to lower the feed dogs. The feed dogs are located just above your bobbin and below your needle. They are the things that go back and forth as you sew, guiding your fabric through your machine. In order to Free-Motion Quilt you need to be able to go any direction as you sew or quilt so the feed dogs must go away. Lowering the feed dogs simply means that the feed dogs sit just below the bottom plate and don't move as you sew or quilt. The two sewing machines that I have quilted with simply had a button that you moved and it lowered the feed dogs. (READ YOUR MANUAL and FIND THE BUTTON).

Tip #2 – Use quilting needles or Jean needles as you quilt. When I first started quilting I used Denim/Jean needles and they worked. However, I recently discovered Titanium plated quilting needles and they are TERRIFIC! The needles I use are *Klasse Quilting Titanium size 80/12*. A universal needle will cause some pulling as it goes through all the layers of your quilt and distort your quilting.

Tip #3 – After lowering your feed dogs, move all the stitch length to zero! This is important! There are some machines that do this automatically when you lower the feed dogs but check your dials and make sure. If you don't have it at zero it can cause some pulling on the thread as you quilt.

Tip #4 – Before you start quilting... lower your needle and pull your bobbin thread through the layers of the quilt so that you see the bobbin thread on the top. This will help with the little bird nest that may appear on the back of your quilt when you start stitching.

Tip #5 – When you start and stop quilting... you no longer have the backstitch because it comes into play with the feed dogs. You must take about 6 stitches on top of each other when you start and stop stitching...this holds the stitching so that it doesn't pull out.

Relax! It is very important to remain calm. You can do this. You will succeed. Let the motion of your quilting take hold and just roll with your design. Take a deep breath. Stop quilting when you get in a bind and restart. You must **START QUILTING TODAY!**