



Simple Ways to Hang Quilts

Timeless Stitches – Quilt Capital of Kansas

Liz Granberg-Jerome



As a quilting teacher, I've found that making small quilts as samples is very useful. They're much easier to store and transport to classes. Many of them have become favorites that I display around our home, changing them out by season or theme. When I inventoried my quilts during 2020, I discovered I have over 70 wall-hanging size quilts!

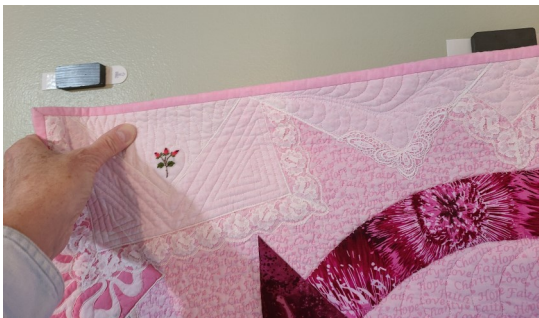
Regardless of the size of the quilt, I nearly always add a hanging sleeve on each quilt I make. I do this not only to make it easy to hang them at home, but also to meet the requirements if I decide to enter them in the county or state fairs, or regional quilt shows that require sleeves. Even when I use them on the bed, having a sleeve on them doesn't make them any less useful as a quilt to cuddle or sleep under.

My favorite way to hang most wall-hanging quilts involves block magnets, 5 lb Command strip refills, and steel strapping, all of which you can get at your local hardware store (think Arrowhead Hardware, Home Depot, Lowe's, Menards, etc.) and a couple of hair ties. At a quilt show several years ago I saw a product to hang quilts with magnets, but they were quite expensive! I was sure my husband and I could come up with an affordable way to do something similar. Our trip to the hardware store was successful indeed!



The first thing to do is cut the steel strapping in half. I've used both the 36" pieces for small to medium quilts and 48" pieces for the medium to large quilts. I wrap the ends with 2" wide blue painter's tape to keep the ends from snagging the quilt when it slides through the sleeve. Add two hair ties double wrapped around the two pieces of strapping that allows them to be adjusted to the width of the various quilts.

The next step is to clean the magnets with alcohol so they will stick well to the Command Strips. Also clean the wall with alcohol where the magnets will be placed. The 5 lb Command Strip refills seem to work the best as they are designed to carry a heavier load. Place 3 magnets evenly spaced on the wall so the weight of the quilts is distributed to hold them securely. Use a level to make small pencil marks for the placement of each magnet to make sure they are straight across so the quilts hang nicely. Leave the magnets, stuck to the wall with the Command Strips, to set for ~24 hours to let the adhesive settle before hanging your quilt. Once they're ready to go, slide the strapping into the sleeve and voila! The strapping grabs to the magnets through the sleeve and the quilt is instantly hung! And there



are no holes in the wall! I have quilts hung this way in several rooms of the house and love being able to change them out and enjoy them year around.

The magnet idea is especially nice for hanging smaller quilts in dorm rooms or apartments where putting holes in the walls may be frowned upon. Whether you're displaying large quilts on decorative curtain rods and quilt ladders or small quilts with decorative hangers or magnets, there are many ways to hang them without causing too much damage to your walls.

