

# LONG ARM QUILTING

## Quilt Preparation Guide

### Preparing Your Quilt

#### Quilt Tops

Make sure your quilt is ready to be quilted! At home, before bringing your quilt in, please check your top to see if there are any places where seams are coming out or if there are holes, and make any necessary repairs. Press the top and check seams for consistent pressing. All quilt tops should be pressed before quilting to ensure the tops are flat and ready to quilt. Snip all loose threads on the back side. Dark loose threads may show through the top of the quilt if not trimmed. Mark the centers of all four sides and also mark the top. We write a "T" in the seam allowance where it will not show.

#### Quilt Backing

At Patches, we insist that backing must be a minimum of 4" and not more than 10", larger than the quilt top on all sides in order for us to professionally quilt a project. Since it is your quilt, we'll let you decide your own minimums. However, keep in mind that it is heart-breaking to work hard completing a quilt only to find that your backing is short as you roll to the end.

When sewing two or more pieces together for the backing, do not leave selvages in the seams you have sewn. The selvages have a tighter weave, and may cause your quilt to pucker because it does not stretch like the rest of the fabric. If sewing selvedge edges together, we recommend making a 1" seam, then trimming off about 1/2" of the selvedge seam. Press seams open, and square up your quilt backing.

Mark the centers of all four sides and also mark the top like you did on your quilt top. Marking the top saves time and allows you to make sure the quilt top and the quilt backing are placed on the machine going in the correct direction.

#### Batting

You may supply your own batting or purchase it from Patchwork Quilts. If you have us do the Long Arm Quilting, you will receive a 10% discount on batting purchased from us. Batting should be a minimum of 4" larger than your quilt top on all sides. If you are using batting that has been packaged or is overly wrinkled, place it in a dryer with a damp towel or iron it flat before you come to quilt. Please do not layer the top, batting, and backing.

