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How to Quilt on a Q Zone or Cutie Frame

(Hoop type frames)

Hoop frame differences:

Q Zone frame is on legs, and Cutie frame sits on a table and can be put away when not in use if you are limited on space. You can add legs to the Cutie Frame if you have the space and would prefer it to using a table.

Both can do any size quilt, from table runner to King, since you move the quilt on the frame. Both frames can use your domestic machine, a sit down quilting machine, or a long arm machine up to 19". These frames are very versatile.

The one major thing I like about these frames is you can sit down and quilt. If you have back or knee problems this might be the solution for you. Plus they do not take up a lot of space like a regular long arm quilting frames with the rails.

Supplies:

- Straight Pins
- Leaders, if you have them (can be ordered for your Grace frame)
- If using templates, remember to use the ruler table for your machine and make sure you have the ruler foot.
- Quilt top, Quilt back, and Batting (Back and Batting should be slightly larger than Top. At least 6" all around quilt if possible.)

Instructions for loading the quilt onto the frame:

1. Make sure you have a straight edge on top of batting and back.
2. To attach the quilt to the leader, I use a 5 foot table that folds up when not in use. Lay the leader down with the center in the center of the table.
3. With the wrong side of the back facing up, find the center of the back, and pin the edge of it to the edge of the center of the leader.
4. Start in the center and pin from the interior of the quilt to the exterior, then come back to center and pin other direction until back the back is completely pinned on.
5. Take the batting and using a straight edge, find the center. Lay it on top of the backing, and pin from the center going one direction and then return to center and pin other direction.
6. Take the top, right side up, and do same as before. Find the center, pin edge to other edges starting at center and work one direction, then back to center and pin other direction.
7. Go to the frame and move the machine to the far left. Put the quilt on the frame so that the left side of the quilt is about 8" to 10" from the left side of the frame. This will allow you to quilt right up to the edge.
8. Put the leader on back hoop rail, making sure it is straight. Push one of the clamps onto the center of the leader first. Then, straighten as you go and put the right and left hoop clamps on.
9. Now make sure your quilt is smooth back to front, and put on the front hoop clamps.
10. If you have enough fabric coming over the hoop sides, then use the small clamps to secure the side of the quilt. If you do not have enough fabric to clamp the sides onto, you can use an optional side leader cloth or optional bungee clamps.
11. Roll up the back part of the quilt, and fasten with elastic straps to hold the excess fabric in place. Do the same with the front part if using the Cutie frame.
12. **Tip:** You can take painters tape and move your machine side to side, and mark with the tape how far you can quilt. Do the same front to back so that way you know where your quilting space is.
13. You are ready to sew! Quilt with free motion and/or templates. If using templates, be sure you have the ruler table on.

Moving the quilt on the frame:

1. You have now quilted the section you are in, and it is time to move the quilt. Leave the needle down in the quilt and the machine will move with you.
2. Unlatch the elastic straps and remove all the hoop clamps. Remove all tape except on the side you will quilt from first.
3. Slowly pull the quilt in the direction you quilted from. The machine will move with you.
4. When you reach the place to start quilting, straighten and square up the quilt.
5. Attach the back center hoop clamp, then each side of the other back hoop clamps.
6. Make sure the fabric is smooth, and attach your front hoop clamps and then your side hoop clamps.
7. Roll the back excess up again (and front if using Cutie frame), and latch the elastic straps.
8. Put your tape back on to delineate your quilting area. You are ready to quilt again!
9. When it's time to move the quilt up, follow the same process, except instead of going sideways, you will move the quilt up.

Remember as you get a bigger roll on the back you will have to adjust the back frame up to allow for the extra bulk.

If you wish to take a break and not lose your spot, leave the needle down in the fabric. If using the Q Zone frame, you can lay the front of the quilt on the frame so that it is out of the way. It will be ready when you need to start again.

Note: You can use the frame without leaders, but then you need to make sure your quilt back and batting are perfectly straight, and you will have to baste the quilt once on the hoop to hold it in place. I have found the leaders are an easier way to do it.

If you have any questions, please call us and we will try to help you.