

Walk Around the Block: Walking Foot Quilting

Supply List

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The walking foot does far more than stitching in the ditch! Walking foot quilting can be an easy and attractive way to quilt your own quilts and other projects such as runners and totes. You can get excellent results, you stay in control of the quilting process, and the learning curve is short.

In this class, you will learn creative ways to use your walking foot for quilting. The class will include straight line quilting, stitching in the ditch, how to stitch straight lines without marking your quilt, quilting with curved lines, spiral quilting, quilting with special stitches on your machine and quilting curved designs using easy-to-make templates.

Since the way that you prepare for quilting makes a difference in the results, the class also covers needles, thread, batting, marking and basting your quilt, and setting up your machine.

You will need a sewing machine with a walking foot, dual feed or even feed foot for this class.

Fabric

- Prior to class, prepare 2 or 3 “quilt sandwiches.”
 - Each sandwich should be made of two layers of fabric with a layer of cotton or cotton/polyester batting in the middle. The sandwiches may be pin-basted with a few safety pins or may be spray basted. The sandwiches should be approximately fat quarter size (18” x 20”). I suggest that they be made of light or medium value fabric, either solid color or tone-on-tone fabric that looks almost like a solid. Avoid busy prints and dark colors as they make it more difficult to see marks and stitching.
 - See the directions on the second page for marking your quilt sandwiches into squares and rectangles. These spaces will be used for trying various quilting techniques in class. If you have time to do the marking before class, you will have more time for stitching in class.

Thread

- One spool of thread and one bobbin will be adequate for class.
 - Polyester embroidery thread (size 40 – such as “trilobal polyester,” Isacord, or Superior Magnifico) works well. 40 or 50 weight cotton thread (such as Aurifil) also works well.
 - For the bobbin, use thread in a similar color. This can be the same thread that you use on top, or a lighter weight cotton or polyester 50 weight thread that you would use for normal piecing or sewing.
 - I suggest using thread in a color that is medium in value and does not exactly match the color of your quilt sandwiches. There should be enough contrast that you can easily see the stitching on the quilt sandwiches.

Other supplies

- Small scissors or thread snips
- Sewing machine, with a bobbin, foot pedal and cord, and instruction manual. If your machine has a knee lift, attach it to your machine. If you have an extension table that expands the flat surface around the bed of the sewing machine, bring it.
- Walking foot for your machine, with any accessories that came with the foot, or dual feed or even feed foot
- Sewing machine needles:
 - Use a new needle. While almost any needle will work for class, I suggest 90 Topstitch, for 40 weight thread or 80 Topstitch for 50 weight thread.

- Marking tool: Pencil, air erase marker, washout marker, or Frixion pen

OPTIONAL supplies – These are useful if you have them but are not essential. We will discuss their use in class.

- Machine quilting gloves
- Thread stand
- If you have a large plexiglass portable table for your sewing machine, it will be very helpful. The larger your flat sewing surface, the easier it is to quilt!

OPTIONAL PREPARATION PRIOR TO CLASS – Mark your quilt sandwiches

If you have time to do the marking before class, you will have more time for stitching in class.

On your quilt sandwiches, draw the following squares and rectangles. It may be easier to mark the top fabric before it is layered with batting and backing. These spaces will be used for trying various quilting techniques in class. Leave an inch or two of blank space between the squares/rectangles and the outside edge of the fabric and leave an inch or two between the shapes on your fabric. How the squares and rectangles are arranged on the fabric is not important. To be sure that all of the shapes fit onto your quilt sandwiches, I suggest that you mark the larger squares and rectangles first, and then add the 6" and 4" squares.

- Four 4" squares
- Two 6" squares
- Two 8" squares
- Two 6" x 10" rectangles