

Free Motion Quilting Supply List

Carol Wilhoit – carolquilts123@gmail.com

Free motion quilting gives you the freedom to quilt your quilts using many different freehand or marked designs. Because you can move your quilt in all directions when you lower your feed dogs and do free motion quilting, quilting is faster and you have more quilting options than with the walking foot. While there is a learning curve for mastery of free motion quilting, once you get comfortable with the process you can quilt your own projects and improve your skills at the same time.

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

Sewing Machine

- Sewing machine with a foot (such as a darning foot or free motion quilting foot) for free motion quilting. The machine should have feed dogs that can be dropped or covered.
- Be sure to bring a bobbin, the power cord, foot pedal and instruction manual.

Fabric

- Prior to class, prepare at least 3 “quilt sandwiches.”
 - Each sandwich should be made of two layers of fabric with a layer of cotton/polyester or cotton batting in the middle. The sandwiches may be 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 two of the sandwiches 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.
 - The top fabric for one quilt sandwich should have distinct shapes that are at least 3” in size. For example, the fabric could have large flowers, large leaves or large animals. Try to select a print that has simple shapes so that you can outline the shapes with quilting.

Thread

- One spool of thread and one bobbin will be adequate for class.
 - I suggest a spool of size 40 polyester embroidery thread, such as “trilobal polyester,” Isacord, or Superior Magnifico. 50 weight cotton thread such as Aurifil is also fine.
 - For the bobbin, use thread in a similar color. This can be the same polyester embroidery thread 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 coordinates/contrasts with (but does not exactly match) the color of your quilt sandwiches.

Other supplies

- Small scissors or thread snips
- Sewing machine needles:
 - Size 90 Topstitch (for 40-weight thread) or Size 80 Topstitch (for 50-weight thread)
- 5-10 sheets of unlined 8½” x 11” paper
- #2 Pencil
- Air erase or washout marker

OPTIONAL supplies – bring these if you have them. We will discuss their use in class.

- Machine quilting gloves
- Magnifier for your sewing machine
- Thread stand