

Loading with Red Snappers: The Jukebox Float

Several of you have asked us to provide a document about how we load a quilt top with Red Snappers (since, like with so many techniques, we don't follow the "rules"). Here's our Modified Jukebox Float in a nutshell:

Wipe down your table under the machine. Make sure there are no drops of oil that might stain the quilt. Remove everything from the tabletop. Push the machine head all of the way to one side of the table.

Measure the length of the quilt (especially the Statler owners who will be doing an edge to edge).

Mark the center point of the top and bottom edges of the backing with a pin.

Loosen your "Quilt Top" leader and pull it straight back onto the table. Do not pull it around the belly bar.

Align the center of the bottom edge of your backing with the center of the lead (or the center of the tabletop), with the excess fabric extending off the table top onto the floor where you are standing. The wrong side of the backing will face the ceiling; the right side of the backing will be toward the floor.

Use the small 2" Red Snapper pieces. Align the edge of the backing with the edge of the serged fabric on your lead. Snap one of the 2" pieces right over the center marks, and use two others, one on each end of the backing.

Either start at one end, or start at the middle piece and press the longer Red Snapper units onto the lead, replacing the 2" pieces as you go. It helps to bend the Snapper up to help it open. Use your palm to make sure that it is pushed down the entire length of the lead. Fill in with the shorter Snaps as needed.

Wind the entire back around the "Quilt Top" leader bar.

Lower the lead from the Take Up bar onto the table, giving yourself 8-10 inches of slack. Fold this lead back on itself so that you can see the serged edge.

Loosen the Quilt Top lead and bring the backing around the belly bar and **over** the Take Up bar. Line the center of the edge up with the center of the lead and again use the 2" Snappers to hold the center and ends of the top edge of the backing in place. Replace with the longer Snappers.

Tighten the fabric and baste (at 1 stitch per inch) the batting and top onto the backing using channel locks if desired. Do not use side clamps or over tighten the backing. Baste 1/8" from all outer edges and horizontal lines every 10-20". As you advance the quilt, lift the batting and top to make sure backing is smooth/flat. Remove this basting prior to quilting.



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