



The Stumpy Quilter

Fabricologist & Quiltaholic

Patchwork ~ Quilting ~ Longarm

Piecing your dream one block at a time

How to prepare for a Quilting Experience at The Stumpy Quilter

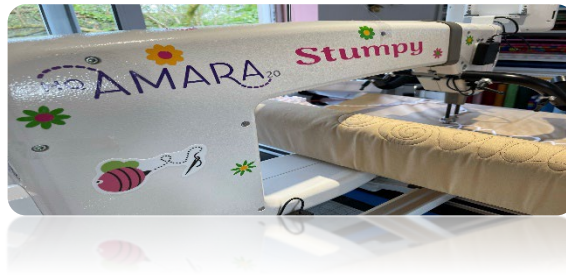
When you bring your patchwork to the studio for a Quilting Experience I want you to have THE best time.

One way to help that idea along is to prepare your patchwork top in advance. Longarm quilting is quite different to working on your domestic machine, so if your previous experience has been about basting layers together before quilting or you have never done anything like this before, then please do read on!

A longarm machine loads each of the quilt's layers separately, so the following questions will help you to make sure you are "experience ready" to have fun!

Patchwork Top

- Have you clipped all the loose threads on the front and back of the patchwork top?
This stops dark threads showing through, especially on light colours when you have finished.
- Have you squared your patchwork?
The patchwork needs to be nice and square so that it loads onto the machine straight and the design placement is spot on for you. I recommend measuring across the patchwork in a number of places, both horizontally and vertically, to make sure it is true.
- Are all your seams good and secure?
On the machine your patchwork top will be under tension, so the seams need to be nice and solid.
- It is a good idea to stay stitch the outer edge if you can.
You can do this within the ¼" seam allowance of course!
- Have you pressed the whole top and made sure your seams are ironed flat?
This helps the machine to ride over them smoothly and to stitch through your seams without issues as well as helping to get the fabric flat on the machine, so you get a neater finish. I do not mind whether you have open pressed or side pressed seams, but there is a chance that the longarm can pierce the thread on an open seam so some theorise that pressed to the side seams are better... but I will leave that up to you!



Backing

- Is the backing at least 6" larger than both the width and the length of the patchwork top?
This gives a 3" border all round which is needed to attach the backing to rollers on the machine.
- Have you removed the selvages from any seam on the backing fabric?
Selvages are often thicker and will cause the backing to pucker and move differently to the rest of the backing, so it is best if they are cut off.
- Have you squared your backing?
A crisp straight line all round means the backing will also go on the frame lovely and straight and won't "run-away" sideways from your patchwork.
- Which way does your backing seams run?
Vertical seams will add bulk in one place on the rollers as the patchwork advances. If you need to have a vertical seam do let me know in advance.
- Have you thoroughly pressed and ironed the seams on the backing?
I do not mind if they are open or side pressed, but sideways is better for the longarm, similar to the patchwork seams.

Wadding / Batting

- Is your batting 6" larger than both the width and length of the patchwork top, the same as the backing?
- Are you using an 80/20 or 100% cotton wadding?
Please let me know if you wish to use anything else.

Design & Thread

On the day we will look at the various pantograph designs that I have at the studio. The pantographs are graded in difficulty and I will help you to pick one that suits where you are on your quilting journey as well as one that suits your quilt design.

I have lots of thread colours available. I use Glide thread which is a trilobal polyester that is specially designed for the longarm. I also use Glide magna bobbins (which are prewound bobbins with a magnetic core) to ensure you have consistent tension throughout your quilting. On the day I will help you every step to ensure that you get the best look for your creation.

So, what is a pantograph?

A pantograph is a long piece of paper with a design printed on it that you will trace with a laser while the machine transfers your movements to your patchwork and stitches through all three layers, patchwork, batting and backing, to create your quilt.

A pantograph gives what is called an edge-to-edge quilt design, which is effectively a continuous line design that goes from one edge of the quilt to the other and is repeated from the top to the bottom of the quilt.

The design of your patchwork is not used as a guide for the placement of the quilting patterns with edge to edge, but I will work to help you choose the best size and fit for your piece.



So now you have read that little lot... you can always email, text or call me if you have any questions or are worried about anything in the preparation. It is always better to let me know things in advance so that I can find solutions...quilts and patchwork are rarely spot on (and I certainly don't expect them to be...mine never are!!)...that is the beauty and nature of fabric and handmade items. So, if you are concerned about the piecework, you have fullness in the borders or the patchwork will not square...just let me know!

Don't forget I also have a fully equipped studio, so if we find something not quite right on the day I can fix most things here!

It also really helps if you can send me a picture of the patchwork top and the backing you have chosen before the day...just so I can get my designing and colourways hats on.

Really looking forward to welcoming you to Bumblebury Cottage and helping you to have a fun filled Quilting Experience!

