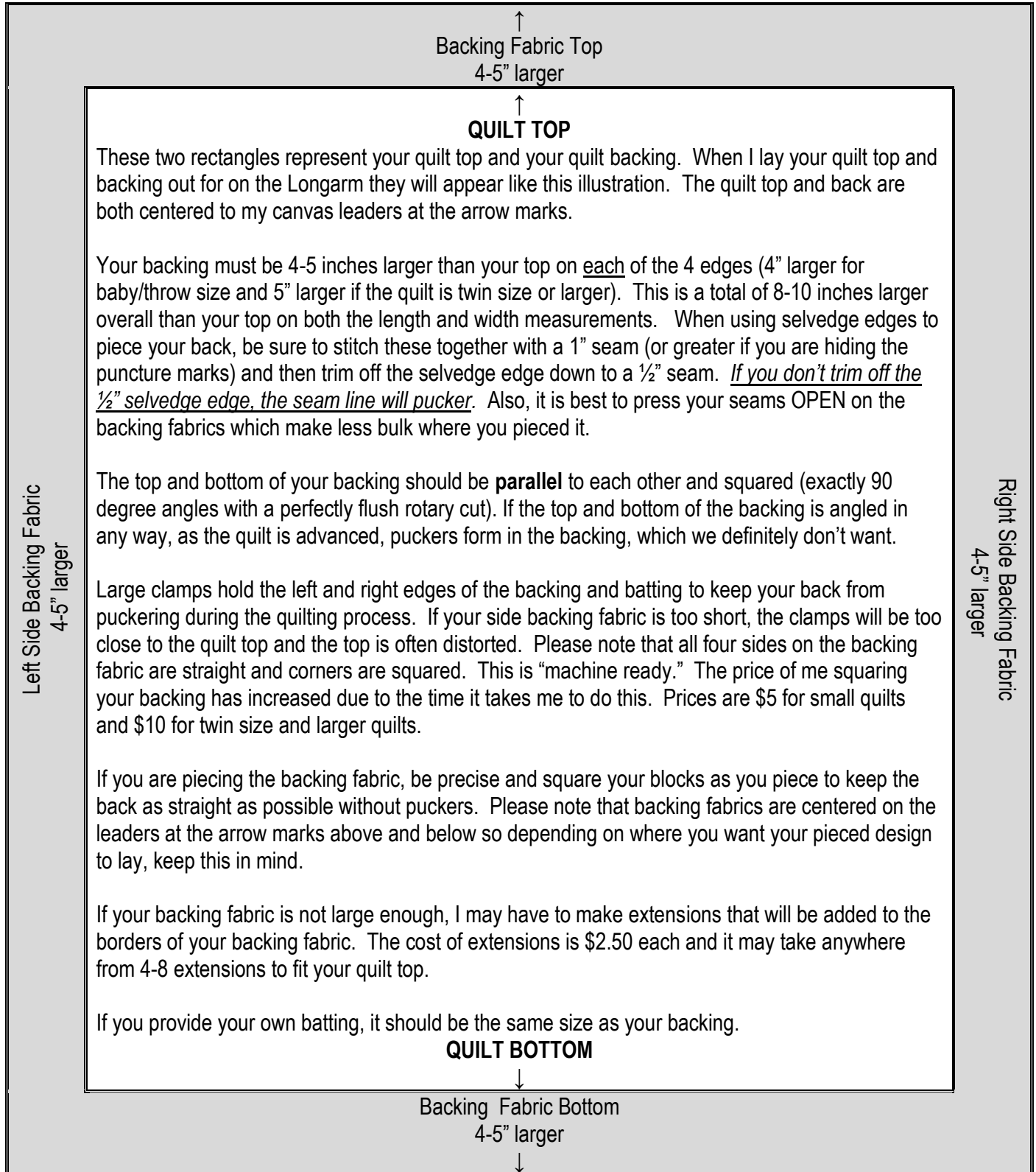


# Summit Creek Quilts

## TIPS FOR PREPARING YOUR QUILT FOR THE LONGARM

### #1 Squaring Your Backing Fabric



## #2 Reinforcing Strip Borders

If your quilt top has a stripy border or a border that is not horizontal or vertical in nature, please reinforce those edges by sewing a 1/8" edge all around your quilt. This helps the quilt top from pulling and unraveling during the quilting process. This is a good idea to do even on regular borders.

## #3 Pressing Fabrics

Please be sure your quilt top and backing has been pressed and is as free of wrinkles as possible. When pressing borders, a great tip is to press your seams VERTICALLY on your ironing board, not horizontally. Pressing horizontally distorts the fabrics.

## #4 Loose Threads

Cut loose threads off the top of your quilt top. While I do my very best to remove threads for you, these little critters love getting caught in the foot of the machine and if caught they WILL tear your quilt.

## #5 Batting

I carry an assortment of batting such as Hobbs Heirloom 80/20 in natural and white, Hobbs Heirloom Wool and Quilter's Dream Select Cotton, and Quilter's Dream Blend 70/20. Similar battings i.e. Warm and Bond, etc. can be purchased by you and brought to me. I'm not a big fan of Hi Loft Poly battings.

## #6 Borders

After you have spent hours piecing your top, don't rush when putting on your borders. Many quilts have problems in the borders. Here are some tips to ensure your borders will lay flat.

1. Always square your top as you do your piecing and again just before you attach your borders. This helps to reduce fullness in the center of your quilt.
2. Borders are best when cut along the straight of grain (running parallel to the selvedge edge) because there is less stretch to the fabric.
3. Measure the all the edges of your top and compare the top to the bottom and then the sides. If any measurement is greater than  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch, you should ease in the top before applying your borders. Of course you could also trim the top slightly if it doesn't interfere with your piecing or pattern design.
4. Once your top measures correctly, square your edges using a large square ruler (I use a 12.5" ruler). Line the ruler up on each side (top and side) with the 45 degree angle on the corner and trim to square the corners.
5. Attach your borders keeping your seams as straight as possible with a 1/4" seam. Once you attach your left and right side borders (and pressed well), align your 45 degree ruler along the top and border and trim so that they cut are flush with the sides of your top. Now, attach your top and bottom borders and flush cut again. Now, re-square your entire quilt again just as you did in number 4 to be sure the cuts are accurate. Now, place your plastic ruler in the seam line and compare the width of your borders along the entire edge and trim as necessary before applying any additional sashing or borders.
6. When done applying all your borders, re-measure your top, bottom and sides to be sure your quilt is as close as possible to lining up properly. If not, you may need to do a little more easing.
7. Your quilt top should now be as square as the photo on the front page of this instruction sheet.

These tips should help you keep your tops laying flat and give best results when on the Longarm.

If there are other questions or concerns you have when preparing your quilt and back for the Longarm, please don't hesitate to give me a call. I'm here to help you create the most beautiful quilts possible.

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