

## QUILTING TERMINOLOGY

**Allover Quilting:** Stitching that covers the entire quilt without regard for block shapes or fabric design.

**Alternate Blocks:** Plain, pieced, or appliqued blocks used between a quilt's primary blocks. Also called alternate squares or setting squares.

**Analogous:** Neighbors on the color wheel.

**Applique:** A technique where fabric shapes are cut and sewn onto a fabric block or quilt top. Typically, a fusible material is ironed to the wrong side of a shape, and then ironed to the background fabric. There are many types of applique: Needle turned: this involves hand work where you use a needle to turn the edge under and then hand stitch in place. Raw edge applique: technique is used to fuse your shape to fabric, then use a decorative or straight stitch to adhere to quilt block. Applique is used to embellish or create interest to a block or quilt.

**Applique Sequence Order:** Stitching sequence of appliques if they are layered.

**Asymmetry:** When one-half of an image or block does not mirror the opposite half, the image is asymmetric.

**Awl:** A tool typically used in leather making to create holes. Can be used in quilting to pierce templates for marking points.

**Background Quilting:** Stitching in open interior spaces, such as in setting squares. The closely spaced lines tend to flatten the area being quilted, creating a low-relief textured appearance. Also called filler quilting.

**Backing:** A quilt consists of three layers. Quilt top is either pieced or a single piece of fabric. The next layer is batting. The bottom layer of a quilt is a piece of fabric that is generally 4 inches longer and wider on all sides, this allows for quilting. For example, if quilt top measures 60X60, backing and batting should measure at least 68X68. Backing fabric can be a single piece of extra wide backing fabric or a fabric of your choice which will be sewn together to the size needed. Some quilters like to piece their entire backing with scraps of fabric.

**Backstitch:** A stitch used to secure the stitch at the beginning and end of a seam by stitching 2 to 4 stitches forward, 2-4 stitches back and then proceeding with your seam. This technique is done to secure the seam and ensure it does not pull apart during piecing or quilting of quilt.

**Backstitch Loop Knot:** Used in hand piecing to end a line of sewing. Can be made with one or two loops.

**Bargello:** A quilt style identified by peaks and valleys created from squares of fabric that are sewn in strips, then cut and offset before joining the strips again.

**Basic Sewing Kit (BSK):** Key components for quilting that may be requested on a class supply list. Contents include scissors, needles and thread.

**Basting:** Long stitches used to temporarily hold fabric in place, can be done by hand or machine. It is also used to hold all three layers (quilt top, batting and backing) in place when ready for quilting. It is not necessary to secure thread knots on either ends of the stitching, as it is merely a way to endure that your project stays secure and does not shift. These stitches can be removed once quilting is complete.

**Basting Spray:** Spray adhesive that may be used to hold the layers of a quilt together instead of thread or pin basting.

**Batting:** A product used between the quilt top and quilt backing, also referred to as wadding. Commercial battings are available in a variety of fiber contents. Glannel fabric is sometimes substituted for traditional batting.

**Beading:** The process of adding beads to the surface of a quilt.

**Bearding:** The appearance of batting on the quilt surface, showing through the holes where the needle pierces the quilt top or backing during the quilting process. Also called fiber migration.

**Between:** Short, fine needles used for hand piecing, hand quilting, applique and sewing on binding.

**Bias:** Any diagonal line between the crosswise and lengthwise grain line in woven fabric. The bias grain has more stretch and is less stable than the crosswise or lengthwise grain.

**Bias Bars:** Purchased metal or heat-resistant plastic bars in varying widths that can be used to make bias stems or straps.

**Bias Binding:** Binding strips cut on the true bias grain, resulting in a binding that can be easily positioned around curved edges. When striped fabrics are cut on the bias, the result is a “barber pole” effect.

**Bias Seam:** When bias edges of fabric are sewn together, a bias seam results. This seam can be easily stretched and distorted. Handle with care.

**Bias Stems:** Fabric strips cut on the bias grain so they are flexible enough to bend without wrinkles or puckers when making floral stems or vines for applique.

**Bias Strips:** Long, thin pieces of fabric cut on the bias grain.

**Big Stitch:** Large, evenly-spaced hand quilting stitch. Also called Utility Stitch.

**Binding:** Finishing of the quilt. Long, thin fabric strips that are attached to the raw outer edges of a quilt. Binding may be bias or straight-of-grain. Bias binding wears better than straight-of-grain binding.

**Blanket Stitch:** A decorative stitch used to attach appliqued fabric to a main fabric. Can be machine or hand stitched. Also called buttonhole stitch.

**Bleeding:** When color or dyes from one fabric transfers to another during washing. This is due to hand dyes or color saturated fabrics losing their dyes when they are wet. Most commonly seen when washing vividly colored fabrics, particularly purples and reds. Always best to wash colors separately before cutting and piecing to check for color fastness.

**Blind Hemstitch:** A machine stitch used to secure applique pieces for mock hand applique. The machine takes two or three straight stitches, then a zigzag stitch.

**Block:** The unit that is designed for a quilt. Generally, there will be many blocks in a quilt. A quilt block can be a single piece of fabric cut into a square or a block that has been pieced using many pieces of fabric and sewn together using ¼ inch seam allowance.

**Block Mock-up:** A sample of a block made by cutting the shapes from the desired fabric and affixing them to a surface. Creating a mock-up block allows you to see how fabrics will work together.

**Blocking:** When a block is not square, a process that requires wetting and pressing fabric to a proper square block. This is also done using steam to help stretch portions of your block to match other blocks.

**Bonded Batting:** Batting that has been chemically processed using heat or resin to combine the fibers.

**Border Prints:** Contained fabric designs that run lengthwise on the fabric bolt. Often these designs are cut apart and used as a quilt border.

**Borders:** Strips of fabric that frame the edges of the quilt that visually holds the design and gives the eye a stopping point. You can have one or many borders in a quilt top.

**Broderie Perse:** Technique in which individual motifs are cut from one fabric and applied to another fabric foundation.

**Burr:** A nick or rough area on a needle that may snag fabric.

**Butted Corners:** Term used when border pieces meet at a 90 degree angle or when binding pieces overlap in the corner at a 90 degree angle rather than being mitered.

**Cake Layers:** Also known as Layer Cakes. Fabric that is cut into 10" squares. These can be bought pre-packaged in many quilt stores.

**Center Point:** The visual or actual center of a block where units come together.

**Chain Piecing:** Sewing patchwork pieces in a continuous chain from edge to edge without backstitching. Short lengths of thread link the pieces.

**Chain Stitch:** An embroidery stitch that appears to be a series of chain links.

**Channel Stitching:** Parallel rows of straight-line quilting going in one direction across a quilt top.

**Charm Pack:** A variety of a fabric line cut into 5" squares. Charm packs are sold in many quilt shops. Number in bundles can vary among manufacturers.

**Chenille Needle:** A long, oval-eye needle used for heavyweight thread, embroidery and tying quilts.

**Color Wheel:** Device used to see the relationships of primary, secondary, and tertiary colors and the tints and shades of each.

**Complementary Colors:** Opposites on the color wheel, which appear brighter when they are used together.

**Continuous Line Quilting:** A pattern in quilting in which the design line continues from start to finish so you don't have multiple stops and starts.

**Contrast:** The differences between fabric values, which are described as light, medium, or dark. Contrast clarifies design and makes depth apparent.

**Corner Matching Points:** Marks made on templates and pattern pieces indicating where corners come together. Especially important when hand-piecing, as the seam allowances are unstitched.

**Corner Square:** A square that is sewn to the ends of the top and bottom borders before added to a quilt. Side borders will be sewn to the quilt first.

**Corner Triangle:** The triangles set in the corners of a quilt that is set on “Point.” These are half square triangles, meaning the straight-of-grain is on the outer edges of the triangle.

**Cornerstones:** Squares of fabric pieced within sashing that align at the block corners.

**Couching:** Process of stitching thick threads, ribbons, beads and other items to a quilt surface.

**Crazy Quilting:** Type of quilting popularized in Victorian times, identified by odd-shape pieces of fabric usually sewn onto a foundation and embellished with embroidery, ribbons and beading. Silk, velvet, cotton and other fine fabrics are typically used.

**Crosshatch:** Quilting in vertical and horizontal lines across the quilt top. Also called Grid Quilting.

**Cross-Stitch:** A decorative embroidery stitch that appears as a series of Xs.

**Crosswise Grain:** The threads of woven fabric that run perpendicular to the selvage across the width.

**Concave Curve:** Curve that bows inward.

**Convex Curve:** Curve that bows outward.

**Cutting Matt:** Surface used for rotary cutting that protects the tabletop.

**Darning Needle:** Needle with a long, narrow eye used for basting, tying or weaving.

**Darning Foot:** An open-toe sewing machine foot that can be used for free-motion quilting.

**Design Wall:** Vertical surface used to position and view blocks.

**Diagonal Set:** Style of quilt top where the blocks are set on point in diagonal rows.

**Die Cutting:** Layers of fabric are centered over a custom shape die blade, covered with a cutting mat, and rolled through a die cutting machine. There are several die cutting machine brands on the market.

**Difficult to Needle:** The ease with which the needle glides through fabric.

**Directional Borders:** Borders that have designs running in a particular sequence or order.

**Directional Pressing:** Pressing seams in a designated direction to limit bulk in areas of a block.

**Directional Stitching:** Sewing seams in a designated direction when piecing to prevent puckering. Commonly used in sewing diamonds and other center-intersecting blocks.

**Dog Ears:** Long points that extend beyond the seam allowance, block edge, or quilt top edge after the pieces are stitched together. Usually trimmed off to make aligning subsequent pieces easier.

**Double Applique Method:** Finished-edge applique pieces created by facing them with a lightweight interfacing prior to stitching them to a foundation fabric.

**Double-fold Binding:** Made from a fabric strip that is folded in half before being attached to the quilt. Also called French-fold binding.

**Drag:** Caused by the weight of the quilt pulling while sewing. Drag can result in distortion of a finished quilt or uneven quilting stitches.

**Drape:** The relative stiffness or softness of a fabric or quilted piece.

**Drop:** The part of a quilt that extends over the edge of the mattress.

**Easing:** The process of working in extra fabric where two pieces do not align precisely, especially when sewing curves.

**Echo Quilting:** Echo or Shadow quilting is a technique where quilting is done around an outline of an applique or around a design or pattern.

**Embellishment:** Process of adding decorative items or stitches to a quilt top. May include buttons, beads, heavyweight threads or charms.

**English Paper Piecing (EPP):** Technique of stabilizing fabric over a paper template. Frequently used for designs with set-in corners such as hexagons.

**Equilateral Triangles:** Triangle in which all three angles measure 60 degrees. Six equilateral triangles combine to create a hexagon.

**Ergonomics:** The study of work space design to prevent injury.

**Even-feed Foot:** Also called Walking Foot.

**Fat Eighth:** A typical 1/8 yard of fabric is 4 1/2" X 42". A fat eighth is cut crosswise from a 1/4 yard piece of fabric for a finished size of approximately 9" X 22".

**Fat Quarter:** A typical 1/4 yard of fabric is 9" X 44". A fat quarter is cut crosswise from a 1/2 yard piece of fabric for a finished size of approximately 18" X 22". It produces a "fatter" rectangle piece of fabric, providing more options for use.

**Feed Dogs:** The metal teeth located in the slots in a sewing machine's needle plate. Feed dogs are comprised of metal bars, crosscut with diagonal teeth that move back and forth; they grip fabric and pull it through the machine and away from the needle.

**Finger Pressing:** Walking your finger along a seam, pressing with your nail or tip of finger to crease it without use of iron.

**Finishes:** Created by mechanical or chemical processes used in fabric manufacturing that result in different surface characteristics, from a sheen to a nap. Finishes can be permanent or temporary and may have varying degrees of durability.

**Floating Blocks:** Look achieved by cutting side and corner setting pieces large enough the block edges in the quilt center do not touch the border.

**Flying Geese:** A traditional quilt block pattern. It is identified by its rectangular shape created with a large 90 degree triangle in the center and two small 90 degree triangles on each side, forming a peak in the middle surrounded by "sky". Finished flying geese blocks resemble geese flying in formation, hence the name.

**Foundation Piecing:** A method used for joining together small pieces of fabric to form a more complicated pattern or design. It is done by sewing the small pieces of fabric onto a foundation paper or fabric.

**Four Patch:** Block or unit comprised of four equal-size squares sewn in two horizontal rows, often with alternating color placement.

**Framed Block:** Block with fabric strips around it that give the appearance of being framed. This technique can be used to unify blocks or adjust block size.

**Free Motion Quilting:** A process requiring a free motion quilting, darning or hopping foot. Requires you to drop or cover your feed dogs so you can move fabric freely in all directions.

**Fusible Web:** Paper backed adhesive that can be ironed to the back of fabric then cut into shapes. The fused shapes are adhered to a background fabric by pressing them with a warm iron. Frequently used in applique.

**Fussy Cutting:** Isolating and cutting out a specific print or motif from a piece of fabric. A fussy cut should always include a seam allowance.

**Grain:** The direction of threads running through a woven fabric.

**Greige Goods:** Fabric in a raw, unfinished state. Pronounced "gray-zh" goods.

**Grid Method:** System of dividing quilt blocks into smaller units to organize the design. Also used for Free Motion Quilting. Nine-Patch and Four-Patch are two commonly used grids.

**Grid Quilting:** Quilting in vertical and horizontal lines across the quilt top. Also called Crosshatching.

**Half Square Triangles (HST):** A triangle that is created when you cut a square from one corner to opposite corner (45 degree angle). Straight-of-grain is on the short, outer sides of the triangle.

**Hand:** A term used to describe the feel and texture of a fabric.

**Hand Applique:** Using needle and thread to hand-sew fabric pieces onto a fabric foundation.

**Hand Piecing:** Using needle and thread to hand-sew seams while making a quilt top.

**Hand Piecing Templates:** Pattern shapes used to trace and cut patches for hand-piecing projects. They do not include seam allowances.

**Hand Quilting:** Series of running stitches made through all layers of a quilt with needle and thread.

**Hand Quilting Thread:** Thread used to quilt the three layers together by hand. This thread is usually very thick and generally is not used in a sewing machine.

**Hawaiian Applique:** Intricate, symmetrical applique designs. The pattern-making process is similar to that used to create paper snowflakes.

**Homespun:** Fabric woven with colored threads rather than printed. The color is inherent in the fabric and not applied at a later time.

**Intensity:** Amount of pure color (saturated or brilliant) or muted color (grayed or subdued) present in a fabric.

**Interfacing:** The term for a variety of materials that are used on the wrong side (either fused or sewn in) of a fabric to give it more stability or loft or whatever the desired effect may be.

**Isosceles Triangle:** Triangle with two equal sides whose sum is longer than the base.

**Jelly Roll:** Fabric cut into 2 1/2" strips and wound into a roll. Used for strip piecing and other various patterns, and also binding.



**Knife-edge Self-binding:** Binding alternative in which both the quilt top fabric and backing fabric are turned under to meet evenly at the edges of the quilt, leaving the quilt edges without an additional strip of binding fabric.

**Lap Quilting:** Hand quilting done while holding the quilt loosely in the lap without using a hoop.

**Lattice:** Same as sashing. A border created around blocks of a quilt, most often is called lattice when your blocks of quilt are set on point (set in to look like a diamond as opposed to a square).

**Lengthwise Grain:** Threads running parallel to the selvage in a woven fabric.

**Lockstitch:** Created by a sewing machine consisting of several very short stitches which serve the same purpose as a knot. Used to begin or end a row of stitching that will not be crossed by another seam.

**Loft:** Thickness of the batting.

**Machine Applique:** Attaching fabric motifs onto a fabric foundation with a sewing machine.

**Machine Piecing:** Sewing patchwork pieces together with a sewing machine.

**Machine Quilting:** Series of stitches made through all layers of a quilt sandwich with a sewing machine.

**Meandering Stitch:** Allover quilting pattern characterized by a series of large loosely curved lines that usually do not cross each other. Commonly used to cover an entire quilt surface without regard for block or border seams or edges.

**Milliners Needle:** Long needle with a small round eye. Used for basting, gathering and needle-turn applique. Also called a Straw Needle.

**Micro Quilting:** Quilting that is done as background fill, small and precise micro patterns. Micro quilting contrasts with your primary motifs and makes them stand out in a quilt.

**Mirror Image:** Reverse of an image or how it might appear if held up to a mirror.

**Mitered Corners:** A binding strip that is sewn and folded at a 45 degree angle at each corner, giving the appearance of a frame corner.

**Monochromatic:** Use of a single color, which may include tints and shades of that color, such as sky blue, royal blue and navy.

**Needle Threader:** Device that helps in getting thread through the eye of a needle. Available for both hand and machine sewing.

**Needle-turn Applique:** Method in which the seam allowances are turned under with the needle tip just ahead of the section being stitched.

**Negative Space:** Unoccupied area that surrounds another shape in a project. Negative space can be in a block or the area surrounding a block. It encompasses the areas and flows in, around and between quilt blocks.

**Nine-Patch:** Block or unit comprised of nine squares of fabric sewn together in three horizontal rows, often with alternating color placement.

**Notch:** Small V shape clipped into a curved seam to reduce bulk and make seams lie flat when joined.

**Notions:** Small accessories used to aid in sewing and quilting: scissors, needles, thread, seam ripper, zippers, etc.

**Off Grain:** When the lengthwise and crosswise grains of fabric don't intersect at a perfect right angle.

**On Point:** A block that is positioned on the diagonal.

**Outline Quilting:** Quilting done ¼" from a seam line or an edge of an applique shape.

**Partial Seam:** Two-step process of seaming to avoid set-in seams.

**Patchwork:** The art of sewing small pieces of fabric together to make a larger fabric or design.

**Piecing:** Process where fabric pieces are sewn together to form a block, garment or quilt.

**Pillow Tuck:** Portion of a quilt that is tucked under pillows.

**Pin Baste:** Basting together quilt layers using pins, most often safety pins.

**Polychromatic Combination:** Multicolor or scrappy mix.

**Pounce:** Chalk bag that can be patted over a stencil to transfer a pattern to fabric. Also called stamping powder.

**Prairie Points:** Folded fabric triangles used as a quilt border or embellishment.

**Preshrinking:** Washing and drying of fabric by the quilter or manufacturer to remove finishes and shrink fabric before it is cut and sewn.

**Pressing:** Process of picking up the iron off the fabric surface and putting it back down in another location, rather than sliding it across the fabric.

**Primary Colors:** Pure colors – red, yellow and blue that combine to create all other colors on the color wheel.

**Puckered Seams:** Seams with uneven or pulled spots. Can be caused by pushing or pulling the fabric through the sewing machine, having unbalanced thread tension or pulling the thread too taut when hand-sewing.

**Quarter Inch Foot:** Presser foot that has a guide to achieve a 1/4 inch seam.

**Quarter-Square Triangle (QST):** Triangle made when you cut a square diagonally twice from corner to opposite corner at 45 degree angles, making an X in center of block. Straight grain will be on long edge of triangle. You will obtain 4 triangles from one square.

**Quilt-As-You-Go (QAYG):** Process where each block or section is layered (top, batting, backing) and quilted separately. Each separately quilted block or section can then be assembled into a larger quilt top.

**Quilting:** The process of sewing the three quilt layers together, using stitches in decorative patterns as motifs, or in utilitarian patterns, such as straight lines with bigger stitches. Quilting is done by hand or machine.

**Quilt Challenge:** Many people making a quilt project with predetermined rules/criteria; a friendly competition.

**Quilt Frame:** Can be a small quilt hoop or a large floor frame that holds the 3 layers of a quilt (top, batting, backing) as it is hand quilted.

**Quilt Hoop:** Two circles that hold the quilt layers together during the quilting process. One of the circles has an adjustment to fit over layers.

**Quilt Label:** A patch or an area on the back of the quilt. Generally, the quilt label will have a date, recipient name and name of its maker. It may include information about the quilt, occasion and the name of the quilt.

**Quilt Sandwich:** The three layers of a quilt: the quilt top, the quilt batting, the quilt backing.

**Quilt Sleeve:** A strip of fabric that is applied to a quilt enabling hanging. A rod is often slipped through the sleeve.

**Quilter's Knot:** Knot used frequently in quilting by wrapping the thread around the needle, then the needle is pulled through the wraps to create a knot. Also known as knot on the needle.

**Quilting Bar:** Machine attachment used as a guide for channel or grid quilting.

**Quilting Distance:** Space between quilting stitches. Batting manufacturers recommend different quilting distances for their products.

**Raw Edge:** Unfinished fabric edge. Sometimes used as a decorative element on quilt tops.

**Reducing Lens:** Device that allows you to view fabric and projects as if they were several feet away. Distance may be valuable in determining design qualities.

**Redwork:** Name given to the embroidery technique where pictures are “drawn” with a series of joined stitches. Preferred stitches are usually backstitch or stem stitch, and the picture is embroidered in a single red color. It can also be stitched in black or blue for variation.

**Resiliency:** Ability of a batting to resist creasing and regain its loft.

**Reverse Applique:** Method in which the foundation fabric is on top of the applique fabric. The foundation is cut away to reveal the applique fabric underneath.

**Right Side:** The “front” side of the fabric; usually the distinctly printed side of the fabric. Some call it the “pretty” side of the fabric.

**Right Triangle:** Triangle with one 90 degree angle.

**Rocker Quilting Stitch:** Stitch used when hand quilting when you gently rock needle down through quilt and then back up in a running stitch.

**Rotary Cutter:** Cutting tool for quilting has a sharp round blade attached to a handle. Blades are available in different diameters. Must be used on a cutting mat and preferably with a rotary ruler.

**Rotary Mat:** Cutting surface that is self-healing. Used with fabric and rotary cutter.

**Rotary Rulers:** Thick rulers made from an acrylic material, used to make straight cuts with a rotary cutter. Available in a variety of shapes and sizes.

**Row-by-Row Setting:** Quilt layout in which a different type of block comprises each row.

**Running Stitch:** A style of stitch where the needle goes in and out of fabric in a continual motion.

**Sampler Quilt:** Each block is a different pattern.

**Sandpaper Circles:** Circles made of sandpaper with adhesive on one side. Used by placing the adhesive side to the bottom of rotary rulers to prevent slippage.

**Sandwiching:** Sandwiching is assembling the quilt top, batting and backing, then securing the layers together by basting with either quilting pins, glue or hand basting-readying it for quilting. The batting and backing are cut a few inches longer than the quilt top to allow for fabric shifting while quilting.

**Sashing:** Strips of fabric sewn around or between blocks of a quilt top. These strips are generally joined together by cornerstone blocks or sashing squares. See Lattice.

**Sashing Squares:** Squares used to sew sashing together. See Cornerstones.

**Satin Stitch:** A compact zigzag stitch often used around applique pieces to enclose raw edges and attach the appliques to a foundation fabric.

**Scale:** Size of a print in relationship to other fabrics.

**Scrap Quilts:** Quilts that are made from various fabrics, often scraps from other projects or clothing.

**Scrim:** A term used in batting where a thin layer of polyester is added to the cotton to be needle punched into. This give stability to your batting so it won't break apart within your quilt. Scrim adds poly to your batting so it will no longer be 100% cotton.

**Seam:** The line where two pieces of fabric are joined together by sewing them with thread.

**Seam Allowance:** Distance between the fabric raw edge and the seam line. Typically  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in hand and machine piecing.

**Seam Ripper:** Sharp tool used for picking or ripping out sewing stitches.

**Secondary Colors:** Created by combining equal parts of two primary colors- orange, violet and green.

**Self-binding:** Using backing fabric as binding rather than attaching a separate binding strip.

**Selvage:** Manufactured finished lengthwise edge of woven fabric that prevents fraying before it gets to consumer. This is where you can find the name of the fabric line, company and colors that went into the fabric.

**Serpentine Stitch:** Wavy-line stitch sometimes used in quilting.

**Setting the Seam:** When an iron is set on the seam before pressing it to the side or open depending on your project. Allows the thread to relax into your fabric and become more secure.

**Setting:** Arrangement of blocks in a quilt. A straight setting is when blocks are placed in vertical and horizontal grid-like design. Diagonal is when a block is set on point, resembling a diamond.

**Set-in Seam:** Type of seam used when a continuous straight seam is not an option. Separate steps are necessary to sew a piece into an angled opening between other pieces that have already been joined. Also called Inset Seam.

**Setting a Seam:** The first pressing of the seam as it comes from the sewing machine to lock threads together, smooth out puckers and even out minor thread tension differences before pressing the seam to one side or open.

**Setting Squares:** Squares placed between the focal-point quilt blocks to set off a design.

**Setting Triangles:** Triangles used to fill out a design when blocks are set on point. Also called Filler Triangles.

**Shade:** Black added to a color or hue creates a shade of that color; also refers to slight variations in a color.

**Sharp:** Thin hand or machine needle with an extra sharp point used to piece woven fabrics.

**Signature Block:** Quilt block with a blank area where a signature is added with permanent ink pen or embroidery.

**Single-block Setting:** Quilt created primarily from a single block shape, such as Tumbling Blocks or Grandmother's Flower Garden.

**Sizing:** Product used to add body or stability to fabric.

**Slip Stitches:** Small hand quilting stitches used to secure binding to quilt backing.

**Split Complement:** Color grouping utilizing a primary, secondary or tertiary color and the colors on each side of its complement (yellow with red-violet and blue-violet, for example).

**Squaring a Block:** Measuring and if necessary, trimming a block to ensure that it is the correct size.

**Squaring Fabric:** Straightening one edge of fabric prior to rotary cutting.

**Squaring Up a Quilt:** Straightening the edges of a quilt prior to sewing the binding on.

**Stab Stitching:** A quilting process where the needle is pushed (stabbed) to back side of quilt sandwich with one hand and returned to top side with the other hand, pushing needle from back to front.

**Stabilizer:** Product used beneath an applique foundation to eliminate puckers and pulling on the fabric while machine stitching. Stabilizers are often tear-away or water-soluble for easy removal after stitching.

**Stained Glass Quilt:** Style with pieces outlined by black bias tape that simulates the leading in stained-glass windows.

**Stash:** Fabrics that have been accumulated for projects, or because you really like it, or because you have a fabric addiction.

**Stay Stitch:** Pre-sewing along the edge of a curve to help prevent the stretching along the bias when assembling a garment together. Often used on the curves of sleeves and necklines for stability during garment construction.

**Stencils:** Designs that are cut into a template. Stencils are used for marking quilts during quilting process.

**Stippling:** Allover quilting pattern characterized by a series of randomly curved lines that do not cross. Also called Meandering.

**Stitch-in-the-Ditch:** A quilting term used to describe the method of quilting where you stitch along existing seams in a patchwork piece.

**Straight Cut Borders:** Top, bottom and side borders that meet at a horizontal seam, usually cut width of fabric, not on the bias. Sew sides on first then top and bottom.

**Straight Grain:** the grain of the fabric that runs lengthwise or crosswise through the fabric. This is the most stable, less stretch.

**Straight Set:** Blocks aligned side by side in straight, even rows without sashing.

**String Piecing:** Sewing multiple strips of fabric to a foundation piece for use in a block.

**Strip Piecing:** A technique where strips are cut and sewn together and then pieced strips are cut into units or subunits to design a block.

**Stippling:** A technique used in both hand and machine quilting to flatten an area of a quilt and create texture.

**Symmetry:** When one-half of an image or block is the mirror image of the opposite half.

**Tack Stitch:** Hand stitch used to secure applique pieces to a foundation.

**Tapestry Needle:** Needle with an oval eye that accommodates thick thread and creates a hole in the fabric big enough for thick or coarse fibers to pass through.

**Temperature:** Relative characteristic that denotes the warmth or coolness of a color.

**Template:** A shape or design that is placed on fabric and used as a pattern to trace or cut around. It can be made of any material. Acrylic templates are thick and durable to trace around or use a rotary cutter.

**Tension:** The amount of “pinching” done to your thread as it flows through your sewing machine. Thicker fabrics need a higher tension (a harder pinch so the thread doesn’t flow out too quickly), and thinner fabrics need less tension (a lesser pinch) to prevent puckering.

**Tertiary Colors:** Combinations of primary colors (red, blue, yellow) and secondary colors (green, orange, violet) – red-orange, red-violet, blue-violet, blue-green, yellow-green, and yellow-orange.

**Tessellating Designs:** A single shape is repeated on a quilt top and covers the surface without holes or overlap.

**Tetrad:** Four-color combination of colors equidistant on the color wheel.

**Thimble:** Protective covering for your finger used during hand quilting or sewing.

**Thread Basting:** Basting quilt layers together using a needle and thread and extra-long stitches that will be removed after quilting.

**Thread Count:** Number of threads woven into a fabric. A higher number designates a more tightly woven fabric.

**Tied Quilt:** Technique where the layers of a quilt are tied and knotted using pearl cotton or yarn to hold it together instead of quilting. Generally high loft batting is used with this technique.

**Tint:** White added to a color or hue creates a tint of that color.

**Tone:** Color’s intensity – its degree of lightness or darkness.

**Tone-On-Tone:** Fabric that appears solid from a distance but has subtle areas of light and dark.



**Top Stitch:** Machine straight stitch done on the right side of a project close to a seam. It can also be known as Edge Stitching if it is done near a fold of fabric.

**Trapunto:** Method of adding raised texture to quilts by stuffing design areas. Often used in stems, leaves and other motifs.

**Traveling (with the needle):** Hand quilting technique of moving from one area to another without knotting the thread and starting again.

**Triad:** Any three colors equally spaced on the color wheel, one of which usually takes precedence in a color scheme (yellow-orange, blue-green, red-violet, for example).

**True Bias:** Intersects the lengthwise grain and crosswise grain at a 45 degree angle.

**UFO:** A term used to refer to an unfinished object or project.

**Unbalanced Borders:** Borders of different widths resulting in an asymmetrical look.

**Unit:** Combination of two or more pieces of fabric sewn together that form part of a block.

**Universal Needle:** Sewing machine needle with a point and eye suited for multiple sewing and quilting applications.

**Vertical Set:** Style of quilt top in which blocks are set on point in vertical rows.

**Wadding:** Batting or wadding is the middle layer of the quilt, adding to the warmth and loft of the after product.

**Walking Foot:** Presser foot attachment that helps to easily feed more than two layers at the same rate.

**Watercolor Quilt:** Identified by multiple squares of print fabrics positioned so each color blends into the next, creating a watercolor effect. Also called Color-wash Quilt.

**Whipstitches:** Small hand stitches used to joint two finished edges, such as in English Paper Piecing.

**Whole Cloth Quilts:** Name given to a single piece of fabric sandwiched and sewn together in the quilting process. The design is in the quilting.

**WOF:** Width of fabric.

**Wrong Side:** The back side of the fabric; usually the opposite side of a distinctly printed fabric.

**Yo-yos:** Three-dimensional gathered fabric circles that may be sewn into quilt tops or used for decorative embellishments.

**Zigzag Set:** Style of quilt top in which blocks are set on point in vertical rows that are slightly offset.