

TIPS FOR QUILTING COLLAGE QUILTS



Since Collage Quilts are made using layers of fabric along with fusible stabilizer, they can sometimes be tricky to quilt. If you have tried to tackle quilting one before, you likely noticed that your needle got gummed up with the fusible. You may also have noticed that you ended up with some areas where your machine skipped stitches.

Not to worry - there are a few tips and tricks you can use to ensure success when quilting your Collage Quilt! Whether you quilt with straight lines or free-motion techniques, these tips will get you to a beautifully finished Collage Quilt!

NEEDLES

Let's chat about what needles will help you be successful with your collage quilting!

First, I would recommend that you do not use a needle smaller than a 90/14. This will help make sure that your needle can penetrate all the layers of your quilt. Second, I have found that a **Schmetz Quilting** needle or **Schmetz Non-stick Topstitch** needle are the best for these types of quilts. The design of these needles allows you quilt without worrying about skipped stitches or shredding thread! YAY!

THREAD

The really fun thing about quilting a collage quilt is that you can use LOTS of fun threads! Typically I will use a "base thread" or "background" thread to quilt the background textures. I like to use a variety of free-motion designs in this background area - but it's your quilt so quilt is however makes you happy! I save my fun and specialty threads for my focal pieces (like the flowers below) so that they really POP!

I would recommend a **thread weight of 50 or heavier**. This is another way that you can set yourself up for success. The heavier threads can stand up to the repeated stress of going through all the layers of your quilt.

REMINDER: the lower the number, the thicker the thread. So, a 30 weight thread is thicker/heavier than a 50 weight thread. Thread that is 60 or 100 weight is very thin.

TAKE NOTE:
No matter what you do, you will need to occasionally stop to clean the "gum" off your needle. It is no biggie, just stop and use your fingernail to clean it off.

BONUS:

One of my favorite Collage Quilt techniques is Metallic threads! They add just a pop of bling to your quilt and the sparkle catches your eye! Plus people are super impressed when they see Metallic thread!

The trick here is to use a thread conditioner and make that top tension adjustment. You should be able to leave your bobbin thread alone, however, metallic thread is typically run at a much lower tension setting - likely half of your normal setting. I know it seems scary, but trust me it will work!

Happy Quilting! :) Enjoli

