

Tips & Tricks for Successful Machine Quilting

Whether you are doing your own machine quilting or sending your quilt off to a professional longarm quilter, there are a few things that you can do to help make sure your quilt turns out beautifully! There seems to be a BIG misconception in the quilting world that mistakes made during piecing “will just quilt out”. Nothing could be more misleading.



If you don't quite catch your seam, your finished top will have holes in it. If you don't press your seams/blocks your quilt will end up with small tucks when quilted over. If you leave all your thread tails hanging out of your seams, your finished quilt will have little threads stitched into your quilting.

So, in taking some preventative steps during piecing and quilt construction you can help yourself or your quilter have a better finished quilt! Let's find out what those are:

1. **PRESS** all of your seams - whether you press to one side or open that is your choice, but pressing is a **MUST!** Be sure that your seams is flat and does not have extra pressed to one side.
2. **SQUARE** your blocks as you go - I admit I am not always the best at this, but it will make a **HUGE** difference in the success of your machine quilting and distortion of your final quilt.
3. **CLIP** all loose threads - loose threads can get in your way during quilting, causing either tangles or sometimes even catching your quilting foot resulting in time spent cutting your foot out of your quilt (ask me how I know this!).
4. **SEAM ACCURACY** is crucial - this goes hand in hand with squaring and pressing your blocks. You need to be sure you are sewing an accurate 1/4" seam.

