

Quilt-Along-With-Me!

Part Three: Backing, Batting & Basting

Pattern & Series by Amanda from 3and3quarters.net



In Part Three of the series we'll be looking at how to make a pieced quilt backing, how to choose the right batting as well as how to baste a quilt together so that it's ready to be quilted.

Fabric Quantities:

For the quilt back you need:

- 3.2m (3.1 yards) of a quilting fabric with a width of 112cm (44")

Of batting you will need:

- 1.7m (1.3 yards) of cotton or polyester batting with a width of 228cm (90")

Notions:

- **Your choice of basting tools:** Needle and thread, Curved Basting Pins, Quilt Basting Spray or Iron-On Batting

- Fabric Scissors

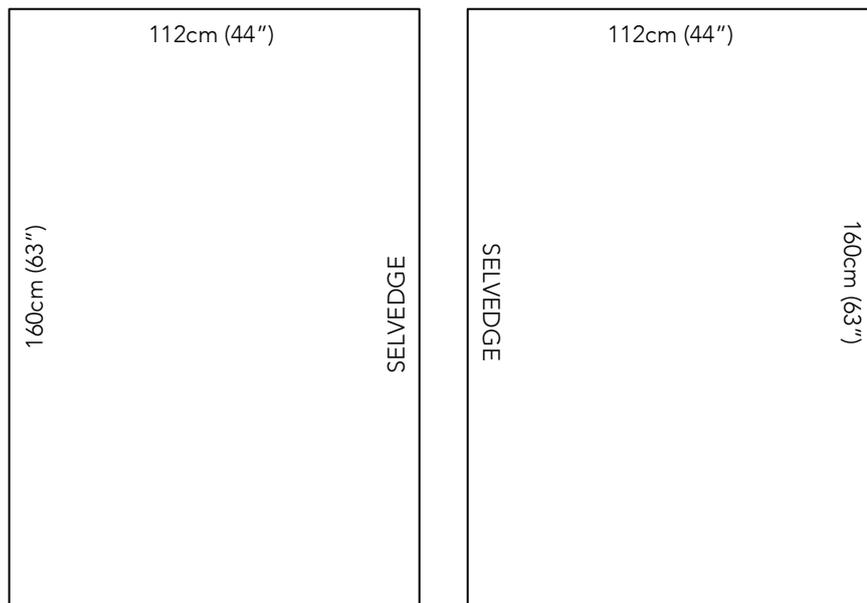
- Matching thread for the backing seam

- Sewing Machine

- Rotary Blade, Quilting Ruler and Mat

Making the pieced backing:

- Fold the backing fabric in half lengthways. Cut the fabric along the halfway fold with fabric scissors, resulting in two lengths of fabric measuring 160cmx112cm or 63"x44".



- Sew the two lengths together (right sides together if using a print fabric) along the selvedge edge, ensuring the seam is about a ¼" in from the selvedge so that you can trim it back as well as not have it be seen on the other side.

- Trim off the selvedge edge with a ruler and blade down to a ¼' seam allowance.

- Open out the backing and press the seam flat open with a hot steamy iron. Then press the rest of the backing so that it's as wrinkle-free and flat as possible.

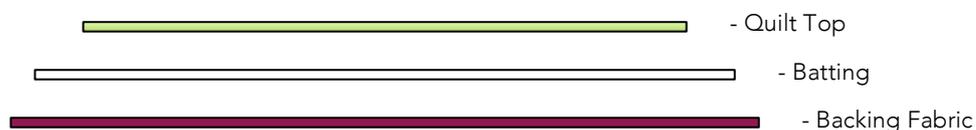
- Lay down the quilt backing in the area where you will be basting to avoid any unnecessary wrinkles. It should now measure *approx.* 200cmx160cm or 79" x 63".

Batting:

The type of batting you choose to work with is completely up to you. Personally, I've always loved using a cotton batting due to its natural qualities, the handle and loft, the ease that it has when feeding it through the machine as well as the warmth and coolness it brings to the end result. For this quilt I've chosen to use a bleached cotton fibre batting called *Warm & White* due to the heavy use of white fabric in my quilt top. By using a white batting, the white fabric will look fresh, bright and crisp over the top of it. In comparison to using an all natural cotton batting (I like to use one called *Cosy Cotton*), which is a creamy type colour, the white fabric will look dull when placed on top of it.

Bringing all three layers together:

- First, lay out the quilt top on top of the backing fabric, centering its seam line with the centre sashing on the quilt.
- Using fabric scissors cut off the excess backing fabric from the top and bottom, leaving about 10-20cm (4-8") out from the quilt top edges.
- Place both layers to one side and lay out the batting. Make it as smooth and taut as possible.
- Lay the backing fabric on top as close to the bottom edge of the batting as possible and then smooth it out. Cut off any excess batting from the top getting as close as you can to the backing fabric.
- Flip the two layers over so that the backing fabric is on the bottom and the batting is now facing up. Make sure both layers are smooth once again.
- Carefully lay the quilt top over the batting ensuring that it's centred evenly with the backing fabric as you smooth out the wrinkles.



Basting the quilt:

The following steps are how to baste your quilt using the basting spray method.

- Carefully roll back the quilt top stopping once you reach the middle. Do the same with the batting layer.
- After shaking the can well, evenly spray a generous amount of basting spray all over the exposed backing fabric about 20cm (8") away from the surface.

- Gently roll the batting layer back into place and smooth it out, starting from the centre and out to the edges.
- Evenly spray a generous amount of basting spray over the batting layer and roll the quilt top back into place, smoothing it down in the same way as the batting layer: from the centre and outwards.
- Gently turn the quilt around and repeat the same set of steps to baste the other half of the quilt.
- As an extra option, give the basted quilt a good press with a medium-to-hot steamy iron to ensure all layers are as smooth and flat as humanly possible. Having smooth flat layers will help make the quilting process a lot easier and will help prevent the fabrics from puckering.
- **TIP:** When using basting spray, *always* make sure your space is well ventilated!

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This is only part three of six videos that will make up my *Quilt-Along-With-Me* series. Once the series is finished, the full pattern will be available for you to download and print off for free from my blog.

If you have any questions, feedback, completed blocks/quilts or ideas to share with me, feel free to send me an email to the following address:

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Happy Sewing, Friends!

Amanda.

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