

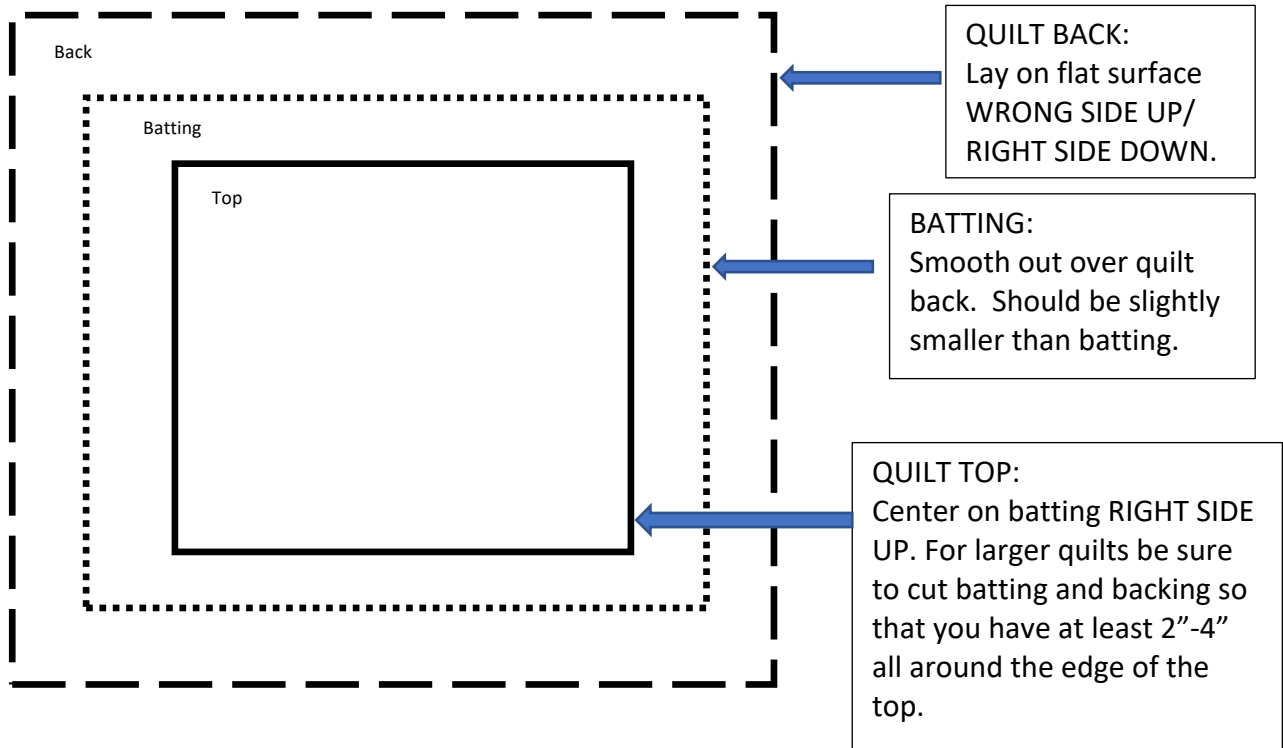
SCRAP-SF QUILTING BASICS May 3, 2023 with Lorraine Woodruff-Long

What is a quilt sandwich?

A quilt sandwich is what quilters call the three layers of the quilt: the quilt top, the batting, and the backing.

Layering

The backing should be wider and longer than the quilt top and batting. The batting should be bigger and wider than the top.



Some thoughts on layering:

I find this the least fun and most exhausting part of quilting, but taking the time to do this right is worth the effort.

- **Floor:** For large quilts, some do this process on a well swept clean floor – this means crawling around on your knees. Taping down the quilt back on to the floor (duct tape or blue painters tape) to ensure it is completely flat. This makes it rather easy to then layer your batting down and smoothing it before the final step of centering the top over the whole thing. The challenge is finding a space in your home after moving around furniture that is large enough to lay out the whole thing!

- **Table:** I have 2-3 large folding tables from Costco that I use for this process. I can usually set it up in my garage, but even better is doing it in the backyard. But you need a backyard, and windy days can be a challenge. If you have access to a conference room table or other workspace, painters tape won't stick or damage the furniture when you stick it down.
- **Wall:** If you have access to a large wall that you can tack your pieces to, this is an option, although this usually involves spray basting
 - <https://caroleylesshaw.com/wall-quilt-basting-tutorial/>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDlnx2CFSSY>

Basting

Smooth out all the pieces to make sure there are no wrinkles. Next, you'll "baste" the quilt to keep the pieces down and in place while you quilt. This can be done a few ways:

- **Safety pins:** My preferred method. **START PINNING FROM THE CENTER.** Depending upon the size of the quilt, you just need a pin every 5"- 6 inches or so. Pin a line down the center, then pin another link across to make a +, then fill in pins every 5-6" or so. Be sure to keep smoothing out your three layers of fabric to make sure there are no folds or wrinkles welling up.
- **Machine baste edges:** Often, I'll follow up my pinning with a simple baste on the machine that I'll later pull out. Set the machine stitch length to the longest length, then sew around the edges of the top. This helps prevent fraying. Once you finish your piece and are about to add the binding, you can pull out the stitches or, if you stitch very close to the edge, just sew over it.
- **Thoughts on spray baste:** While it theoretically washes out of the quilt, it's terribly toxic and awful for the environment but can be useful for certain situations. I use it sparingly, and just try to do a great job with the safety pins.

OK, let's quilt!

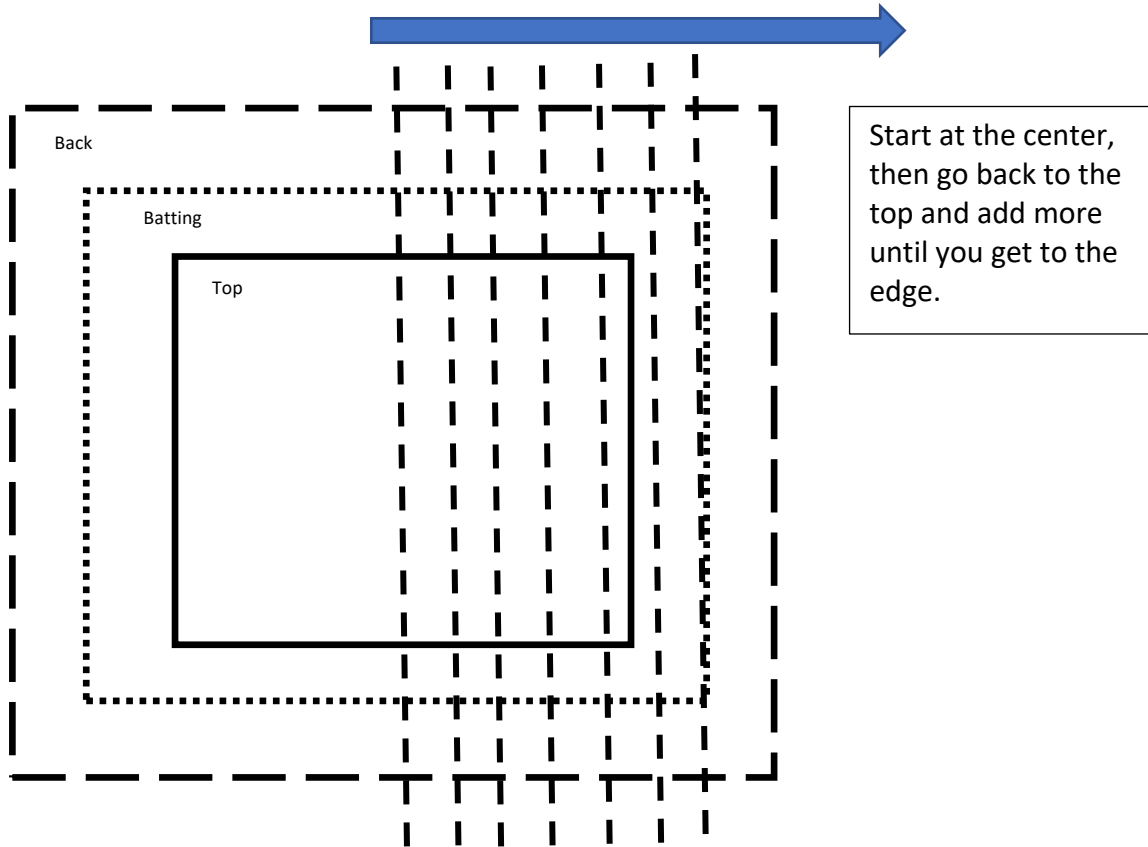
There are several ways to quilt your quilt:

- **Hand Quilting:** Using needle and thread.
- **Hand-tie Quilt:** Usually stronger thread such as pearl cotton or yarn.
- **Machine Quilting**
 - **Straight stitch/Walking foot:** Machine pulls through the quilt, just as when you machine stitch.
 - **Free motion quilting:** lower the machine feed dogs so that you move the quilt under it with your hands.
 - **Long-Arm:** A special quilting machine frame with a sewing machine that moves around the frame.

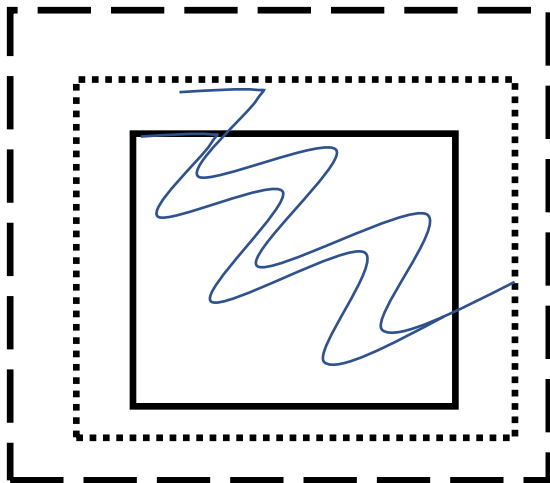
QUILT SANDWICH – BASTING - QUILTING

For class we'll start with Machine Quilting/Straight Stitch.

I usually start quilting in the center and move towards one edge. You can use a standard stitch, or consider making your stitches longer, if you like.



Try making a wave and then another alongside it – you're echo quilting!



The key to this part of quilting, is just practicing it and doing it. If you make a mistake (and you will – you learn from these for next time!), don't be afraid to 'pick out" what you've done and red it.

More resources/how to on the web and YouTube:

Basting

- <https://www.diaryofaquilter.com/basting-and-quilting-for-beginners/>
- <https://suzyquilts.com/how-to-baste-a-quilt/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n93ZBvoltj8>
- <https://www.ageberry.com/quilt-basting/>

Quilting

<https://carolinaoneto.com/different-quilting-techniques-to-try/>

Check out my website for the class page that shows lots of ways you can use this idea.

<https://quiltinginthefog.com/plus-insert-blocks-class-resource-page/>

Sign up on my email list (SIGN UP SHEET IN CLASS) for future offerings, tips, shows, ideas!

Or email me: Lorraine@quiltinginthefog.com