

Straight Line Quilting
by
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Getting Started

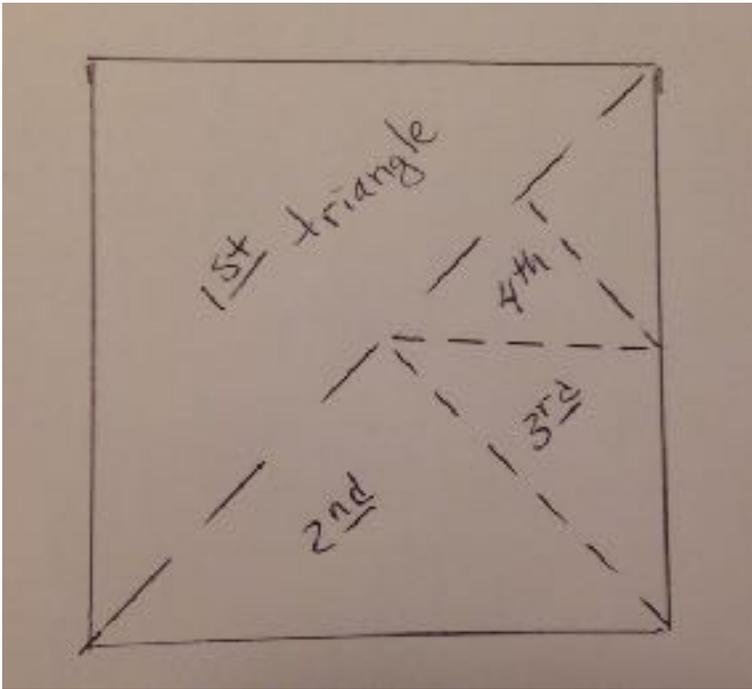
Walking Foot (also called an even feed foot) which feeds both the quilt top and the bottom of the quilt evenly at the same time. All three layers are quilted together and prevents "creep/bubbles" on the top layer and back.

Your domestic machine can be used especially for the small to medium quilts we do for FIT.

Preparing your Quilt

1. Baste with thread (4-5" between rows with large stitches)..back stitch now and then to hold thread in place...no need to knot
 2. Safety pin baste
 3. Spray adhesive
 4. Swift attacher gun..like those used to attach store tags to clothing
 5. Press backing and top to get creases/folds out
- Make sure layers are smooth, flat with batting/backing extended 1 to 2" larger on all four sides.
 - Decide purpose of quilting...is it functional to keep quilt in one piece (remember a child's quilt is used and washed many times).
 - Mark lines using pieces of left over hand soap chips or blue painters tape. The grid can be perpendicular lines to form boxes or diagonal lines to form diamonds.
 - Increase machine stitch length by about 2 units and use a neutral thread that blends with top. I start at the center and work out rather than sew one line the whole length of the quilt.
 - If quilt is pieced, use the pattern formed by the piecing to guide your quilting. You can stitch in the ditch or shadow quilt the seam by stitching with the edge of your presser foot following the seams

Add interest by dividing large open areas by using a succession of diagonal divisions. On a large square, stitch diagonally point to point. Next, in each of the two resulting triangles start at the point of the triangle and stitch straight down at right angles to the base of the triangle.. Repeat and divide the space as many times as you wish. (see figure below).



Most important thing to remember, in most cases, you are not being judged on your quilting because of the over all impact that people see unless you intend the stitching to dominate by using a high contrast thread.

Using a "neutral" thread allows the thread to fade into the quilt and no one will see that wavy or straight line 'mistake' made.