

## Things I WILL Do:

- **Iron Backing Fabric**

- I will be happy to iron your backing for you, for a nominal charge, if you notify me when you drop your quilt off.



- Wide-back fabrics are notorious for having bolt-creases in them, and are hard for most people to iron at home due to limited space. I have the room to iron them, and I use Best Press to get most of the creases out, but it does take an hour to iron a queen or king-sized back, so this is why I need to charge for this service.
- If you don't notify me, I will **not** iron your backing, even if it's obvious that you just bought the fabric and are dropping your quilt off with me on your way home from the quilt store, without ironing the backing fabric yourself.
- If your backing fabric has creases in it from being wrapped around a bolt, and you or I don't iron it before it is quilted, the creases can end up getting stitched into a permanent crease during the longarm quilting process, which will detract from the beauty of your quilt. That may be fine for a quilt you are keeping for yourself, but I wouldn't recommend it for a quilt you are giving away as a gift.

- **Scallop / Swag Edges**

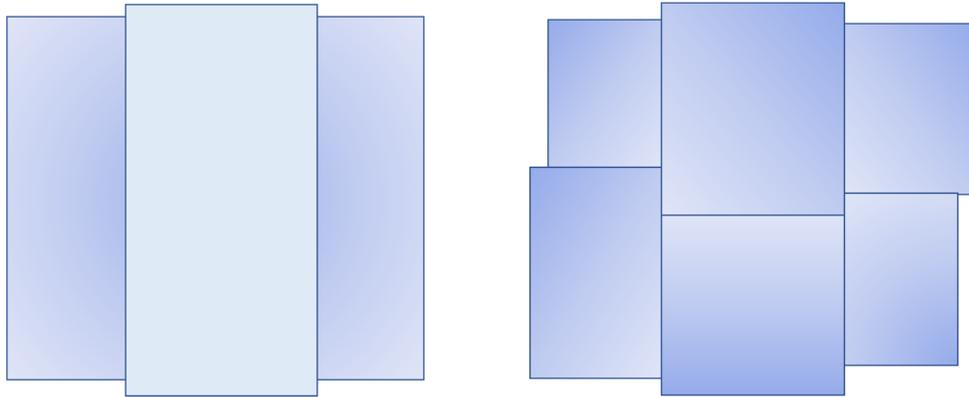
- If you want your quilt to have a scalloped edge, rather than rectangular, I can stitch a scallop edge around the edges of your quilt top. This will give you a line to sew your binding on. Then you just trim the quilt top, batting and backing near the stitched swag line, roll your binding to the back of the quilt, then stitch it down.



- **Square Up Backing Fabric**

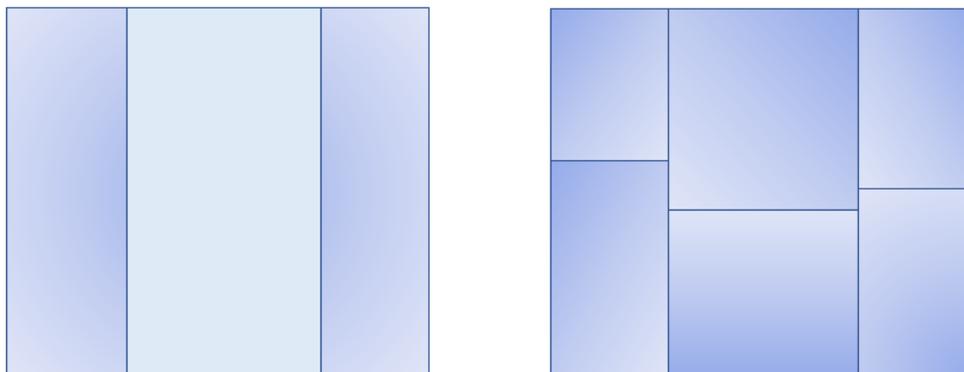
- I will be happy to square up your backing for you, for a nominal charge, if you notify me when you drop your quilt off.
- If you have not squared up your backing fabric, and it is uneven (this includes pieced backs where one section of fabric sticks out further than the one it is sewn to), I will need to square it up before I can load into onto the frame. I will notify you when your quilt is ready for pick up that I am charging you for this service, in addition to what I put on your original invoice.

Examples of backing fabric that is not squared up:

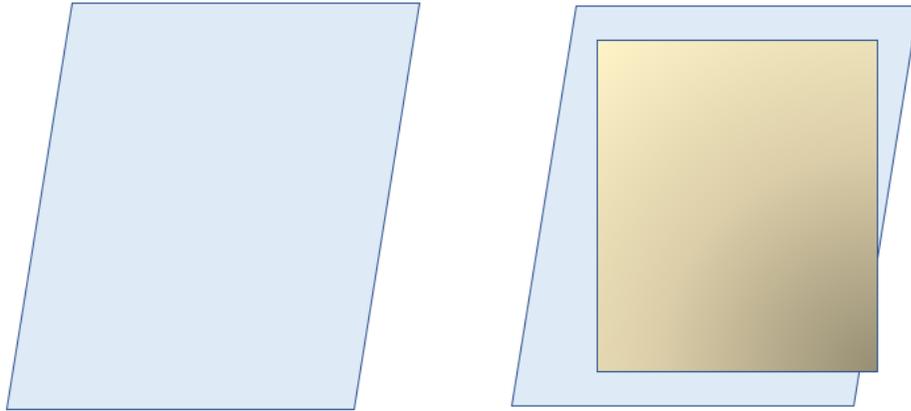


- The reason I need a squared up backing is that the longarm frame is in the shape of a rectangle. I need a straight edge at both the top and bottom of the backing fabric in order to attach those ends to the frame, and I need the whole backing fabric to be in the shape of a rectangle with four 90 degree angles along the outer edges of the backing fabric.

Examples of backing fabric that is squared up:

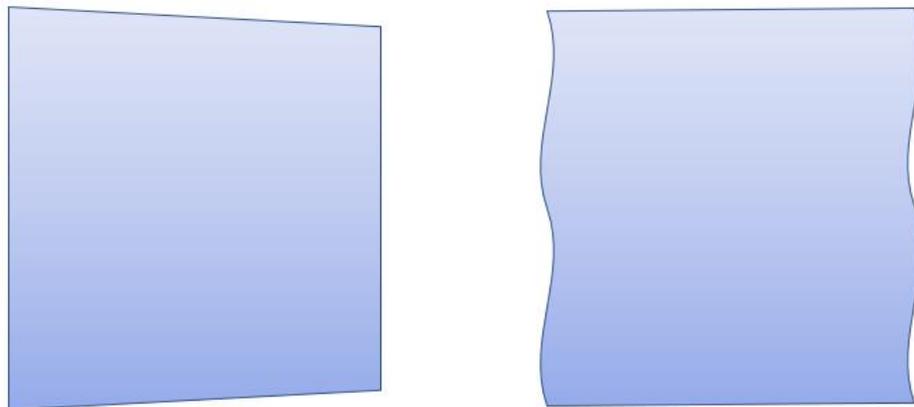


- If the backing is more like a parallelogram (with 2 corners less than 90 degrees and 2 corners more than 90 degrees), then by the time I get to the bottom of your quilt, there might not be enough backing fabric to cover the bottom-left or bottom-right side of your quilt top.



Note that it is common for wide-back fabric, to look like the above left diagram, and **not** be square when it is cut at the fabric store. I think this is due to the way it is folded and wrapped around the bolt at the manufacturing plant.

- If the backing is more like a trapezoid (left edge and right edge are not the same length), then the backing fabric will be saggy in places after it has been loaded onto the frame, which will cause some fabric to fold over onto itself, and be locked down under the stitching as it is being quilted. You will not like the result.



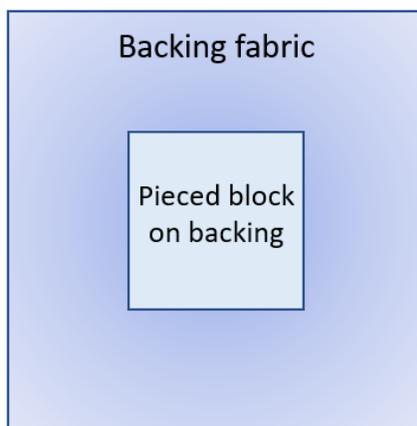
- Typically, I don't check to see if your backing needs to be squared up until I am ready to start quilting your quilt. If I find out that squaring it up will cause it to not give me the full 4" extra inches I need on all 4 sides, you will need to pick up your backing fabric and adjust it accordingly, which will push the finishing of your quilt out later than my original estimate for you.
- There are instructions on this website on how to square up your backing. I will be happy to walk you through it, if you want to do it yourself but aren't understanding the instructions.

## Other things I will do, but with a caveat

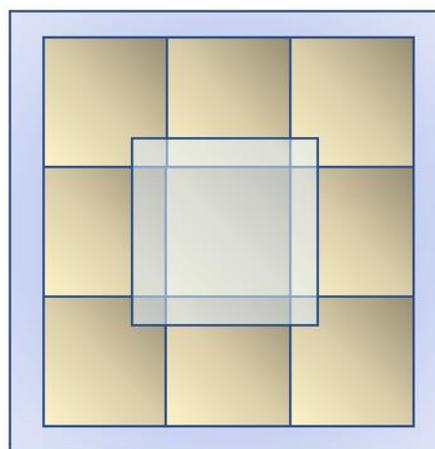
- **Center the Backing Fabric**

- If you have done something special with your quilt back and you want your quilt top to be centered over it, I will do my best to accommodate that request. However, I cannot guarantee its success, since the backing fabric is stretched on the frame, so there may be more or less fabric at the bottom of the quilt back than I start with at the top of the quilt back. And since I can't see the backing fabric when I am quilting the quilt, the sides might not be perfectly centered either.

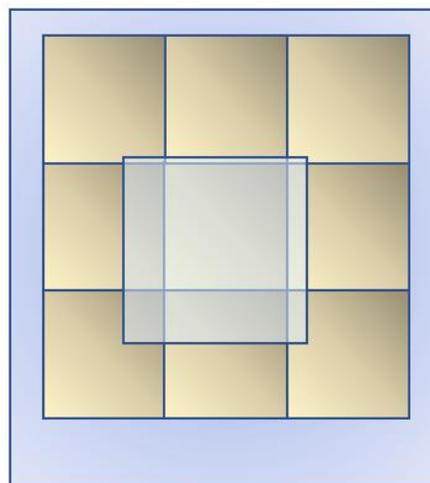
For example:



Here is what you'd like to end up with (pieced block on backing **centered** under quilt top center):



Here is what you may end up with (pieced block on backing **offset** from center of quilt top):



- **Binding from Backing Fabric**

- If you are planning on using your backing fabric rolled up and pulled over the edge of the quilt top for your binding, let me know this when you drop off your quilt, because it affects the pattern selection and placement on the quilt top, as well as the way I baste the edges of the quilt top to the batting/backing.
- I don't recommend this binding method for quilts that are longarm quilted.

- **Flannel Backing Fabric**

- Flannel doesn't stretch as much as Minky or Fleece, so it's not a problem for longarm quilting. However, it is too thick for me to load onto my longarm frame with my current loading method (using Leader Grips, which are like "Red Snappers"). I have to remove my leader piping, and then pin the flannel backing fabric to the leaders using corsage pins, which is a time-consuming process. So I will charge an extra nominal fee for quilts with flannel backing.

## Other things to consider:

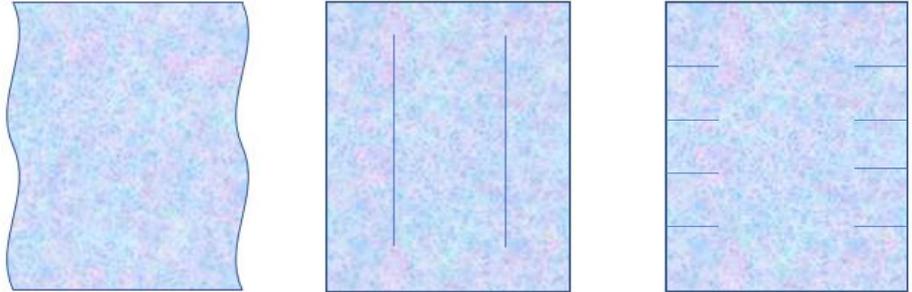
- **Batting color**

- **White** batting is better than **unbleached** batting under **white** fabric. I have some white batting, in limited sizes.
- **Black** batting is better next to dark-colored backing fabric, in case the fibers of the batting get pushed through the backing fabric due to the static electricity caused by the high-speed stitching. This might not be an option if the quilt top is very light-colored. I do not carry black batting, but it is available in some quilting stores.

- **Wavy Quilt Top**

- If your quilt top has any extra waviness to it, or is un-square, let me know if you want me to:

- Try to make the quilt come out square
  - Some fabric may need to get tucked under in the middle or sides of the quilt top to take up the extra fullness of the top



- Quilt it in whatever shape it is (which is what I will do if you don't specify otherwise). Examples:

- Wavy (see above example)
- Right edge longer/shorter than left edge



- Bottom edge longer/shorter than top edge



- Top or bottom edge curved out or in

