

## **Tips for getting a perfectly quilted quilt....**

At KoolKat quilting we endeavour to give you the best quilting quality we can, with our fully computerised professional Statler machines. However, there are some issues which can result in a less than perfect quilt. We hope that this information will help when you make your next quilt.

### **1. Is your quilt top flat and square?**

Our machines will only quilt flat, so if your quilt top is not flat, we have to try and ease in fullness where it occurs. If there is a lot of fullness, slight puckers may appear on the top of the quilt. We do our very best to minimise this.

### **2. What causes this un-evenness in the quilt top?**

The number one cause is borders being too loose. Fabric has a natural tendency to stretch, so it is very important to take the measurements for borders by measuring through the centre of the quilt, not along the outside. If you simply just keep adding borders without measuring through the centre, the borders will become full and wavy. Sometimes over 8" (20cm) of extra fabric can accumulate this way. This fabric has to go somewhere, and we have to try and ease it in while quilting.

### **3. What about piecing which is on the bias?**

Quilts which are set on-point often have setting triangles along the edges. Where possible these triangles should always be cut so that the outer edge is a straight grain, not a bias. If it is a bias, there will be excessive stretching, often leading to very wavy borders. The best way to cut these setting triangles is by cross-cutting a large square twice, to give the straight grain on the diagonal.

### **4. Tight borders**

Occasionally, this can happen, where the borders are tighter than the centre. This is usually caused by not measuring accurately, or making sure the quilt is fully flat when taking measurements.

### **5. Difficulty with supplied backing and batting**

Please consider the quality of both as they should match the quality of materials used in the quilt. Avoid synthetics, poly cottons, sheets, and anything with an extremely high thread count. Soft is best. We recommend natural fibres for batting, or blends of wool poly or cotton poly. Backing and batting need to be cut square, joined if necessary, and be at least 4" (10cm) larger all round, or 8" longer and 8" wider (20cm in total).

### **6. Presentation of your quilt top**

You will get a lovely result from our quilting if your quilt is nice and flat, square, and well pressed. Press well at all stages of the making of the quilt. Be careful not to distort blocks while pressing. Consider pressing seams open if there are a lot of points in your quilt and you are having an all over pattern. This will reduce bulk at the seams. Remove dark threads which could show through. Fold your completed quilt top right side out as this will minimise fraying, before it is quilted.

### **7. Should I pre-wash fabrics and or batting?**

We don't usually recommend this, as it makes the fabric very floppy, making quilting a little more difficult. With quality modern quilting materials, pre-washing should not be necessary, unless you think colours might run. **Colour Catchers** (available in most supermarkets) will collect colour runs during the quilt's first gentle machine wash.

### **8. Your instructions for quilting**

If you have special requirements for quilting, ie, choice of pattern, backing or batting it is essential you put this in **writing** with the quilt top itself, when posting the quilt. It is impossible for us to remember all the details of phone conversations, or previous emails when preparing your quilt for quilting. Also, please include all your contact details including email address with each quilt top.

**We hope this guide will help you and us to enjoy the quilting process more and to ensure perfect results every time. Happy quilting!**