

## QISS Club Quilt Builder Deck Series - Episode 6

### *Marking More Quilting Designs*

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Welcome back to the QISS Club! In this episode, we are taking more blocks, layering them up with our batting (also known as wadding) and backing, and learning how to mark more beautiful quilting designs onto the fabric. We will start quilting in the next episode!

#### **Prepping Your Pieced Blocks**

Before sandwiching, your blocks need a little tidying up to ensure a smooth quilting process.

- Use scissors or a rotary cutter to snip off those little triangle points (dog ears) on the back of your seams so they don't flip back and get caught during quilting.
- Tidy up the back of your block by snipping loose threads. Loose dark threads that are left behind a light background fabric will make a shadow appear through to the front.
- Give your block a good press (with mist or steam if needed), but take care not to stretch the outside edges.
- Ensure your seams are sitting flat and in the correct direction. If a seam is twisted, your 'stitch in the ditch' will jump from side to side, which is very noticeable.

#### **Cutting Batting & Backing**

- Cut your Hobbs Double-Sided Fusible Batting and backing fabric about a quarter inch larger than your block (all the way around).
- Use dedicated batting scissors for the batting, as batting will quickly blunt your rotary blades.
- Choose a backing fabric - a busy print is best! Avoid directional fabrics (like stripes or exact rows of flowers) because when we join the blocks later, misaligned patterns will make the joins obvious.

#### **Sandwiching Your Blocks**

- Lay your backing fabric down, place the batting on top, and finish with your pressed block on top.
- Press slowly, using a hot, dry iron (steam dilutes the fusible glue). Move the iron slowly to fuse the top, then flip the sandwich over and press the back.

#### **Troubleshooting:**

- If a seam flips or a piece stretches while pressing, simply peel the layers apart, fix the issue, and re-press.
- If the fusible won't adhere, your fabric might have a painted surface (common on solid whites) or heavy seizing (common on cheaper fabrics). Wash the fabric to remove the seizing and try again.

#### **Marking Your Quilting Designs**

Taking 10 minutes to plan your design saves you from making mistakes on your fabric!

- Practice by drawing a 12" block on a piece of paper to test out your layouts.
- When marking fabric, use your Bohin pencil. Hold the pencil straight upright and draw with strokes pulling towards you. Leaning the pencil or pushing backward will snap the fine lead against the template.
- Find the exact centre of your block and mark a dot, then align the centre intersecting lines of your template directly over that dot. *Rotating the template on the diagonal often fills the block space beautifully.*
- Use the diagonal dissecting lines printed on the templates to perfectly align designs into the block corners.
- Connect the gaps (from the template splits) with your pencil to create a complete, continuous quilting path

In Episode 7, we are heading to the sewing machine! We will take these perfectly marked blocks and I will teach you exactly how to quilt these designs. See you next time.

Pauline