



## Cottage Quilt Designs Tutorials

### **Basting a Quilt for Hand Quilting**

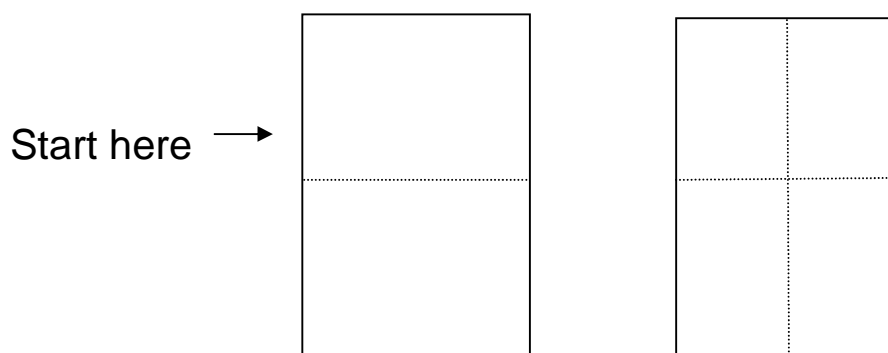
#### Supplies Needed

- White or a contrasting thread color to the quilt
  - Masking tape
  - Quilting safety pins
  - Long basting needles or curved needles
  - Scissors
1. Press your quilt top front and back making sure that intersection seam allowances are pressed open and that seam allowances are flat.
  2. Mark your quilt top with quilting designs if desired. Don't press the top after marking because the heat from the iron can set the marks permanently into the fabric if you are using wash out markers.
  3. Piece your backing and press open the seams.
  4. Lay the backing with the seam allowance on the top facing you on the floor or a large table. It will be covered with the batting.
  5. With masking tape, tape the corners and along the sides in several places. Stretch the backing tight enough as you tape it so that when you stroke the backing with your hand it doesn't move. Making the backing taut will prevent wrinkles from forming on the back as you baste the layers.
  6. Lay out your batting on the backing centering it and smoothing out all wrinkles.

7. Lay your quilt top on top of the batting centering it with equal widths of batting and backing beyond the quilt's edges. Ease out the wrinkles but make sure you are not distorting the shape. That can be easy to do with cotton batts.
8. Pin the layers with quilting safety pins every six inches.
9. Remove the tape around the edges of the backing. If the quilt is on the floor you can move it to a table surface now for basting.

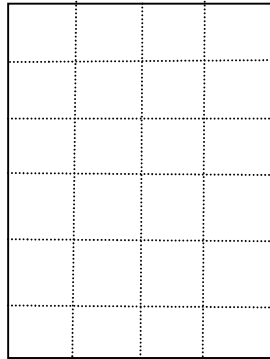
### **Basting with Thread**

1. Prepare your needles with a long length of thread-about 18" to 24" long. I like to put a single knot on the end of the thread so it doesn't pull out in my first stitch.
2. I have found using curved needles made for tying quilts are very useful as the tip of the needle dips into the layers and curves back out again. It saves your fingers underneath the quilt from getting pricked so often as you stitch the length and width of your quilt.
3. You will be stitching a grid across the quilt with stitching lines 8" to 12" apart. The lines don't need to be closer because you will be using a quilting frame to hand quilt. Start at the center edge of one side and baste with long stitches to the other side.



Add the second line the length of the quilt.

Then fill in the grid across the width and length every 8" to 12" according to the size of your quilt.



4. Remove the safety pins from the quilt. You are ready now to hand quilt your quilt.

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