

Welcome to the QSL Workshop

Thank you for participating in longarm training. Our goal is to provide hands-on, comprehensive training. The QSL Workshop is a great place for building skills, and for sharing your love of quilting with others. We hope you return often.

Outlined below are key points covered during training.

ATTACHING ZIPPERED LEADS

The zippered leads you were provided during training are always basted to your BACKING fabric. This is how you attach your project to the longarm frame for quilting. You will need to do this step prior to arriving for your rental appointment(s).

1. Begin with backing fabric that is cut straight on all four sides. The backing fabric should measure 3" larger than your quilt top on all four sides. For example, a quilt measuring 60 x 80 should have a backing fabric that measures at least 66 x 86.
2. Use a pin to mark the exact center of the top and bottom of your quilt BACKING. This is a crucial step in assuring your quilt back winds straight after it is zipped onto the longarm rack.
3. Lay your backing fabric "right side down" on the floor or table. (Hint: Similar to when you make a quilt sandwich, the bottom layer is placed right side down).
4. Place your zippered leads at the top and bottom of your backing fabric with the writing facing you. The bottom is by your feet or closest to your body if you are working on a table. Make sure you match the center hash mark on the leads with the center pin on your fabric.
5. Stand and look down at your leads. Take care that the arrows on your leads are both pointed in the same direction. Number #1 Lead (bottom) is "the boss" and it points to the Right. The #2 Lead (top) follows suit and points in the same direction. Your leads are made exactly the same, but simply labeled #1 and #2. Note that the teeth on your zippers face each other.
6. To prepare the leads for basting/attachment, place a pin on either side of the center hash marks.
7. Now you are ready to sew the leads to your backing. Set your home machine on the largest basting stitch and sew from the center out toward each side. A ¼" seam will be sufficient.
8. Your leads, and the quilting rack, will accommodate no more than 110" of width as loaded. Note: The rack **rollers** do accommodate longer than 110" inches, giving you the opportunity to quilt a piece 110" X 120" with leads sewn on the shorter measurement.
9. If your quilt is rectangle, it will save you time if you load it the "long way" (sideways) on the rack. This is only a good idea if you do not have a directional aspect to your project. Keep in mind that some computerized quilting patterns are also directional, i.e. Christmas trees.
10. **Be sure to check out our website: www.quiltersstudioloveland.com to view videos on attaching leads and loading the machine.**

TIPS FOR SCHEDULING RENTAL APPOINTMENTS

1. New renters should schedule back ASAP. The Workshop is open 10:00-5:00 Monday through Saturday and staffed with two team members.
2. Once reserved, the machine is yours for the day. We encourage renters to bring multiple projects. We will estimate how much time each item will require so you don't begin quilting something in the afternoon that cannot be finished before end-of-day. Typically, additional projects are not started after 2:00pm.
3. You will receive a reminder/confirmation call a day or two prior to your appointment. Please let us know ASAP if you are unable to make your appointment. Last minute cancellations could result in a \$35.00 charge.
4. We are continually working to improve our scheduling process. We do not book appointments more than 2 months in advance. For example, on March 1st we open the calendar for May appointments. April 1st we begin scheduling June appointments. We maintain a waitlist of renters who want to be contacted if an opening occurs.
5. Often quilters arrive with projects that can be completed by 1:00pm. This frees up a machine for the afternoon. On occasion, an additional renter can quilt that very day from 1:00-4:00. Don't hesitate to call us AFTER 11:00am any day, to check on afternoon availability. Great way to finish a baby quilt or something you need quickly!

GENERAL TIPS

- The Workshop is bustling at 10:00 each morning. Be sure to baste your leads on at home so you don't waste valuable quilting time.
- It is a good idea to review the pattern choices on our web site. Note a couple of options you like to help the selection process go quicker when you are setting up your project on quilting day.
- Before arrival at the Workshop, it is important to look your quilt over carefully for any minor seam problems. No one is happy when they see a hole after the quilt is loaded.
- If you are working on a T-shirt quilt, keep in mind that buttons or pockets will need special attention.
- All appointments are made anticipating Edge-to-Edge quilting. If you are planning to customize your quilt, it will require additional training.
- Our machines accommodate different types of fabric. Flannels work nicely, stretchy/plush fabrics can also be quilted. To minimize stretching and/or distortion, we suggest you sew your leads to the "cut" side of the backing and use the selvage edges on the side you attach straps to.
- We understand that operating the longarm takes practice and repetition. Keep in mind we are here to assist you. We will always be encouraging you to read the prompts and enjoy the self-satisfaction of being able to say, "Yes, I pieced and quilted this myself.!"

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR ALL RENTERS:

*As Renters, you are responsible for the **QUALITY** of the finished product. It is important to meticulously inspect your project, front and back, before removing your leads.*