

What To Ask Your Longarm Quilter

SMQ Guild Meeting, August 3, 2010

By Kate Meyers and Cyndi Herrmann

1. LAQ experience, ask to see work, references.
 - a. What is their experience?
 - b. Do they have references?
 - c. Do they have samples of their work?
2. You need to tell the LAQ how this quilt will be used.
 - a. a napping quilt,
 - b. a child's dregger,
 - c. a dog bed,
 - d. bed cover,
 - e. heirloom.
 - f. wall hanging,
 - g. entered in a quilt show
3. Is the LAQ interested in working with you as part of a team? It's your quilt and you should be able to communicate. Your input is important.
 - a. Do you have a design or look in mind for your quilt?
 - b. How can the LAQ incorporate your ideas?
 - c. If you don't have a design in mind, does the LAQ have suggestions or ideas for the quilt?
4. Quilt top preparation
 - a. Should the quilt top be pressed?
 - b. Should all loose threads be removed from the quilt top?
 - c. Should embellishments be put on first?
5. Backing
 - a. Who supplies?
 - b. Do they have a preference? ie: Patterns/Prints vs solids.
 - c. What size should the backing be?
 - d. Does my backing need to be square?
 - e. Should the backing be pressed?
6. Batting
 - a. Do they have a preference?
 - b. Do they sell batting?
 - c. Can you supply your own batting?

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7. Thread
 - a. Do they have a preference?
 - b. Do they sell thread?
 - c. Can you supply your own thread?
8. What other services do they provide?
 - a. Do they do bindings?
 - b. Do they do basting for Hand Quilters?
9. FIGURING CHARGES/COSTS:
 - a. How do they charge?
 - i. sq inch
 - ii. time
 - iii. design styles
 - b. Do they charge for changing thread colors, or using metallic/specialty threads, weights, etc?
 - c. Do they do binding and what do they charge?
 - d. Backing costs? Chg for squaring up back?
 - e. Pressing costs?
 - f. Clipping threads?
 - g. Extra chg for SID or quilting around motifs/appliqué/embellishments?

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