

How to select Quilting Designs for your Quilt Top

1. How is the quilt going to be used?
Is it going to be dragged around?
Is it going to be a movie snuggler?

Bed Quilt? My bed or... Kids bed??

Gifted Quilt?? How much do I like this person. 😊

Wall hanging. Is there some appliqué?

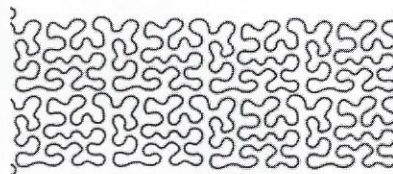
Do I want to show off a bit??

This is a gift and I DO like the person.

This is my best quilt top ever and I want to enter it into a show.

I love this quilt and I want it to SHINE.

A quilt made for a special occasion like a wedding.



2. Design choices

Opposites attract. If the piecing has a lot of straight lines use curves in your quilting.
If you have areas of the quilt with appliqué then use straight lines.

GOOD: This classifies as DONE!!! This quilt just needs to get done so I can move on to other projects. I use big stipple, big loops and all over designs.

BETTER: I want it to look nice but... It's not for the Queen. I will select 2-3 different SIMPLE free motion designs. I will assign each of these free motion designs to areas of the quilt. Each design will also get its very own thread color.

BEST: I will texturize the quilt. Each area will get a free motion design the specifically compliments the fabric, piecing, or appliqué. If it's a tree I will add leaves. If it's a fish I will quilt scales on the fish. If it's a barn I will create knots in the wood. This quilt will get as many thread colors as needed.

SHOW: This is the best time to call in a professional.

3. COMPLIMENT THE STYLE OF THE QUILT

Traditional. Feathers, cable borders, cross hatching.

Whimsical. Curly Q's, wiggly squiggly lines, stencils.

Modern. Simple clean lines, concentric circles.

Art Quilts. Texturize according to the motif you are working on.

4. Thread choices

I audition my thread. Do not look at the thread directly on the spool. It's too concentrated.

I take about 5-6 options to the quilt. I unwind 2-3 feet and puddle it across the quilt. I make sure that I place it throughout all of the fabrics.

I select the thread that is the least intrusive.

