

TWIN QUILTS

The quilts are to be constructed “envelope” style. Accuracy is all important with this construction technique.

Measurements must be exact. If the top and bottom are not exactly the same, the finished quilt will twist and bulge. Pinning is essential. Use pins frequently and place them relatively close together.

They will help prevent tucks and ripples in the seams and make sewing these seams so much easier.



To construct the quilt, place the top piece of the fabric and its coordinating bottom piece right sides together. Carefully smooth out the fabrics and pin. There should be no wrinkles or twisting. (It works well to lay out the fabric on a ping pong table or other large flat surface. Using a countertop is virtually impossible. The fabric just cannot be smoothed out sufficiently.) At this point both pieces should match exactly.

Place the batting on top. Pin about every 2-3 inches to avoid shifting. (It seems to work best if the bottom fabric is next to the batting.) Trim excess batting from around the fabric. The batting should be exactly even with the fabric. With the batting against the feed dog, and the fabric next to the presser foot, sew around the quilt leaving a space open for turning. This opening should be about 12-14 inches wide. It will look best if this opening is at least 4 inches away from the corner. (At this point, make sure all pins have been removed. They are most difficult to remove after the quilt has been turned right side out.

Next, reach through the opening between the two layers of fabric and pull the “envelope” right side out. (This can be compared to flipping a pillow case right side out.) The batting will now be in the middle of your quilt with the right sides of your fabric out on top and bottom.

After turning the seam allowances to the inside, machine stitch the opening closed.

To keep the outside edge crisp and neat, pin, then top stitch one inch from the edge all the way around the outside edge of the quilt. Note: Be very careful at this point while sewing, to lift and smooth the back side of the quilt toward the center, away from the edge, all along the way to prevent it from tucking into the stitching on the bottom. It is very easy for this to happen since you cannot see the underneath side while stitching. It's no fun to pick out and repair!

Because this quilt will be tied on a table top, or other flat surface, it is important that the top and the bottom fabric be smooth with as little shifting and wrinkling as possible. Again, lay the quilt out flat, smoothing it as much as possible. Then, baste across the quilt in three places. Divide the quilt in thirds, run a basting line down the center, and two more lines along either side.

The last step is to mark the quilt for tying. The marks should be easy to see, and placed four and one-half to five inches apart. Remember that the purpose of the knots is to keep the batting from shifting. Unless there is a decorative reason, knots need not be closer than this.

Remember to have fun with this easy, quick, technique for group projects.

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