

MARKING YOUR QUILT

Marking your quilt is as broad a subject matter as the type of quilt one might choose to make. However, we have narrowed down your choices to help you in this vast topic, so that your quilt marking can be successful and rewarding!

There are pros and cons to every method available. Therefore, it is important to make an informed decision on how to mark your quilt, based on your project. What works for one quilt may not work for the next.

After many years of quilting we have determined that there are essentially two ways to mark your quilt: either directly on the quilt top, or onto a marking surface that you quilt through and then remove. With either method you choose, it is important to test how it will work on your finished project. You will want to test your marking method a complete quilt sandwich: the identical fabric, batting, backing and thread in your actual project. We both recall marking quilts (in our early years, of course!) where the quilt markings didn't come off, or lines showed through to the back of the quilt. Trust us to guide you away from disaster, and test your markings first on a mini-quilt sandwich.

To mark a quilting design on your quilt top, you have a variety of options. You can use pencils, chalk pencils, water soluble marking pens, air soluble marking pens, or iron-off pens. Some of our favorites are Clover's White Iron-Off Marking Pen, Roxanne's Quilter's Choice Water Soluble Chalk Pencils in white and silver, and the Easy Mark Crayon from Follow Your Heart. You might also choose to use spray chalks and powders, which are typically available in blue and white. Our favorite powder is called Pounce (from Hancy), and comes in an iron-off version. All of these products can be used with quilt stencils. If you use stencils that are specially designed to work with the Pounce powder, you can even iron the chalk away from the heat-resistant stencils. Talk about easy clean up!

If you don't want actual lines marked on your quilt top you can transfer your designs to tear-away paper or stabilizer. There are a variety of stabilizers available, or you might choose to use the affordable and handy option, freezer paper! Simply trace your quilt designs to the stabilizer paper, then adhere to the top of your quilt sandwich with pins or temporary spray adhesive. If you prefer, you can purchase stabilizer papers that are already preprinted with quilt designs. Some products, such as "Borders/Blocks Made Easy™" come with adhesive edges to keep the paper in place. Simply cut off from the roll what is needed and adjust/adapt the design to your quilt sandwich.

Take some time to test and try different methods, to find the ones that appeal to you. Keep in mind that some methods will work better for certain finished projects, so keep a variety of quilt marking supplies on hand.

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