



# Beginning Quilting

## Sewing Machine Checklist for Quilting with a Walking Foot

Locate your sewing machine manual and the instructions that came with your walking foot. Keep them at your sewing machine for any needed troubleshooting.

Install your walking foot according to the instructions. Pay particular attention to the position of the 'fork' or 'arm' of the foot. It should ride either around or on top of the needle screw. (Pfaff owners have an IDT instead of a walking foot.)

- Install a new needle, either a 75/11 or 80/12 Microtex Sharp or Quilting Needle. Both work well with 50wt 100% cotton thread.
- Set your stitch length to 2.5-3.0mm or 8 to 12 stitches per inch.
- Set your machine to 'needle down'. (Older machines may not have this.)
- Adjust (lower) your presser for PRESSURE setting if indicated by your manual. (Older machines may not have this capability.)
- Thread your machine with a quality 50wt 100% cotton thread in the both the needle and bobbin for the fewest tension adjustments. (I personally recommend Aurifil or Masterpiece or Presencsia 50 wt threads.)
- **OPTIONAL:** Install a straight stitch throat plate (the one with a small round hole) if you have one for better stitch quality. (Older machines may not have one.)

On a small practice sandwich made with leftover scraps from your quilt, do some practice stitching. Evaluate your tension. Make any necessary adjustments.

Once you are satisfied with your stitches...no bobbin thread shows on the top and no needle thread shows on the back, you're ready to start quilting.

Relax. Breathe. And enjoy the process!

For more help with beginning quilting visit:

<http://www.generations-quilt-patterns.com/beginning-quilting-html>