

BERNINA
Quilting



Quilt Frame Basics

By Denise Jones

Loading Check List

- Quilt top should be straight and square before loading.
- Find center of both quilt back and leader, starting at center, pin in one direction and then in the other direction.
- Find center of both quilt top and leader, starting at center, pin in one direction and then in the other direction.
- Attach backing to take-up rail leader; make sure you go under the leveling bar (if applicable); pin in one direction and then in the other direction.
- Place batting on top of backing; position loose end between quilt top rail and backing rail; batting should lay flat and smooth.
- Bring quilt top up over batting and backing; lay flat and smooth.
- Secure all layers together across the top and down the sides of quilting area using machine basting or pins.
- Attach clamps to sides of quilt backing.
- Test tension by stitching on the excess batting and backing on sides.

BERNINA Tutorial - Loading the Quilt Frame

Click here to watch our instructional video on how to load a quilt on the BERNINA Q 24 Quilt Frame.

Tips for Success

- All seams that run horizontal should be secured.
- When rolling onto rails, keep edges of quilt top and edges of backing even on the rail.
- Baste or pin quilt top at the top through all three layers.
- Use clamps on side to help manage the quilt sandwich clamp backing and if desired batting. Do not clamp quilt top.
- All pinning to leaders should be parallel to the edge of the leader. This will prevent you from catching your hand on a pin while smoothing fabrics on the rail.
- Recommend using pins with weight, strength, length and with sharp points to attach the leaders to quilt top and backing. T-pins, Pear shaped pearl head pins (corsage pins) or flat flower head pins can be used.
- The tension on the quilt sandwich should be firm but not stretched. A good test is to push your finger up from the under side and pinch the sandwich; if you can hold it down to your first knuckle the tension is correct. If you get more, your tension is too loose and if you get less, it is too tight.
- Allow an extra 2 - 3 inches of backing on all four sides of the quilt top.
- Allow an extra 2 - 2½ inches of batting on all four side also.
- Use the area beyond the quilt top to test the top and bobbin thread tension.

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