



## Newsletter Summer 2004

## **Black Forest Quilting** *Personalized Machine Quilting*

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### International Machine Quilters Association Convention

Karyn just returned from the IMQA convention in Illinois and brought back some good tips. If you have not made a quilt before that you intend to have quilted on a long arm machine, there are some things you should do to make sure that your quilt will come out looking the best that can be.

**First**, picking the right fabric is important. Try not to mix different types of fabrics in your quilt. This can cause tension problems or tucking and rippling on both the front and back of your quilt when we put it on the quilting machine. Using flannel on the backing can also lead to problems. Many flannels are very stretchy. The clamps we use to tighten a quilt stretch the fabric slightly on the bottom. When the clamps are released, the fabric relaxes and the top can wrinkle. If you really want to use flannel, be sure that it is really good quality and has very little stretch. Don't use a sheet for backing. Most sheets have a high thread count and are very difficult for our machine needle to penetrate consistently.

**Second**, square up your top as you go to the exact measurements called for in the directions. Press each square and trim the threads before attaching to another square. It will make a real difference in your finished quilt!

**Third**, pay attention to your borders. Make sure the seams of the border are all pressed in one direction with no twisting.

**Fourth**, measure your quilt to get the average width and length, and then cut your borders to that measurement. This will keep your quilt from having wavy borders. Getting wavy borders to lie flat is a challenge for our machine; sometimes we need to place tucks in them to be able to quilt over them.

Before you bring your project to us, you should press your quilt top and iron the backing. It is a good idea to mark the top with a safety pin. The backing must be at least 6 inches wider and longer than your quilt top to allow it to be clamped. If you are supplying the batting, it must be at least 6 inches wider and longer than your top. If you wish for us to bind your quilt, then you should include enough fabric to allow for 2.5" to 3" wide strips.

Feel free to call us anytime if you have a question about your project!

### A modified pantograph

Our basic and advanced quilting calls for using one pattern or pantograph with rows of continuous quilting designs that go from one edge of the quilt to the other. We are now offering this in the center of a quilt, with something different in the border area. Ask about this when you bring your quilt to us. We recently did a wedding quilt for a customer where she wanted a pantograph in one area of the quilt and her son and new daughter-in-law's names in her handwriting around the border. No problem for our machine and quilter!

## Using Design Center Creatively

You may not realize that we have a special optional attachment for our machine called The Design Center. This attachment allows us to quilt perfect "loop" star patterns of 24, 12, 8, 6, 5, 4, or 3 points. Each pattern has 9 different sizes or diameters. Another pattern we can do is perfect hearts from 12 inches to 2 inches. We can also do perfect 5 pointed "sharp" stars in diameters from 14 to 1.5 inches. Perfect circles or ovals in diameters from 14 to 1 inch are no problem. The best way to describe this attachment is a programmable mechanical computer. If you are interested in it just ask us to demonstrate it. We also have all of these patterns in our Pattern Catalog. Ask us for a copy either on paper or CD.

## Happy Customers

Many of our customers have been so enthusiastic about their finished quilt that we have asked them to write their comments so we could share with others. Here are a few:

"Since I have found Karyn, I have the choice to make larger quilts! She does a great job for a reasonable price." **Marla**

"What a fantastic job! We are thrilled with your work, Karyn. It's beautiful and I can't wait to get it on our entry-way wall. Thanks so much." **Lois**

"Thank you so much Karyn, your work is delicious (I know it is not food but the other adjectives seem so trite). I simply ADORE THEM BOTH. I simply do not know how else to express my joy. Thank you for taking such good care of my Quilts." **Rosemarie**

"Thank you so very much for all your hard work. Your work is gorgeous, and I am so glad I had you do it. I will definitely use you in the future. Your work surely did bring light to my already special quilt." **Dawn**

"Karyn, you are the best! I can't believe my quilt is so beautiful. Your talent is unexcelled. Thanks." **Barbara**

"I am so very pleased with my quilt. It's far lovelier than I had imagined!" **Pat**

## Free meandering

Some of you have asked about free meandering. This is when our quilter designs and quilts custom feathers, leaves, loops etc. to fit the design of your quilt. This is often used in conjunction with custom blocks or Design Center stars, circles and ovals.



## More Happy Customers

"It is so much fun to have you quilt my tops! I'm always amazed at what designing effort you do to make each piece a work of art. Thank you so much."

**Darcy**

"The quilt did arrive (what a nice surprise - I wasn't expecting it so soon!) and I am so happy with it. Many thanks to Karyn for all her hard work. I especially like the scallop pattern that she did over the "Artichoke" fabric. I'm all out of tops now but hope to have another to send to you in the not-too-distant future." **Jill**

## New Quilt Rack

We have introduced a new product for those of you who have so many quilts you just can't find a place for all of them (imagine that!). The answer is a floor standing quilt rack. This rack is made of oak, cherry or maple (your choice) and is about 36 inches wide and 42 inches high. There are dowels for 3 quilts. The rack is custom stained to your preference, and the price is \$75. Let us know if we can make one for you.

