

## Supply list for hand quilting by Carol Hsrt 8/25/23 Coffee Break

Quilting technique is unique to each quilter. Through experience your own preferences will develop. I will show you the techniques which work best for me.

**Quilt frame, hoop or not-** I now prefer an almost 14" square hoop on a lap stand. Small size projects or less formal , big stitch quilting I do freehand with no frame.

**Between needles-** I use size 12, which is the shortest length. Probably a longer (smaller number) is easier to learn with. I've found that needles of the same Between number vary by manufacturer in size of the eye, thickness of the needle and even slightly in length. It takes trial and error to discover your favorite manufacturer. Some eyes are too small and hard to thread. Some eyes are too big and are harder to pass through the fabric. Some needles are too thin, bending or breaking easily under the stress of loading the needle. Others seem too thick and again are harder to pass through the sandwich. Fortunately, some needles are just right. I currently like Clover.

**Quilting thread-** Select a brand and fiber content you prefer. I use Gütermann 100% cotton. It is stiffer than ordinary sewing thread and doesn't fray when freshly cut, which is important when trying to thread such small eyed needles. It also doesn't kink too often when in use. An unexpected knot in the thread can cause annoying rework in a line of stitching. When quilting don't cut your thread too long, use about 15" - 18", otherwise it may tangle. I also keep a long length of thread unwound from the spool, perhaps a yard, letting it hang loose during and after a quilting session, so that when I cut a new length from it the tight curl from being wound up on the spool has had time to relax. Thread coming off the spool, curled like a ringlet, can be a nuisance. I just keep a drawn out end hanging to the floor. I usually choose white. I'll use a contrast color in Coffee Break so you can see my stitches better.

**Quilting thimble-** I usually use the standard deep dimpled quilting thimble found in most quilt shops. After more time quilting you can experiment and choose what works best for you.

**Needle puller-** These small circular rubber pads help pull the loaded needle through quilt. I tether mine to my shirt as it often falls from the frame as I work, slipping in the crevasse of the chair cushion or rolling across the room, interrupting my work.

**Larger eyed needle-** I use this for "big stitch" or folk quilting when I use pearl cotton, embroidery floss or Sashiko thread. This is a relaxing style of quilting since I use no quilt frame, Optivisor or headlight. **Regular thimble-** I use for big stitch alternate thread quilting. **Scissors**

**Good lighting**

### Optional Supplies which I use

**Tweezers-** I tighten my knot with tweezers when starting a new quilting line of thread.

**Pin cushion-** stuffed or magnetic.

**Pins-** Sometimes a basting or quilting line is temporarily held aside with a pin or pins may swipe a knot's thread tail within the quilt sandwich.

**Snag puller** or knit picker- I use various sizes and styles. They help bury a stubborn ending knot. **Ultimate**

**Marking Pencil-** hopefully the lead markings will wash out as advertised.

**Fabric Eraser-** This eraser is quite effective.

**Template-** you can mark your own or purchase them.

**OptiVISOR** magnifying headpiece- lens # 7, magnification 2.75, focal distance 6", I find very helpful.

**Callus smoother-** my under fingertips get beat up and rough after a quilting session.

**Thimble-It-** self-stick pads can help sore under fingers, but they're also sort of a nuisance.

### Preparation for 8/25 Coffee Break

**Choose fabric-** If you plan to use a hoop cut a "reads solid" light colored square of quilting fabric, batting (with no scrim-embedded netting, too hard to needle) and backing (average quilting fabric, not too dark or dense) at least 4" all around larger than your hoop. If quilting freehand choose 24" squares for your sandwich. Press top fabric and backing, no starch. A loftier batting helps define quilting stitches better. Many battings are quite flat these days. For fine work I prefer wool. For practice 100% cotton or 80%/20% cotton/poly are nice. This sandwich may be for practice only or it could become a pillow.

**Mark quilting pattern-** Using pencil take a small plate, ~ 6" - 7" diameter, center on top fabric, draw line around plate dark enough to see well, but not heavily. Because it's easiest to quilt on the bias mark 45° crosshatching (a grid at right angles to each other). Using a 1" wide ruler, draw both the top-left-to-bottom-right and top-right-to-bottom-left bias

diagonals on the fabric to form an X in the middle of the circle. Continue marking additional lines 1" apart until the circle is covered in each direction in a grid.

**Quilt sandwich-** Smooth out backing on flat surface, then place batting on, next place top fabric over both. The sandwich needs to be hand basted together. Pin first, sandwich can be held in place on a cardboard surface (Dritz cutting board). Pin and then baste a few inches beyond the marked quilting pattern. Also, baste a few times horizontally and vertically through the to-be-quilted area. Stitches can be an inch or so long. If work is not in a frame baste more lines in both directions and around the perimeter again perhaps 4" away from the circle to keep your work area from forming tucks on the backside.

A sketch on paper: quilting lines penciled on fabric, and a quilt sandwich pinned and basted.

