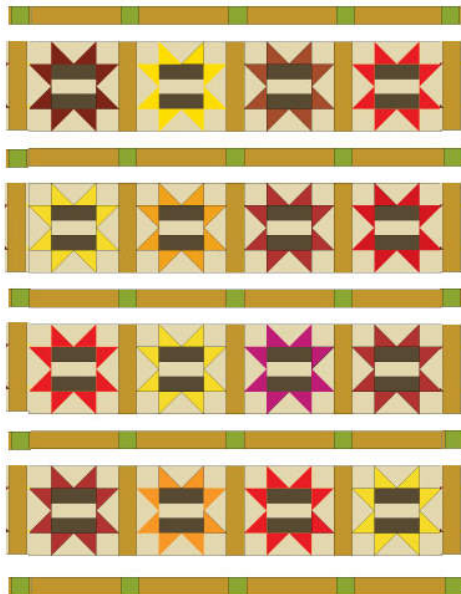


Lasagna Quilting or Gotta-Get-it-Quilted!

Okay, when I have to get a quilt done, like yesterday, this is the technique I use.

There are several “quilt-as-you-go” techniques, but I am lazy and adopted/adapted my own way to do things. This technique can be used on traditionally pieced tops that you have not added the outer borders to yet. So if you are a topper and have scads of them done and need to quickly quilt one for a gift, this technique is for you. I will start is as if you have a bunch of blocks that need sashing. To assemble the blocks as illustrated below, measure the width and length of each row. For instance the first row of blocks are 12 ½” wide by 42 ½” long and the row of sashing is 3” wide by 42 ½” long.

If you are using a serger to quilt, then you are going to cut backing and batting 1 inch larger than those measurements. If you are going to use your sewing machine, then cut them the same size.



For the 4 rows of blocks with sashing and the 5 rows of sashing shown. You will cut:

4 each of Backing & Batting: 12 ½” x 42 ½”

3 each of backing &` batting: 3” x 42 ½”

Set these aside for the time being.

Serge or sew the rows to the sashing using a ¼” seam allowance.

Figure 1

You will have a completed top sans the borders. On the left is the one I assembled with the sashing surrounding the blocks.

Serge the rows together using a 4-thread overlock stitch. The quilting is done in layers.



Figure 3



Figure 2

1. With the top facing up as shown in *figure 2*, fold the first row of sashing back so right sides are together as shown in *figure 3*. Set this aside for a minute.

- Now we start building our first lasagna layer to quilt as shown in *figure 4*; lay a 3" strip of batting, then a 3" strip of backing right side facing up, next a 12 1/2" row of backing right side facing down (so backing pieces lay right sides facing each other), next lay a 12 1/2" row of batting and finally lay the top of the quilt is right side up with the sashing edge folded so right sides of blocks/sashing face each other and the serged edge is aligned with the layers of batting & backing..



figure 4

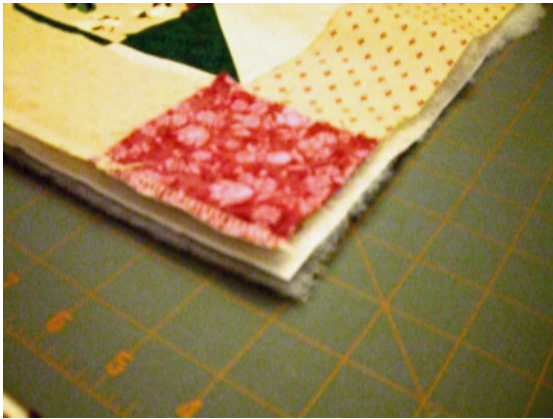


figure 5



Figure 6

Match all edges and pin to hold in place, see *figure 5*.

Place pins with sharp point directed at seams edge as shown in *figure 6*.

- Serge/sew using a 1/4" seam allowance the entire width of the quilt top. Be careful not to serge through your pins!



Figure 7

- Flip open and unfold the layers smoothing out the wrinkles. See figures 7 & 8



Take the time to iron the seams flat.

5. You now have one section “quilted”. Now we’ll make another batch of lasagna in the same pan:

First, fold back the next sashing strip of the quilt top and align the edge to be sewn, set aside for a second. Now, on the table, lay a strip of 3” wide batting, then 3” backing so the right side is facing up, next lay the assembled lasagna with the backing right side facing the right side of the three inch backing strip. See *figure 9*. Serge/sew/press.



6. Repeat steps 2 - 5 for each row of blocks and sashing until all rows are sewn/quilted.
7. Next take your quilt to your machine and stitch in the ditch along the verticle seams pulling the seams taute to prevent puckers.
8. To add borders, cut batting and backing 1” larger than borders you are going to add, and then repeat the lasagna quilting process for each border section. Press both top and bottom of the quilt, square and trim edges then sew on binding.

Voila! You are done!

Note: Just as you test your tensions with your sewing machine, try a 6 layer test serge with scrap fabrics & batting of similar weight and texture. Check your seam allowance before starting. The reason for the 4-thread serging is that with most machines the two needles in place just make a ¼ inch seam with your cutting blade engaged. Serging also helps compress the batting making it less bulky. I prefer to use poly batting when using this technique. But cotton works just as well.

Enjoy!

Paula Melino

Here are some links to various quilt as you go type websites. Most of these are way too time consuming and some expect you to do hand work! Not when I am in in hurry! There are scads more sites than listed below, but these I consider to be better than most!

- <http://welshquilter.blogspot.com/2008/02/quilt-as-you-go.html>
- <http://www.treadleon.net/quiltshop/joiningblocks/joining.html>
- <http://www.quilterscache.com/H/howtoquiltoneatatime.html>
- <http://auntiesquaintquilts.blogspot.com/2008/07/quilt-as-you-go-log-cabin.html>
- http://www.sewvac1.com/Library/serger_baby_quilt.htm
- <http://lindaleeoriginals.com/easypieces.htm>