

Glossary of Frequently used Terms

Terms relating to the components of the quilt top

- **Block**, a square section of the quilt top, which could be appliqu , patchwork or plain fabric.
- **Border**, long strips of fabric used to frame the center layout of a quilt.
- **Focus fabric**, medium to large-scale print fabric, dictating all color choices.
- **Layout**, the quilt composition, a plan for the placement of the blocks, borders and quilting designs.
- **Quilt bundle**, the basted layers of a quilt, the top, batting and backing fabrics.
- **Setting triangles**, triangular pieces of fabric used to fill the side and corner spaces created when blocks are set on point.

Terms relating to Quilting Designs

- **Continuous Object Designs**, a term coined by Joanie to refer a quilting design with connected rows of stylized quilting motifs stitched with a continuous thread.
- **Continuous Outline Designs**, a term coined by Joanie to refer a quilting designs consisting of a puffy channel of space, with or without motifs attached, stitched with a continuous thread.
- **Corner block**, a square quilting design set in the corners of the borders
- **Fill patterns**, repeated patterns that are used to fill background space.
- **Formal**, a style of quilting pattern, straight or curved line that is structured and meant to be precise.
- **Free-form**, a style of background fill pattern that is hand guided following a pattern imprinted on your brain which have repeated forms but may be random size. May also guide the machine without marking the pattern.
- **Grids**, straight lines stitched in patterns forming squares or diamond
- **Long arm**, a large quilting machine head mounted on a rack that moves across a quilt top attached to rollers.
- **Meandering**, a larger version of stippling.
- **Motif**, the outline of an object used as one individual quilting design.
- **Navigation**, a sequential driving plan for stitching each quilting design or for the entire quilt surface.
- **Retrace**, sewing the same line of stitching more than once.
- **Seam line**, a line of stitching that holds the patchwork and borders together.
- **Stitchable design**, a phrase coined by Joanie for drawing outlines of images that are simple enough to follow with a line of stitching.
- **Stitch in the ditch**, quilting directly in the seam lines, to hold the layers together with a walking foot on and feed dogs up OR with free-motion quilting.
- **Stippling**, a background fill pattern consisting of curving, continual line of stitching that fills the background around quilted motifs.

Terms relating to techniques of Machine Quilting

- **Feed dogs**, metal teeth under the stitch plate move the fabric.
- **Free-hand**, quilting patterns are formed when the machine is hand-guided without following a marked line, with the pattern imprinted on the quilter's brain.
- **Free-motion Quilting**, a technique used to stitch the layers of a quilt bundle together using a sewing machine with the feed dogs lowered and a darning foot attached. With the feed dogs down, the distance the bundle is moved by the quilter's hands before the machine takes another stitch determines the length of the stitch. With the feed dogs down stitching can occur in any direction, can be straight or curved, without rotating the bundle.
- **Follow-the-line Machine Quilting**, a technique used when the quilting design, either straight line or curved, is marked on the quilt and followed using either a walking foot or free-motion quilting.
- **Hand guided free-motion**, following a marked line OR stitch free form patterns that are not marked, rather imprinted in the memory of the quilter.
- **Jump Stitch**, used to travel from a motif to another detached position on the quilt. Stitch the first motif and lock the stitches. Lift the pressure foot, to release the tension of the bobbin thread, slide the bundle to the desired location, lock the threads, and begin to sew. The long top and bobbin threads are clipped away to avoid stitching over them.
- **Home and Domestic**, both terms can be interchanged and refer to a regular sewing machine.
- **Locking stitches**, securing the beginning and end of a line of stitching by taking six or seven stitches very close together.
- **Refined Free-motion Quilting**, using the free-motion quilting technique with a refined focus, intricate quilting designs and lightweight thread.
- **Retrace**, stitching the same line of stitching more than once.
- **Stitch-in-the-ditch quilting**, stitches directly on the seam lines made either with free-motion quilting or with the walking foot attached.
- **Stippling**, a curving, continual line of stitching that densely fills the background around quilted motifs.
- **Walking foot**, an attachment for a sewing machine that replaces the regular presser foot. It works in conjunction with the feed dogs to move multiple layers of fabric evenly. Two important facts; with the feed dogs engaged, the bundle must be rotated to change direction of stitching (turning a corner), and the machine stitch length setting is functioning to determine the stitch length.