



Kim Caskey Custom Quilting

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Blocking - to flatten or square a quilt or wall hanging after quilting

Why?

- Blocking a quilt is suggested as a way to flatten or square a quilt or wall hanging after quilting
- During the quilting process, sometimes the quilt will become wrinkled and slightly wonky or out of square
- By wetting and drying the quilt (blocking), the layers shrink together and return the quilt to a perfectly square shape, ensuring it hangs well, whether on a bed or on a wall

How?

There are lots of BLOCKING YOUR QUILT tutorial available online. The link below is a very good one, which provides photos and explanatory text.

<https://quiltingjetgirl.com/2016/12/24/blocking-a-quilt-photo-tutorial/>

- Blocking a quilt is similar to how you would block a sweater after handwashing. You will need to wet your quilt entirely – either by spritzing with water or immersing fully in water (I like to use the washing machine's rinse and spin cycle). Remove the excess water (if the spin cycle did not complete this process) and lay the quilt flat.
- I lay my damp quilt on a bed sheet on a carpeted area of my house. I flatten the quilt out by hand as best possible, using my 15" square ruler in the corners to gently tug the edges of the quilt to be "square". Measure each side of the quilt and "ease" or "stretch" slightly to the measurement desired. Now pin the quilt to the carpet (using t-pins is best, but you could use regular straight pins). Let the quilt dry completely.
- You may do this blocking process before or after adding the binding. I usually add my binding after it's been blocked, to allow any further easing to straighten the edges (*do I need to gently pull or stretch my binding as I apply it?).