



BACK TO BASICS QUILT BATTING

February 2024 ~ Marg Wiley

Quilting Terms

- Loft - thickness of a batt
- Staple - long staple and fine denier are the high quality
- Needling - putting the needle through the batting
- Bearding - loose fibres of synthetic batting work themselves out through the quilt fabric and rest on the fabric. Natural fibres will break off
- Migrating - batting will move, clump... stitch width is important
- Bonding/Glazing - process of treating the product with resin to stabilize loose fibres and prevent bearding
- Needle punching - also stabilizes loose fibres by pounding, twisting and tangling the fibres together
- Shrinkage - be aware of the product information which can be found on the packaging or on line

How to Choose Batting

- Depends on the project, the use of the quilted article.....for warmth (climate)and weight desired (weight and warmth are non-synonymous), finish (drape of the quilt, appearance), and how it is to be cared for

Batting Sizes

- Batting can be purchased off a roll or packaged by size. Rolled batting eliminates folds and may be more economical to purchase.
- Standard batting sizes:

Crib	45 by 60 inches		Queen	90 by 108 inches
Twin	72 by 90 inches		King	120 by 120 inches
Full	81 by 96 inches			

Types of Batting

COTTON BATTING

- low loft, soft, breathable, natural, moderate drape, slight shrinkage, heaviest weight, natural or bleached, scrim (stabilizes) or without scrim (stretches), heavy stitching only on needle punched cotton. If you want to avoid crinkling wash the fabric and batting together when quilt is finished
- everyday, children's quilts, slow to dry, holds creases
- alternatively use a single layer of prewashed cotton flannel which has no loft and is suitable for small projects (wall hangings, mini quilts, table runners, clothing)

COTTON/POLYESTER (80%cotton/20%polyester)

- low loft, strong, long wearing, not heavy, natural or bleached, comes in black, colour fast, for use with dark fabrics, suitable for charity quilts (wash warm), everyday projects

WOOL

- medium to high loft, lightweight, needle easily for hand quilting, warm, holds its shape, moisture wicking, washable on gentle, cool cycle

Types of Batting

POLY

- lightweight, durable, machine washable and dryable on warm, non shrinking, medium loft, shows off stitching, non breathable, warm, non allergenic, inexpensive but still good quality
- charity, baby quilts, home décor e.g. pillows
- (Thermore by Hobbs, for art quilts, hand quilting, minky, cuddle, utility quilts e.g. runners, placemats, embroidery in a hoop)

FUSIBLE BATTING

- eliminates pinning or spray basting, convenient especially for smaller projects and useful for applique (double sided fusing)

SILK

- low loft, light, breathable, needles easily, minimal shrinkage, doesn't drape as well, expensive

BAMBOO

- breathable, drapes well, low to medium loft, less expensive than silk, especially suitable for summer quilts

Helpful Hints

- Hand or machine -whatever you decide, try a practice panel
- Always check the manufacturer's suggestions for quilting widths
- Prewashing - Do NOT prewash batting, to reduce wrinkles mist, don't wet batting and air fluff 10 minutes (not fusibles). Follow manufacturer's washing instructions. (Never hot water!)
- Lint roller-handy for some bearding and thread bits
- Stabilizer-used for stretchy fabric e.g. t-shirt quilt
- Fabric Pencil marking-wad up batting and use as an eraser
- Scrim-preferable to put facing down when quilting to prevent nesting
- Choose the correct, new needle, needle size, thread and then, if necessary, adjust tension
- Quilt label-include batting and washing instructions

Sources

- YouTube....
 - Stephanie Hackney: What's inside matters
 - Sponsored by Red Thread Studio
- Quilter's Complete Guide Marianne Fons & Liz Porter
 - Published by Leisure Arts
- www.hobbsbatting.com product page
- www.connectingthreads.com

