

# Quilter's Vocabulary

\*\* Denotes new words for this month.

<u>Word</u>	<u>Description</u>
**Finger Pressing	A method for forming temporary guide-lines for appliqué turned edges or seam allowances. Running a fingernail along the fold makes it lie flat. A "hera" (a Japanese term) tool can also be used in place of a finger to press the fold.
**Homespun Fabric	Fabric which looks hand-woven, or if imported (often from India or SE Asia) may be hand-woven. The weave is looser and the threads have a larger diameter than commercial cotton quilting fabrics.
**Setting Triangle	The triangle blocks needed around the edge of a quilt if the blocks are set on point and the rows are thus diagonally arranged.
Appliqué	Attaching individual pieces of fabric to a background to form a design. These pieces usually have edges which are turned under, except for the process called raw edge appliqué. Raw edge appliqué can be seen in primitive designs or in art quilts. Finished edge appliqué can be turned under around freezer paper, needle turned - turned under with the needle as you sew, can have it edges glued down or it can be lined. These pieces are usually curved and often are representational, such as depicting flowers, birds, faces.
Asymmetrical	A design in which there is balance but the elements are not duplicated on each side. A block such as maple leaf is asymmetrical since all four of its corners are not the same. In a block, this makes for interesting possibilities since different design elements appear depending on how the blocks are rotated. Any block divided down the middle by a diagonal line, such as Log Cabin, is asymmetrical.
Bargello	A style of quilt piecing in which strips of fabric are first sewn in horizontal sets, then cut and arranged in vertical steps to produce interesting geometric designs which often have a wave or undulating look.
Basting	A means of temporarily holding together the quilt top, batting, and quilt backing. Basting can be done with safety pins, a special adhesive basting sprays, plastic quilt tacks which resemble those used by stores to hold tags onto clothing, or with needle and thread using a large running stitch.
Batting	The "filling" of the quilt sandwich....i.e. top, bat, & backing. Batting is available in a wide variety of sizes and content. People used to use flannel or blankets inside. It makes a difference if you are choosing to hand quilt, tie or machine quilt the finished project. Talk to others about their preferences, and then try it out. People differ in their opinions and experiences.
Bearding	Bearding is where fibers from the batting of a quilt start to migrate through the top or the backing of a quilt. This occurs more commonly when a polyester batting is used.
Bias	The diagonal direction across the surface of a woven fabric at a 45 degree angle to the line of the warp and weft. Fabric cut on the bias stretches and must be handled with care. Bias binding allows binding to be turned and angled without pleating.
Bias Binding	This binding is cut on the bias of the fabric and has a lot of stretch in it, allowing it to easily go around things such as scalloped edges.

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Bias Square Ruler	This ruler allows you to cut perfect squares or to trim sewn pieces to perfect squares. It has a diagonal line down the center. The numbers from this line at the corner go to the opposite ends in the same order.
Binding	The edge treatment of a quilt, finishing the quilt project.
Blanket Stitch	Was the term used to sew the satin binding to the top of a blanket. Now, it is a commonly used stitch in appliqué. It resembles a line of connecting 'Ls'. (LLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL)
Block of the Month	Also known as a <b>BOM</b> . The BOM is a monthly assignment for a certain month. The BOM Chairwoman chooses a size of block, style, theme or technique. Each member decides what she is going to do within the parameters of the assignment.
Border	The fabric strips outlining the quilt proper. It may be of different widths and number of strips. It can also be pieced or appliquéd.
Broadcloth	A cotton fabric popular in solid colors for quilting. It's a plain weave with a slight weft ribbed effect. Poplin is a heavier version of the same weave.
Butted Seams	Two border seams that meet in the corner by simply butting up against one another.
Cabin Fever	A project started and finished between October and a month in the following spring, such as March or April. These projects are usually shown at the spring meeting.
Chain Piecing	Sewing blocks or sections of blocks in an assembly line fashion, completing the same step for each unit in sequence. An efficient way to work for sewing many blocks that are the same. If the pieces are all run through the machine and cut apart later, also called "Assembly Piecing".
Challenge	As used in the dictionary: "A project that requires special effort." The Challenge Chairwoman chooses the idea, fabric, pattern, etc., for a challenge. There is not a new challenge every month, but some challenges may last for several months. At the end of the required period, the Challenges are brought to the Guild Meeting for showing. This is a fun way to stretch us into trying new techniques.
Charm Quilt	Usually a quilt made using only one shape, such as a triangle or hexagon, where every single shape is a different piece of fabric. No fabric is repeated in a quilt.
Charm Square	A square of fabric exchanged by quilters who wish to make a charm quilt. While the size of the charm square may vary, 5" tends to be the most common size square exchanged.
Clear Rulers	Available in many sizes and shapes. These clear rulers allow you to measure and see the fabric before you cut, lining up your fabric accurately.
Cornerstones	This is the term used to refer to the square patches of fabric that form the connection when two pieces of border fabric meet at the corner and a separate square is inserted instead of having the borders butt or miter together. A cornerstone can also be used in the sashing.

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Couch	A technique used in embroidery to stitch down one thread with another. In quilting, this method allows you to zigzag over thicker threads, thereby attaching them to the surface without putting them through the needle of your sewing machine.
Crazy Block or Patch	A block made with irregular and/or scrap pieces. The block is made with no pre-determined pattern or design. If the blocks are grouped together they form a crazy quilt. Crazy quilts were popular in Victorian times and often made with silks and velvets and embellished with embroidery.
Cross Hatching	A filling pattern made of equidistant parallel quilting lines that run in two directions, forming either a grid of squares or diamonds.
Design Wall	It can be as simple as nailing/taping a piece of flannel or batting to a wall behind your door or even onto the door, but allows you to put up your pieces and see them in relationship to one another. It also helps if you are able to stand back a ways for a better view.
Echo Quilting	A type of quilting which consists of lines of quilting stitches that run around existing blocks or shapes and parallel to the edges of a shape. The result looks like rings about ¼' apart in water and "echo" the shape.
Electric Quilt	A software program, also called EQ, used to design quilt projects.
Fabric	Sounds strange to define fabric, but for most quilts, hand quilted, most quilters use 100% cotton fabric. Some people prewash fabric, others do not. Talk to different members to determine the reason for each method.
Fat Eighth	A fat eighth cut of cotton cloth measures about 18" x 11" (rather than the 1/8 yard cut, across the full width of the yardage, measuring 4.5" x 44").
Fat Quarter	A common fabric measurement in the US - fat quarters are pre-cut pieces of cotton quilting cloth, taken from one yard of fabric, cut in half lengthwise, and in half widthwise, rather than lengthwise. This is often a more useful shape, approximately 18" x 22" than a normal quarter yard cut, measuring 44" x 9".
Flying Geese Unit	This is one of the most popular of the small shape groups that exists in quilting. It consists of a center triangle and two right angle triangles attached to it on either side. There are many different ways to construct a flying geese unit.
Four Patch	Four equal squares sewn together to create a block.
Friendship Quilt	A quilt made by a group of friends for one person, with each participant making and signing a block or more for the quilt top. Sometimes called a Signature Quilt.
Fusible Appliqué	By using interfacing called "fusible", you can iron the pieces of your appliqué to the surface. Different weights are available and affect how stiff the finished product will be. Edges are usually finished with a satin stitch or blanket stitch.
Fussy Cut	Planning for a certain motif of fabric to be placed in the block in a certain way. Cutting out that motif by scissors or rotary cutter is the "Fussy Cut".
Grain	Fabric is woven with the straight of grain, parallel to the selvage. The cross grain is at a right angle to the selvage.

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Graph Paper	Just like the stuff you remember from school, this is paper that is divided up in equal smaller units so that you can draw accurate shapes. Some quilt graph paper is marked with four squares to the inch and a darker blue line outlining the inch divisions. It comes in several sizes and makes drawing your own blocks much easier. There is also paper marketed to draftsmen, but this often does not have the inches shown in the darker lines. Draftsman paper can come eight squares to the inch. This allows for more accurate divisions in 1/8" increments, but it can be confusing to move back and forth between the two grids, so beware. Be sure to buy good quality as elementary school paper is often inaccurate.
Grid	A system used for making up the units of patterns, quilts etc. A paper similar to graph paper, or graph paper itself is used for this purpose. Used to set up patterns, experiment with blocks, shapes and colors. Available at quilt shops.
Half-Square Triangle	This is the most used pieced unit in quilting. It is a square with a diagonal seam line. Two different fabrics are on each side of the line, usually forming a light/dark configuration. Log Cabin blocks are basically complex half-square triangles
Hera	A small tool from Japan made of wood or plastic and used instead of a fingernail to press seams or to "draw" a line by indenting the fabric with the edge of the hera.
Idea Journal	You can call this anything you like but it is a way to keep track of things you have tried. An idea book can be as simple as a 3-ring binder. You can have blank pages to write or doodle ideas and designs. It also helps to have some clear plastic sleeves that will hold sewn samples. This way you can put in samples of ideas you have tried, new threads, color combinations, or anything else you wish to keep a record of. Remember that you may not have the quilt itself to refer back to. Flipping through your own book of ideas will help you choose patterns or to show these ideas to others. It is also a very ego-enhancing way to keep track of your creative and technical growth.
Knotwork	This term is used to refer to Celtic designs. The knots are visual and formed by interlocking designs of bias binding strips.
Lattice	Also know as SASHING. The fabric strips frame each quilt block, creating a setting within the quilt.
Layout	This term refers to the arrangement of blocks into a quilt. A layout may be horizontal, which means the blocks are lined up in rows, with all the blocks parallel to the edges. Or it may be "on point" which rotates the blocks so that the points are at 12,3,6,9 as related to the bottom edge of the quilt. A "medallion" layout uses a single center square surrounded by multiple borders.
Miter	This means the two edges are joined at a 45 degree angle. Miters are used in corners of border and binding. (In the real world, most picture frames are mitered)
Mystery	It is a mystery how the finished project will turn out. In other words, you have no idea what the project will look like or how big it will be. Different steps are given each month for one to follow. At the end of the mystery, the quilt top project will be completed. Just try them, see what happens.
Needle-turn Appliqué	Method of appliqué where the point of the needle turns under the seam allowance as you sew.

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Nine-Patch	A grouping of 9 squares of equal size sewn together to make a block. It is a versatile block pattern and is used in many standard blocks. There are also quilt layouts referred to as a nine patch. This would mean the quilt is laid out with nine blocks, three across and three down.
Pieced	In this type of quilting, shapes are cut and sewn together to form a design. There is no background piece and the seams are hidden on the back side of the quilt top. Pieces may be geometric or may be curved.
Pressing	This is NOT ironing. In ironing, the iron is moved over the fabric. In <b>Pressing</b> , the iron is placed in one area, lifted and moved to another. This helps prevent stretching of the fabric.
Quarter-Square Triangles	A square cut in half on the diagonal and then cut again from the other diagonal gives your 4 triangular pieces. These are referred to as quarter-square triangles.
Quilt Pro	A software program, used to design quilt projects.
Rotary Cutter	A circular cutting wheel with a handle used to cut fabric using a safety <b>cutting mat</b> to protect table surfaces. These come in several sizes and styles.
Satin Stitch	A zigzag stitch done very close together to form a closed line of stitching. Can be wide or narrow. Good to finish raw edges of appliqué or adding texture to pictorial quilts.
Seam Allowance	The amount of fabric that is hidden inside a sewn unit. It is the fabric between the stitches and the edge of the fabric. In quilting, it is usually very important to have a perfect ¼" seam.
Setting on Point	Usually a square turned to a diamond shape to facilitate the pattern and putting the image upright. For example: basket are typically made on their sides, turning on point makes them upright to be viewed in that aspect in the finished quilt.
Sewing Groups	Sometimes a group of quilters will get together more often than the monthly guild meetings. Some meet afternoon, mornings and/or evenings. Talk to guild members and join a group of your choice. It is an extended learning experience.
Shadowing	This is when a dark fabric shows through a lighter color. When this happens in the seam allowance of pieced blocks, you can grade away the dark seam to reduce the problem. It can also happen when lighter elements in appliqué are laid over darker elements. In this case, you can line the light fabric with a very light interfacing that does not extend into the seam allowance.
Siggie	Short for signature block or signature square.
Signature block	When exchanging block or charm squares, quilters will often exchange a plain charm or block which the quilter has signed. Some-times other information is included with the signature such as city, state and country in which the quilter resides
Sleeves	To hang a quilt on the wall, it needs a sleeve sewn on the back. Quilt shows also require a sleeve. This should be a tube of fabric to protect the quilt from damage from the hanging rod.

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Stack 'n Whack	A technique where fabric repeats are stacked so that the patterns on the fabric are aligned and then cut in such away that the blocks sewn from the fabric will form kaleidoscope patters. For more information on the techniques please see <a href="http://www.bethanyreynolds.com">www.bethanyreynolds.com</a> .
Stipple or Stippling	A technique used in both hand and machine quilting, through found more commonly in machine quilting. Stippling is a continuous, closely placed non-straight line used to fill in an area of a quilt. The stippled line never makes a sharp turn and never crosses itself. Stippling is used to flatten an area of a quilt and to create texture. When stippling while hand quilting, the stitches made should align.
Stitch In the Ditch	Used in both hand and machine quilting. In this technique, a quilting line is sewn right next to the seam in a pieced block – in the “ditch” that is formed by the turn of the cloth made when the seams of a pieced block are pressed to one side. This type of quilting is normally not very visible after the quilt has been completed.
Stitches per Inch	A way of measuring the number of stitches a hand quilter is making when quilting. Most commonly accepted is the number of stitches per inch being calculated by counting just the number of stitches visible on the top of the quilt only. On the other hand, some quilters do calculate stitches per inch by counting the stitches on both the top and the bottom of the quilt.
Symmetry	A type of design where one side exactly duplicates the other. An 8-point star block is symmetrical because no matter how you rotate it, it looks the same. Churn Dash is another example of a symmetrical block.
Templates	These can be made out of paper, cardboard, plastic or metal, depending on how they will be used. They are like pattern pieces, giving you something to draw around so that you can accurately replicate any shape. They can be used for piecing, appliqué and quilting designs.
UFO	Un-Finished Object. (Most of us have these in abundance.)
Value Finder	This is a tool that lets you look at fabric and see only its lightness or darkness. Red finds let you view anything but red. Green finds let you view anything but green.
WIP	Work in Progress
Zigzag Stitch	Machine stitch that goes side to side. Can be wide or narrow. Good for joining pieces together on the surface or for a rough finishing edge. It can also be used with invisible thread for machine appliqué.