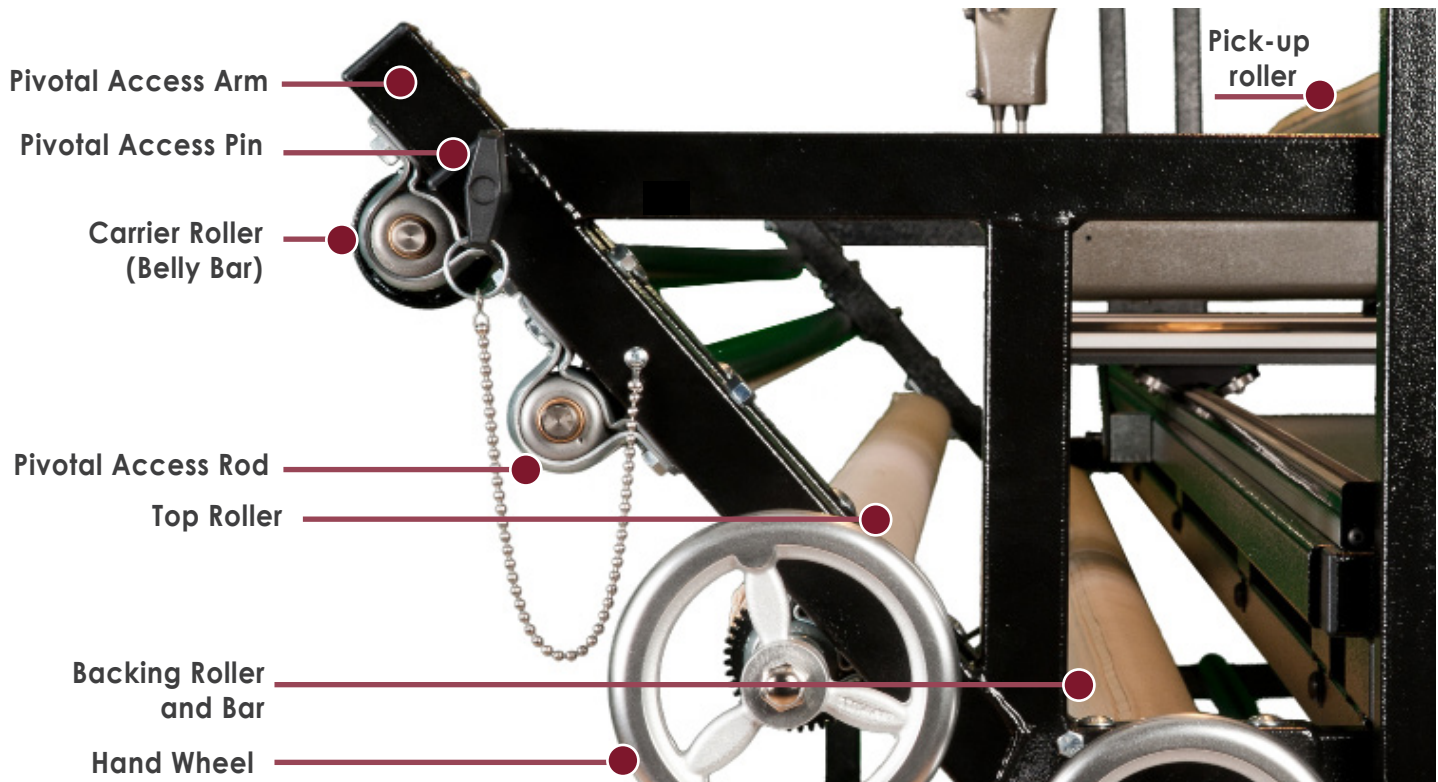
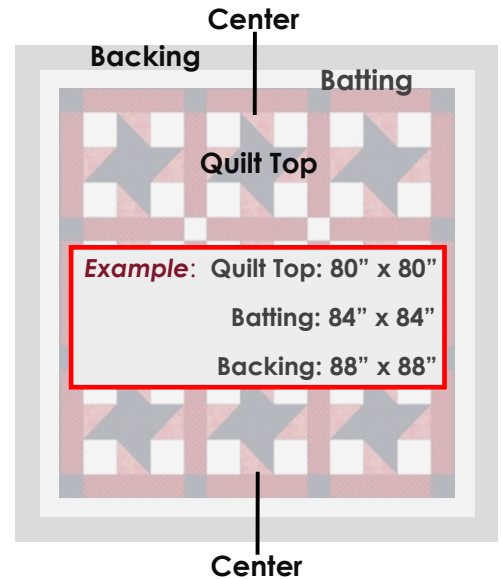


How to Load a Quilt

Best Practices

- Measure the length of the quilt top.
- Mark the center of the quilt top and bottom of the quilt top with a pin or chalk.
- Mark the center of the bottom of the backing fabric with a pin or chalk.
- Mark the center of the top of the batting with a pin or chalk.
- Ensure the batting is at least 4" larger than the quilt top.
- Ensure the backing is at least 8" larger than the quilt top. With extra-wide backings you may want 10" larger as they are often a parallelogram when cut off the bolt.



Your leaders should already be marked at the center (from set up/delivery), but if for some reason they are not marked, you can drape them over the back of the table...and when they are flat and straight, make a mark that aligns with the center table seam.

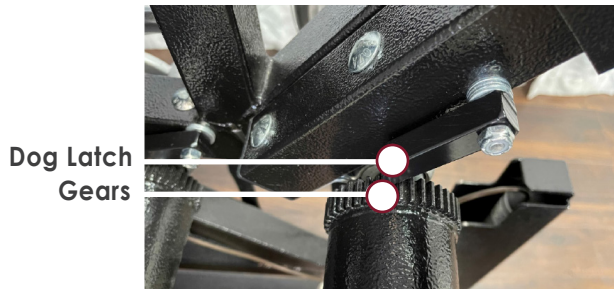
Do NOT wash your leaders.

Gammill

Full Load Method

Benefits of a Full Load

- Reduces shifting during quilting.
- Easier to see the wonky areas that will need to be fixed.
- No tripping over the fabric.



- The first step is to attach the quilt top to the top roller leader.
- Release the dog latch on the top roller bar and unroll to allow the leader to almost touch the floor. Re-engage the dog latch to the gears.

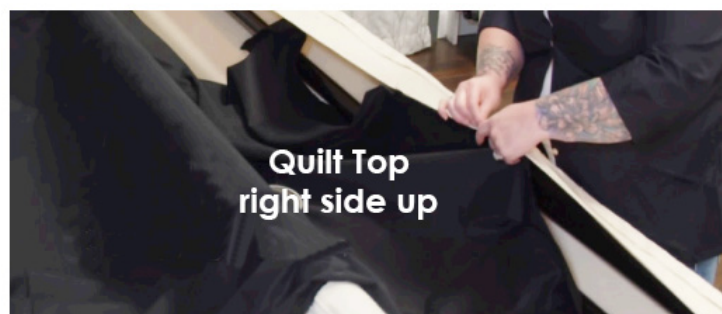


- Bring the leader up over the carrier bar. Roll the leader until it is resting over the top of the carrier bar by a few inches.

Pro-Tip: Use a side clamp to hold the leader in place on each end.



- Drape the quilt top over the back of the table with the right side facing up.
- Line up the center pin from the bottom of the quilt top with the marked center of the top leader and pin in place.



- Align the bottom edge of the quilt top with the edge of the leader. Pin the quilt top to the leader, placing pins no more than 1/4" away from leader edge.

Pro-Tip: placing the pins 1/4" away from the edge makes your leaders last longer.

- Continue pinning the top to the leader from the center out until the entire bottom edge of the quilt top is secured to the leader.



- Evenly drape the quilt top over the pickup roller bar and slowly roll the quilt top onto the top leader bar until the top edge of the quilt is resting on the table.

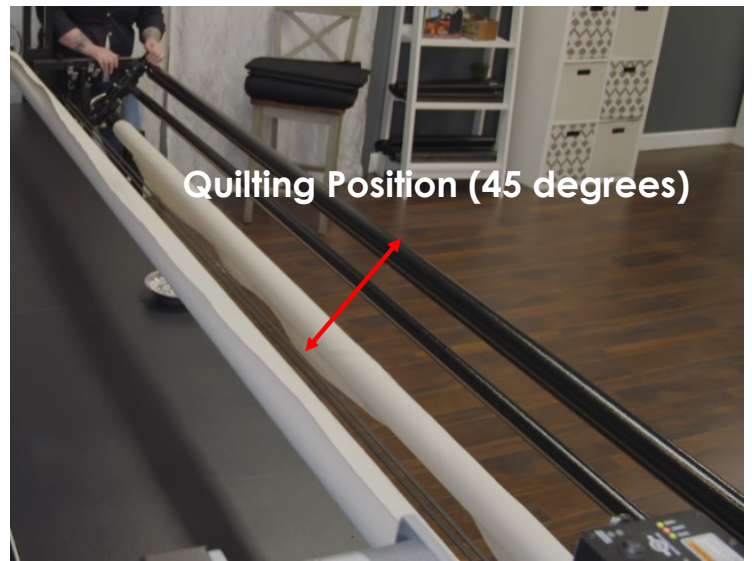
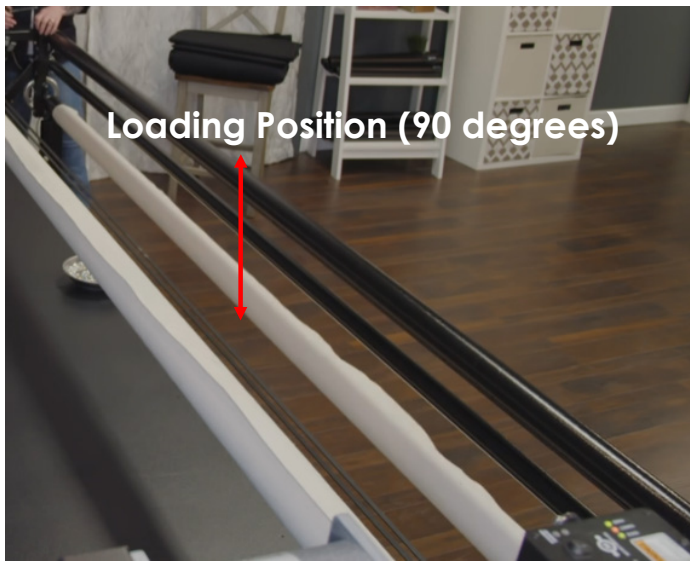


- Flip the top edge of the quilt top to the front of the table and drape it over itself on the top roller bar.
- Leave the quilt top hanging like this after the backing is loaded.

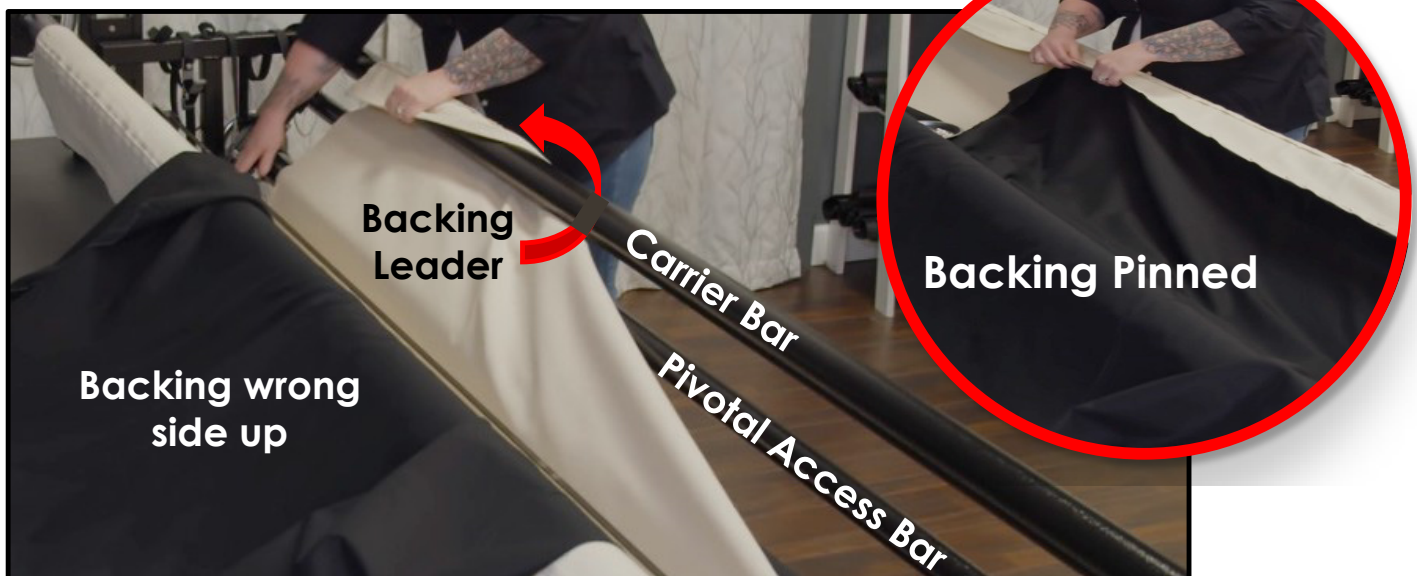


Loading the Backing

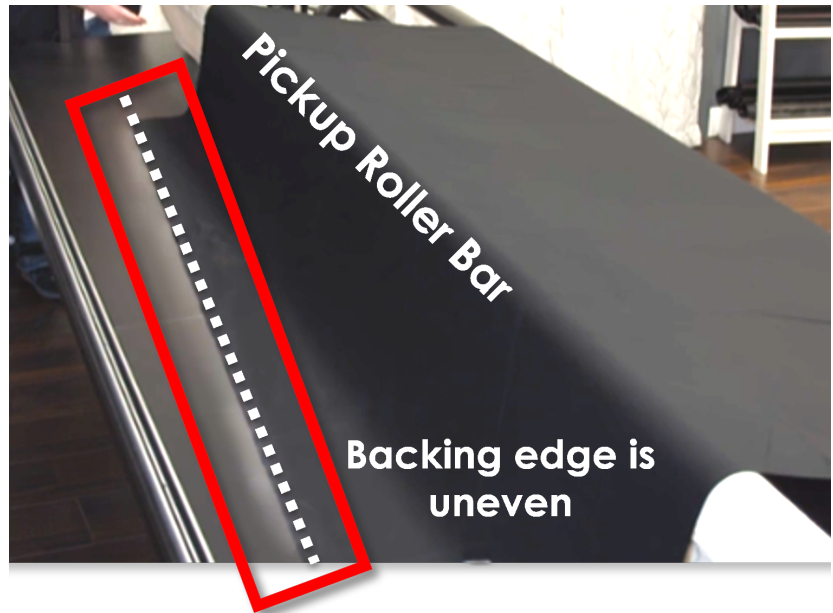
- Place your Pivotal Access from the quilting position (45 degrees) to the loading position (90 degrees).
- Not all tables have pivotal access, this is a GS6 table. When the table is at the 45-degree quilting position, it gives you more space to quilt and allows you to sit at the machine more comfortably. It also puts your quilt sandwich parallel to the floor, which is the preferred angle for quilting.
- If your table does not have a pivotal access, then your bars are already set up to have your quilt sandwich at the optimal angle for quilting.



- Release the dog latch on the backing roller bar and bring the backing leader between the pivotal access bar and carrier bar. Re-engage the dog latch.
- Roll the backing leader until the leader is resting over the top of the carrier bar by a few inches. Use side clamps to hold the leader in place on each end.
- Drape the backing over the table with the wrong side facing up.
- Align the center of the backing fabric with the marked center of the backing leader and pin from the center out until the entire backing edge is attached.

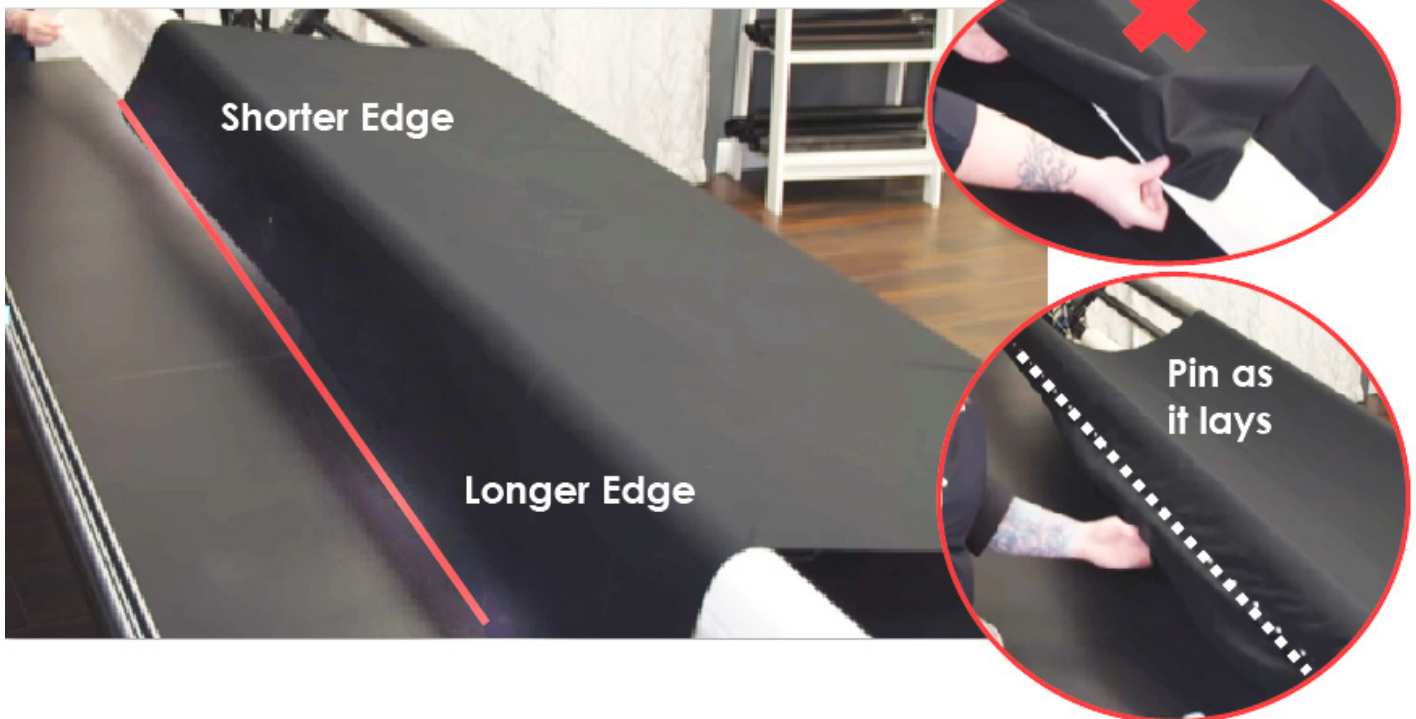


- Extend the pickup leader approx. 6" from the pickup roller bar.
- Evenly drape the backing over the pickup roller bar, remove side clamps and slowly roll it onto the backing roller bar until the backing fabric is resting on the table.
- This allows the backing to square itself as it is rolled. Smooth from center out, as needed. Without disturbing the edge of the quilt, notice how the backing is laying on the table (it is crooked in the photo below).



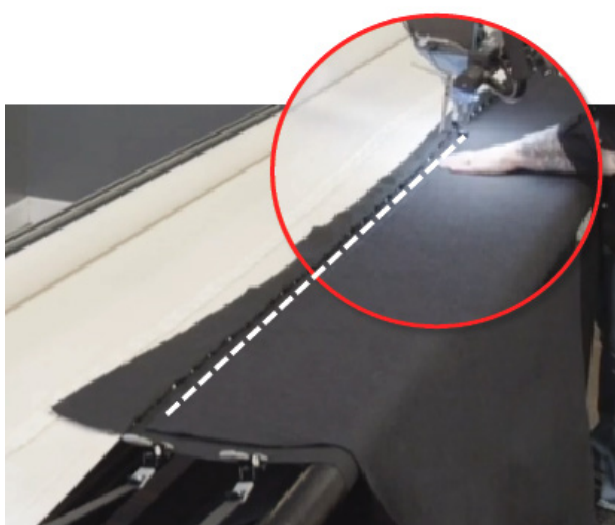
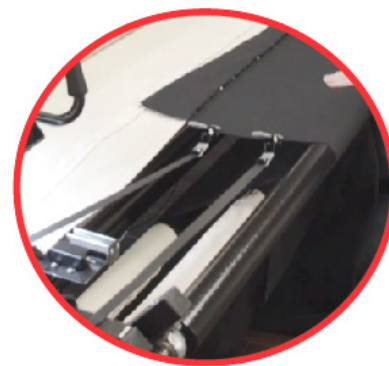
- If the backing is even with the leader, pin working from the center out on both sides.
- If the backing is uneven with the leader (shown) then pin with the shortest edge aligned with the leader, and do not straighten. Continue pinning from the center out.

Do not straighten



- Tighten the slack in the backing by rolling the pickup roller bar forward and then tighten the backing roller bar. The backing should be taut and flat with no sags.
- Attach the side clamps onto the sides of the backing fabric.

Pro-Tip: Do not over pull on the side clamps or you could distort your backing.



- Center the batting onto the backing and use the horizontal channel locks to baste the batting to the backing.
- This line of stitching will hold your batting in place as well as set a straight reference line for your quilt top.

- Tuck the batting behind the top roller. (When tucking the batting, set the Pivotal access to 90 degrees).

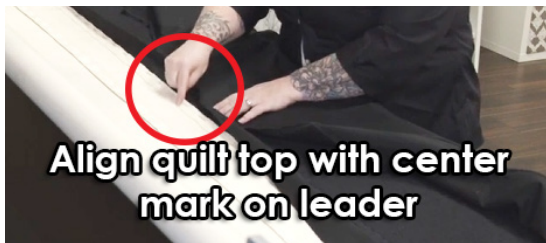


Full Load - Finish Loading the Top

- Bring the top fabric up from where it is draped.
- Align the center mark on the quilt top with the center mark on the leader. Align the quilt top edge with the basting line on the batting.
- Using the horizontal channel lock baste along the top edge of the quilt top securing it to the batting and backing.

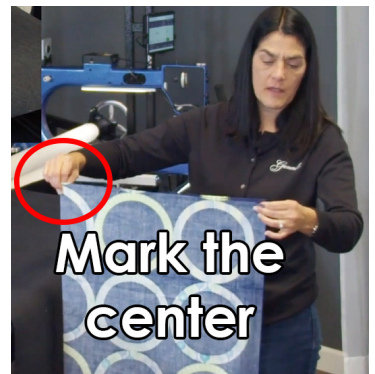
Pro-Tip: use your hopping foot as a guide for keeping the basting about 1/4" away from the quilt top edge.

- Baste the sides of the quilt.
- You may wish to use Gammill® Quilt Clips to stabilize the quilt during quilting.
- Your quilt is now loaded and you are ready to begin quilting.

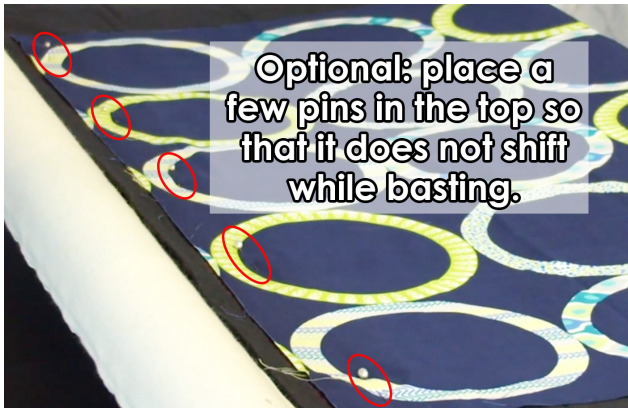


Float Method

- The float method means you do not attach the quilt top to a leader.
- Attach the backing and batting as we did with the full load.
- Mark the center at the top of the quilt top.
- Place the quilt on top of the batting, right side up. Align the center mark on the fabric with the center mark on the leader.



- Align the quilt top edge with the basting line on the batting.
- Optional: place a few pins in the top to keep it from shifting during basting.
- Baste the quilt top to the batting and backing.



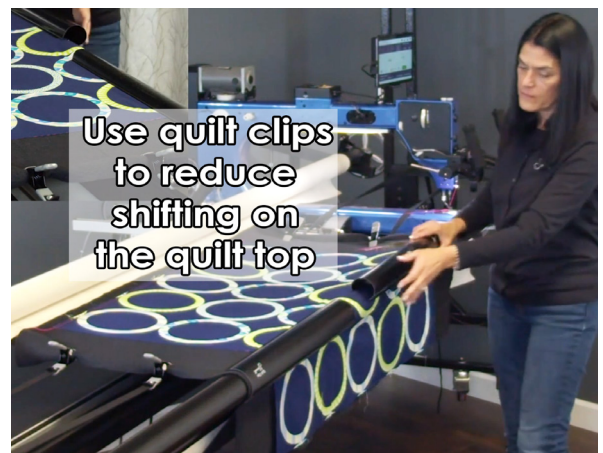
- If needed smooth out the top and batting with your hands.
- Attached the side clamps to the sides of the backing fabric.

Pro-Tip: Do not over pull on the side clamps or you could distort your backing.

- The quilt will lay over the carrier bar.
- Baste the sides. The top will be able to be lifted (which is handy for smoothing out batting, or clipping stray threads).



- Use Gammill® Quilt Clips on the carrier bar to stabilize the quilt during quilting. Or baste along the carrier bar.
- Use the side clamps to help reduce the shifting of the backing fabric during quilting.
- You are now ready to start quilting. Have fun!

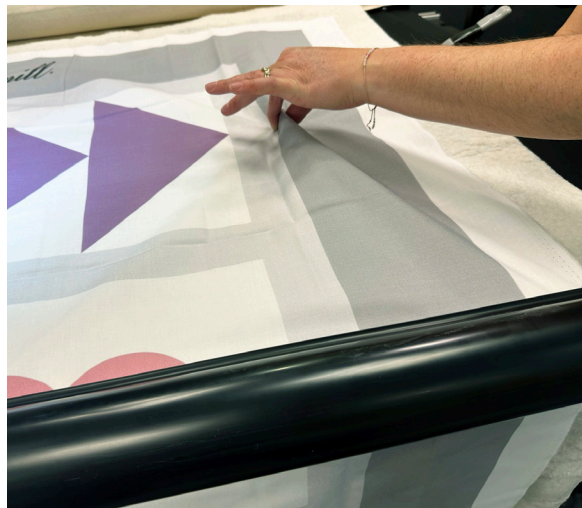


Scan for video about loading

Quilt Sandwich Tightness

If the **Quilt Sandwich** is too tight, the needle will not be able to deflect at the correct angle, and it will look as if you have tension issues, when really the sandwich is just too tight.

You should be able to reach one hand underneath the quilt, and poke your fingers up pushing on the fabric, and the other hand should be able to grasp the fabric off from the hand that's under the quilt. If you can't take the fabric off of your fingers, the sandwich is too tight.



Pickup Roller Bar Height

Check the **Pickup Roller Bar** height by putting your hand between the roller and the bed of the machine.

If you can fit your fingers in between the roller and the bed of your machine, then you have enough room. If not, use the pickup roller lifter to adjust the height.

As you quilt, the pickup roller bar gets more and more fabric and batting rolled onto it. You will need to continue to adjust the height of the pickup roller bar as you quilt along.



Scan for video on adjusting
Pickup Bar Height



Gammill, Inc.
720 Bratton Avenue
West Plains MO 65775
Website: Gammill.com

Copyright © 2024 by Gammill, Inc.
Reprinting or copying these instructions either whole or
in part is strictly prohibited without written permission
from Gammill, Inc. of West Plains, Missouri.