

COMBINING MACHINE & HAND QUILTING



MIXING MACHINE QUILTING WITH HIGH-CONTRAST HAND QUILTING

Combining two styles of quilting in the same quilt is a fun way to add dimension and interest to any quilt. I like to do this by mixing machine quilting and hand quilting. The quilt in the episode is a great example — it was pieced by myself, Jessie Ziegler, Erin Monfort and Carol Noyes of the Central Iowa MQG; and it was machine quilted by Jessie Ziegler, hand quilted by me.

In my own work, I use high contrast hand quilting almost primarily, and it's a fun and easy way to add create depth and allow the quilting to really shine as a design element.

Step 1: Design

What kinds of quilts work well for combining quilting styles? I like quilts with solid colors, clear boundaries between elements, and lots of negative space. Solid fabrics let the stitches stand on their own while patterned fabric can make the quilting less striking. Lots of negative space gives us lots of room to play and make an impact.

Decide which parts of your quilt should be hand quilted and which should be machine quilted. Think about making the background one style, and the focal points another style. Or combine machine and hand quilting throughout.

Step 2: Mark

With any quilting motif, our goal is to complement the overall design. High contrast hand quilting can become a secondary design that creates movement and leads the eye around the quilt. Straight, geometric lines contribute to movement, but so do curves! With hand quilting, anything is possible. You can also erase marks and redraw them until they're just right. I like using a chalk pencil for dark fabrics and an iron-off pen for light fabrics.

Step 3: Baste

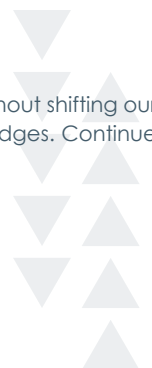
Baste after marking! This makes sure your lines are flat and even, with no bumps. Pick a spot in the middle to start marking, and draw lines out from the center to ensure even spacing. Choose a quilting width that meets the requirements of your batting and will hold up to washing. I tend to use lines about ½" to 1½" apart.

Mark with your pencil or pen and use your ruler to create lines of equal spacing and distance. Continue until you've marked the entire quilt.

Baste using your favorite method. **Note: Avoid spray basting, or spray baste very lightly, as heavy spray basting may make it difficult to hand quilt.**

Step 4: Machine Quilt

By machine quilting first, we secure the layers and add extra security so we can manipulate the quilt during hand quilting without shifting our layers. Using your walking foot or free motion foot, start in the center of your quilt, lock your stitch and quilt out toward the edges. Continue throughout the machine quilting portions of your quilt.



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Step 5: Hand Quilting

Time to hand quilt! Knot your thread. Starting in the middle of your quilt, insert the needle through the back of the quilt. Pop the knot through to middle of the sandwich.

Begin making a running stitch. Don't worry about making the stitches small — instead, think about making your stitches even. When you're ready to stop a line or change threads, pull your needle through to the back, make a knot on the outside of your backing, and pop the knot through to the batting layer again.

Continue until you've completed quilting the quilt.

HAND QUILTING MATERIALS

- Thick thread (perle cotton, sashiko thread, embroidery thread, etc. I usually prefer sashiko thread)
- Long needle with a big eye (anything big enough to fit your thread. Again, I prefer sashiko needles)

Want to make the pattern featured in the episode? Visit vesselquilts.com/shop to purchase the pattern!

And contact Riane at vesselquilts@gmail.com to learn about workshop and lectures opportunities in your area.

ABOUT RIANE MENARDI

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JANOME MC6700P

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JANOME MC6700P

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