



Threads, Needles, & Batting

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Thread Advice

Natural Fibers:

Cotton - for piecing quilts and for quilting. [Pay for the quality!](#)

Silk - for hand applique, embellishment, and quilting.

Wool - for hand embellishment.

Synthetic Fibers:

Polyester - huge variety. Great for garment, home, bag construction and quilting.

Nylon/Polyester - Invisible or monofilament thread for invisible sewing techniques.

Metallic - hand and machine decorative techniques.

Cotton Thread - Grown mostly in Egypt and the southern USA. *Know and Pay for the quality!*

Best known high-quality cotton thread brands for quilts: Aurifil, Mettler, Superior, Wonderfil, and YLI

Staple-length:

- The longer the individual fibers and better for strong seams and less lint.
- Pima and Supima are the longest-staple cottons, most popular in high-quality bed linens.

Superior Threads now has a Pima cotton thread for piecing

A wise quilter once said, "Cotton threads are not created equal; just ask my machine if you want a second opinion."

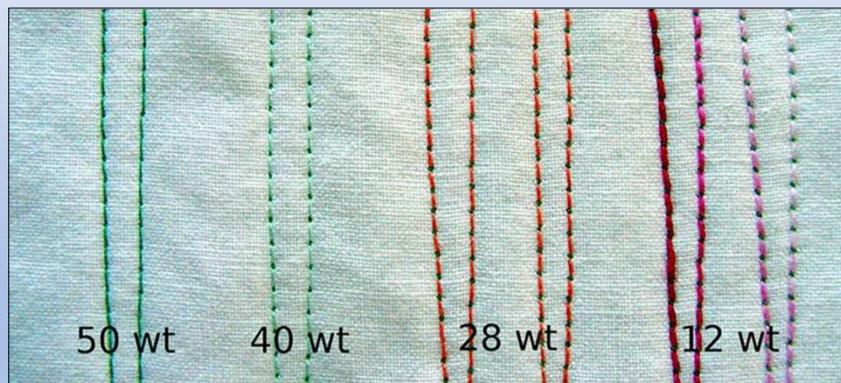


Thread Advice – Cotton

Know the weight:

- The larger the number, the finer the thread.

The weight is determined in a scientific manner, so we have to trust the information given by the manufacturers and our eyes, and your personal sewing results.



Thread Advice – Cotton

Piece your quilt tops with a 60 or 50-weight cotton thread for the most precise and secure seams. Use the same thread weight in the top and the bobbin when piecing.

Piecing with a neutral colored (gray, taupe, or black) thread is generally the best for creating more invisible seams.

Gray, Black for Darker Colors



Taupe



When your design is dark fabric to dark fabric, be sure to use a dark thread so you don't see the thread in the seam.

Thread Advice – Cotton

THICKNESS	WEIGHT	PLY	USED FOR	POPULAR BRANDS AND NAME
Fine	60	60/3	Very precise miniature quilt making, hand applique, EPP, very fine machine quilting	Aurifil – 80/2 Mettler – Silk Finish 60/3 Wonderfil – Efina YLI – Soft Touch
Thin	50	50/2 and 50/3	Piecing of your quilt, machine quilting	Aurifil – 50/2 Mettler – Silk Finish 50/3 Superior – Pima and Master Piece 50/2 Wonderfil – Konfetti 50 YLI – Dream Seam

Thread Advice – Cotton

THICKNESS	WEIGHT	LABLED PLY	USED FOR	POPULAR BRANDS AND NAME
Regular	40	40/3	Machine quilting, decorative machine applique and topstitching NOTE – I recommend a 50 or 60 wt. in the bobbin when using 40 wt on top.	Aurifil – 40 Mettler – Silk Finish 40 Superior – King Tut 40/3 Wonderfil – Silco 35/3 YLI – Majestic 40/3
Thick or Heavy	12, 24, 28 & 30		Hand and machine blanket stitch applique, hand embroidery and quilting, and thread painting NOTE – I recommend a 50 or 60 wt. in the bobbin when using these threads on top.	Aurifil – 28/2 and 12/2 Mettler – Silk Finish 28 Superior – Treasure “Glazed” 30/3 – hand use only Wonderfil – Fruitti 12/3 YLI – Fusions 24/3 Sulky – Petites – 12 wt. Thread Advice – Cotton

Polyester - Huge variety. For garment construction, home decor, bag construction, and quilting.

Polyester threads are not required to have a thread weight. When they do, it is just like with cotton threads – the thicker the thread, the smaller the number.

Some polyester threads are spun, while others are manufactured as long, thin pieces or tubes of “plastic”.

Most machine embroidery is done with polyester threads.



SO MANY COLORS!

Thread Advice – Polyester

THICKNESS	WEIGHT	USED FOR	POPULAR BRANDS AND NAME
Fine	100 - 80	Hand applique, EPP, very fine machine quilting, and in the bobbin. *Also available in prewound bobbins	Superior - MicroQuilter 100/2 Wonderfil - InviaFil 100 Wonderfil - DecoBob 80
Thin	60	Hand applique, EPP, very fine machine quilting, and in the bobbin. *Also available in prewound bobbins	Superior - BottomLine 60/2 YLI - Precision 60/2 Thread Advice - Polyester

THICKNESS	WEIGHT	USED FOR	POPULAR BRANDS AND NAME
Regular	40	Machine Quilting and Embroidery, Decorative Machine Applique, and Topstitching NOTE - I recommend a 100 - 60 wt. in the bobbin when using 40 wt. on top.	Fil-Tec - Glide Floriani - Embroidery Superior - Fantastico (shiny) Superior - Magnifico (shiny) Superior - Sew Fine (matte) WonderFil - FabuLux (shiny) WonderFil - Master Quilter (matte) YLI - Elite & Variations Thread Advice - Polyester

Nylon and/or Polyester - Invisible or monofilament thread – for invisible sewing techniques.

Important Note when using invisible thread in your machine, **DO NOT** put it on the bobbin. I recommend a fine-weight cotton or polyester thread in the bobbin.

Popular Brands with high-quality invisible threads:
Sulky, Superior, and YLI

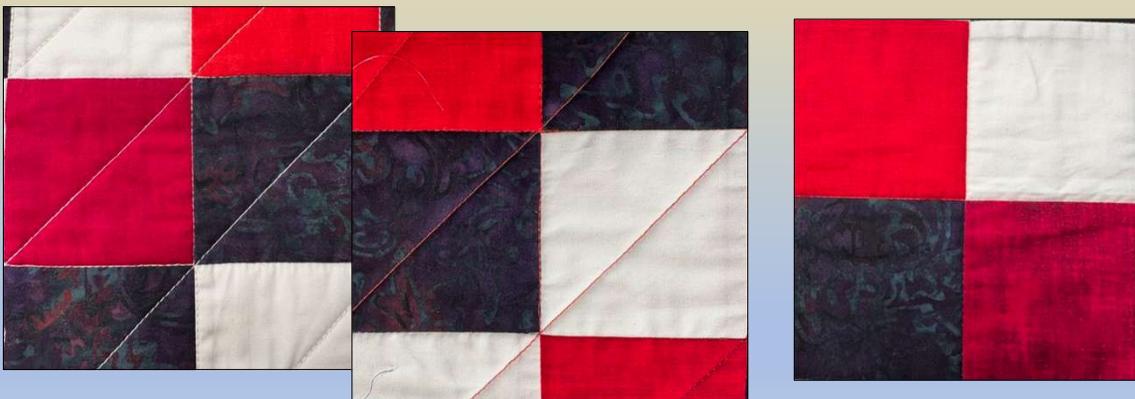
**Many times, referred to as
“a necessary evil.”**



Thread Advice – Invisible Thread

- When using Invisible threads, use a fine cotton or polyester in the bobbin.
- When using invisible threads, you will probably have to loosen your top tension.

Invisible thread is the **ONLY** thread I approve for “in the ditch” quilting 😊



Thread Advice – Invisible Thread

Invisible thread can be used for Invisible Machine Applique and for EPP Piecing. For these applications, I would use a Microtex 60/8 needle.



Thread Advice – Invisible Thread

Silk – Fine thread used for hand applique and “very expensive” quilting

100 wt. - It is the perfect thread for hand appliqué stitching. I recommend using a taupe color to hide on most fabrics. White for very light and black for very dark.

Popular Brands with high-quality silk threads:
Superior – “Kimono”, and YLI Silk



Thread Advice – Silk Thread

Metallic – hand and machine decorative techniques.



For use on your sewing machine, you will seriously need to consider a “thread holder.”



Thread Advice – Metallic Thread

Piecing Quilt Tops – Needle Advice

When using a 50-weight thread for piecing, the best needle is a MicroTex 70/10 to 80/12 needle.



The difference between a MicroTex Sharp needle and a Universal needle.



A Universal has a “slim, slightly rounded” tip.

Piecing Quilt Tops – Needle Advice

A Microtex has a “Slim, Acute Point shape” tip.

- Useful for accurate stitches on cotton and densely woven materials.
- Creates an exact seam with straight stitches and helps to reduce seam puckering.



Piecing Quilt Tops – Needle Advice

Free Motion Quilting - Needle Advice



A Topstitch needle has a sharp point, and a larger hold and front groove to cradle the threads.



Free Motion Quilting - Needle Advice



Gold Topstitch Needle
The Titanium Nitride coating is significantly harder than the standard coating and ensures an extra-long needle life. Performs effortlessly on a wide range of fabrics.

Free Motion Quilting – Needle Advice

Pressing Advice

Press seams to one side when possible. Seams pressed open are not as secure or as precise as those pressed to one side.



Batting Advice

Batting itself never sees the light of day once your quilt is finished, but it is still essential to the look and feel of your finished project.

How to choose the best batting for you:

- Know the fiber content
- Know your quilting plans
- Know what you want your finished look to be

Natural Fibers:

Cotton - Warm, soft, and have a crinkly look after washing that is reminiscent of antique quilts.

100% cotton will shrink approximately. 8%, a 80/20 cotton-poly blend may shrink approximately. 2-3%

Bamboo - Gorgeously green premium viscose bamboo batting.

- High-quality sustainable/renewable fibers
- Breathability, durability, & anti-bacterial properties
- 2-5% shrinkage on first wash.
- Very soft and drapey
- Resists folded creases

Synthetic Fibers:

Polyester - Doesn't have the same drape or soft feel as other types of batting and may not be as warm.

Good choice for tied comforters.

Wool - Soft and luxurious, it brings out the quilting stitches. It needles wonderfully, maintains loft, and has exceptional resilience.

- lightweight, naturally breathable batting, comfortable for use in all climates, even hot and humid climates!
- Strong and resists bearding and migration.
- Most popular battings for use in 'show quilts'.
- Quilts hang beautifully with no creases in sight.

Batting Advice



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