

T Kos Quilting



Questions about Long Arm Quilting?

We're happy to help! Here are some things you will want to know when you decide to have your project quilted.

***Let us quilt life into your
project***

Beaverton / Tigard Oregon

541-761-4672

TKOSQUILTING.com

<https://www.facebook.com/TKosQuilting/>

About T Kos Quilting

I'm Teresa Koster and fairly new to the long-arm quilting business. My husband Tom and I started this business in July of 2018.

There is still a lot I don't know – I'm always pushing myself to continue learning. I've completed well over 300 quilts and I've learned a little along the way. I'm happy to share with you some of what I've learned. I've seen everything from really, really poorly constructed quilts to really, really fancy quilts. Some of them scare me. Somehow - I figure out how to approach the quilting for each one and make the customer happy with the finished product. I'm happy to work with you to make your quilt as beautiful as it can possibly be.

My husband does all the digital work for me. Sometimes he has to modify a pattern or create a new one to fit the needs of the customer or me to make the quilt as special as it can be. He comes to my rescue every time I have a problem and can't figure out what to do.



Turn-around time (what to expect): I'm pretty busy all the time but I do my best to stay caught up and get your quilts back to you as quickly as possible. Turn around time is usually less than a week.

Some important things you will want to know before taking your quilt to a long-arm quilter to be quilted.

Quilt Back: You should always have your backing fabric a minimum of 6 to 8 inches larger than the top (in both length and width). This is so we have room to hook it to our leaders and have room on the edges to check tension and clip it to the sides making sure the bottom is smooth and flat while we are quilting.

Seams in your backing: It's a good idea to talk to the long-arm quilter about the back of your quilt and how the seams run if you have to seam your back. For instance: if you have a seam running the length of your back in the middle of your quilt. Your quilter is going to want to put that on the long arm with that seam running parallel with the bar.

If the seams are perpendicular to the bar it causes a problem with the seam stacking up. The seam is usually 2 or 3 layers thick depending on how it was pressed. The extra thickness stacks up on top of itself as it is rolled up onto the bar. This leaves the rest of the back loose on either side of the seam as more of it is rolled up. This causes sagging in the rest of the back which could cause pleating in the back of your quilt if not caught during quilting.

Batting: Did you know that batting has a top and back side or a right and wrong side just like most fabric? It's important to always have the batting with the top/right side up in your quilt sandwich. Most batting has been needle punched which leaves tiny balls on the back side and this is the side that goes down in the quilt sandwich. This website has a great explanation of the top and back or right and wrong side of batting. <https://www.apqs.com/batting-has-an-up-and-down/>

Different types of batting will give a different appearance and feel to your finished quilt. Be sure to talk with your long-arm quilter about what you want your finished quilt to feel like so you can make the best batting choice for your project. Your choice should depend on the intended use for your quilt. I have several types of batting on hand for purchase.

- Quilters Dream wool
- Quilters Dream cotton
- Warm and Natural
- Hobbs 80/20

Thread: I use Signature 40 WT cotton thread and I use Superior bottom line on the back side if I'm going to be doing heavy quilting. It doesn't build up as much as using the regular cotton on the back.

Be very clear about the color of the thread you want used in your project – it can make a big difference in the finished project.

Quilting Density: It is important to think about how densely you would like your quilt to be quilted and communicate that with your long-arm quilter. Some people prefer very loose quilting while others prefer their projects to be very densely quilted. It can also depend on the specific project and what effect you want to it have. Most long-arm quilters will have some samples for you to look at. Remember – the more densely quilted a quilt is – the stiffer the finished quilt may be.

Glitter: Glitter in your fabric is a big no-no for long-arm quilters. Most long-arm quilters will not take a quilt with glitter in its fabric. Long arm machines are very expensive, and glitter in the fabrics will get into the machine and damage its parts.

T-shirt quilts: I have a love-hate relationship with these beasts. I love when people make memory quilts. I just don't always love quilting them because most of the time they are not stabilized correctly.

There are lots books out there that say to use “stabilizer” and most people think they've done them correctly. There are dozens of different types of stabilizers for lots of different uses – most will not work for a T-Shirt quilt.

Never use a paper stabilizer. If you stabilize your T-shirt and it is still stretchy when you pull on the fabric or the stabilizer tears – it's the wrong stabilizer.

The only way to do it correctly is if you are using stabilizer that turns knit fabric into a woven fabric that is no longer stretchy.

I've found that the most effective stabilizer to use is "***Pellon shape flex SF101***".

Be sure to stabilize your T-Shirt graphics BEFORE you cut up the T-Shirt. Stabilize the area completely – well beyond the graphic itself. Doing so will ensure that the entire area will be stabilized once you trim the graphic to its final size and will eliminate problems with piecing and quilting.

Cost: There are many factors that can impact the final cost of quilting your quilt. Always ask your long-arm quilter how they calculate the cost of doing the job. You should get a clearly communicated estimate before your quilt is given to the long-arm quilter for quilting. Always go over this with your long-arm quilter ahead of time (and get the estimate in writing) so there are no surprises when you pick up your completed quilt.



Choosing a quilting pattern to fit your quilt.

The choice of a quilting pattern can make a very plain quilt look like a work of art. However, if the quilt itself is already very stunning then a simple pattern will only add some texture to the it. Be sure to talk to your long-arm quilter to make the best choice for your quilt. Some of my customers just want me to surprise them.

Quilting Design - Edge 2 Edge (E2E): E2E is an all over design usually done by a computer or hand guided Pantograph. I have several hundred designs you can choose from. One of them is sure to be perfect for your project.



Quilting Design - Custom: Custom includes hand guided free motion design, computerized drop in designs, and ruler work. Every custom design is unique and determined by the specific project and your desired end effect for the project.



Questions: I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about quilting your project. Please be sure to check out our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/TKosQuilting>) and our website [TKOSQUILTING.com](https://www.TKOSQUILTING.com) for lots of examples of our work.