

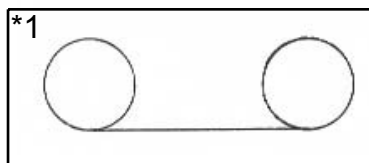
Quilting on your Inspira Quilting Frame

By: Cheryl Barnes of Golden Threads ©2005

Leaders ..Check the leaders making sure they are cut straight then serge/hem to avoid fraying. Find and draw a line at the centers of each leader. Sew a piece of the non sticky Velcro to each leader. The sticky Velcro is attached to the poles using one of the flat edges on the pole as a straight edge. Position the Velcro on the poles allowing space on the right side of the frame for access to the bobbin area and/or the sensor wheels of the Quilter's Cruise Control. Attach the leaders to the poles by joining the two pieces of Velcro making sure that the center lines are straight.

Preparing the Quilt- Cut the batting and backing several inches larger than the quilt top on all sides. This will allow for trimming after the project is quilted.

Loading Quilt ..Mark the centers of backing, batting and quilt top- match centers on the correct leaders/rollers and pin. Roll completely onto rollers. Visual finished quilt while loading to insure that the right side of the backing fabric is facing down and the quilt top is facing up. Remember the top two rollers (quilt top roller and take up roller) should roll towards each other forming a scroll with the fabric rolling from the bottom. (*1) The backing and batting roll in the opposite direction ... up and over their rollers. (*2)



Take Up Roller ...The take up roller runs thru the throat of the machine. First secure quilt back to the take up leader with pins every 6 inches. Next attach batting using same basting pins as backing. Pin quilt top using same pins. Fill in between basting pins securing all 3 layers. You may choose to float the quilt top by laying the top on the batting. Make sure quilt top is straight then stitch or spray baste to secure. Floating the top allows you to quilt up to the edge of the quilt top. Roll all the layers and tighten knobs to hold in place. Attach side clamps to the backing and batting layers creating a secure base to the quilt top rest on.

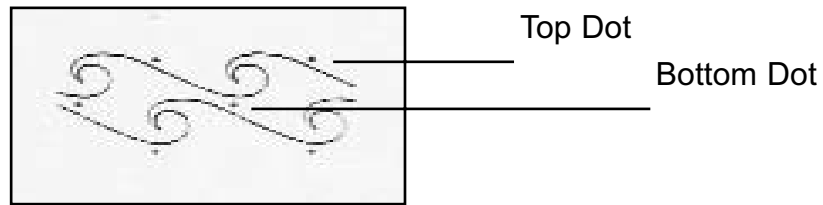
Quilting with Pantographs -

Pantographs are the perfect way to become comfortable with the frame and to finish quilts quickly and easily. The Golden Threads collection of pantographs is sized especially for use with the Inspira Frame. Another great resource available thru VSM is The Pretty Simple Pantograph Pattern Pack, which includes 24 panto starters, step by step directions for frame quilting, thread tension and practice exercises.

Position the Panto- Unroll the panto on the pattern shelf. Using the Needle down/up option, drop the needle exactly where you want the first quilting stitch to begin. Turn the laser on and slide the panto slightly until the dot shines on the highest point of the design. Place a piece of blue painters tape to keep the panto from moving. Needle up and move laser across the top of the quilt stopping several times to locate the highest point of stitching ... needle down, checking the laser on the pattern and taping in place. When quilting a pantograph your eyes are focused on the pattern not the quilt top. To avoid stitching off the side of the quilt, place blue tape on both end of the panto indicating where to stop.

Starting to Quilt

Advance the Quilt – Advancing the quilt rolls the quilted area onto the take up roller exposing the next area to be quilted and aligns the spacing for the next row of quilting on the quilt and the pattern.



Position the laser light so it is shining on the alignment dot positioned directly under the row just stitched and needle down to hold machine in place. Unhook side clamps and loosen knobs. Gently roll quilted area onto take up roller. Notice the machine will glide as you roll the quilt top. Stop rolling when laser light is shining on the alignment dot above the row just quilted. Hold take up roller in place and tighten knobs check to see that the laser light has not sifted. If your panto does not have alignment dots, add your own or use the highest point/lowest point of your pattern adding a margin of 1/2” so the rows do not overlap.

Raising the Rollers- As you complete row after row of quilting the take up roller will become thicker and you will feel some drag as you stitch. Raise the section of the frame holding the rollers by loosening the knobs on one end and lifting just until the drag is gone. Do the same thing on the other side checking to see that the unit is level. Draw several lines on both ends of frame for easier leveling.

Pattern Packs and Golden Threads Quilting Paper- Each pattern packet contains a variety of continuous line quilting patterns for blocks, border, corners, insets, sashings and edge-to-edge patterns. They can be enlarged or reduced on a copy machine to fit your project. Block patterns can be placed on the pattern shelf and followed with the laser. Needle down in the center of the quilt block and point the laser at the center of the pattern. Check for fit and reposition the needle to begin stitching following the design.

The No Marking Method- Often you will need a method of following a quilting design without the laser. Eliminate marking your fabric by creating stitchable stencils using designs from the pattern packets and Golden Threads Quilting Paper .

Step #1 Trace- Select a design from the pattern packs and resize then trace the pattern onto GT paper using a water soluble pen or chalk pencil.

Step #2 Stitch - Cut and layer up to 15 sheets GT paper placing the traced copy on top. Pin to corners and needle punch on your machine with a large unthreaded needle. This creates a stack of stitchable stencils with one smooth side and one bumpy side.

Step #3 Quilt- Pin or spray baste your “stencil” in place with the bumpy side up. Quilt thru the paper following the stitching path. Repeat until a large portion of the quilt is completed.

Step #4 Tear- Remove paper after stitching by gently tugging the project on the bias. Paper will pop away from your stitches – any small whiskers can be removed with a sticky lint roller.

There are no Quilt Police! Have fun and relax! Consider the lines of the quilting patterns as “guidelines”. Don’t get so stressed out about staying on the lines that you do not enjoy the quilting process! Free-motion quilting is a skill to be learned and confidence will develop over time.

I have shared some basic tips and techniques to get you started with your Inspira Frame. Look for more detailed directions, plus exciting new patterns and projects from Golden Threads in the future!

Happy Quilting!