



# 15 Things I've Learned in 15 Years of Quilting

*tips for easy quilting*

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[www.RomanianQuiltStudio.com](http://www.RomanianQuiltStudio.com)



## 1 PREWASHING FABRIC

- Washing the fabric before use has many benefits.
- It removes the chemicals from the fabric- it's GOOD for your health!
- It's GOOD for your quilts too - it removes excess dye and you will be able to avoid bleeding issues.



## 2

## STARCHING FABRIC

- It makes the pressing and cutting fabric easier.
- It increases the accuracy of your piecing.
- Especially great when working with pieces cut on the bias.



## 3

## COLOR PALETTE

- If you are having trouble choosing a color palette, use fabrics from the same collection.
- Find inspiration on specialized websites like [www.design-seeds.com](http://www.design-seeds.com)



## 4 BATTING

- The fabric adheres to cotton batting best.
- Cotton batting gives a nice texture to a quilt after washing.
- Polyester batting is lightweight and warm.



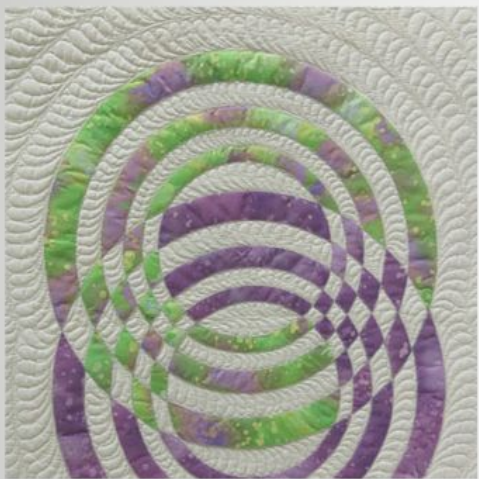
## 5 ROTARY CUTTER BLADES

- Change them often.
- New blades save you time and you don't damage the edges of your pieces.



## 6 STRAIGHT GRAIN

- Fabric pieces cut on the straight grain stretch less than the ones cut on the cross grain.
- Whenever it's possible, cut your borders, binding or other long or big pieces on the straight grain- your piecing will be more accurate.



## 7 FINGER PRESSING

- Sometimes, while piecing blocks, finger pressing is desired because it doesn't distort fabric like pressing with an iron.
- Press with the iron only when the block is finished.



## 8 BASTING

- The adhesive spray is a great aid for basting small to medium quilts.
- It isn't free, but it saves you time and it keeps the quilt layers together better.
- Basting with pins (not safety pins) is a quick method too.



## 9 SEWING MACHINE

- For quilting, you don't need a sewing machine with tons of features.
- Learn EVERYTHING about your sewing machine.



## 10 NEEDLES

- You need different needles for different projects.
- Topstitch and Jeans needles are very useful for quilting.



## 11 RULERS

- You don't need all the quilt rulers out there!
- Start with a long rectangular ruler.
- Square rulers are useful - one smaller and one bigger.
- I use an equilateral triangle ruler very often.



## 12 WASHABLE MARKERS

- Any quilter needs a few.
- Some markers designed specifically for kids are washable, very cheap, and available in many colors.
- Try them and TEST all the colors before using them on your quilts.



## 13 QUILTING THREAD

- Quality thread saves your sanity!
- Tight budget for thread? Quilt in neutral colors (you don't have to buy all the colors of the rainbow) and buy cones!



## 14 MACHINE QUILTING

- Quilting with straight stitching and walking foot requires time and patience!
- Free motion quilting is much easier than many quilters might think.
- Stippling is AWESOME. For ANY quilt. Period!



## 15 WASHING THE QUILT

- I always wash the quilts after the quilting is done and before binding.
- I wash most of my quilts in the washing machine.