

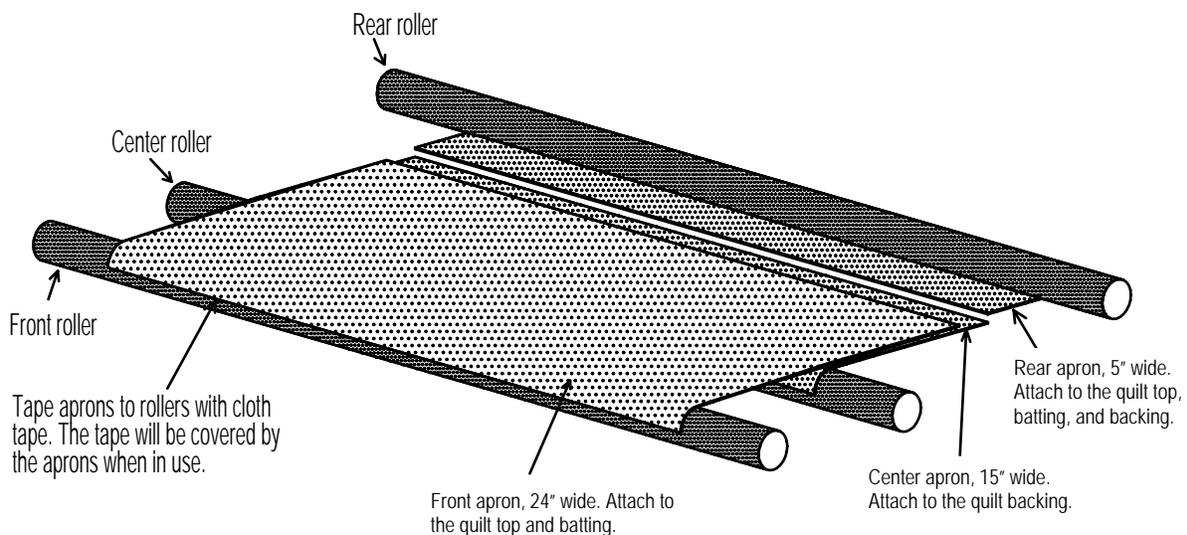
DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING AND ATTACHING LEADERS (APRONS)

Your quilt layers will be basted or pinned to fabric leaders (aprons) that you must attach to the rollers first.

We offer a fabric kit, that you can purchase from us. The fabric kit includes cotton drill, 118" long, cut to the proper measurements and serged. Or you can easily make them yourself.

To make your leaders (aprons), any sturdy fabric may be used. Heavy fabrics such as canvas will be difficult to pin or baste. Do not use stretchy fabrics or knits.

1. You will need three strips of fabric, one each for the front, middle and rear roller. The length of the fabric leader is determined by measuring your roller length and subtracting two inches. (eg. 120" rollers – 2" + 118" leaders). The three leaders will be cut from this length of fabric.
2. For the **Original Machine Quilting Frame**, you will cut one length about 15" wide, one 10" wide and one 5" wide. For the **Stretch Machine Quilting Frame**, you will cut one length about 24" wide, one 15" wide and one 5" wide.
3. Zigzag or serge the long edges of the fabric to avoid raveling.
4. *See next page for more photos and instructions on how to attach the leaders.*



DIRECTIONS FOR ATTACHING LEADERS (APRONS)

STEP 1

Standing at the front of your frame, or so that the end of the frame with the ratchet wheels is on your right side. Tape the long edge of the fabric to the rollers using any heavy-duty tape, such as duct tape or cloth mending tape.

For the **STRETCH** frame the 24" wide apron goes on the front roller. The 15" apron goes on the middle roller, and the 5" wide apron goes on the rear roller.

For the **ORIGINAL** frame the 15" wide apron goes on the front roller. The 10" apron goes on the middle roller, and the 5" wide apron goes on the rear roller.

The aprons must be taped on straight. Start by using several small pieces of tape spaced out across the roller. See *Fig. 1*

You can look down the end of the roller to see if it is straight. See *Fig. 3 below*. Then put one long strip of tape across the whole roller. See *Fig. 2*

The leaders will roll over the top of the roller toward the back of the frame. See *Figs. 3 and 4*

The leaders will drape off of the rollers, providing an edge to pin your quilt to. See following pages on how to attach the quilt layers.

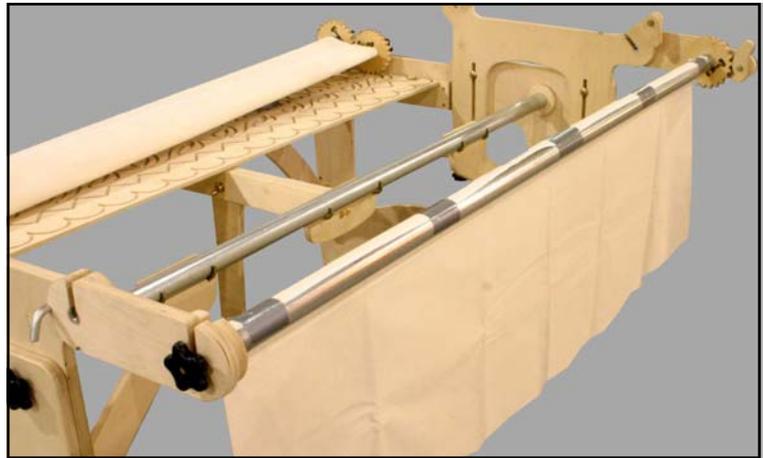


FIG. 1

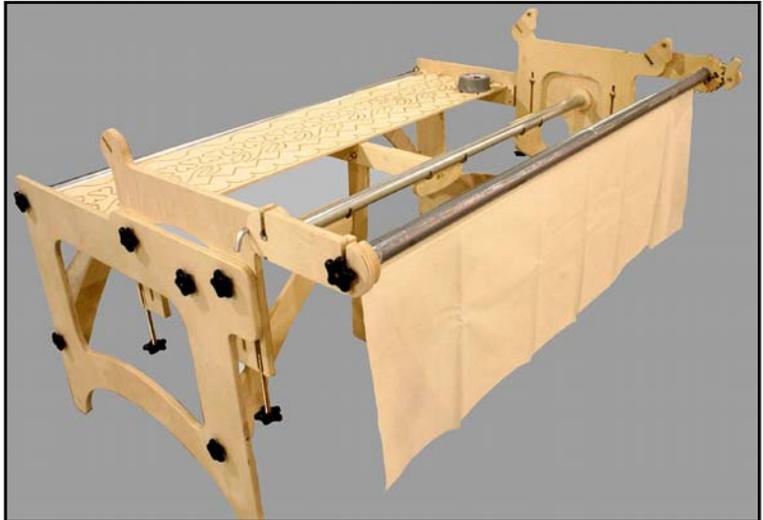


FIG. 2

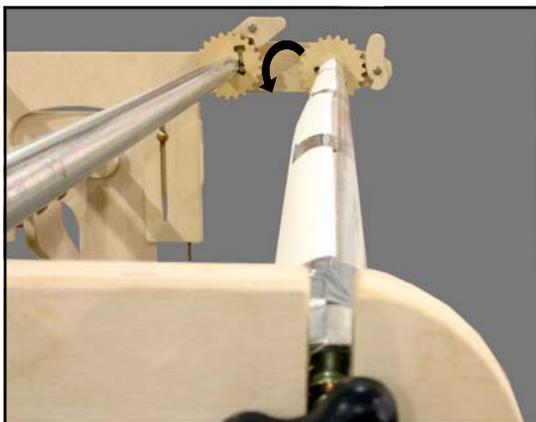


FIG. 3



FIG. 4

LOADING YOUR QUILT ONTO THE FRAME

These instructions are written as though you are standing in front of your frame, or so that the end of the frame with the ratchet wheels is on your right hand side.

Take your time with this process, as it is critical for satisfactory results.

Step 1.

Remove the lock pins in the middle roller support and raise the front roller, as shown in *Fig. 1*. Replace the lock pins to hold the roller in this position.

The backing layer is attached first. For best results:

- Trim selvages
- Cut your backing at least 8" longer than the top and at least 4" wider than your top (2" on each side). If possible, the seams in your backing should run parallel to the rollers.
- Mark the center of the backing and the center of the front, middle, and back roller aprons.

Remember when you are placing your quilt on the frame, that you will need an open space of approx. 6-8" on one end of the quilt to access the bobbin area of your machine. We recommend leaving this space on the left end of the frame because your pointer package is usually mounted on the left hand side of the carriage and will not interfere with the end frame on the left side. If you have a very large quilt, this area can be eliminated, but it makes accessing your bobbin difficult.

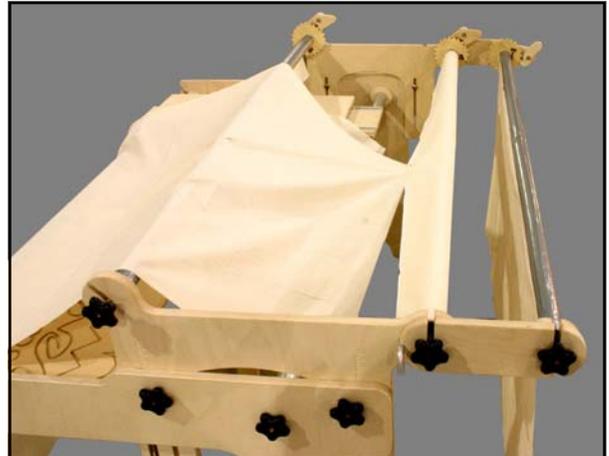


Fig. 1

Pin backing fabric to leader on middle roller.

Step 2.

To begin, spread your backing fabric across the frame with the bottom edge closest to you. Backing fabric is wrong side up. See *Fig. 1*

Standing at the front of the frame, with the leader hanging, match the center of the backing fabric with the center of the leader on the middle roller.

Remember to readjust your center mark on your fabric if you are leaving a machine access area on one end of the frame. You can do this by moving the center mark on all of your aprons 8" to the right, or by moving the center marks on your backing and top fabric 8" to the left.

Pin the center of the edge of your backing fabric to the edge of the middle roller leader. The leader will roll over the roller and be pulled away from you. Proceeding from the center to the sides of your quilt, pin the edge of the backing fabric to the edge of the leader. A good method is to begin by placing a pin every foot or so, check to see that the fabric is on the frame straight and the edge of the backing fabric is parallel to the rollers. After you have made any necessary adjustments, fill in the rest of the edge with pins every inch or so. See *Fig. 2*



Fig. 2

Edge of backing fabric pinned to leader on middle roller.

Step 3.

Gripping the middle roller with your hands, roll all but approximately 18" of the backing fabric onto the middle roller. It may help to have two people to roll this on large quilts. Make sure there are no wrinkles in the backing fabric as you roll, and make sure the fabric is not being stretched as you roll.

Now you will be looking at most of the backing fabric rolled onto the middle roller, and the other edge of the backing fabric hanging down off the roller.

Take this second edge of backing fabric and pin it to the leader on the rear roller, using the same method that you used on the first roller. (See Fig. 3) Place a few pins, make sure that the tension is even all along the length of the roller, and fill in the rest of the pins.

Note that the leader on the rear roller should roll off of the bottom of the roller and be pulled towards you, while the middle roller leader rolls off the top and is pulled away from you.

Now your backing fabric is attached to the frame. See Fig. 4



Fig. 3

Pin backing to leader on rear roller.



Fig. 4

Backing attached to middle and rear roller.

Step 4.

Next you will attach your batting and quilt top. The batting and quilt top are attached at the same time.

First, spread your batting out across the frame with the edge parallel to the front roller as you did with your backing fabric. See Fig. 5

It is important at this step to make sure your batting does not have any wrinkles or is not being pulled or stretched anywhere.



Fig. 5

Batting spread out over rollers.

Step 5.

Lay your quilt top carefully on top of your batting. Spread it out evenly. (See Fig. 6) It helps if your quilt backing and batting are approx. 4" wider than your quilt top. This way, if your quilt top is not perfectly straight, you can easily trim away the extra batting and fabric after you are done quilting and the quilt is off the frame. If you are careful to prevent any wrinkles between the batting and the quilt top during this step, it will make rolling these layers onto the frame much easier.



Fig. 6
Quilt top & batting spread over rollers

Step 6.

Following the same procedure as you did with the backing, very carefully pin BOTH the batting and quilt top to the edge of the leader on the front roller at the same time. The front leader rolls over the roller and pulls away from you. See Fig. 7.

Again, roll the top and batting onto the front roller, carefully. Stop every few inches and feel for wrinkles in the batting. You can check the underside of the frame to see wrinkles in the batting.

Continue rolling until the rear edge of the top and batting are even with the rear roller.



Fig. 7
Pin front edge of quilt top & batting to front leader.

Step 7.

The final step is to pin the rear edge of your quilt top and batting to the rear roller using the same method as before.

You have already pinned the backing to that apron, and you will actually be pinning the top and batting to the backing fabric and not the apron. This is critical because if you are sewing near the edge of the quilt top fabric, you will not accidentally sew into the fabric of the leader. See Fig. 8.

Step 8.

Remove lock pins and drop front roller to down position. Replace lock pins.

See next page for tips on beginning to quilt.



Fig. 8
Quilt loaded on frame.

Tips for beginning to quilt on your Hinterberg Frame

- Drop your feed dogs or apply tape over them so that they are inoperable.
- Set your stitch length to 0.
- You may need to adjust your presser foot pressure and try different presser feet.
- Always bring your bobbin thread up through the quilt with each start.
- Lock your threads with tiny stitches and finish in this same manner to ensure good results.
- Any necessary height adjustments to the rollers should be made after installing your machine. Your machine should glide smoothly under the quilt, without raising the fabric as it moves from side to side.
- When machine quilting, planning your stitching patterns ahead of time will make the job easier and more rewarding. If this is your first try at machine quilting, start with a small quilt with a simple pattern, or even printed fabric. Take some time to get the feel of the machine movement on the frame. Each machine will have limitations depending on the length of the arm of your machine. Even if you have machine quilted before, the technique is different. Your quilt is stationary and you will be moving your machine. If your machine carriage does not move smoothly and easily, check all adjustments to be sure your frame is correctly assembled. It should roll easily both front to back and left to right.
- Begin quilting on the back edge of the quilt and work toward the front. The leaders on the front and middle rollers should be long enough to allow the top edge of the quilt to advance to the quilting area between the middle and rear rollers.
- Use the ratchets to keep the tension of the top and backing even. If the tension is not even on the backing and the top, when you take your quilt off the frame, you will see puckering of the fabric. You can check this from time to time by loosening up the tension on all the rollers and checking the stitch quality.
- With larger quilts, after you have stitched a large portion of the quilt, you may find that the quilting area is limited and you can no longer quilt in the manner you desire. At this point, baste the remaining part of the quilt. Once the quilt is basted, remove it from the frame, turn the quilt end to end (180 degrees) and re-mount the basted quilt using only the middle and rear rollers. In this position you can continue quilting from the area you stopped to the remaining end.
- As with any technique, your stitches will become more even with practice.
- Our website has more tips on how to use your Hinterberg frame. Please go to: www.hinterberg.com/machine_tips.htm

Machine Quilting Frame Disassembly:

1. Unplug power source.
2. Remove the upper handle assembly from the machine carriage.
3. To remove the machine, loosen end knobs on the rear roller. Raise the left end (side without ratchet wheel) of the rear roller enough to guide the machine out from under the roller. Lift out machine. Replace roller into slot.
4. Remove machine carriage.
5. Remove template board.
6. Put front roller into up position. Remove L-shaped lock pins from front roller and loosen knobs.
7. Lift and remove quilt rollers. You can leave the quilt on the rollers if desired.
8. Remove center support brace.
9. Remove angle brace knobs. They can remain attached to the rollers, or use wrench to loosen bolts. Replace the knobs with studs into the angle braces for storage.
10. Remove black knob and rear carriage track.
11. Remove remaining carriage track.
12. Replace all knobs onto roller ends for storage.