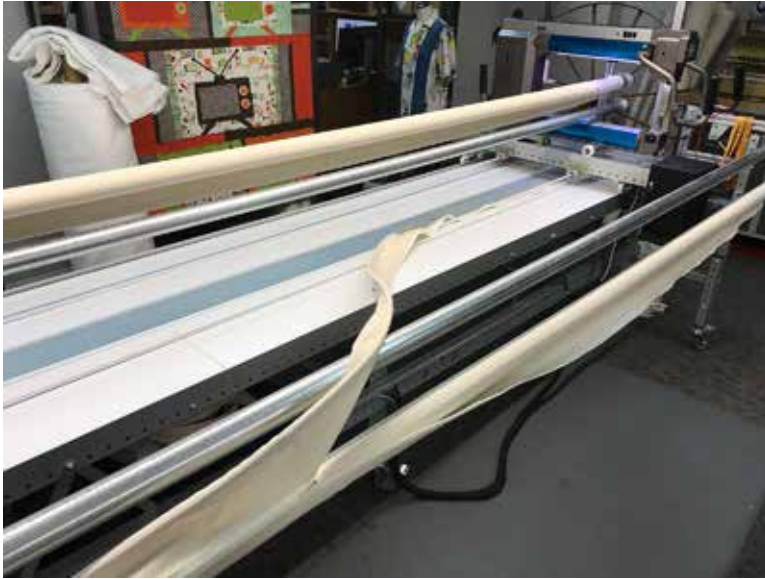


Loading a Quilt on the Innova Longarm in Ten Minutes

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Unzip the extension piece from the front of the machine. We only use two rails, so we use the lower one for the bottom edge of our backing. If you use three, unzip the backing leader. Lay it straight back on the table with the Red Snapper toward the back of the machine and the zipper toward the front..

Fold the backing to find the center point of the top and bottom edge of the quilt. Cut a small notch. If you need to remove the basted or partially quilted quilt from your machine, the notch makes it easy to line it up perfectly when you reload it.



With the right side of the backing toward the floor, let the quilt backing drape off the back of the table. We're loading the bottom edge of the backing to this leader extension. The top edge of the backing is on the floor near your feet. Match the notch to the center marking of the leader, lining up the edge of the backing with the seam line that makes up the casing for the Red Snapper rod.



Push a 2" piece of Red Snapper onto the center point, pinching the fabric onto the rod in the casing. Place another at the far left side of the backing, being sure not to stretch or distort the backing. Again, keep the edge of the backing even with the stitch line on the casing.

Beginning on the right hand side, use a long Red Snapper to secure the backing to the leader extension. As you get to the center and left 2" pieces, replace them with the longer Snapper. If the Red Snappers are stiff and tight, lift the end up perpendicular with the leader - it "opens" the Snapper up, making it easier to put in place.



This is how the bottom edge of the backing should look when you are done. Try not to use short Snapper pieces on either end - the don't hold as tightly as the longer ones.

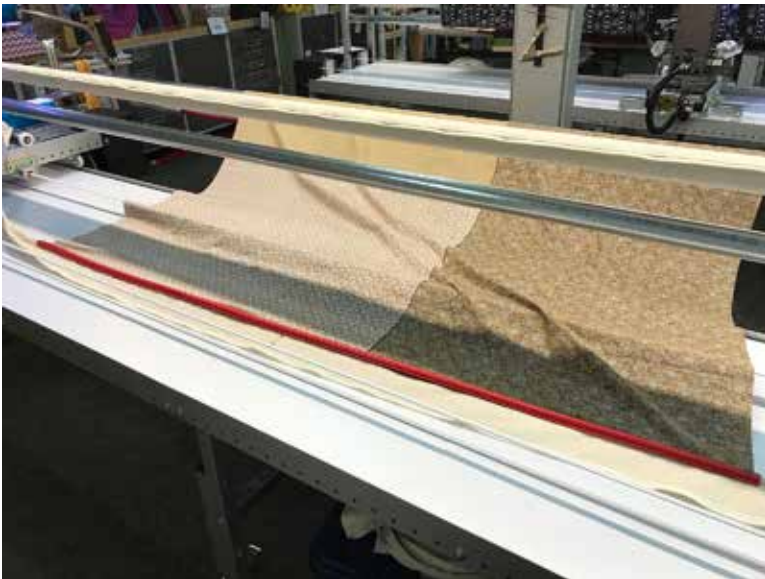


Take the leader extension over the belly bar and zip it back in place on the leader. Roll the backing onto the leader/bar, leaving the top edge of the backing laying on the table.

Working from the back of the machine, unzip the take-up leader extension, laying it down on the table with the Red Snapper rod toward the front of the machine.

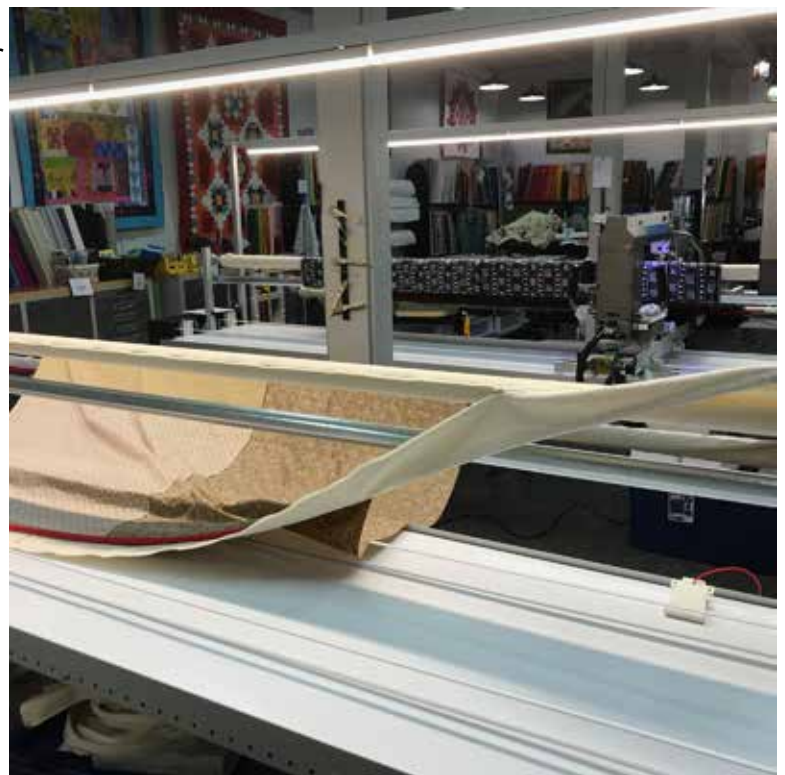


Match the notch in the top edge of the backing with the center mark on the leader extension, lining the edge of the top up to the stitch line of the casing holding the Red Snapper rod.



Push a 2" piece of Red Snapper onto the center point, pinching the fabric onto the rod in the casing. Place another at the far left side of the top, being sure not to stretch or distort the backing. Again, keep the edge of the backing even with the stitch line on the casing. Replace the short pieces with long Snappers, working from the right to the left.

Zip the extension back onto the take up bar, going under the stationary roller directly under the take up bar.



Roll the quilt back and forth between the two backing bars until it is flat and square. If there are any folds or wrinkles, spritz them with a bottle filled with water and 1 tablespoon of lightly or non scented Wrinkle Release by Downy. This dries quickly, and combined with a little tension will remove even the toughest folds and wrinkles



Roll the quilt backing so the top Red Snapper is just in front of the stationary roller. Don't over tighten the backing - have just a slight amount of drape. If you pop the fabric out of the Red Snappers, you are using far too much tension. Lay the batting, then quilt top onto the backing an inch or two below the top Red Snapper.

Set the machine to baste every .5-1". Set a horizontal channel lock if you want to keep the top edge of the top straight. Begin basting after securing the threads in the upper left corner. Travel to the upper right, pushing any fullness opposite the direction you are traveling. This prevents you from distorting the quilt. Baste less than 1/4" away from the quilt edge. This basting is left in the quilt and will help the maker bind the edges.

Hint: If you are using a high loft batting and will be stitching off the edge of the quilt top, baste in a zig zag fashion with one stitch on the top, the next off the edge. This will prevent the foot from catching the top's edges.





As you come to the right corner, stitch straight off the right side of the quilt, then put another stitch in the corner of the top, then reverse and stitch above the right corner, then back onto the top. This anchors down the corner and prevents it from getting pulled up, folded over and stitched. Continue basting down the right side of the top, pushing any fullness behind the needle.



As you come down toward the belly bar, take a stitch off the right side, then travel left across the quilt. Repeat this on the left side, then travel up the left side to the upper left corner.

Note: Do not use side clamps while basting. They will distort the quilt and will create a bubble in the top at the edges.



Roll the quilt so the horizontal basting line is a few inches from the stationary roller. Do not be concerned that there is a bit of fullness above the basting line. This is caused by compression of the fabric as it goes around the stationary roller.

Lift the top and batting and check for any wrinkles, tucks, or threads that might shadow through. Smooth the batting, then the top back in place.

Starting at the left side of the horizontal basting line, stitch down the left side of the quilt, across the belly bar (horizontally), then up the right side to the previous basting. Continue this for the rest of the quilt.

Note: You'll be removing the horizontal basting lines prior to quilting over them, making sure you pull up the bobbin thread so no thread hangs on the back of the quilt.



We make our final horizontal basting line 8-12 inches above the bottom edge of the quilt top. Trim any excess batting. Roll the quilt back so you're at the top edge, tucking the batting and bottom edge of the top around the backing bar. You'll baste the bottom edge of the quilt top as you quilt near it. This prevents the top from bubbling along the bottom edge of the quilt.



Roll back to the top (make sure the Red Snapper is in front of the stationary bar and start quilting! Or start anywhere on the quilt!

NOW you can attach the side clamps.

Avoid having the Red Snappers directly under the stationary bar against the throat of the machine. Again, remove any horizontal basting in the quilt center prior to stitching over it.

We can load a quilt in 10 minutes, and don't hesitate to turn a quilt to do the side borders.