



Week Three



Patchwork and Quilting

Are you a patcher or a quilter? This craft has been in vogue for many years and projects make wonderful heirlooms. This week we look at how to solve common problems experience by patchwork and quilt workers.

My quilt has wavy edges, and/or is not square - what can I do to avoid this problem?

Cut accurately: If the pieces you are joining together are not cut accurately, you are going to have difficulty getting them to line up and join precisely. This will be particularly noticeable at corners and points where different pieces meet.

How to Cut Straight Strips in Quilting:

<https://youtu.be/XznVKhBMqSc>

Check machine tension: Before you begin sewing your quilt pieces together, sew two scrap pieces together to check your machine tension. Check that the stitches are not puckering, that stitches on both sides are even and flat. Adjust tension if necessary. You may find this link useful:

<https://suzyquilts.com/how-to-troubleshoot-sewing-machine-tension/>

Pin:

You need to pin carefully before you sew at all stages of the patchwork and quilting process. This helps to ensure that the top and bottom pieces of fabric feed through your machine at the same rate, with even pressure, rather than one or other being stretched.

Sew slowly:

You may need to adjust the speed on your sewing machine so that you can sew slowly and accurately. If you are a beginner and need help to sew straight seams, try this link:

<https://www.instructables.com/class/Machine-Sewing-Class/>



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Press, don't iron:

Throughout the process of making your quilt, you should be pressing your seams – but do this gently. Ironing with a lot of pressure, pushing the seam open with the tip of the iron, stretches the seam, causing distortion, which may result in wavy edges.

Block your quilt:

Blocking your quilt is the process of manipulating the quilt back into a square, flat shape after quilting. Many times during the quilting process, a quilt will become wrinkled and slightly wonky, or out of square. The process of blocking will return the quilt to a perfectly square shape and ensure the quilt rests on a bed or hangs on a wall beautifully.

Here is a link showing you how it is done:

<https://leahday.com/pages/how-to-block-a-quilt>



Quilts in the 2019 CWA of VIC State Exhibition – photo by Ron Fleming



Quilt by Anne Powell in the 2018 CWA of VIC State Exhibition – Photo by Heather Scott