

# Quilting Terms

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## SEW-lutions Guidelines

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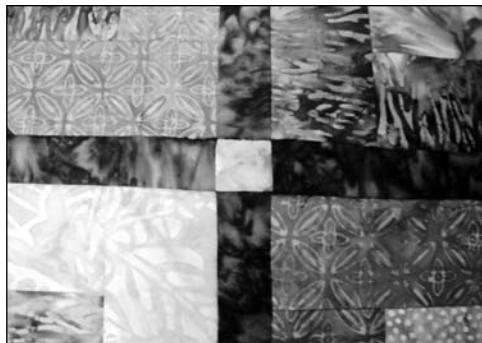
You may be familiar with many standard quilting terms, but some are a bit more elusive. If you're trying to follow a pattern sheet, it's helpful to understand the specialized vocabulary.

### Bearding

The migration of batting fibers through the weave of the fabric to create a fuzzy looking quilt surface. This happens often in the case of lesser quality quilting fabrics with fewer threads per inch than higher quality fabrics. It's also very evident when white batting is used under a dark color quilt surface. To help prevent bearding in the latter instance, use a black batting under dark colors. Using too large of a needle for quilting can also enable bearding as the batting fibers come through the larger hole left in the quilted surface.

### Cornerstones

Small contrasting squares inserted at the junction of four quilt blocks within the sashing (see below). The term can also refer to squares inserted at the upper and lower corners of a quilt border. Adjoining seams should align.

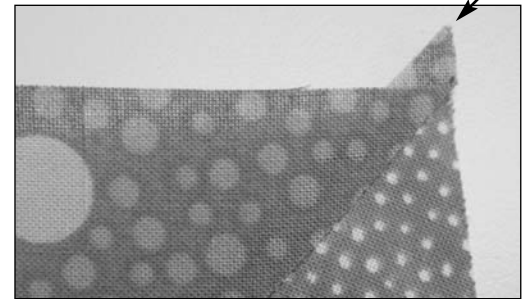


### Diagonal Set

Joining quilt blocks on an angle instead of side by side horizontally or vertically, which is referred to as a "straight set." The term diagonal set is often referred to as "on point."

### Dog Ears

When joining angled pieces, there's often an extension of fabric seam allowances sticking out beyond the edge of the finished shape. Referred to by this term, dog ears can be trimmed before joining pieces. On some templates the dog ears are pre-trimmed to avoid clipping and making alignment of the pieces easier.

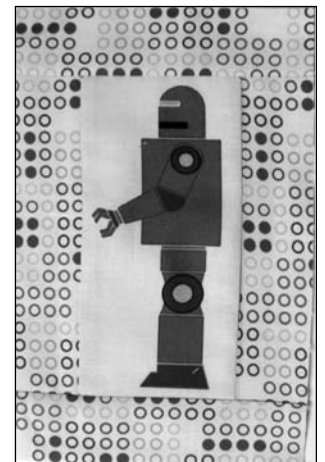


### Finger Pressing

Most quilting seams are pressed with an iron to set them in one direction. Occasionally some fabrics don't respond well to the heat of an iron due to their fragility or napped surface. In these instances, the seams can be pressed in the proper direction using pressure from the fingers. Using a wooden pressing stick is sometimes referred to as finger pressing to differentiate it from iron pressing.

### Fussy Cutting

On fabrics with a distinct printed motif, quilt blocks can be cut to showcase the motif. For example, you may want to position a flower or character in the center of each block. Fussy cutting blocks can take more fabric because of wasted space between motifs.



### Greige Goods (pronounced "gray")

Most fabric prints are applied to a solid color "raw" base fabric referred to as greige goods. Fabric companies may have several kinds of greige goods (flannel, corduroy, jersey, etc.) to use with the same print, and they may also have different qualities of greige goods differentiated by thread counts (the number of threads in a square inch). A single fabric company may print on multiple qualities of greige goods for different types of stores (independent quilt shops vs. chains vs. discount stores).

### Needle Turning

An appliqué technique in which the tip of the needle is used to turn under the raw edge of the appliqué shape. Needle turning is done as you attach the appliqué piece to the base cloth with hand stitching. The converse of needle turning would be to press under an appliqué edge before applying it.

### Sashing

When joining quilt blocks, often a strip of fabric is placed between them horizontally and/or vertically to add a degree of visual separation; this is called a sashing strip. Sashing is narrower than the block width and/or height and acts as a spacer.



*Vertical Sashing*



*Vertical & Horizontal Sashing*

### Sub-cutting

Cutting a larger piece of fabric into multiple smaller pieces. For example, a crossgrain strip may be cut into squares or rectangle pursuant to the quilt pattern assembly. It's easier to make a single crosswise cut from selvage to selvage before cutting smaller pieces of the same height. A pattern may read, "Cut two 2 1/2" x width-of-fabric strips. Sub-cut into twelve 2 1/2" x 6 1/2" rectangles." Sub-cutting can also refer to cutting previously pieced strips or shapes into new sizes for reassembly.

### Trapunto

A quilt motif stuffed from the underside to create a raised area on part or all of a motif. For example, a quilted rose may be stuffed, but the surrounding leaves not. Trapunto is accomplished by cutting a small slit in the batting or fabric underlayer only, and poking in extra stuffing with a narrow tool like a chopstick. The opening is then hand sewn closed to keep the stuffing in place.

### WOF

This acronym stands for width of fabric. You'll see it used often in cutting instructions, as a pattern may say "Cut a 2 1/2" x WOF strip." The usable width of most quilting cottons from selvage to selvage is about 42", though there are some wide styles at 54" to 60" and extra-wide at 104" to 110". The latter two widths are often used for quilt backings to avoid seaming. Strips cut WOF are often re-cut into smaller parts (see "sub-cutting" above).