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with Baby Lock



Kiss Your Stash Goodbye Thread Choices for Quilters

Choosing the right thread for quilting is just as important as selecting the right fabric and pattern. Follow Denise as she demystifies thread choices and helps you get set up for success.

No matter what thread you choose, there are some things that are always going to apply.

1. You want a good quality thread
2. Long Staple threads are created with longer fibers and are always the better choice
3. Always start a new project with a new needle that is the correct size for your thread

Denise talks about the weight of various threads, so it is helpful to understand what those weight numbers mean.

1. Threads are sized with the same kind of system used to size wire.
2. There is a defined hole and the weight of a thread is the number of strands of that thread that would fit in the hole
 - 50 strands of a 50wt thread would fit in the hole
 - 100 strands of 100wt silk thread would fit in that same hole
 - A lower number is a thicker thread
 - A higher number is a thinner thread

There are a lot of threads that work well for quilting, so to select the best thread for a project, ask yourself three questions.

1. Do you want to see the piecing on the finished quilt?
2. Do you want to see the quilting stitches on the finished quilt?
 - Use a bright colored thread on a light background and you will see the stitching
 - The same thread on a print fabric may not be as visible
3. Do you want to see the quilting?
 - Use a tone on tone thread on a light background and you will see the texture of the quilting
 - That same thread on a print would be less visible so the piecing would still be easy to see
4. Thread can be auditioned on the quilt top by “puddling”



- Pull some thread off the spool and drop it on the surface of the quilt to get an idea how it will look when you stitch with that thread
5. There are a lot of threads that are designed for quilting that will give you great results
 - These threads will work well for you no matter which type of machine you use for quilting including home sewing machines, sit down long arm machine like the Tiara or long arm machines on a quilt frame.
 6. Denise shows some of the threads are her go-to choices for quilting.

Variegated Thread

1. Variegated thread is dyed so it changes color as you sew.
2. Keep in mind that variegated thread is more forgiving because the eye tends to focus on the changing color instead of how smooth those curves are.
3. If you are new to quilting, variegated threads are not only beautiful, they also improve the overall look.

Madeira Monofilament thread

1. When this thread is unwound from the spool, it is difficult to see and all you may see is a little shine.
2. This thread will be invisible so you will not see the stitching when quilting with it.
3. Monofilament thread is available in Clear and Smoke
 - Use the clear for light or white fabrics.
 - Use the smoke for medium or dark colored fabrics
4. Madeira Monofilament is available in either 40wt or 60wt, and is a very light thread in either weight
5. Monofilament should be used either in the needle or in the bobbin
 - You will not want to use this thread in both needle and bobbin
6. In most cases, you will want the monofilament in the needle
7. Use a lighter weight thread in the bobbin when you use monofilament in the needle
8. In addition to using monofilament for quilting, you may also find you like using it when you sew your binding by machine



Madeira Cotona

1. Cotona is a nice lightweight thread
2. Cotona is an ideal thread for piecing because it sinks into the fabric and creates fine seams that press well.
3. Denise often uses the 50wt Cotona in the bobbin when quilting

**Madeira Aeroquilt****Premium Polyester Quilting Thread**

1. Get the look and feel of fine cotton with the strength of polyester.
2. Aeroquilt 40wt polyester thread is engineered for high-speed longarm quilting machines to reduce breakage, but works on standard machines, too.
3. One other advantage of using this polyester thread is that it is a low lint thread
4. This thread has a matte finish so it looks like a cotton thread
5. Available in a wide assortment of vibrant colors in both solids and variegated colors on long-lasting 3,000 yd. cones.
6. You may want to try using the 40wt Aeroquilt in the needle and 50wt Cotona in the bobbin

**Madeira Metallic Thread**

1. Can you use metallic thread to quilt?
2. The metallic threads we have now are better engineered than those you may have used in the past and yes, they can be used to add sparkle to your quilting
 - Madeira metallic threads can be used in both long arm machines on a frame and sit-down long arm machines.
3. If you are using a home machine, you will want to use a Metallic or an Embroidery needle
4. Madeira metallic threads are available in both solid colors and variegated colors



Some threads are not good choices for quilting

1. Save your serger thread for the serger.



- It is a different type and weight than your quilting thread and there are better choices for quilting
2. Heavy threads that you might use in the loopers of your serger for creating decorative edge finishes are not going to fit in the eye of the needle for quilting
 3. Finishing Touch Bobbin Thread
 - This is a perfect choice to be used in the bobbin when you are embroidering so save it for your embroidery machine
 4. Polyester Quilting Thread
 - This has a beautiful sheen and could be used to add a decorative touch to your quilting
 - But if you have a polyester quilting thread, that would really be a better choice
 5. Machine Embroidery Thread on large cones designed for multi-needle embroidery machines
 - Can be used for decorative accents on your quilting
 - It is not as strong as a quilting thread and would not be a good choice to quilt your whole project
 - If you would not use it to sew the seam for the seat of your pants, it is probably not a good choice for most of your quilting

