

# QUILTERS' GUILD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc

## FESTIVAL OF QUILTS

### PREPARING A QUILT FOR EXHIBITION

#### A HANGING SLEEVE FOR QUILTS

For Quilters' Guild of SA Inc. exhibitions, a hanging sleeve of at least **8cm finished is required**. This is necessary to accommodate, without forcing, the diameter of the hanging rods. This means using strips of fabric **18-20cm** wide and equal to the width of the top edge of the quilt. It is also recommended that this be planned when calculating the amount of fabric required for the back of a quilt so that the sleeve will match and not affect the appearance of the quilt.

#### **A: Sew on a sleeve before binding the quilt**

A hanging sleeve can be sewn to the top of the quilt at the same time that the binding is attached.

When the quilt is quilted, square up and trim.

Cut sleeve fabric to make a strip 18-20cms wide and the same width as the quilt.

Fold under short edges 1/4" (6mm), wrong sides together. Press and sew a straight or zigzag seam to hem the ends.

Fold the strip lengthwise, wrong sides together, aligning raw edges.

Centre the folded strip along the top edge of the quilt, against the backing, aligning its matched raw edges with the edge of the quilt. Pin in place.

Add binding and stitch in place through all layers.

Smooth the sleeve downward along the quilt back, then make a 1/2" (12mm) fold along its length to create a pleat. Leaving the pleat intact, pin the lower edge of the sleeve to the quilt.

Whipstitch the lower edge of the sleeve to the quilt stitching through to the batting occasionally.

Whipstitch the back of the side edges of the sleeve tube to the quilt so that hanging poles can be cleanly inserted.

#### **B: Sew on a sleeve after binding the quilt**

Cut or piece together fabric to make a strip 18-20cms wide and the same width as the quilt.

Fold under short edges 1/4" (6mm), wrong sides together. Press and sew a straight or zigzag seam to hem the ends.

Now fold the strip lengthwise, wrong sides together, aligning its raw edges. Sew together with a 1/2" (12mm) seam allowance. Press the seam allowance open.

Place the open seam against the quilt's back. Centre and pin the top edge of the tube to the back of the quilt, about 1/2" (12mm) below the binding.

Use a whipstitch to sew the top edge of the tube to the quilt backing at the stitched edge of the binding. Stitch into the batting occasionally to help strengthen the seam.

Smooth the sleeve downward along the quilt back, then make a 1/2" (12mm) upwards fold along its length to create a pleat (about up to the top edge of the binding). Leaving the pleat intact, pin the lower edge of the sleeve to the quilt.

Whipstitch the lower edge of the sleeve to the quilt. Whipstitch the back, side edges of the sleeve to the quilt. Leave the front sides unsewn to allow for rod insertion.

**Please note:** Split hanging sleeves must not be used. It is more difficult to slide the hanging rods into such a sleeve, and accidental damage to the quilt could result.

## **SMALL QUILTS**

If preferred, for small quilts, appropriate lengths of the hook section of Velcro may be sewn onto each back corner of the quilt. Self-adhesive Velcro is not suitable as it may become loose and be lost. The Velcro does not have to be sewn right across the quilt. This method avoids the use of pins, which may damage the quilt.

## **CLOTH BAGS FOR QUILTS**

### **FABRIC AND SIZE**

Please find or make a bag that comfortably accommodates the quilt. It should fit into easily with room around all sides and that totally encloses the quilt (ie zippered fastening).

Fabric for the bag should be sturdy – calico, pre-quilted cottons, furnishing fabrics, *preferably in plain colours*. which are more easily identified by the handlers, as the identification numbers show up well.

### **CLOSURES AND HANDLES**

Zip closures and Velcro are excellent.

Drawstrings are quite adequate, providing they operate efficiently. Buttons, etc., are neither preferred nor advised – they can break or pull off.

Handles – keep them simple and not too long! Webbing is excellent.

### **NO CARDBOARD TUBING**

Many entrants like to use tubing to store their rolled quilts as well as for delivery and transportation. **THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE FROM AN ORGANISATIONAL VIEWPOINT.** Quilts are folded for judging and handling purposes.

### **BAG LABEL**

Make sure the bag is well labelled with name, address, quilt name **and** entry number written on the front.

### **FOLDING QUILTS TO FIT INTO THE BAG**

When quilts are removed from their bags for hanging, some may display unsightly folds and creases. These may disappear after a day's hanging but this might not be before the judges get to see it! Some quilts, unfortunately retain their creases for the entire duration of the show. In order to minimize creasing, *fold quilts with the first and second folds horizontally, and then subsequent folds vertically*. In this way, the weight of the quilt should assist the most obvious creases to fall out. It may also help to fold the quilt with the right side outwards, so that the sharpest crease is on the back.

## DELICATE QUILTS

Whilst every care is taken with the handling of quilts, please be aware that quilts will be folded and stacked on judging day in accordance with correct judging procedure. **Special handling or folding requests cannot be accommodated.**

PILLOW CASES ARE NOT TO BE USED. They do not have proper closures and they may present a health hazard

## QUILT LABELS

Quilt labels are necessary for immediate identification purposes and for provenance. A simple label including name, quilt title and date is adequate and should be located in the bottom left hand corner of the quilt back.

Personal messages, more information and embellishments such as embroidery, appliqué, beading can also be included. Care instructions should also be included.

Please stitch or pin a neat fabric square/rectangle onto the top and bottom edges of the label to form a cover. During judging, labels need to be covered for anonymity and judges' impartiality.

Please pin a small calico square with your entry number clearly written on it in the middle of the calico square covering your quilt label. You may choose to write this entry number directly onto your large calico square, but please add the number before pinning to avoid permanent marker accidents! We can then quickly verify the owner/maker of the quilt during processing.

Any names or signatures appearing on the front of a quilt may also be covered.

## QUILT VALUATIONS

The Festival of Quilts Committee recommends that quilts are valued before entering the exhibition. If a quilt wins a major prize or is selected to travel interstate it must be valued.

The Valuation Panel meets on the Friday immediately after monthly Guild meetings. Make sure to book quilts well in advance of valuation day as application forms must be submitted prior to valuation day.

A fee of \$20.00 members, \$30.00 for affiliated members or affiliated groups and \$50.00 for non-members applies.

A valuation certificate authenticates the value of a quilt for insurance needs. QGSA Inc. asks for the value of quilt entries for insurance purposes during the exhibition. *Please note that we can only cover up to \$10,000 per item. Any amount above this should be covered by a personal insurance policy.*

For application forms and general enquiries, please contact

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