

## PREPARING A QUILT FOR EXHIBITION

### A HANGING SLEEVE FOR QUILTS

For Quilters' Guild of SA Inc. exhibitions, a hanging sleeve of at least **3¼" (8cm) finished** is required. This is necessary to accommodate, without forcing, the diameter of the hanging rods. This means using strips of fabric **7-8" (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 7-8" (18-20cms) wide and the same width as the quilt.

Fold under short edges ¼" (6mm), wrong sides together. Press and sew a straight or zigzag seam to hem the ends. Fold the strip lengthwise, wrong sides together, aligning the raw edges.

Centre the folded strip along the top edge of the quilt, against the backing, aligning the 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 ½" (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 7-8" (18-20cms) wide and the same width as the quilt.

Fold under short edges ¼" (6mm), wrong sides together. Press and sew a straight or zigzag seam to hem the ends.

Fold the strip lengthwise, wrong sides together, aligning the raw edges. Sew together with a ½" (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 ½" (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 ½" (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.

### CLOTH BAGS FOR QUILTS

#### Fabric and Size

Please find or make a bag that comfortably accommodates the quilt. There should be room around all sides and the bag should totally enclose 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 closures. Buttons, toggles and similar fasteners should not be used – they can break or pull off.

All bags should have handles for ease of carrying, but keep them simple and not too long. Webbing is excellent material. Drawstrings are quite adequate *as a closure*, providing they operate efficiently, but are not suitable as handles.

The quilt bags which can be purchased from the Guild, either at monthly meetings or through the Guild website, are an excellent option, and are recommended for Festival entries.

### **No Cardboard Tubing**

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

### **Bag Label**

Make sure the bag is well labelled with name, address, quilt name **and** entry number clearly visible 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. Care instructions should also be included. Personal messages, further information and embellishments such as embroidery, appliqué or beading can 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 to ensure 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! The owner/maker of the quilt can then be quickly verified during processing.

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

## QUILT APPRAISALS

As part of the entry process, the value of a quilt is required information 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.

The Festival of Quilts Committee recommends that quilts are appraised before entering the exhibition. An appraisal certificate authenticates the value of a quilt for insurance purposes. If a quilt wins a major prize or is selected to travel interstate it must be appraised.

The Appraisal Panel meets on the Friday immediately after monthly Guild meetings in February, April, June, August, October and December. Make sure to book quilts well in advance of appraisal day as application forms must be submitted two weeks prior to the day.

A fee of \$20.00 for members or \$30.00 for affiliated members or affiliated groups applies.

For application forms and general enquiries, please contact

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