

Lesson 1

Getting Started



The Quiltmaker, Henry Tozer

A quilt is a warm bed covering made of three layers: top, batting, and backing. The top was often made of pieces of cloth left over from making clothing or cut from old, worn-out clothes. As settlers moved west, they cleared the land, built new homes, and established small towns. They brought many quilts with them because they knew the winters would be very cold. Quilts were also used to protect the family's valuables from breaking during the bumpy wagon ride west. They were used as cushions and beds for the tired travelers.

Before embarking on your first quilting adventure, spend some time becoming familiar with your sewing machine. Thread and unthread your machine a few times, and practice taking your needle in and out. Below is an opportunity to practice a few skills that will help you succeed. If you are already comfortable with your machine and can sew a straight $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam, you are ready for lesson 2. So, let's get started!



1. Your first exercise will be to practice sewing without thread. This is a great way to learn to steer and control your fabric.
2. Copy the patterns on page 27. Then feed the paper through the machine as you would fabric.
3. Practice until you can stay on the lines.

Tying Your Quilt



1. Choose a needle with a large eye and embroidery floss in a color you like.
2. Thread your needle with all six strands of the embroidery floss.

3. In the center of one quilt block, insert the needle from the top of the quilt through all layers. Pull until a 6-inch thread tail remains. Bring the needle back up again, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch away.



4. Tie a square knot.



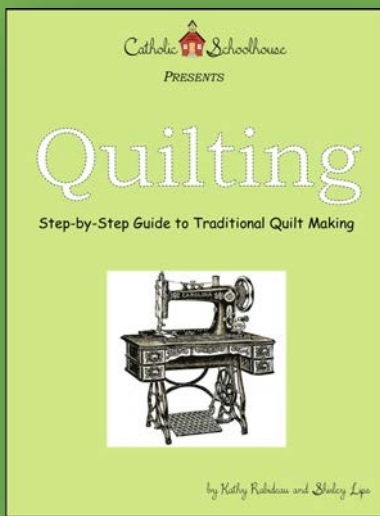
5. Trim the ends about 1 inch long.

6. Continue adding ties until every block has a tie in the center and the corners where four blocks meet.



Daughter, Kathy Rabideau, and Mother, Shirley Lips, have been quilting together Kathy's entire life!

Shirley brings her experience as a teacher, pattern designer, and author to Catholic Schoolhouse. They both desire to share their love of quilting with you!



Catholic Schoolhouse Quilting will take the mystery out of quilting and make it enjoyable for young and old alike. If you've always wanted to teach your children to quilt, this is the book for you!

"You will love the way this book immerses your family in a hands-on experience with American History!" —*Kristen*

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