

Free-Motion for Today's Quilters – Adele Scott - Products & Tips Outline

Questions? asds@adelescott.com [click on blue words for more info]

Prep: Wash? [if not, quilt more closely] versus not wash? [then use *Color Catchers* when quilt is finally washed]

Batting – Be familiar with your batting's characteristics. [Know Your Battings Book](#) Make sure it's had a chance to relax/ or is pressed flat. Use a press sheet like the [Bo-Nash ironing mat](#) It allows steam to pass through. Helps with all fabrics, fusibles and stabilizers. No scorching or sticking to batting. One of our all-time favorites!

Basting options, if needed – steam press, basting sprays, fusible batting, make your own with [Free Fuse Powder](#) from Quilter's Select - Creating a semi-permanent bond between most fabrics and battings, this sprinkle-on powder is needle friendly and easy to use.

Supplies for free-motion set-up in general and highly recommended for beginners for the best results:

- Good machine - [it's always better to use your best machine if possible; having needle stop down, speed control and larger bed space can help] Speed control is your “stitch regulator”.
- Good lighting – for your machine [[ViVilux](#)] or *Ott-lite*, natural lighting
- Free-motion feet – open toe, closed toe, echo foot, [Ruler Foot info](#)
- straight-stitch needle plate [optional] but really helps - purchase from your machine dealer].
- 90/14 Topstitch needles [try [Schmetz Chrome topstitch needle 90/14](#), always start with a new needle in your machine]
- Plexi-glass quilters table – [Sew Steady Table Options](#) many options now available
- “slider” sheet [try a [Sew Steady Grid Glider](#) has a 19” x 12” for a great price]
- All-purpose polyester thread or 50w cotton good for beginners – have several colors & types to test, not too dark. Thread must feed smoothly! [[Thread Stand Options](#)]
- “grippy” fingertips like [Needle Pullers](#) , [Swan Amity Quilting Gloves](#) , or *Grabaroos*
- [Crosshair Marking Tools](#) - 5, 6 and 8-point plus mini versions. 2 sizes, a time saving way to square blocks, find centers, diagonals or “compass”, points without continuously moving the ruler when marking. Very accurate! And line markers - [Basic Marking tool options](#) for the most accurate lines, grids and placement marks.

- Fabric markers that will show on your choice of fabric colors & remove easily.

[Quilters Select Self Erase Marker](#) – has a built-in eraser, doesn't heat set, last for 1-7 days

[Marvy](#) Air Erasable Marker - Disappears in a few days, doesn't heat set.

[Frixion Fineliner colors available](#) – Like other Frixions, it “becomes invisible” with heat but this felt-tip marker is so much smoother to mark with.

Chalk markers like the [Chakoner](#) [a Japanese Tailoring tool], we refill with [Ultimate Iron Off Chalk](#) using the handy [spout bottle](#)

Important – Your elbows need to be above the machine surface/ table when at rest. A cushion to sit on will bring you to a better height or an adjustable height chair.

- Your surrounding needs to be clear of items, fabric supported as much as possible and a slippery surface – you & the table helps.

Quilting with Rulers: The ruler thickness needs to match with machine.

Westalee Free-motion Quilting Rulers [Westalee Catalog Links](#) - fun, easy and professional looking. Hundreds of options for all styles of quilting designs like feathers, border designs, medallions etc.

[Janet Collins Design Book](#)– create dozens of designs using the 6-piece *Westalee Sampler*

[Westalee Creative Quilting Inspirations - Designing with the Cross Hair Square Book](#)– inspirational design ideas for all the *Cross Hair* styles.

[Grippy](#) from Odif or *Westalee's* [Stable Tape](#) to prevent rulers from shifting.

Handling larger quilts:

[Machine Quilting In Sections](#)– *Marti Michel*, many options for handling large quilts

[Baffling Your Quilt Book](#) – *an Auntie's Two* version to help handling with large quilts

[Bo-Nash ironing mat](#)– press batting & batting tape without sticking or melting

Marti Michell [Batting tape Options](#) - joins batting pieces together, less stretchy and wider than most. Comes in two sizes. Use *Bo-Nash Ironing Mat* to press.

[Roxanne's E Z Squeezie Glue Baste It](#) – use to temporarily hold fabric instead of pins for free-motion work, bindings, seams etc. [Many product options now available]

[Sench Needles](#) – spiral eye for easy threading, perfect for burying your thread ends in quilts.