

The Envelope/Pillowcase Method:

1. After ironing your finished Quilt Top and fabric Backing, lay out your batting (optional) on a table large enough for the quilt. Next, spread your Backing "face up" on top of the batting making sure that they are smooth. Finally, place your Quilt Top "face down", again ensuring that all 3 layers are smoothed out.
2. Pin along the edge of the "face down" Quilt Top through all layers. Find a part of the quilt top without seams and "double-pin" a start and stop point of 8-10 inches.
3. At the Start Double-Pin, start sewing about 3/8" away from the Quilt Top edge, make sure to Back-Stitch at both the start and stop points.
4. Trim away the extra Backing and Batting (if there is any) and trim the corners.
5. Turn the Quilt right side out and use your fingers or a pointed tool to push the corners out.
6. Pin the open edge together.

Option 1: hand-sew the pinned open edge together using a slip-stitch.

Option 2: machine sew around the edge of the whole quilt making sure to get close enough to the pinned open edge to close the seam. A serpentine or multi-stitch zig-zag works well.

Quilt Finishing Options:

Option 1: Tying the quilt

Using Crochet Thread (size 3 works well) thread a Crewel needle. Insert needle down through all three quilt layers and then back up through 1/4" away from the initial spot. Do this a second time. Leave a 2" tail. The knot is done by winding the threads together twice one way and tighten and then twice the other and tightening again (aka Surgeon's Knot). Snip the threads so they are no longer than the thickness of your finger.

You'll need to do this at regular intervals based on how close the batting instructions require. The cotton batting I use only requires every 10", but polyester battings require closer.

You can speed this method up by doing a "running" stitch, meaning wait to snip the threads until you've done as many stitches as you can with the length of embroidery floss in your needle.

Option 2: Machine quilting

Using medium sized "curved" quilting safety pins, baste your layers together at intervals that won't interfere with where you plan to sew. I usually pin in the middle of my blocks as I prefer to sew along the seam lines.

You will have to use your machines "Walking Foot" (aka Even Feed Foot) to sew through all 3 layers without significant puckering. You can sew along the block lines with ease if you use a long serpentine or multi-stitch zig-zag stitch.

Sew each row starting with the center rows and work your way out. The hardest part is keeping your 3 layers even so that when you quilt your cross rows there is no pucker or 'Angels Kiss'. This will take practice.