

CUT & SEW PHL

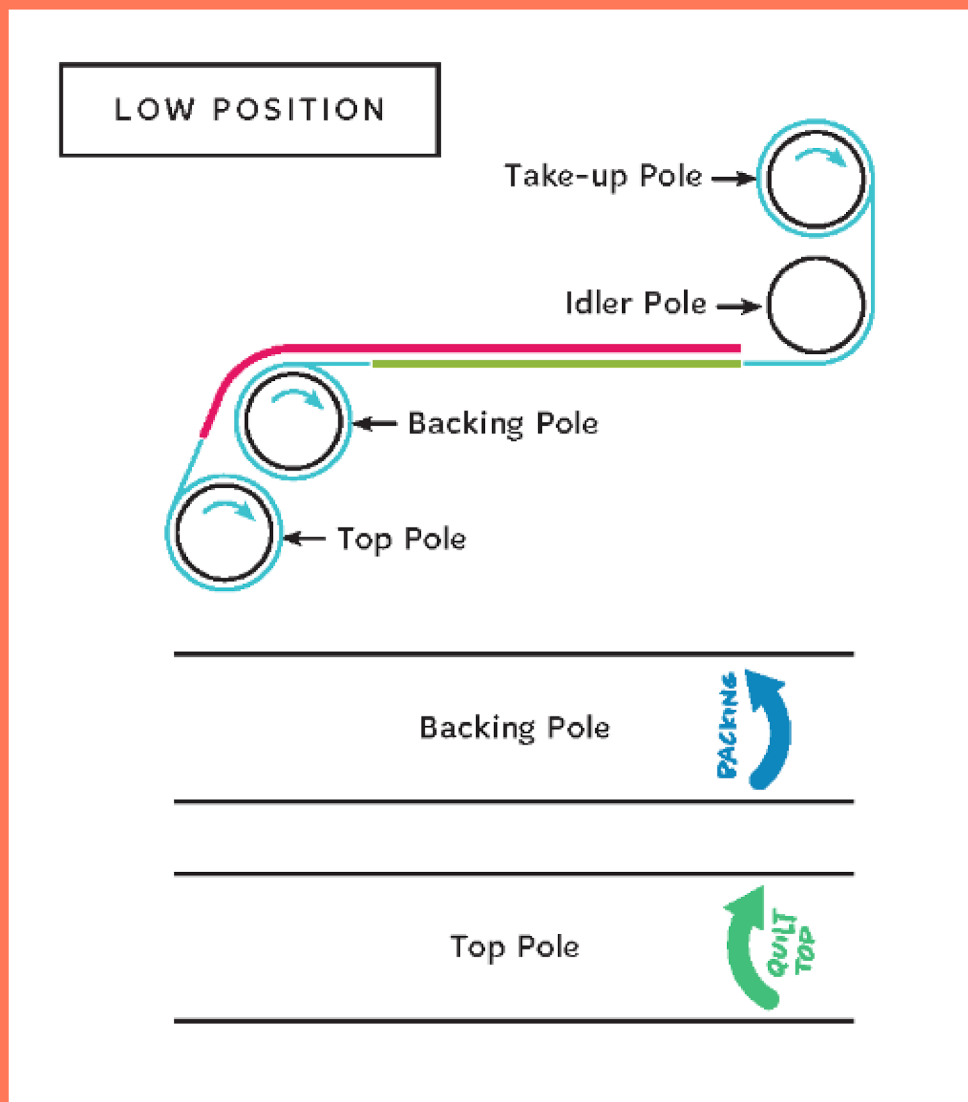


LONGARM HANDBOOK HANDBOOK HANDBOOK HANDBOOK

Before You Begin

- It's important that you load all of your quilt layers on in the same orientation. You may want to mark the top of each piece so it's easy to find when you're at the longarm (backing, batting, and quilt top). It's helpful to put a pin (straight or safety) in the center of the top and the center of the bottom of each piece.
- Your backing should be squared up ahead of time and should be about 8" larger in both dimensions than your quilt top. You can get away with less but it's safer to have the wiggle room, especially when you're learning.

Understanding the Frame



Loading the Frame

1. Load your backing first.
 - a. With wrong side facing up, line up center of top edge with center of top leader.



Two Ways to Pin



LINE UP EDGES



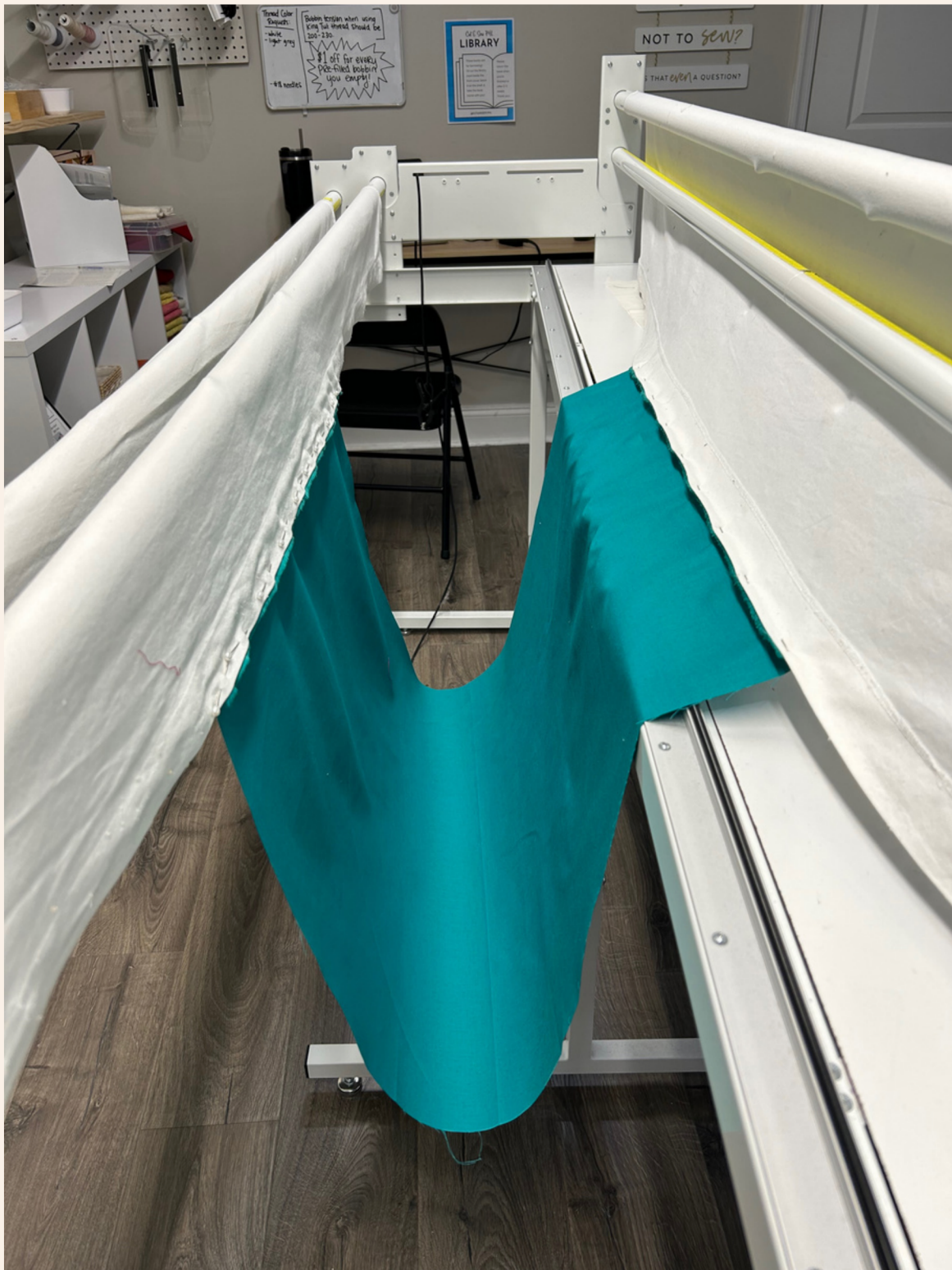
OVERLAP LEADER

b. Pin in place by inserting longarm pins parallel to the edge of the leader about 1/4" from the edge. Start pinning in the middle, then work your way out to one side then the other. Place pins about 1/2" apart. Top edge of backing should be pinned the whole way across the frame.

Make sure the top leader passes under the Idler Pole.

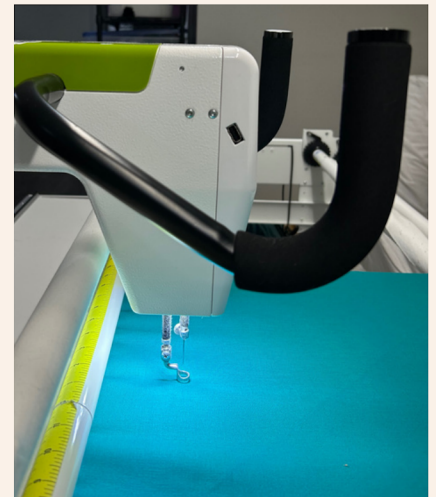
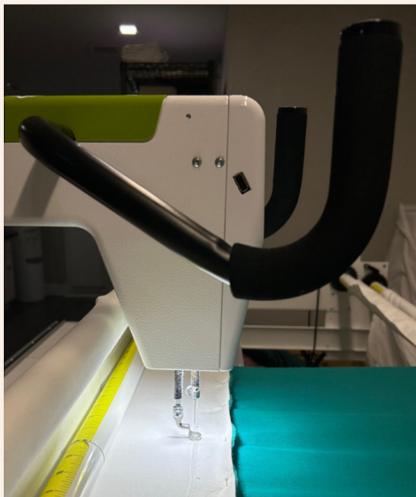
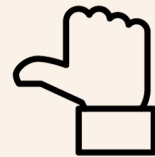


c. Pin the bottom of your backing to the Backing Pole in the same way.



d. Engage ratchet stop on Backing Pole and gently roll the majority of your backing fabric onto the pole, smoothing your fabric & leaders from the middle to each side as you go along.

e. Engage ratchet stop on Take-Up Pole and begin rolling top leader onto pole. Stop when your needle will fall just inside the backing fabric when machine is pushed as far back on the carriage as possible.



Needs to roll more of the top leader onto the Take-Up Pole. Risk of running into pins and stitching the leader by accident.

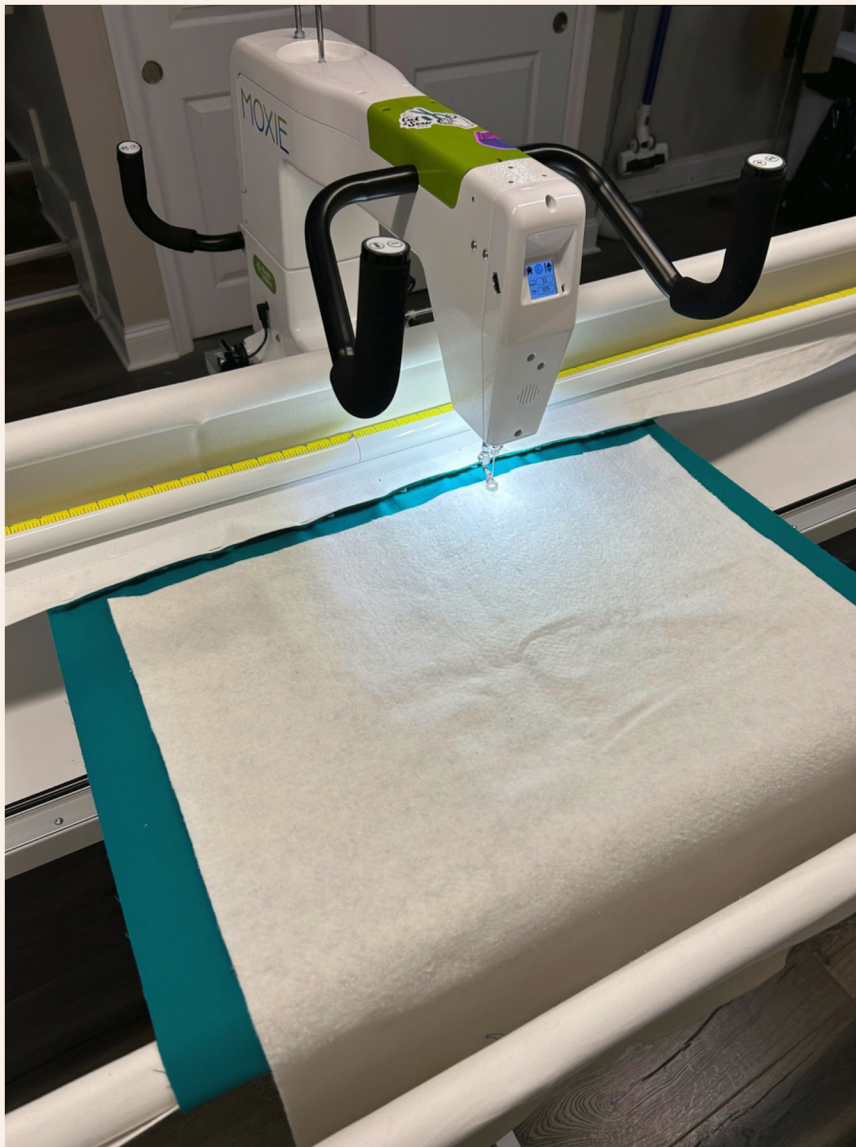
*Just right!
Needle falls just inside the backing fabric without risk of running into pins or wasting too much backing fabric at the top.*

Could roll more fabric onto the Backing Pole so that less backing fabric is wasted at the top.

Some people prefer the fabric to be taut across the frame, others have more success with it being slightly looser (where if you were to stick your finger up from underneath, you'd be able to pinch to your first knuckle with your other hand from above).

2. Load your batting
 - a. Make sure you're loading your batting in the same orientation as your backing fabric!
 - b. Line up center top of batting with the center of the top leader. Place top edge of batting just inside the top edge of your backing fabric.

Bottom of batting will float down over the Backing Pole, unattached to anything else.



3. Load your quilt top
 - a. Make sure you're loading your quilt top in the same orientation as your backing & batting!
 - b. Align center top of quilt top with center of existing layers, lay gently on top.

Two Options



FLOAT THE TOP

Align top of quilt top, then let the bottom fall to the floor.



PIN TO POLE

Align top of quilt top, then pin bottom of quilt top to Quilt Top Pole. Roll quilt top onto pole until top sits flat across batting.

CONGRATS

You've Officially Loaded the Frame!

Now onto threading the machine!