

AMERICAN PIE DESIGNS BY MELANIE PINNEY

... where imagination waits to meet you!

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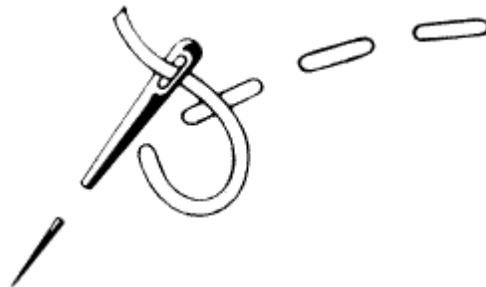
The "Big-Stitch" Quilting Method

I love the big-stitch quilting method because it lends a wonderful texture to my finished quilts, because it is quick and easy, and because it is user-friendly and I became proficient in a very short time. In my opinion, big-stitch quilting makes for a very interesting quilt that is cozy and outstanding!



Quilt by Marianne (D is for Dovey)

How to Big-Stitch: For this method, I always use 100% cotton batting (never wool or polyester). Cotton batting is very stable and lends itself beautifully to this type of hand-quilting. Use a size 5 embroidery needle and #8 or #12 perle cotton thread. Thread your needle with approximately 18" of thread and make a knot at one end. Insert the needle into the quilt top approximately 1" from where you want to begin quilting. Slide your needle between the layers, bringing it up through the top. Gently tug on the thread until the knot is drawn down into the layer of batting (you can use the tip of another needle to gently enlarge the hole where you want the knot to pass). Then, using the "running stitch" illustrated below, stitch through the quilt layers.



Your stitches on top of the quilt should be tiny (approximately 1/8" long or less) and your stitches on the bottom should be approximately 1/4" long. Load no more than two stitches at a time on your needle. In just a few stitches, you should get a good rhythm and consistency. When you near the end of your thread, tie a knot about 1/4" from the quilt top, insert and slide your needle into the batting layer (bringing your needle approximately 1" beyond your last stitch) and tug gently until the knot disappears inside the quilt.

Happy Quilting!