



Standards for Judging Quilts and Quilted Items

As you are judging Quilts and Quilted Items use the following criteria to help you be an objective judge and to avoid letting your personal preferences influence your judging.

Presentation

- Is the quilt pleasing to look at and touch?
- Does it have a special quality that makes it attractive?
- Is the quilt free of loose threads or knots?
- Is it clean?
- Is it free of markings?
- Does it have a label on the back for identification of the maker and the date?

Design and Creativity

- Have the design principles of rhythm and balance been used ?
- Is there good use of lights and darks?
- Does the fabric grain, if noticeable, affect the design in a pleasing way?
- Does the design show unity – is there a balance of variety and uniformity?
- Do the borders, binding, and other finishing parts, enhance the overall appearance?

- Do the colors work well together?
- Is there color accent to give the design movement and interest?
- Are the colors appropriate for the use of the piece?
- Does the backing complement or harmonize with the other colors in the quilt?

- Is the fabric weave and fiber type appropriate for the use?
- Will the materials used withstand the type of cleaning needed to remain useful?
- Do the materials go well together, not only color wise but according to type?

- Does the quilting or tie pattern support the batting enough to keep it from bunching or distorting when the quilt is used or cleaned?
- Does the quilting or tying enhance the design?
- Is the quilting or tying planned so it fits properly in the spaces?
- Does the quilting enrich and add quality to the quilt?



Workmanship

- Do all the points and corners meet precisely in the patchwork?
 - If appliqued, are all the curves smoothly done?
 - Is the applique stitching either a complement to the design or unnoticeable?
 - Are the seams flat and pressed neatly?
 - Are seams free of bumps and bulk?
 - Does the construction seem strong enough to last the life of the quilt?
 - Is the patchwork free of holes or spaces where seams are incomplete?
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- Are the quilting stitches evenly spaced over the whole quilt, both back and front?
 - Are the straight lines straight and the curved lines smooth?
 - If it is tied, is the tie pattern uniform over the entire quilt?
 - If it is tied, are the knots secure?
 - If there are embellishments, such as buttons or lace, are they attached securely, and do they add to the attractiveness?
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- Is the binding free of puckers and ripples?
 - Are the stitches securing the binding neatly done and not very visible?
 - Is the binding even in width and uniformly full of filler?
 - Are the corners of the binding neatly done and square?
 - Does the quilt lie or hang flat and square, without ripples or lumps?

This list of quality standards has been adapted from a score sheet from Washington State University Extension.

The original version was written by Bonnie Lehman for Quilter's Newsletter in 1977.