



How to Calculate Fabric Needs & Piece Wide Backing to Reduce Waste

Non-Directional WIDE Backing Fabric

1. Measure your quilt top Width in inches.

 Width

2. Measure your quilt top Length in inches.

 Length

3. Write your Backing Fabric Width in inches.

 Backing Fabric Width

4. If your quilt will be finished by a longarm machine, you will need to add 10" to your quilt top measurements. For example, if your quilt top is 100" x 100", you will need 110" x 110". This provides plenty of fabric for the machine to grab on to without getting in the way of your quilt top and can also help in the event of uneven or less-than-perfect piecing.

_____ x _____
 Width Needed x Length Needed

a. If Backing Fabric Width is bigger than the Width Needed, simply cut the fabric at Length Needed.

OR b. If Backing Fabric Width is bigger than the Length Needed, simply cut the fabric at Width Needed.

OR c. If Backing Fabric Width is smaller than both the Width Needed & Length Needed, continue below.

5. Determine which is bigger, the Width Needed or the Length Needed.

This will be the measurement of your first cut (Cut 1) from the backing fabric off the bolt and will become the main piece(s) of your backing, Backing Piece 1.

_____ x _____
 Cut 1 x Backing Fabric Width
 (Backing Piece 1)

6. Take the measurement not used in step 4 and subtract the Backing Fabric Width. You will make two cuts from the bolt at this measurement, Cut 2. These cuts will become your last two backing pieces.

_____ - _____ = _____
 _____ Needed - Backing Fabric Width = Cut 2
 _____ x _____
 (2x) Cut 2 x Backing Fabric Width
 (Backing Piece 2 & Backing Piece 3)

7. Take the measurement of Cut 2 and double it, then add Cut 1.

This will equal the total amount of fabric to cut from the bolt. Here at Heartbeat Quilting, we can cut to the inch. If you need To figure out yardage, take this number and divide it by 36.

_____ + _____ + _____ = _____
 Cut 2 + Cut 2 + Cut 1 = Total Fabric Cut (inches)

_____ ÷ 36 = _____
 Total Fabric Cut (inches) ÷ 36 = Total Fabric Cut (yardage minimum)

8. View the following diagram for piecing. Sew Cut and Cut 3 together, then sew those to Cut 1. Your measurements may differ, but the basic layout will be the same.

***There are many tutorials across the world wide internet to teach you how to piece your backing using standard 42" fabric, just remember to account for the extra 10" for your longarm quilter, if it's not already included in the instructions you choose to follow. Here is a recommended [tutorial from Craftsy](#).

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SHORTENED REFERENCE VERSION

Quilt Top = W x L = Width x Length

BFW = Backing Fabric Width

Add 10" = (W+10) x (L+10) = WN x LN = Width Needed x Length Needed

(Bigger of WN vs LN) = Cut 1 = C1

C 1 x BFW = Backing Piece 1 = BP1

(Smaller of WN vs LN) – BFW = Remainder = R

R = C2 & C3 = Cut 2 & Cut 3

Backing Piece 2 & Backing Piece 3 = BP2 & BP3 = R x BFW (each)

Bigger of WN vs LN + R + R = TFC = Total Fabric Cut from Bolt

Cut at (Bigger of WN vs LN), Cut at R, Cut at R

EXAMPLE

W 103 x L 122

BFW = 106

WN 113 x LN 132

LN 132 = C1

LN 132 x BFW 106 = BP1

WN 113 – BFW 106 = 7

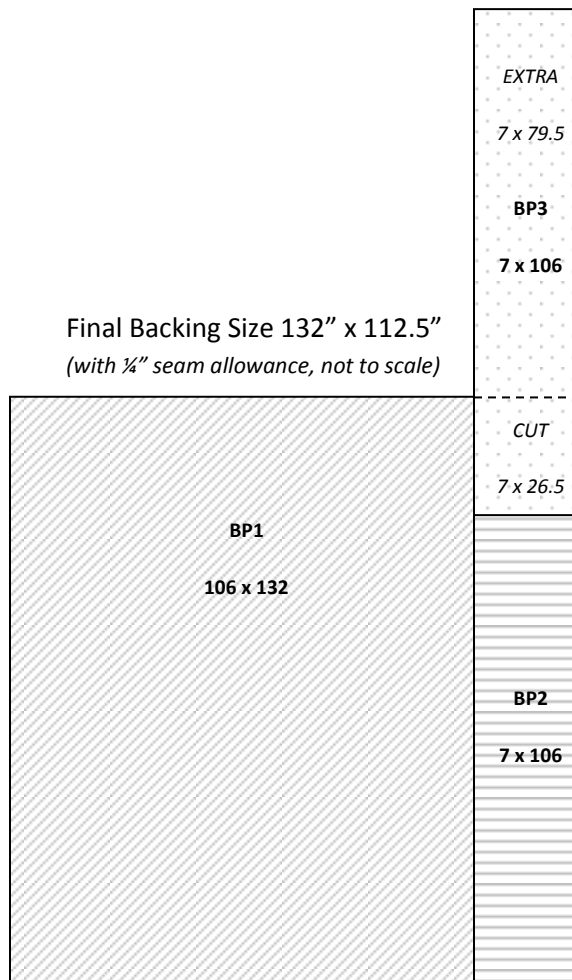
C2 = 7 C3 = 7

BP2 & BP3 = R 7 x BFW 106 (each)

LN 132 + R 7 + R 7 = TFC 146"

Cut at 132" and cut at 7" and cut at 7"

Piece as shown.



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