

# QUILTS BY KRISTY

Winter 2024 Newsletter



Happy New Year, quilters! I hope everyone enjoyed the autumn months and had a peaceful holiday season.

We transitioned from summer and fall baseball to our first-ever hockey season. I'm happy to report that we have had no ER visits (yet)! It's an entirely new sport for our family, and it has been a lot of fun to see our son develop and grow.

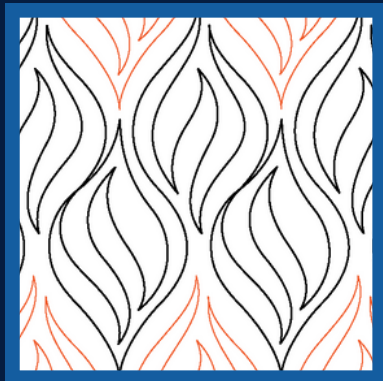
The warmer-than-usual fall months allowed for plenty of outdoor time. I went on bike rides with my dad, hit the local hiking trails with my husband, and spent time roller blading with my son (also happy to report no ER visits for myself either). Halloween was colder than most days had been, but the neighborhood parents layered up and the kids were successful in bringing home a candy haul that we still have yet to finish.

Christmas brought time visiting both sides of our families as well as some quiet time at home. I finished piecing two of my own tops and quilted the backlog of projects that my mom and I made throughout the year. I'm attempting a crochet tutorial, have read a few books, and am working on the housekeeping parts of running a business to prepare for a new year.

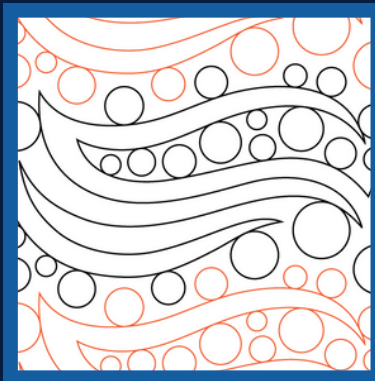
Pretty soon it will be back to work and school for everyone in my house, and my machines will be humming along with client quilts. I look forward to seeing all the new quilts that will pass through my frames in the coming year. Stay warm!

## New Patterns

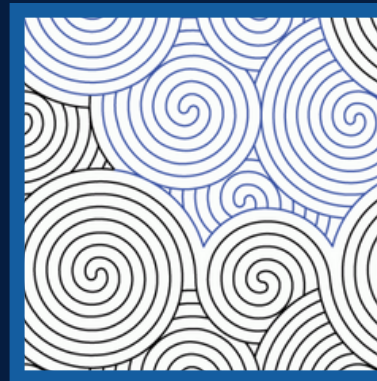
My website has been updated with some new patterns. Below each pattern you will find its name in bold and its location on the website in parenthesis. Visit the [website](#) to see pictures of these patterns on client quilts!



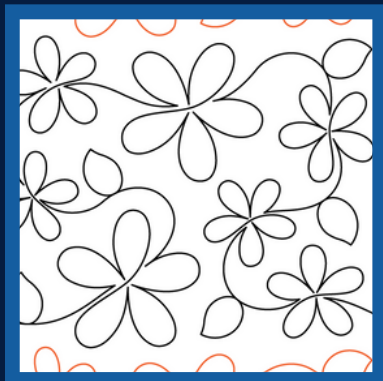
**Onion Skin**  
(Swirls and Curvy)



**Bahia**  
(Swirls and Curvy)



**Raindrops on Water**  
(Swirls and Curvy)



**Happy Flowers**  
(Flowers and Leaves)



**Let it Snow**  
(Themed & Holiday:  
Holidays)



**Hats & Boots**  
(Themed & Holiday:  
Hobbies and Interests)

## Turnaround Time

I'm starting 2024 with a 6-8 week turnaround (which fairly typical for me). It feels a lot better than the 10-12 weeks that it can be in the fall! You will find this updated estimate on the [front page of my website](#) beneath the "turnaround time" section mid-way down the page. I do keep this updated as it changes, so make sure to check that periodically if you are ever curious how long it may take to get a quilt back. Remember you are *always* welcome to reach out and ask to be put in the queue well before you are ready to bring your quilt.

# Reviews

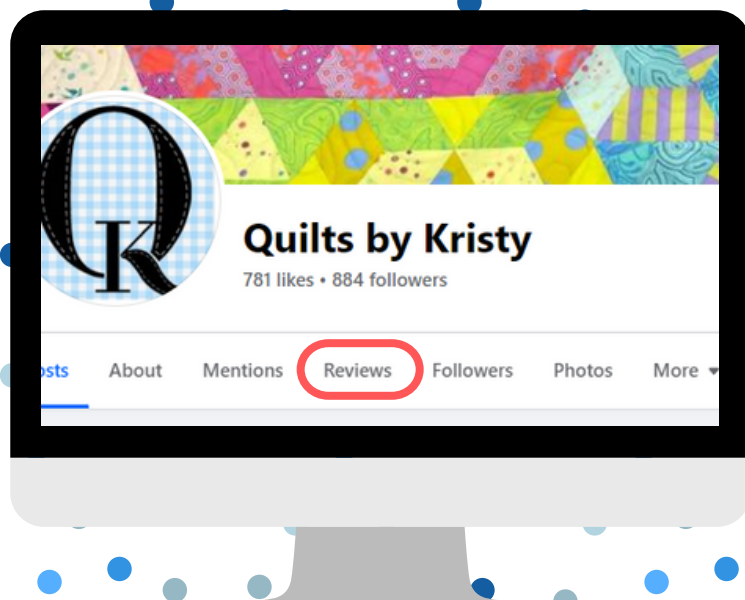
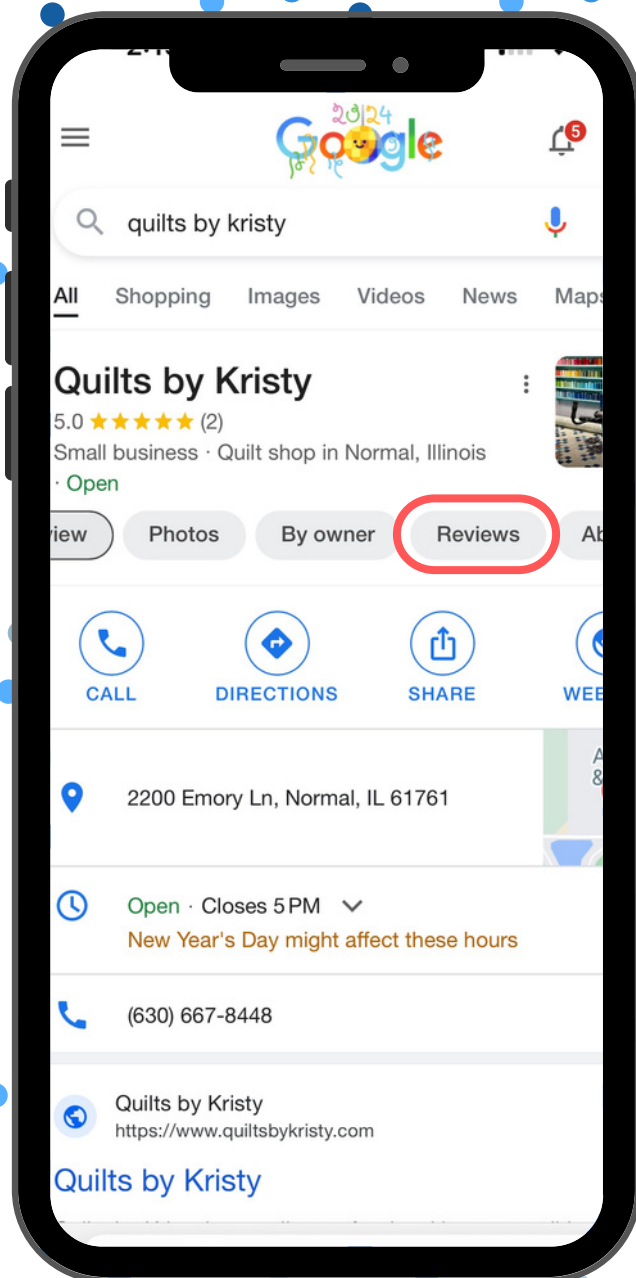
Nowadays, much of my new business comes from clients who find Quilts by Kristy through a Google search or through a social media site like Facebook. Reviews help give an overview of my business to those who are looking for longarming services.

Unfortunately, sometimes a business can receive false (negative) reviews from spam accounts. For the last few months, I have been trying to deal with a foreign account that has been repeatedly posting one-star reviews. It's frustrating, time-consuming, and is not an accurate portrayal of the quality of my service.

To help maintain a positive rating as a business on Google, I could use some additional reviews from my clients. If you have had a positive experience with Quilts by Kristy, please consider leaving a Google review by following [this link](#) and clicking on the "write a review" button on a desktop or "reviews" button on mobile (pictured to the upper right).

If you prefer to leave a Facebook review, that's ok too! Just visit Quilts by Kristy's Facebook page and click on "reviews" (pictured lower right) and follow the prompts to recommend Quilts by Kristy to others.

If there are areas of my service that can be improved, always feel free to reach out to me via email, phone, or text and I can be sure to address those concerns. Thank you in advance for helping me sustain this small business!



# Tips from my side of the frame:

## Now archived on my website!

I have been including a "tips" section at the end of my newsletter for awhile now. Unfortunately, any new clients who have not received previous newsletters miss out on this information. Now you can find an archive of these tips on the new "tips" tab of my website. [Click here to visit now.](#)

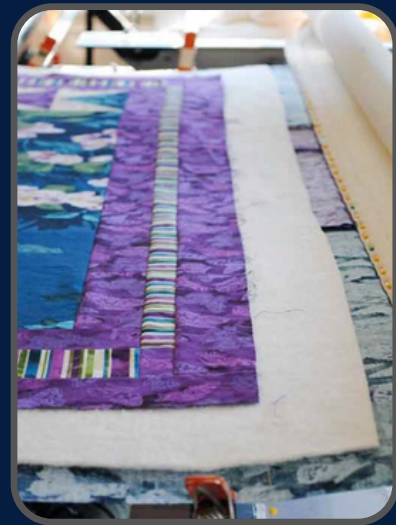
## Quilt Backings: How Big Should They Be?

If a quilt is being longarmed, it is imperative that the backing is larger than the quilt top. Most longarmers ask for 4" extra of backing *on each side* of the quilt (for a total of 8" extra in both length and width). Why is this? In order to get the quilt backing loaded onto the frame of a longarm, the backing is pinned and/or clamped from the top, bottom, left, and right. The extra backing allows room for this to happen and ensures the backing remains nice and taught to prevent puckers and wrinkles as its quilted.

What happens if you don't quite have enough? Please note that it's almost impossible for a longarmer to work with anything less than 2" of extra backing. But if you are just an inch or two short, you can add cotton scrap-fabric leaders to enlarge the backing in the directions needed. This gives the longarmer something to "grab", but it will not actually be part of the quilt backing. Think of it like adding borders (that will never be seen) to your backing.

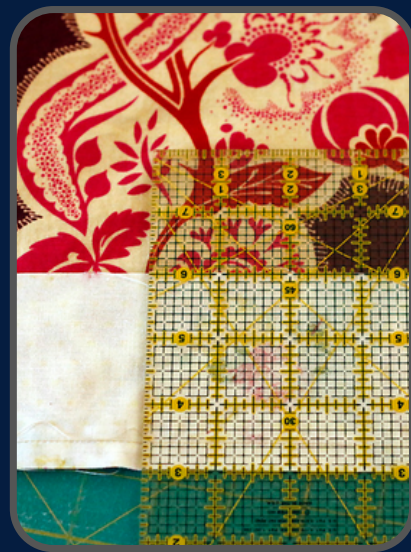
- First, make sure that the edges of your backing fabric are **straight and square** prior to adding the leaders. This is very important!
- Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut 3-4" wide strips of fabric (please note that these must be straight as well).
- Pin the strips to the sides of the backing that need enlarged and sew using a walking foot (to prevent puckers and ruffles). Feel free to use a larger stitch length (3 or 3.5) so the strips can be removed and reused.
- Press toward the newly applied leaders.

Always feel free to reach out prior to enlarging your backing if you have any specific questions!



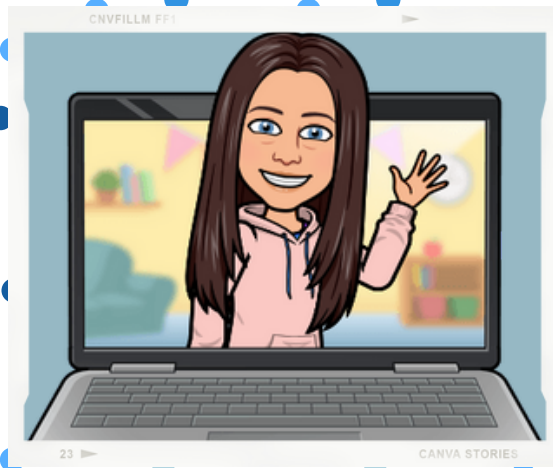
A quilt backing that is pinned and clamped to a longarm frame.

Image Credit: <https://quiltsocial.com/the-right-way-to-prepare-your-quilt-for-a-longarm-quilter/>



Attaching scrap fabric leaders (white) to the edges of a red and tan backing.

Image Credit: <https://www.stitchedincolor.com/blog/2018/1/25/how-to-enlarge-a-backing-for-longarm-quilting>



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