

Glue Basting



Advantages:

- Easier on the fingers, no pricks
- No stopping to remove pins or basting as you quilt; no thread or pins catching anything
- Lighter weight than when using pins
- Less expensive than spray basting
- Easier to clean than spray basting, no overspray. Just use a washcloth.
- Safer than spray basting-no odors to worry about; glue basting can be done inside
- Glue basting is easy to do on tabletop or counter
- Elmer's washable school glue is easy to find - most grocery, hardware stores, Walmart, Target, and Joann's all have it
- It does a better job of holding, less shifting of layers than pin or thread basting.

Disadvantages:

- The quilt must be WASHED!
- It usually takes several hours to dry.
- It does not work well with polyester batts.

Supplies needed:

- Elmer's Washable school glue - 50% (half water, half Elmer's glue)
- Something to spread it with. I use a silicone brush, or my fingers; a paint brush may also work.

Method

1. Lay top on batting and position it.
2. It is best if your surface can accommodate the width of the quilt (okay if it overhangs top and bottom).
3. Carefully, accordion fold one end to at least the middle. Depending on your work surface, and arm span comfort, you may only be able to do only a few inches at a time.
4. Drip thin rows of glue, about 2-4" apart onto the batting, note that the glue forms little balls.
5. Using your fingers, silicone brush, or other spreader, lightly "paint" the glue dots to spread the glue out.
6. Unfold the quilt top and smooth it back into place over the glued area. Make sure it is positioned as you want, pat down so there are no lumps or folds in the top. Carefully, accordion fold again up to the portion basted. Glue the next few inches the same way. Continue until the first half done, turn the quilt or go to the other side of the Work surface and baste that half the same way.
7. I usually trim the batting to the same distance all around the top at this point. (Optional)
8. Flip the quilt! Position the backing. Accordion fold and glue baste as before.
9. Let the glue dry before quilting (several hours, depending on the weather). I have read that ironing can speed the drying, but it has never been a problem for me.
10. If the glue is too thick or repositioning needed, spray the area with water.